



GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS

1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614
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August 9, 2010

Mark Your Calendar

SUMMER HOURS

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

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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N. Sommer Street is CLOSED

If you are headed to the presbytery office, please be aware that N. Sommer Street, off of Pioneer Parkway, is under construction and closed at the present time. Candletree Drive, which is the street we're located on, is open. You can turn on to Candletree Drive off of University.

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

Okay, how about this for being fairly connected in the digital age for a grandma? This week I want to direct your attention to ["Taking a Break From the Lord's Work" article in the 8-2-10 The New York Times.](#)

That is a link that I found in the facebook postings of several of our younger pastors on a Wednesday afternoon. You should read the article. If you are a pastor, get out your calendar and figure out how many days off you have taken in the last month. That is whole days off-24 hours at a time. And, by days off, I mean no church emails, no cell phone calls from parishioners, no running down to church to let someone in to the building or going over to church to clean off your desk or just stopping by to be sure that the air conditioner is on or the dehumidifier is running. If we took a poll of all of the pastors in our presbytery, I think we would all be shocked at how few pastors could claim that they were able to even put 24 hours in row together with those parameters. With the advent of the digital age and all of the kinds of communication that we now have, it is very hard for pastors to really be away.

I have some suggestions. First, take out your calendar again and look at the next four weeks. Now take a pen or your stylus in hand and mark out four days in the next four weeks when you can take 24 hours in a row away from church duties. If you have a wedding, find a weekday that will work. Really, do it right now. We will wait.

Second, do you have more than one email account? If not, go to gmail or hotmail or whatever works for you and set up a second account right now. Then take the time to let your personal contacts know that this is your preferred address for them. That way, during those 24 hours, you can still check on personal emails but can let work emails ride.

Third, if you are a regular user of facebook, do you have two or more facebook accounts? I am becoming more and more convinced that pastors need to have a facebook account for their work life-contact with parishioners-and a separate one for their personal life-funny stories from

college friends, etc. Again, if you simply must check facebook on your day off, then check only the one with your personal contacts, not the one that you use as a part of your ministry.

Fourth, when you go to bed the night before your 24 hours starts, put a message on your cell phone that you will not be available for church calls until "such and such" a time. Then, don't answer it the next day unless it is your mother, or your spouse, or your best friend looking for someone with whom to hang out. You know, when some of us started our ministries, there were no cell phones and pastoral care was still extended in very caring ways to our parishioners. (Some people have two cell phones: one for work and one for personal use. That might be another option.)

Of course none of this even begins to address actual vacation. But, some of those actions will help with that, too, so that you are not answering work calls and emails from the wilds of your fishing camp or golf course or luxury hotel.

Now, if you are not a pastor and you are still reading, I hope you have looked at the article from the NY Times as well. What can you do to help address this problem? Do you know which day your pastor has designated as a day off? If not, ask. Do not call your pastor on those days. Make sure other members of your congregation know that is the day off as well. Do you know if your pastor has found a way to use all four weeks of vacation and two weeks of study leave? Ask. Encourage them to plan the rest of that time for this year if they have not already done so.

Some people wonder why pastors get so much time off. Remember what your pastor does. They see and hear from people when those people are often at their absolute lowest ebb. They preside at the funerals of dear friends. They hear about the good old days of the church and often receive the blame for dwindling numbers of people in church. They are expected to raise the funds to keep the church open but are not expected to make any recommendations that appear in any way radical; that appear in any way to challenge the status quo; or that appear in any way to ask for information about people's giving that might help the pastor to address the issues. There is a lot of responsibility in most pastor's relationships with their congregations but very little real authority. That is the definition of a job that will burn someone out.

Here is the bottom line. Your pastor loves you and your congregation, but they need to get away from you sometimes. So, help them to be responsible stewards of the gifts for ministry with which they have been blessed and make sure that they take time every week to get out of the office, off the phone, away from the church emails and into a frame of mind and spirit to renew themselves and their call so that you may all serve well together.

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 Mike Orr.](#)

"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.

Innovative Ministry

Is your congregation or a congregation in your presbytery doing innovative ministry? Union-PSCE has a new name Union Presbyterian Seminary and has three new Older Adult Education Ministry Congregation Awards!!!

Each year Union Presbyterian Seminary awards congregations for innovative ministry. Since 1991, 87 churches in 28 states have received these awards.

Each of the eight awards carries a \$1,000 prize to support the congregation in its ministry.

For more information and to apply for one of the Union Presbyterian Seminary Congregation Awards, you may request an application by sending an e-mail to [April Swofford](#) at or call 1-800-229-2990, ext 231.

The application and instructions are only available electronically. The deadline for the 2011 Awards is FEBRUARY 15, 2011.

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 today**
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](#)

Continuing Education For CLPs and Preachers

October 4-7, 2010

Montreat Conference Center's commitment to continuing education for church professionals brings CLPs together from across the country for a

conference each October. They are encouraged by each other, share "best practices," and find renewed energy for their unique call to ministry.

[Click here for more information.](#)

BOP Approves Health Care Reform-Related Changes

Study of Assembly-urged domestic partner benefits to begin

Presbyterian News Service

by Jerry L. Van Marter

PHILADELPHIA

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has already taken several steps in order to comply - early in some cases - with the healthcare reform legislation passed by the U.S. Congress earlier this year.

"We've all heard a lot about the legal requirements arising from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) legislation," said Pat Haines, senior vice president of benefits for the Board of Pensions. "We will meet or exceed these requirements while placing the best interests of members, churches, and employing organizations first at all times."

At its July 24 meeting here, the board approved three changes to its Medical Plan, effective Jan. 1, 2011:

[Click here to read more.](#)



Thermostats: The Good, The Bad And The Ugly

By Lauri Vial, Energy Consultant

Now that our volunteer engineer and I have several energy audits of church buildings under our belts we are seeing some very unique concerns and some patterns. If your church is interested in a complete, professional energy audit including a detailed written report, at no charge, please e-mail me at the hot link at the bottom.

Most of the churches where we have done energy audits are older buildings. When I say older I mean over 100 years old. Almost every church was built in stages with different wings having their own type of heating and cooling, lighting, architecture etc. One of our churches was quite new and had an addition that was almost brand new.

And while we are dealing with energy issues other concerns often come up - especially water leakage and drainage issues. The important thing with energy audits is prioritizing concerns. Churches need to feel that their buildings are safe and dry before they can concentrate on energy saving measures. And many churches are concerned about capital expenditures to make their building accessible which is admirable to say the least.

We provide guidance and suggestions but we in no way try influence how a church spends its money or addresses these concerns with the physical infrastructure. A church may adopt none of our ideas, all of our suggestions, or as in most cases, somewhere in between. Some projects will be addressed in a few years after budgeting and fund raising.

So don't be afraid of us, we are only here to help you. But if I had to pick an overriding concern at every church it's - thermostats. If you and a family member play thermostat war at your house this won't surprise you. Many of our churches have lots of thermostats. Many have different types of thermostats. Many have different heating and cooling zones but it's not always clear what the boundaries of the zones are. And if they are not securely locked up with the key hidden, lots of people are controlling the thermostats.

If the thermostats are not programmable even those with the best intentions sometimes forget to turn it up in the summer and down in the winter. So while you're waiting for your energy audit appointment - think

about getting the buildings and grounds committee or the trustees together and setting a thermostat policy. We recommend that you switch to programmable thermostats, set them as recommended and lock them up. When there is a special meeting the attendees can use the override switch to adjust the temperature for the meeting and it automatically reverts back to the programmed set points in a few hours.

Some of our churches have heavy usage seven days a week and full time custodians. Some of our churches are barely used except for Sunday morning. Programmable thermostats insure that in unoccupied spaces of the building the air is not conditioned. In the sanctuary it is important to control humidity to protect the organ and piano. According to independent studies the instruments are not adversely affected by being at the set back temperatures as long as you bring them to optimum temperature prior to services.

Now for the nitty gritty. What are the optimum, recommended temperatures for occupied and non-occupied times and how close to the start of Sunday activities, for example, should we start bringing the temperature to the occupied setting? The temperature range for human comfort is between 68 and 78 degrees. This depends on the humidity in the air. The amount of humidity, in the air, affects how water evaporates from our skin. The lower the humidity, the lower the temperature at which it evaporates. We are colder in the winter, when the air is dryer and warmer in the summer when there is more moisture in it.

There are other factors such as how well our blood circulates, how active we are and how dressed up we are.

A good average temperature for heating is 72 degrees F. A good average temperature for cooling is 75 degrees. A good wintertime setback temperature is 60 degree F. 55 if you are really penurious. A good summertime set up temperature is 85 degrees, off for the penurious.

If you do drop temperature to 55 degrees, you should allow about 8 hours of recovery time if you have a once per week service , the temperature is below 10 degrees, your furnaces are sized just to meet the losses when the out of doors is 0 degrees or less. Cool down can occur in just a couple of hours; especially in the early morning. The average winter temperature in central Illinois is about 37 degrees. At that temperature, the space can warm up in an hour or so.

Remember that when people congregate together they bring their own heat. They also turn on lights which add heat. It is actually good to be a little cool at the start of a service. This for both winter and summer.

So discuss and adopt a thermostat policy, execute it and share your thoughts and concerns with me. And tell me what you are doing with all the money you are saving!

To contact me, e-mail Laurie. Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

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