

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

June 1, 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

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](#)

Interim Pastor's Group

Wednesday, June 16
11:30 - 1:30
PGR

Small Church Event

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

COM

Tuesday, June 22
10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

Nominating Committee

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

Administration Council

Wednesday, June 30
10:00 - Noon

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

I did not go to church on Sunday. For many people in the congregation that you serve in leadership in one way or another, that is not a startling statement to make. Think about the members of your congregation. For many of them, attendance on Sunday mornings is an occasional pursuit. Perhaps they are there two or three Sundays out of the month. Perhaps less. If you really did a study of how many Sundays each member is present (except in our very smallest congregations) you might be surprised.

Now, of course, Sunday was the middle of Memorial Day weekend and I was on vacation. But, that does not always stop me from attending worship someplace. I have become very accustomed in the last seven years to walking into a sanctuary where I have never been before and trying to find a place to sit where I am not asking someone to vacate their accustomed seat. I can usually find the bulletin and can usually kind of figure out what is happening and when and what I am supposed to do. (The one place where I am always still hesitant is when we stand to sing the Gloria Patri. You may not realize this, but there are multiple tunes for this and the two most popular start out exactly the same way. So, I have to wait until we are past the first phrase to see which tune we are using.)

I was with my family in Wisconsin Dells this weekend. We have noticed the Presbyterian Church there-a not very attractive building only a half block off of the main street. But, we have never been to church there on a Sunday morning. My daughters and their families are regular church goers-they are in the at least three out of four weeks a month category in their respective churches. But, taking a four, two and one year old to a strange church just did not seem very appealing. We did not know how the children would be received and, after all, there were waterslides to be slid! We also did not come across anything that might have encouraged us to attend-no big sign with worship times on the church's lawn, no invitation in the packet of info we received when we checked in to our resort, etc. etc.

It is unusual for me to see worship attendance from the perspective of a non-church-goer. After all, I even went to church while I was in college and since I was 24 years old I have been paid to go to church. Imagine, though, what it is like for most people to decide whether or not to go to worship on a Sunday morning (or Saturday evening) especially if they have not been in awhile or never been to your church. How will they convince the other people in their family that this is a good idea? How will they be received when they arrive and will they be able to figure out what they are supposed to do when? Will it be one of those Sundays when

PGR

Special Presbytery
Meeting

Wednesday, June 30
1:30
First Federated, Peoria

there is some special event happening that they did not know about that makes it seem more like a family reunion into which they are intruding than an open and welcoming worship service giving glory to God?

I don't know how many people were in worship on Sunday morning at the PCUSA church in Wisconsin Dells, since I was not there. But, I can tell you, they had a huge potential congregation. I know this because there were thousands and thousands of those potential worshipers stuck like me on the highway trying to get south out of Wisconsin on Memorial Day afternoon. (I am sure that on paper, putting three interstates on the same two lanes of pavement looks like a good idea. In practice, not so much.) What could that small church have done that would have made it welcoming to me and my family of church goers, let alone to the thousands of people there who may not have been in church in awhile?



Green Energy
By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

My youngest graduated from high school this weekend and as I sit down to write this column it seems I only have graduation on the brain. I have been reminded that graduation is a time for looking ahead but perhaps more so it is a time for reflection and looking back.

As I was thinking about this column and reflecting I was wondering what kind of impact I have had on my children's view of the environment. What kinds of stewards of God's earth will they be when they make choices on their own. Children learn best by example and I feel I have been a pretty good role model in this area. My professional life as an energy consultant is a reflection of how I live my personal life.

My children grew up on farm surrounded by lush farm fields and productive gardens. Many of their relatives live on farms. They learned to take good care of the soil and how to live in harmony with nature, weather and other elements because their lives literally depended on it.

My children grew up surrounded by nature when we went hiking as a recreational choice. Our summer trips always included camping and thus getting up close and personal with nature. They learned a lot about birds, insects, wildlife, reptiles, fish and other creatures.

My children saw recycling as an every day activity. They learned how to turn off lights when they leave a room. How to live without air conditioning whenever possible and how to keep it turned fairly warm when we felt compelled to turn it on. And how to wear a sweatshirt in the winter and keep the thermostat turned a little lower.

Now that my children are driving we talk about fuel economy with well-tuned cars, hypermiling, car pooling and combining trips to town.

Take some time to reflect on the messages you are sending to your children and grandchildren about environmental stewardship and energy conservation. What messages is your church sending to young people in Sunday School, Vacation Church School and Youth Group? Now more than ever it is time to practice what we preach.

If all of us make small changes, collectively we can make a big, positive impact on our planet. I hope one of the legacies my children take with them out into the world is a caring attitude towards this wonderful place we live.

Learn more about FREE energy audits for all churches in our Presbytery using the hot link below. To contact me, e-mail greenenergy@greatriverspby.org. Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

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 [Patti](#) (800) 537-8592.

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 [Patti](#) and let her know which date you will attend.

June 5 - United, Peoria, **RSVP by today**
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](#)

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