

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

May 17, 2010



[PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614
800-537-8592 / Peoria 309-683-6980 / Fax: 309-683-6983

Mark Your Calendar

SUMMER HOURS

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 - 4:00
Closed Friday

Youth Triennium Registration and Fee

DEADLINE

Monday, May 24
Please turn information in to
[Julie](#) at the presbytery
address

COM

Tuesday, May 25
10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

OFFICE CLOSED

Memorial Day
Monday, May 31

Clergy Group

Thursday, June 3
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

Session Record Review

Saturday, June 5
9:30 - Noon
United, Peoria

Peoria Chiefs Game

Friday, June 11
7:00pm
[O'Brien Field](#)

Small Church Event

Saturday, June 19
10:00 - 2:00
First, Lewistown

COM

Tuesday, June 22

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

I was working on a project for an upcoming event in the presbytery on Friday afternoon, and it led me to look at several of the websites of our congregations. Now, you may be very familiar with your congregation's website, or you may never have looked at it. If you have not looked at it in the last week, I encourage you to stop reading this note right now and look at it. Do you know it's address? Is it the first thing that comes up in Google if you enter your church's name? Do you know what Google is? If you do not know how to find it, you can go to our website [Presbytery of Great Rivers](#) and look under churches. Open the directory and, if we know about your website, there will be a link to it in our directory.

Now, what did you find? Let me tell you what I found. First, I found that many of our churches do not have websites. Did you know that for many people, especially the younger people whom our congregations say they want to attract, that the phone book is going the way of the wristwatch. Ask a person under the age of 35 what time it is, and chances are they will look at their phone, not their wrist. Ask the same person for a phone number or address for something and most of them would never think of looking in a book. They will look on their smartphone or on their computer screen to get address, website, map, review, and lots of other information about that business or even about that individual. If you do not have a website, you may be missing people who are looking for you. If they cannot find you on the internet it is as if you do not exist. If you want help with this, you can contact [Rev. Stephen Whitaker](#), our adjunct staff person in this area.

If you do have a website, is it up to date? I found pictures of staff people who no longer work there (some of whom are deceased) if, that is, I could find a listing of the staff at all. I was interested in contacting staff members in a particular area of the church's life. Sometimes I could find no listing of staff. Sometimes I found their pictures but was not sure what they did. Sometimes, I found some kind of picture or description, but then there was no email address listed with them. I was not interested in sending a generic email to a church address or having to somehow try to find their email address in another way, so I just moved on.

Look at your church's website as if you were new in your town or neighborhood and had the kind of questions that you or your family would bring to a search for a new church. Could you answer those questions by looking at the website or would you have a good idea about who to contact to get those answers? Better yet, have a grandchild or young friend look at the website and ask them what they learn about your

10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

Nominating Committee

Tuesday, June 29
10:00 - 2:00
PGR

Administration Council

Wednesday, June 30
10:00 - Noon
PGR

congregation from it. It might be pretty revealing!

We Prayed For You This Week

During our staff meetings each week, the presbytery staff prays for some of our churches. We are sharing those churches with you, so that you, too, can pray for them. How strong we all are through the power of prayer.

Middletown, First Presbyterian Church
Milan, [First Presbyterian Church](#)
Moline, [First United Presbyterian Church](#)
Monmouth, [Faith United Presbyterian Church](#)

2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)

The 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium will be held at Purdue University, July 20-24. Transportation will be provided by the presbytery.

The following link takes you to the [current Triennium web page](#) with the new "Registration Form" "Guidelines and Medical Release Form" "Packing List."

If you have not filled out the *Medical Release Form* please do so asap and mail to the presbytery office.

Fill the Registration Form out completely and return to [Julie](#) at the Presbytery of Great Rivers office. **Registration Forms and \$409 Fee Deadline** for Presbytery of Great Rivers is **Monday, May 24.**

ADULTS - If you are an adult attending the PYT you **must** have a background check done by the presbytery. Please fill out the [Authorization Form](#) and return it to the presbytery office.

Presbytery Night at the Ballpark



This year will be the best turnout we've ever had! We will have 330 people from 17 churches attending the [Peoria Chiefs](#) game on Friday, June 11, 7:00pm at [O'Brien Field](#). Tickets will be mailed to churches within the next 2 weeks. We'll see you all there!

Session Record Review

There will be four Session Record Reviews offered this year. The reviews will be held on Saturdays from 9:30am to noon. Clerks of Session, please RSVP as soon as possible to [Julie](#) and let her know which date you will attend.

June 5	United, Peoria	RSVP by May 27
July 17	First, Springfield	RSVP by July 8
August 14	First, Macomb	RSVP by August 5
September 18	United, Woodhull	RSVP by September 9

Be sure to bring your worksheet and fill it out prior to the meeting.

[2010 Session Record Review Cover Sheet](#)
[2010 Session Record Review Form](#)

Small Church Event

Saturday, June 19, 2010
10:00am - 2:00pm
First Presbyterian Church
101 N. Main Street
Lewistown, IL 61542

Join Moderator Danie deBeer and Executive Sue Krummel to hear about Danie's DMin Thesis on revitalizing small churches and to address the issues shared by our smallest congregations. Each participating congregation will receive a \$50 "economic stimulus contribution."

Lunch will be served at no charge for participants.

Please RSVP no later than June 7 to [Julie](#) (800) 537-8592.

Vietnam Wall

On September 2-5 the travelling Vietnam Wall will be in Manito near Pekin. The people who are bringing the wall to Central Illinois need to provide pastors and/or grief counselors during the entire time that the wall is present, 8 am to 8 pm each day. If you are a pastor or counselor and would like to help with this, please call Judy Lacer at 309-597-2145. She will help to coordinate the volunteer hours.

Attention Youth Pastors, Directors, Leaders, etc.

The next presbytery meeting will be Tuesday, July 27, at Five Points Center in Washington, Illinois. Because we have a summer meeting this year, the Visioning Council would like to include high school aged students in the leadership of the worship portions of the meeting. In order to facilitate this, Sue Krummel is looking for adults who work with youth to make a plan for including students both in the planning and leadership of the meeting. We would also like to find those who work with youth in all of the various sized congregations in our presbytery to educate the elders present at the meeting in July about the possibilities for youth ministry. If you are interested in one or both of these endeavors, please email [Sue Krummel](#).

Nashville Flooding

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You are probably aware of the horrible flooding that has happened in Nashville. The shelters are full, many people are still missing, and the economic damage to the entire city is great. Many of us stepped up in response to Haiti and I believe we can do the same for Nashville. I am asking to see if groups in your churches would get together to make PCUSA Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits.

[YouTube Nashville Flood~What You Didn't See](#)

If you come up to Peoria you can bring them by the Presbytery Office and I'll make sure they get sent out. The Presbytery will use some of the Flood and Disaster Relief Funds to ship these kits to Nashville. PDA will distribute these to areas that are in great need.

Here is the information on how to put one of these kits together. ONLY complete kits will be accepted.

Hygiene Kit (previous Health Kit)

1 - hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)

1 - washcloth

1 - wide-tooth comb

1 - nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)

1 - bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)

1 - toothbrush (in original packaging)

6 - Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

DEADLINE to have completed kits to the presbytery office is Monday, June 28, 2010.

Thanks for your help. If you have other ideas to help Nashville please pass them along. Perhaps we can unite to do a PGR mission trip down there this summer.

[Stephen Mckinney-Whitaker](#)

The Presbyterian Historical Society ~ Heritage Microfilming Grant

If you...

...are a PC(USA) congregation of 250 members or less and are a congregation at least 50 years old.

...are interested in the preservation of your history
...are looking for financial assistance to microfilm your records
Consider applying for a [Heritage Microfilming Grant](#).



Green Energy By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

I was surfing the internet recently to look for some new ways that our Presbyterian churches can "go green" by conserving energy and being more conscious of our impact on the environment. I stumbled across the following web site [National Council of Churches of Christ Eco-Justice Programs](#).

Wow. This web site is chock full of information and sings the praises of many different churches of several different denominations. The Presbyterians got a nice pat on the back. . . in New York City the Presbytery is offering free energy audits to all of its churches.

In North Texas a group of United Methodist churches has joined forces to purchase electricity generated by wind.

If you are a church custodian or the chair or member of the building committee (trustees) or whatever you call it at your church; you would find this website inspirational. I dare you to spend 10 minutes at the web site and not get excited and motivated.

And the best thing about the web site are the step by step tools to get you started. Change can be overwhelming and churches are often famous for dragging their feet and balking at change. How many times have you heard someone say "but we've always done it that way"?

As I write this column the disaster in the gulf continues to unfold as oil keeps churning to the surface in unfathomable quantities. It's a grim reminder of our impact on the earth. It's made us think once again about the wildlife, the people who live there and the people whose ways of making a living are now impacted by this unintentional attack on the environment.

The Presbytery of Great Rivers has adopted this mission of energy conservation and environmental stewardship but they are not alone. Christians across the United States are looking around and coming to the same conclusions. We need to leave our planet in better shape for future generations.

From green building resources, water conservation, solar, green roofs, green cleaning products, youth groups activities, green church camps and perhaps most important weaving ecological concerns into their daily ministry - this web site has it all.

In future columns we'll focus on funding options and Presbyterian green camps and conference centers. Hopefully you read my recent column announcing a new opportunity to bring FREE energy audits to all of our Presbytery churches. If want to get on the list or need more information shoot me an e-mail using the hot link below.

Feel free to contact me, [Laurie](#), with questions or suggestions. Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to pparrish@greatriverspby.org by jbainbridge@greatriverspby.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Presbytery of Great Rivers | 1230 W Candletree Dr | Suite D | Peoria | IL | 61614