

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

September 1, 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

Mark Your Calendar

Summer Office Hours

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

Assembly Papers DUE to Patti

Wednesday, Sept. 2

Assembly Papers on Website

Friday, Sept. 4
after 3:00

OFFICE CLOSED

Labor Day
Monday, Sept. 7

Assembly Planning Committee

Conference Call
Tuesday, Sept. 8
10:00

Supplemental Papers on

Website
Friday, Sept. 11
after 3:00

Installation of the Rev. Andrew Gifford

Sunday, September 13
3:30pm
St. Luke, Bloomington

ASSEMBLY MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 15
9:30

General Presbyter's Perspective

Rev. Susan Krummel

How do you handle your church's funds that are not needed for day to day expenses? What funds you may ask? Some of the churches in our presbytery have more than a million dollars in excess funds-they may go by names like endowment fund, restricted funds, rainy day funds, and so on-but they are funds that are not used to pay the normal bills of the church. Some of the churches in our presbytery live hand to mouth and have to balance the paying of bills, sometimes asking their pastors not to cash their checks for a week or more, or paying only the minimum on one bill in order to pay off another. Those churches may not be wondering about an excess of funds.

But, every church that I have served as pastor has at one point or another received a financial gift that they did not anticipate, or a gift that had been anticipated that turned out to be much bigger than anyone could have imagined. This can throw a church and its session into quite a frenzy. Some people will want to spend the money immediately on something they have always hoped to do. Some will want to put it away in CDs or in the savings account as quickly as possible and maybe not even tell the whole church the amount of the gift. Some will spend time dreaming about what they might do with the gift in a way that energizes their community. Others will begin to fight among themselves, much like siblings who argue over their parents' possessions at the time of a death.

There might be two lessons in this receipt of surprise gifts from donors either known or unknown to the church. The first, and perhaps most important one, is that we never can tell how the ministry of a church will bear fruit in someone's life. One of the churches I served received a gift from the estate of the person whose empire turned into Kmart. Current members of the church could not remember any particular association between this man and the church. But, it turns out that he had been a child in that community and had attended Sunday School fairly briefly at that church and remembered the church quite graciously in his will. I have known of churches that received bequests from people who did not even have that kind of fleeting association with the church, but who were just members of the community at large who were impressed by the church's ministry. We never know how we will touch people's lives.

First, Macomb

Presbytergent Cohort

Thursday, Sept. 17
10:00 - 12:00
United, Peoria

Installation of the
Rev. Susan Loper

Sunday, September 20
5:00pm
First United, Carthage
and First, Warsaw

COM Meeting

Tuesday, September 22
10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

Clergy Group

Thursday, September 24
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

Pastor's Continuing Ed. -
Tribal Church

Friday, September 25
9:30 - 3:30
WeaverRidge in Peoria

Investments/Endowments

Workshop

Sunday, October 25
2:00 - 6:00
South Park, Rock Island

Investments/Endowments

Workshop

Monday, October 26
4:00 - 8:00
First, Normal

Investments/Endowments

Workshop

Tuesday, October 27
10:00 - 2:00
Westminster, Springfield

The second lesson is that it is good for the session to have an idea, even a policy, about how bequests will be handled. Some churches say that all bequests must immediately go into an endowment fund whose principal may never be touched. Sometimes that may have been the wish of the deceased. But, often, the person has just left their bequest to "First Presbyterian Church" with no thought that the money would not ever be used. Some churches ask surviving family members how they would like the money used. This might be a way to avoid fights, but it also might be a way to end up with some addition to the church building, etc., that does not really fit the church's mission. Some churches have a policy such as this "General bequests under \$25,000 will go into the operating budget of the church, with 10% designated for mission. Such bequests over \$25,000 will go into the Foundation, with 10% being designated for mission." There are, of course, many other options.

The Visioning Council has planned a workshop to help your congregation think about how it uses its current reserve funds and/or to plan for future gifts. The same workshop will be offered three times and led by Lisa Longo, of the Presbyterian Foundation; and by Charles Spencer, the Executive Presbyter of Heartland Presbytery and a resource for financial issues within the church. The workshops will be offered on Sunday, October 25 from 2-6pm at South Park Church in Rock Island; Monday, October 26 from 4-8pm at First Church, Normal; and Tuesday, October 27, from 10am-2pm at Westminster Church in Springfield. You may bring as many people as you would like from your congregation. Please RSVP to [Julie](#) on or before Friday, September 18 and be sure to tell her which workshop you will be attending.

2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

"For Such a Time as This"
July 20-24, 2010
Purdue University; West Lafayette, IN

Visit the [Triennium website](#) for information, forms, and registration procedures. The deadline for presbytery registrars is Friday, October 30, 2009.

**Evangelism Sunday
September 27, 2009**

"The word took on human flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood"
(John 1:14)

[Click here](#) to learn more.

\$100 Mission Challenge

Mission Challenge [growing by the bushel](#)

Elder Training

Each training event will be held on a Saturday from 8:30am - 3:00pm with lunch served at noon. **Registration** is required for the purpose of preparing the meal and providing training manuals. Registration is accomplished by contacting [Julie](#) at the presbytery office. Let Julie know how many will be attending and which event they prefer. *If there are not at least ten registrations per event, cancellation is possible.* We want to be good stewards of time and resources.

Please RSVP by the dates listed below.

November 7	RSVP before October 29	@ Third Pres., Springfield
November 21	RSVP before November 12	@ St. Luke Union, Bloomington
January 9	RSVP before January 4	@ TBA
January 16	RSVP before January 7	@ TBA

Come Have A Laugh With Ken Bradbury

West Prairie Presbyterian Church of Adair, IL invites one and all to come hear Ken Bradbury **September 20, 2009 at 9:00am.**

Ken Bradbury taught at Triopia High School for 37 years, and is now an instructor at Lincoln Land College. Since 1995, he has been named the most-produced author of school speech contest material, with his material having won top honors in nearly all fifty states and Puerto Rico, his name has appeared in more contests than any other author. Ken is the author of *The Coonridge Digest*, a newspaper column that has won the Associated Press Award for "Best Humor Column." He's also the author of five books, *The Coonridge Digest*, *Around the World with Freda Marie Crump*, *The Coonridge Devotions*, *Homerville* and *Souptown*.

West Prairie Presbyterian Church
4005 E. 2000th Street
Adair, IL 61411

Please **RSVP** to Lorena Saurbaugh (309)313-5329

McCormick Days 2009

Religion and Violence
October 29-30, 2009
\$75 registration fee before October 1.
\$100 registration fee after October 1.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches Workshop

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering our *Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches Workshop* on October 17, 2009 at the Congregational Church of Batavia, in Batavia, IL. For more information [click here](#).

2009 IGRC Outreach Conference

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

The clergy and laity in the Great Rivers Presbytery are invited to join their counterparts in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church at the 2009 IGRC Outreach Conference featuring keynote speaker, Bishop Robert Schnase, author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, on **Wednesday, September 23** at Wesley United Methodist Church in Bloomington, Illinois. The Outreach Conference will run from 8:00 am to 8:30 pm and is FREE. Conference costs are being underwritten by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, the Vermilion River District, and the United Methodist Churches of the Bloomington - Normal area.

For details on the conference (speaker profiles, schedule, menus, travel directions, and parking maps), or to register online, visit www.2009igrcoutreachconference.org. Meals at Wesley UMC are \$10. FREE childcare will also be available. *The deadline to register for meals at the church and / or childcare is September 16.*

If you have questions or need additional information about the 2009 IGRC Outreach Conference, you can click on [Brochure](#) or contact Jan Godbey, Conference Coordinator through the Wesley UMC church office at 309-827-8046.

The ABC's of a Healthy Marriage

Northminster Presbyterian Church, 10720 N Knoxville Ave, Peoria is pleased to announce that on Saturday, September 19th from 9:00am - 4:00pm they will host "The ABC's of a Healthy Marriage" seminar with guest speakers Mark & Jill Savage. Mark and Jill Savage are self described as being married 24 years, 14 happily. After turning their hurting marriage around, they felt called to help other couples take their marriage to the next level. Their teaching is practical, humorous, and full of energy. Mark serves as the Pastor of Crosswinds Community Church and Jill leads Hearts at Home Ministries and is author of numerous books regarding marriage, family and children.

Seminar Topics include:

His - Her Needs
Love Language
Romance
Intimacy
Conflict Resolution
Forgiveness
Sexual Relationship
Spiritual Relationship

Registration fee is \$60.00. Registration forms are available online at [Northminster Presbyterian Church](#), or call the church office at 309-691-6322.

Free Outdoor Concert

Northminster Presbyterian Church
10720 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria, IL 61615

Northminster is proud to be hosting a FREE outdoor concert for the community featuring Contemporary Christian Music Artists and Juno, Dove and Covenant Award Winners, Downhere on Sunday, September 6th at 6:30pm.

For more information call the church at 309-691-6322 [Northminster Presbyterian Church](#) or [Downhere](#).

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