



GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS

1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614
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August 2, 2010

Mark Your Calendar

SUMMER HOURS

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

Clergy Group

Thursday, August 5
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

Interim Pastor's Group

Wednesday, August 11
11:30 - 1:30
PGR

Visioning Council

Thursday, August 12
9:30 - 2:30
PGR

Session Record Review

Saturday, August 14
9:30 - 12:00
First, Macomb

COM

Tuesday, August 24
10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

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A Report From One Of Your Commissioners To GA:

Over the next few weeks, we will be including in this newsletter some firsthand reports from your commissioners to the 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis. As you have probably heard by now, the Assembly sent several pieces of business to the presbyteries for our vote. There is a new confession for the Book of Confessions. It is called the Belhar Confession and grew out of the Reformed Church in South Africa during and after apartheid. There is a recommendation for a complete overhaul of our constitution. It is often referred to as "nFog" for "New Form of Government." And, there are nine overtures for us to address, including another recommendation that the specific language about "fidelity and chastity" with regard to ordination standards be replaced. The Visioning Council will soon be planning our presbytery meetings for next year in such a way that we will have sufficient time to devote to all of these topics. You might have also heard that the Assembly voted to denounce Caterpillar for its profit-making from its business practices in Israel/Palestine. This will not be the end of this discussion, since the Mission Responsibility Through Investments committee will continue its engagement with Caterpillar over the issues it has identified.

So, enjoy the reports of your commissioners. I am sure any of them would be happy to answer questions that you might have.

[Click to read the report from Rev. Susan Ryder.](#)

Thank You

Thank you to the members of the presbytery for the wonderful surprise for the celebration of my 30th anniversary of ordination at the presbytery meeting in July. Someone asked me if it seemed like 30 years. Sometimes it seems as if it were just yesterday that my husband, Frosty, and I were driving home from a meeting with the Candidates' Committee (the precursor of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry) in this presbytery. The meeting had been especially hard. We had already moved into the manse at Little Cedar and Sugar Tree Grove. We found ourselves wondering how we would quietly get our stuff out of the manse and find some other way to put food on the table if we failed our examinations on the floor of the presbytery. Well, that did not happen and, so, nine congregations and four positions on middle governing body staff later (remember I was an interim for awhile!) I guess that drive home was a long time ago. Perhaps it is kind of like the way I have heard people describe parenthood of small children. The days are long (at least

some of them!) but the years are short. Once again, thank you.

Sue Krummel

BOP Disaster Assistance Grant

Greetings! I hope that you and yours are well with all of the bad weather we have been having. I am sure you are aware of the Disaster Assistance Grant from the Board of Pensions. So this is just a reminder in case you have clergy or church workers who suffered damage this past weekend or in the future. Peter Sime, Vice President of Assistance and Funds Development programs provided me with this description:

"In the past, we have assisted church workers with a \$1,000 Emergency Assistance grant when they have had unexpected damage due to natural disaster. We ask them to document the need and use an abbreviated Shared Grant Form. These grants are meant to help individuals who need immediate assistance to help meet short term living expenses.

For larger amounts, we would prefer to do Shared Grants but, if the Presbyteries do not have available funds, we will treat them on a case by case basis. We obviously try to balance the need of the church workers whose lives have been turned upside down and the Assistance Program's need for some accountability. The grants are not meant to pay for what would be covered by insurance or for what we would consider "decorative" damage such as shrubs and gardens. (I feel somewhat silly saying that but we have had such requests.)

The grants need to be for pastors and church workers (individuals) and not for churches and other institutions."

Let me know if you have folks that need this assistance so we can get something going for them quickly. Take care. See you soon.

[Doug Kelly](#)

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Kelly
Regional Representative-The Synods of Mid-America, Lincoln Trails and
Lakes and Prairies
The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

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.

Peoria, [Westminster Presbyterian Church](#)
Perry, Perry Presbyterian Church
Petersburg, [Central Presbyterian Church](#)
Pleasant Plains, [Farmingdale Presbyterian Church](#)

"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
\$25 per person, includes lunch
[WeaverRidge Golf Club](#)
5100 WeaverRidge Blvd. Peoria, IL 61615

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

RSVP before Monday, September 13. Pastors can register for the day by contacting [Julie](#). Please mail your \$25 to the presbytery office, or it can

be paid the day of the meeting, make your check payable to Presbytery of Great Rivers.

Pastors, please fill out the linked [questionnaire](#) and email it to [Phillip Blackburn](#). This information will be used in the planning for the pastors' retreat.

Session Record Review

There are two Session Record Reviews left this year (two have 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 AND, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE BOOK OF ORDER!

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

Personnel Matters-Bridging The Gap

Workshop for Elders, Lay Leaders, Pastors & Personnel Committees.

Saturday, October 9, 2010
9:00am-4:00pm
First Presbyterian Church
100 East Adams
Kirkwood, MO 63122

For more information and costs of workshop, see [Brochure](#).

Updated UMRC Website

After being trained last week on how to update my own website pages, I've completely redone the entire United Media Resource Center site, adding lots of new material! Click on the link below, then check out all the links on the side-bar menu (on right-hand side):

Catalog Search & Information
Contact Information & Directions
Help Promote the UMRC
How to Use the UMRC
Members
Newsletters
Photo Gallery
Wish List

[United Media Resource Center](#) (save this site to your favorites)

[Jill Stone](#), UMRC director
217-529-2744

Helping churches stretch their ministry dollar!

Illinois Presbyterian Home New Space Available

The Fair Hills Residence of the Illinois Presbyterian Home is situated on the north-west corner of Chatham Road and Lawrence Avenue in Springfield, Illinois and is surrounded by twenty-six acres of rolling meadows, woods, trees, shrubs, and flowers. The beautiful grounds provide paths, walkways, porches and many scenic views.

The Home is an alternative to living alone or captive in your own home. Residents are ambulatory and capable of performing daily living functions such as dressing, eating, personal hygiene, etc. when they are admitted to the Home. The program is not designed as a nursing home program, but as a retirement residence. However, the quality of life and safe surroundings may make it possible to avoid the future need of a nursing

home. Nutritious meals, medical oversight of medications, and an infirmary with 24 hour nursing coverage are just a few important services.

The mission of the Home is to be a caring community of Christian ministry and service for the elderly. The goal of all policies and programs is to respect the dignity, spiritual well-being and independence of each individual. Residents are encouraged to be interested in life and self-reliance in accordance with the abilities of each person and maintaining focus on nutrition, medical oversight, fellowship and exercise.

Available living units range from efficiency apartments to comfortable suites. If you or anyone you know would like more information, please contact Executive Director, [Tom O'Fallon](#) by e-mail, phone at 217-546-5622, or by mail at 2005 West Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

Transformation Conference

Grace Presbytery and the PC(USA) Office of Church Growth are pleased to announce the 2010 Transformation Conference, which will be held from October 18-22, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, TX. The [brochure](#) contains information on the speakers, learning tracks, and housing options in Fort Worth. The official registration form is hosted online, supplemental forms are available in PDF format by request.

Click here for [online registration](#).



Recycling Clothing And Linens by Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. A friend of mine recently decided to drastically pare down her wardrobe and brought me several garbage bags of clothes to try on. I kept about 15 items. She took the rest home to donate to a charity in her neighborhood.

As parents begin back-to-school preparation it's a good time to remind readers to try to keep out grown clothes out of the landfill. My Presbyterian church holds a large group sale twice a year. An absolutely huge amount of clothing changes hands. The last few hours features a bag sale and those in the community on limited income use this time to buy clothing - especially for children. What doesn't sell is donated to charity. The group sale helps us make money for special projects and it also helps the community.

When you donate clothing to charities the best of the best goes on a hanger on the sales floor, other items that are not quite perfect are shipped to other countries in need of clothing. Items that are not good enough for either purpose are sold to recyclers. The recyclers often shred them and turn them into industrial cleaning pads and other items. Old blue jeans are turned into green insulation products.

If you have linens such as towels, sheets and blankets that you no longer need - donate them to an animal shelter. They always have a demand for these items and welcome and appreciate them.

Try tearing up some of your T-shirts and similar items and using them for rags to cut down on the use of paper towels. Rags can be washed and used over and over again.

And for the more creative among you, clothing can be repurposed into a new use. Dad's dress shirt can become a kindergarten painting smock. Blue jeans can be sewn into a beach bag or purse. Clothing can be cut into smaller pieces for quilts or patchwork vests or wall hangings. Crafters can find endless uses for pieces of fabrics - the possibilities are endless.

Save the landfill for items we can't possible reuse, repurpose or recycle and maybe some day soon we'll hardly have a need for them at all.

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

[Forward email](#)

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