

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

June 14, 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

Special Presbytery Meeting

Wednesday, June 30, 1:30 p.m.

First Federated Church, Peoria, Illinois

The purpose of the meeting is to address issues with regard to the recommendation from the Mission Responsibility Through Investment committee of the General Assembly Mission Council that the PCUSA should denounce Caterpillar, Inc. for its profit-making from its activities in the Middle East.

All minister members and commissioners are urged to attend.

Information/papers can be found on our website or by clicking:

www.greatriverspby.org/assembly_june_2010.html

Pastor's Continuing Education Day



With Bill Greenway, Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology from Austin Seminary.

Friday, September 24, 2010

9:30am - 3:30pm

at WeaverRidge in Peoria

Mark your calendars now! Watch future e-newsletters for more details.

Go to AustinSeminary.edu or click [here](#) for more information regarding Bill Greenway.

Mark Your Calendar

SUMMER HOURS

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

Closed Friday

General Presbyter's Perspective

Rev. Susan Krummel

I met with a group of youth pastors and youth directors a few weeks ago to talk about the presbytery meeting in July. Since we are having a meeting

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

First Federated, Peoria

Special Presbytery Meeting

Wednesday, June 30

1:30

First Federated, Peoria

when school is not in session, we have asked several congregations to invite their teenagers to help lead worship. They will also be leading a workshop on youth ministry for any size church.

In the course of the discussion, we talked a little bit about when I did youth ministry in the mid-1980's. (I begged them not to tell me if that was before they were born!) My husband and I were, at that time, splitting a job as youth pastors at First Presbyterian Church in Champaign and raising babies. There we were introduced to a style of youth ministry called, at the time, "Youth Club." It is now called "Logos." That was a big church with a big mid-week program. For the three years we were there, we fed 120 people every Wednesday night-80 kids and the 40 adults it took to run the program. We went to the national workshops on the program and had the person who had founded it 20 years earlier, Dale Milligan, come to preach one Sunday. Again, it was a big church with two well-attended worship services. Between Youth Club and Sunday School, we needed a LOT of adults to volunteer. When that time came around, we would tell people in worship to count off as a way to help them understand how many people we needed. One of every five adults in worship had to volunteer in one way or another to make this program work. We continued using this style of youth ministry in successive congregations and had great success there as well.

I was telling the youth pastors/directors about the premise of Youth Club/Logos. There are four components to it. There is always food-we had dinner, some churches have a snack. There is Bible Study. There is recreation; in many churches there are choices for the kids and some of those choices are, essentially, ways for the adults in the congregation to teach their hobbies to the kids. (Lots of wooden birdhouses get made!) And, there is service to the church, which almost always takes the form of choir. When we were working with Middle School kids in Burlington, Iowa, who had unreliable voices due to their age, we also incorporated bell choir and puppets.

As we were talking, I realized that what I was describing was a perfect way to do youth group in a modern congregation, or a congregation that was part of Christendom, or a twentieth century, North American congregation. The opposite of each of those terms, though, is the world we live in now. We live in a post-modern, post-Christendom world in the 21st century. That was a time when we "did mission." Many people say that we must move into a time when we "are missional." I was really taken aback when I was describing the component that was "mission to the church." Remember, this was choir. And, as the director of these programs in churches large and small, I know that the real purpose of this was to get the kids in worship and, hopefully, their parents as well. We fooled ourselves into calling this mission. It was really a function of trying to increase worship attendance. And, although that may be a very worthy goal, tricking people into coming to church by requiring their kids to sing in worship and making parents feel guilty if they do not bring them and then stay to watch is probably not the best way to help people form a lasting relationship with their Lord and Savior.

That is, to me, in a nutshell, the difference that is being written about in so many books and talked about on so many blogs and shared in whatever other kind of media you can name. Thirty years ago our purpose as a congregation was to preserve the institution of the congregation. That was a good thing to do, because it was by coming through our church doors and worshipping with us and serving with us that people had their best chance of learning the good news of their salvation and our culture supported our efforts by limiting other activities on Sunday. That is no longer the case. It is a hugely counter-cultural idea now to make Sunday morning worship attendance a priority in one's life. If we insist that sitting in a pew on Sunday is the only way we are willing to share the gospel, some people predict that we will continue to share it among smaller and

smaller groups of people who already know it. If we truly want to fulfill our call to "go into all the world and make disciples" we have to find ways to do that outside of our church doors.

SMALL CHURCH EVENT

June 19 @ Lewistown, First

Registration for the Small Church Event is open until Thursday, June 17! Please call the Presbytery to register. 309-683-6980 or 800-537-8592.

Session Record Review

There are three Session Record Reviews left this year (one has already been completed!). The reviews will be held on Saturdays from 9:30 am to noon. Clerks of Session, please RSVP as soon as possible to [Julie](#) or [Patti](#) which date you will attend. **REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR COVER SHEET and FORM!**

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, in pen, prior to the meeting.

[2010 Session Record Review Cover Sheet](#)

[2010 Session Record Review Form](#)

REGIONAL REP REVIEW

JUNE, 2010

"News from the Board of Pensions"

Note: This newsletter offers highlights, information and news from the Board of Pensions. Please feel free to share this information with your communications director, newsletter editor and webmaster.

Benefits Connect Tip:

Benefits Connect includes a total death benefits calculator.

Benefits Connect offers a calculator that helps you identify your total protection, including estimates of the plan's death benefits payable to eligible survivors and beneficiaries, supplemental death benefits, and any privately purchased life insurance for you and your spouse.

Plus, church treasurers and business administrators can securely confirm or change their members' salary information.

So [register](#) for Benefits Connect today! Just visit the Pensions.org homepage and click the "Register" button under the Benefits Connect logo.

New Guide Provides User-Friendly Explanation of the Medical Plan

The [Guide to Your Healthcare Benefits 2010](#) is a user-friendly booklet that explains the comprehensive benefits provided under the Medical Plan. With limited use of technical jargon and definitions of the terms that cannot be avoided, this guide helps you understand this increasingly critical coverage and learn how to use your healthcare benefit to its best advantage.

Eligibility Details for Extended Medical Plan Coverage for Adult Children

The recently enacted healthcare reform legislation includes a provision that requires group health plans to extend coverage to adult children up to the age of 26 who do not have access to their own employment-based coverage, regardless of their financial dependency, student status, marital status, or residency. The required effective date of this provision for the Medical Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is January 1, 2011.

To help transition to this expanded eligibility, the Board of Pensions has approved an early accommodation for those children who would lose coverage by "aging out" of the Medical Plan or by graduating between June 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010. To be eligible for this early accommodation that went into effect June 1, 2010, adult children of Medical Plan members:

- must be under the age of 26
- must have been covered by the plan on June 1, 2010, and
- would otherwise no longer be eligible for coverage, by virtue of financial dependency, marital status, student status, or residency between June 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010.

Please note: Effective January 1, 2011, all adult children of covered Medical Plan members who are under the age of 26, regardless of their financial dependency, marital status, student status, or residency, will be eligible for full coverage through their parents' coverage under the Medical Plan. This provision includes covered plan members' children, stepchildren, and adopted children who are not currently covered by the Medical Plan and who are not eligible for coverage under another employer-sponsored health plan.

If you have questions about this healthcare reform provision or the Board's early extension of coverage, please call the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

\$100 Health Stewardship Incentive Offered to Active Members of the Medical Plan Who Take Advantage of MyActiveHealth.com/pcusa

The Board is offering a **\$100 Health Stewardship Incentive** to active primary members of the Medical Plan who launch their Personal Health Record (PHR)*, complete the Health Assessment, and take a couple of additional steps.

MyActiveHealth.com/pcusa is a health management portal that empowers members to manage their healthcare. It offers a private and secure online PHR, a unique way of keeping an accurate health history for you and members of your family. It populates with Highmark and Express Scripts® claims data, and also allows you to add information that only you know. Taking the Health Assessment on the site is a great way to help you fill in your PHR, and is the second step towards getting your \$100 incentive.

To be eligible for the Health Stewardship Incentive**, a prepaid debit card for [IRS tax-qualified healthcare expenses](#), please:

1. Launch your PHR by visiting MyActiveHealth.com/pcusa and registering for the site.
2. Complete the online Health Assessment.
3. Sign in to MyActiveHealth.com/pcusa at least two more times on different days before July 31, 2010.

Your PHR is completely confidential and secure. No one can access it without your authorization. The Board of Pensions and your employing organization do not have access to it. ActiveHealth Management and the Board of Pensions comply with all federal and state privacy laws to safeguard your personal health information and keep it confidential.

If you have questions about the incentive, your PHR, or the other services that ActiveHealth offers, please visit our Web site at Pensions.org/healthmanagement.

**The PHR is not available to members enrolled in Anthem, CIGNA International Expatriate Benefits, or Triple-S, or to retired members covered by the Medicare Supplement Plan.*

****This incentive opportunity is only available to the primary member of the Highmark BCBS Medical Plan. Spouses, dependents, and all members in the Medicare Supplement Plan are not eligible.**
The Board's E-learning Modules Offer Convenient Way To Learn About Plans, Programs, and Resources

The Board offers a number of e-learning modules that reinforce the information we provide on Pensions.org and through our publications. Looking for an explanation of [community nature](#) or clarity on what [Stewardship of Self](#) is? Do you want to gain a better understanding of this year's [Medical Plan](#) or [Medicare Supplement Plan](#) changes? You can find e-learning modules on these topics and more on the [E-learning](#) page on Pensions.org.

Coming in June! Towards the end of June, look for the "eRBC" modules, which combine an audio recording of the speakers at this year's Regional Benefits Consultations with their presentation slides.

Going to GA? Don't forget to stop by the Board of Pensions booth in the display area. Look forward to visiting with you there.

As your Regional Representative I am available to work with your presbytery leadership by offering: retiree Luncheons, Church Treasurers Workshops, Clergy Terms of Call seminars, CPM/COM Consultations, Benefits Overview Workshops and pre-presbytery workshops. I am currently working scheduling events for 2010. If you want to schedule any of these events or something customized for your event please drop me an email dkelly@pensions.org or call 800-511-0132

Doug

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Kelly
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Green Energy
By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

I live on a "farmette." Recently a friend and neighbor who is a "junker" came and hauled away lots of stuff left by the previous owners - old furnace ductwork, corrugated steel roofing panels, an old avocado refrigerator, my old water heater and other treasures. He charged me nothing. He takes it to the local scrap yard and keeps the money they pay him. As far as I'm concerned it's a win win.

Our church has an account with the scrap yard also. When I have something smaller like old aluminum window screens I can drop them off there and ask that instead of paying me they apply the funds to the church's account. Once a month they mail a check to our church. This is part of my Presbyterian church's commitment to greenness. It's another win win.

So set your recycling goals a little higher and consider what larger items you can keep out of the landfill and recycle at your nearest scrap yard. If your church is cleaning or remodeling make sure they are doing the same. If you don't have access to a pick-up truck or trailer you might be able to arrange for a "junker" to pick up the items. Ask at the scrap yard.

One of the recent wind storms took some soffet and facia off my house. My carpenter came to repair that section. Knowing my position as an energy consultant he smiled and said I assume you want me to recycle the old, torn aluminum? You bet I answered.

Several huge buildings in Bloomington-Normal are being torn down. I hope most of the material is being recycled and not heading for the landfill. There are ways to recycle old concrete and asphalt and many other building materials. If you are remodeling make sure to discuss options with your contractor and ask them to make green decisions on construction waste.

And go one step further and choose greener materials when possible for your home or church. There are floors and kitchen cupboard made from bamboo, recycled glass tiles and counter tops, low VOC paint and carpeting from natural fibers or that at least give off fewer toxic fumes after they are installed. This area is exploding with new products almost daily - it's almost hard to keep up. So keep asking about options. Your contractor should be aware of new products and be able to suggest greener alternatives.

Our family makes use of junk yards whenever possible. We work with a great mechanic who often tracks down the needed part at a local junk yard and we pay about a fourth the cost of new. We've always had good luck with these choices. Besides engine parts we have used headlights, hubcaps, a console cover and much more. Junk yards and scrap yards can be a wonderful tool in living green and making and saving money. A win win again.

Learn more about FREE energy audits for all churches in our Presbytery using the hot link below. To contact me click here [Laurie](#). Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

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