



Presbytery of Great Rivers Newsletter

Good News From Great Rivers

August 17, 2010

Mark Your Calendar **A Report From One Of Your Commissioners To GA:**

SUMMER HOURS

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

[August Calendar](#)
[September Calendar](#)

COM

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

Bills and Overtures

Tuesday, August 31
10:00 - 12:00
First, Springfield

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, September 6
Labor Day

Personnel Meeting

Tuesday, September 7
9:30
PGR

Clergy Group

Thursday, September 9
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

Session Record Review

Saturday, September 18
9:30 - 12:00
United, Woodhull

Annual Pastor's Retreat

Friday, September 24
9:30 - 3:30
WeaverRidge in Peoria

COM

Tuesday, September 28
10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

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 here to read report from Miriam Pride.](#)

"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.

Quick Links

[PGR Website](#)
[PGR Library](#)

[PGR PhotoBucket](#)
[2010 Assembly Meetings](#)
[PC\(USA\) APA Brochure](#)
[PC\(USA\) Directed Giving](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

::

Session Record Review

There is one Session Record Reviews left this year (three have already been completed!) The review will be held on Saturday from 9:30 am to noon. Clerks of Session, please RSVP as soon as possible to [Julie](#). REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR COVER SHEET and FORM AND, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A **REQUIREMENT OF THE BOOK OF ORDER!**

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](#)

Thank You

Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers through this difficult time.

Sue Kummel

No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

During the St Luke Union Church's High Seas Expedition - 2010 Vacation Bible School, Pastor Andy Gifford, Leader Doug Ferrier and Youth Logan Moret challenged the children to collect 200 cans of food to be given to Bloomington's Clare House Food Pantry. The children collected 240 cans of food and as a reward they pied their leaders at the conclusion of a week of great fun and learning about God's Word.

St. Luke Union Church in Bloomington, IL



Pakistan Monsoons

Only a small fraction of the 6 million Pakistanis desperate for food and clean water have received any help as the United Nations battled donor fatigue and appealed urgently on Tuesday for more funds. With hundreds of villages marooned and highways and bridges cut in half by swollen rivers, food rations and access to clean water have only been provided to around 500,000 flood survivors, the U.N. said. The United Nations has warned that up to 3.5 million children could be in danger of contracting deadly diseases carried through contaminated water and insects in a crisis that has disrupted the lives of at least a tenth of Pakistan's 170 million people.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been working quickly with our ecumenical partners on the ground to distribute essential aid to families and deliver critical relief to people affected by this crisis. Assistance includes food and non-food relief items, emergency shelter and basic health services. Donations can be sent to the Presbytery office, the PC(USA) project number is **DR000038**. Donations can also be made directly to PC(USA) at [Disaster Relief Pakistan](#).

"Hope"ing For An Organ

[Hope Presbyterian Church](#) in Plainfield, IN is in need of a new (or used) organ due to the fact that the current organ is on the brink of failure. They are interested in knowing if there is a church in the Synod of Lincoln Trails that might be looking to part ways (i.e. sell) an organ at this time.

If you know of an organ, please contact Hope's pastor [Gray Marshall](#).

ATiiM Conference

The ATiiM 19th Annual Conference is coming up, September 29-30, 2010. [Brochure](#)



Camping, National Parks By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

As you read this I will be back home after a week of camping along Lake Michigan with my 18-year-old daughter. There's something about camping or communing with nature in any way on any level that makes you think more about living greener and taking better care of our planet earth. I think it comes from being more intimate with nature than we are even in our backyards.

My parents instilled in me a love of camping and the outdoors although I'll be the first to admit I like it more when it is not raining.

A co-worker at the Presbytery of Great Rivers was recently sharing with me that they vacationed in Yellowstone National Park and were impressed by how "green" it is. The serving plates, cups and even utensils are all made of natural materials and are composted. The forks, knives and spoons are made out of corn products. They add wood-chips, manure, bio-solids from the park's waste-water treatment plants, and seasonal lawn clippings/leaves in predetermined ratios.

When it is cured, the compost is priced at \$15/cubic yard. West Yellowstone's compost has been used in Yellowstone National Park's developed landscape projects, a LEEDS-certified duplex built by Yellowstone's concessionaire, Xanterra Parks and Resorts, and by many local gardeners in the surrounding region.

It made me think that the earliest places I saw public recycling bins were in state and national parks. Michigan passed a "bottle bill" in 1976. Redemption rate at 10 cents per can or bottle is a whopping 97 percent. Mineral and carbonated water are covered, alas drinking water is not.

We had taken 12 sodas in our cooler and could not find a place to recycle them as everyone returns the Michigan cans for the refund. So we brought ours home to recycle. We took our own water bottles and refilled them - saves the wallet and the environment.

The beaches and roadsides were pretty much litter-free. And it's not much of a stretch to generalize that people who frequent our parks to camp, hike, fish and otherwise enjoy nature might very well be people who care about the environment. How well I remember my mother's lectures on not littering - carry out what you carry in.

When you are traveling try to find ways to incorporate being green into your plans. If enough people suggest greener options to stores, amusement parks, restaurants, etc. management might consider greener options.

To contact me, e-mail [Laurie](mailto:greenenergy@greatriverspby.org) (greenenergy@greatriverspby.org.) Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

[Forward email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to pparrish@greatriverspby.org by jbainbridge@greatriverspby.org. Email Marketing by [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Presbytery of Great Rivers | 1230 W Candletree Dr | Suite D | Peoria | IL | 61614