



GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS

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

July 12, 2010

Mark Your Calendar

SUMMER HOURS

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

Interim Pastor's Group

Wednesday, July 14
11:30 - 1:30
PGR

CPM

Thursday, July 15
9:30 - 4:00
Northminster, Peoria

Assembly Papers on Website

Friday, July 16

Session Record Review

Saturday, July 17
9:30 - 12:00
First, Springfield

COM

Tuesday, July 20
10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Tues, July 20 - Sat, July 24
Purdue University

Supplemental Papers on Website

Friday, July 23

Presbytery Assembly Mtg.

Tuesday, July 27
9:30
Registration starts at 8:30
Five Points in Washington

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

You will find links here to letters from the new moderator of the General Assembly and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly reporting on what happened in Minneapolis last week. Hopefully, these will answer any questions that you might have.

[Churchwide Letter](#)
[Ordination Standards](#)
[Civil Union and Marriage Issues](#)
[New Form of Government](#)
[Middle Governing Body Commission](#)
[Actions Regarding the Middle East](#)



219TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2010)

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.

Normal, [New Covenant Community Church](#)
Oneida, United Church of Oneida
Orion, [Beulah Presbyterian Church](#)
Pekin, [First Presbyterian Church](#)

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](#) which date you will attend. REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR COVER SHEET and FORM!

July 17 - First, Springfield **RSVP by today**
August 14 - First, Macomb **RSVP by August 5**
September 18 - United, Woodhull **RSVP by September 9**

Prior to the meeting fill out your worksheet in pen.
[2010 Session Record Review Cover Sheet](#)

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[2010 Session Record Review Form](#)

"The Big Questions" 2nd Annual Great Rivers' Pastors' Retreat

Featuring Dr. William Greenway
Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Friday, September 24, 2010
9:30am - 2:30pm

[WeaverRidge Golf Club](#)
5100 WeaverRidge Blvd. Peoria, IL 61615

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



Check This Out! Presbytery's Photobucket

Follow this new link to our [Presbytery's Photobucket page](#). Our Photobucket page contains several pictures and videos. If you would like to add some of your church pictures and/or videos to the Presbytery's Photobucket, email them to [Patti](#).

175th Anniversary

Congratulations to the [First Presbyterian Church](#) in Knoxville, IL, July 4, 2010 was their 175th Anniversary. Their doors have been open and welcoming people to hear and live out the work of Jesus Christ since July 4, 1835.

Mission Partnership Opportunity

Are you interested in making some new friends? Meeting a different culture? Seeing God's people at work? Then you might be interested in visiting a Native American congregation in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon (which includes the Phoenix area.) You would visit with them and then have them come for a visit here. For more information, go to [Presbytery of Grand Canyon](#).

Board of Pensions

Check out what's new with the [Board of Pensions](#).

Pastoral Leadership Gathering

Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia, staffed by several pastors and candidates from Great Rivers Presbytery, is hosting an event on **November 9-11, 2010**.

The speakers are:

Peter Block, author of [Community: The Structure of Belonging](#) and John Franke, professor of Missional Theology at Biblical Seminary in Hatfield, PA.

If you are interested in more info, please contact [Susan Tindall](#).



Compost By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

Many of you know I grew up on a farm. Most of my friends and relatives lived on farms. I don't know of anyone who had a compost pile. But all

the fruit and vegetable scraps were "thrown over the fence" where they did decompose and turn back into soil to nurture the pasture. Except at my friend Esther's house, where scraps were always thrown to the hogs who seemed to eat anything - just like in Charlotte's Web.

Then with the ecology movement I began to hear about compost, compost piles and expensive compost containers and compost additives to make your compost "hotter" so it decomposed more quickly.

When working on our Scavenger Hunt for young people, which will debut shortly as an activity for Vacation Bible School, Sunday School or Youth Group, it was suggested that we encourage children to compost at home. I spent a long weekend with my first cousin in Michigan recently and helped cut up fruit for a graduation party. All the scraps were added to his compost pile behind the garage. So I began thinking more and more about compost.

I took a vacation from vegetable gardening for several years but since I bought my 3.3 acres three and half years ago I have been trying to reconnect with my roots and grow some of my own food. My methods include wide rows to quickly shade out weeds and mulch to help battle the weeds - mostly crabgrass. I don't mow half my acreage to save on gasoline and time spent mowing it and to give wildlife more habitat. When I have a vegetable that is no longer fit to eat I just fling it into the nature preserve.

As I was planning this column I realized that the vast number of my readers live in an urban environment and have neighbors who would not appreciate having a rotten tomato or two flung into their yard. So I set out to educate myself on compost piles. Next time you have a church event that produces fruit and vegetable scraps see if anyone wants to take them home (along with the coffee grounds) to add to their compost pile.

Compost can contain dry leaves and "wet" scraps from fruits and vegetables. A good ratio is one part green to two parts brown. Leave your yard clippings on your yard where they provide much needed nitrogen. Some people prefer two compost containers so they can turn their compost into the empty container. Turn compost once a week. A third container can hold the finished compost. The container can be as simple as wire mesh fashioned into a cylinder with a piece of plywood on top.

The compost needs some moisture to decompose but too much and it can get smelly. To jumpstart your compost add a shovelful of old compost or garden soil to introduce microbes. You should have compost in about two months. Add the finished compost to gardens and flower beds or use partially finished compost as mulch.

To learn more about compost check with the University of Illinois Extension Service in your area or find information on the internet.

Compost is a soil conditioner, mulch and fertilizer all in one. It feeds the soil microorganisms that help plants stay healthy, adds nutrients to the soil. In addition it can help clay soil drain better and sandy soil retain water. Plus, composting reduces your contribution to the waste stream by recycling yard and kitchen waste into the world's best soil amendment.

If you are inspired to start a compost pile or have other compost suggestions please share them using the link below.

Learn more about FREE energy audits for all churches in our Presbytery contact me, [Laurie](#). Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

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