

# GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

August 17, 2009



PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS  
1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614  
800-537-8592 / Peoria 309-683-6980 / Fax: 309-683-6983  
Website: [www.greatriverspby.org](http://www.greatriverspby.org)

## Mark Your Calendar

### Summer Office Hours

Mo - Th 8:30 - 4:30  
Closed Friday

### Nominating Committee

Wed., August 19  
10:00 - 2:00  
PGR

### Clergy Group

Thursday, August 20  
10:00 - 11:30  
PGR

### Presbytergent Cohort

Thursday, August 20  
10:00 - Noon  
United, Peoria

### Personnel Mtg.

Monday, August 24  
10:00 - Noon  
PGR

### COM Meeting

Tuesday, August 25  
10:00 - 3:00  
Northminster, Peoria

### Visioning Council

Wed., August 26  
9:30 - 2:30  
PGR

### Assembly Papers DUE to [Patti](#)

Wednesday, Sept. 2

### Assembly Papers on

## General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

If you are not a pastor, has your pastor signed up yet for the Pastor's Study Day on September 25 in Peoria? If you are a pastor, have you signed up? The day will be spent with Carol Howard Merritt, author of The Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation. There will be keynote addresses, time to talk about the concepts she presents, a great lunch and door prizes-all for the low cost of \$25 per person.

Here is a sample of something that she talks about in the book. Remember, her book is about how we can incorporate people in their twenties and thirties into the lives of our churches. One of her chapters is called "Discovering Affirming Traditions." A part of what she highlights in this chapter is that sometimes churches are carrying on a program or particular way of doing some part of the church's life that once had great meaning but has now become rote. The meaning was usually something deeply moving and spiritual, something that helped build up that small part of the body of Christ. But, when the program or method becomes separated from the meaning, then younger new members of the community cannot quite see why it is important to do "it" (whatever "it" is) in exactly this way.

Remember the story about the Easter ham? Granddaughter watches her mother fixing the Easter ham and asks why the ends of the ham have to be cut off. Mother goes into some long story about how it makes the ham taste better and then realizes it does not really make sense, so ends up saying "I am not sure, but we have always done it that way. Ask Grandma, maybe she knows why." So, Granddaughter asks Grandma, who realizes she does not really know the reason either and sends Granddaughter into the living room to waken Great-Grandma who is resting while the meal is being fixed, having earned this rest after being in charge of the meal for so many years. Granddaughter gently wakes her. "Great-Grandma, why have we always cut both ends off the ham? Does it make it taste better; is it a secret family recipe?" Great-Grandma pulls herself together and laughs gently. "No, dear, when your Great-Grandpa and I first set up housekeeping, we were very poor and we only had one little pan. I had to cut the ends off the ham so that it would fit in that little pan and ever since then, people in this family have thought that was the way we had to do things!"

Website  
Friday, Sept. 4  
after 3:00

I once served a church in rural Iowa that had a long tradition of frying homemade mashed potato doughnuts in lard and selling them to the community on a Saturday in the spring. By the time I arrived there in the early 1990's, they had not done this for several years. The younger people had finally said "No" to this project that took a week to complete. The potatoes had to be peeled and boiled and mashed-all before the Saturday arrived. Then, on the day, people had to arrive in the middle of the night to get huge kettles of lard hot enough to fry the dozens and dozens of doughnuts that they sold. I guess the church building smelled like hot lard for weeks afterwards. The younger people found this to be a fire hazard, a health hazard, and too much work for the money that was raised. An older woman made one last attempt to have this project again while I was their pastor. She was so convinced that she would get people to do this again, that she started filling up the church refrigerator with lard. But, no doughnuts were cooked that year or since then, as far as I know.

The doughnut project had a purpose that had been lost over time-I don't even know what the money was used for. But, I imagine it was used for a specific project for mission or building or something outside of the regular church budget. It was also done at a time and by a generation of people that gauged the value of something by the amount of hard, physical labor that went into its execution. If your bones did not ache and you were not exhausted by the time a project was done, then you were probably not dedicated to it and it did not hold a high importance in your life. By the time I was there, no one remembered why it had originally been done. But it became kind of a generational fight. The older people thought the young people were lazy and the younger people thought the old-timers were crazy to spend so much time making things that did not really appeal either to the diners or their doctors.

Are there projects in your church or ways of doing things that have lost their original meaning? Are there people who insist that something must be done in a certain way but have no idea why they are doing it that way? Discovering the original meaning and having a discussion about other ways to accomplish that same important end might prove to be fruitful.

### **We Prayed for You this Week**

During our staff meetings each week, the presbytery staff prays for four 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.

Prairie City, First Pres.  
Princeville, First Pres.  
Quincy, Ellington Memorial Pres.  
Quincy, Possible New Church Development

### **Can You Help?**

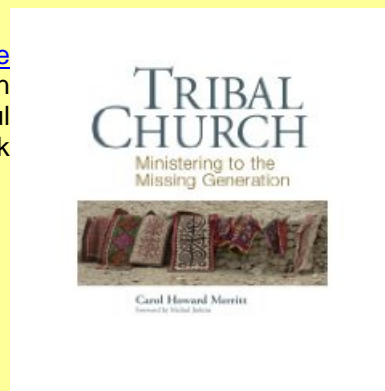
If you have an extra electric typewriter (working) sitting around your church that you would like to donate to the presbytery office, contact [Julie](#). Thanks for your help.

## Continuing Education - Tribal Church

Carol Howard Merritt will be with our pastors on Friday, September 25 to spend the day looking at her book Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation. Rev. Merritt has a radio show once a week with Bruce Reyes-Chow, the moderator of the General Assembly [blog talk radio](#) and also has a blog that might interest you [Tribal Church](#).

Pastors can register for the day at any time by contacting [Julie Bainbridge](#). The event is from 9:30am - 3:30pm at Weaver Ridge in Peoria. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a wonderful lunch. Your \$25 can be paid the day of the meeting, make check payable to Presbytery of Great Rivers.

The [countdown](#) has begun.



## Administrative Personnel Don't Miss This!

Administrative Personnel Association (APA) Day will be held Tuesday, October 13 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at United Presbyterian Church in Peoria. The two classes offered are Spiritual Growth and Discipline and Developing Professionalism. Please RSVP by September 30 to Trish at [upc@unitedpc.org](mailto:upc@unitedpc.org).

[APA Flyer](#)

Follow link to find out more about Administrative Personnel Association of the PC(U.S.A.) [www.pcusa-apa.org](http://www.pcusa-apa.org).

## Board of Pensions

To keep up with Board of Pensions updates go to ... [Headline News](#).

## St. Louis Bus Trip

On **Friday, November 20**, Peoria United Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a dream day trip to St. Louis via Peoria Charter Coach. We will be leaving from our church parking lot at **7:30 am**. The 55 people aboard will head straight to the St. Louis Galleria for lunch on their own and a little shopping.

At around 3:45pm we will board our bus and drive to the awesome [Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis](#). It is 83,000 square feet of Mosaic art created with over 41,500,000 pieces of Tessera in more than 8,000 shades of color. The artistry provides a visual lesson in faith, history, art and architecture. We will be treated to a guided tour of this amazing building.

At 5:30pm we will again board our coach and drive a few short blocks where we will dine at [Duff's Restaurant](#). The chef at Duff's will put together a special menu of 4 or 5 seasonal entrees for you to choose from. All menu items are made from scratch in small quantities using the freshest and least processed produce and ingredients available from local farmers and purveyors. Duff's owners, Karen Duffy and Tim Kirby, recently received the Restaurateur of the Year Award from the Missouri Restaurant Association.

Following our sumptuous meal, we will head back to the Cathedral Basilica for the 8:00pm concert of the [Vienna Boys Choir](#). Our seats are in Section II off the center aisle and under the Grand Dome. The music should be spectacular and will last approximately 2 hours.

Then, filled with the sites and sounds of a fabulous day, we will head home with the knowledge that we can sit back, relax and let the Peoria Charter Coach professional driver take care of us all the way home.

Tickets for this wonderful day will be **\$90.00 each** and include the bus trip, dinner at Duff's, Basilica tour, concert tickets and the driver's tip. Your reservations are made with your check made payable to United Presbyterian Church 2400 W. Northmoor Rd., Peoria, IL 61614. Once all seats are filled, we will take names for a back up list. We will not be able to refund money to anyone for any reason. We will, however, share the names that are on the back up list. If you have any questions, please call Linda Kelley at 309-694-4968.

### **Ladies Night Out: an Evening with Shauna Niequist**

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

5:00 - 9:30pm

\$16.00 per ticket or host a table and get 8 tickets for the price of 7.

#### **Second Presbyterian Church**

313 N. East St.

Bloomington, IL 61701

Ladies, you're invited to come enjoy food, fellowship, worship and a presentation from Shauna Niequist, author of Cold Tangerines. Check out her blog at [www.shaunaniequist.com](http://www.shaunaniequist.com). Come hear her thoughts on life, faith, food, family and friends. You won't want to miss this evening!

For more information, contact Rev. Andrea Haughton Kladder at (309) 828-6297 ext. 204 or e-mail [Andrea](mailto:Andrea).

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