

# GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

October 12, 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

### Nominating Committee

Tuesday, October 13  
10:00 - 2:00  
PGR

### APA Day

Tuesday, October 13  
9:00 - 3:00  
United, Peoria

### Visioning Council

Wednesday, October 14  
9:30 - 2:30  
PGR

### COM Training

Saturday, October 17  
8:30 - 2:30  
First, Canton

### Administration Council

Tuesday, October 20  
9:30 - 2:30  
PGR

### Clergy Group

Thursday, October 22  
10:00 - 11:30  
PGR

### 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

## General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

I saw a couple of interesting things in a movie this weekend. Now, I hesitate to ever mention a book or a movie since I am afraid it may sound like an endorsement. So, this is not an endorsement, but merely an observation. The movie is called "The Invention of Lying." The premise is that the world is a place where no one can lie and then the main character discovers the ability to say something that is not real. The word "lie" is never used in the movie, since they have no word for this phenomenon.

The first thing that I thought was interesting in terms of how we think about churches was an advertisement that someone was watching on television. It was for Coke and, since no one can lie, it was very straightforward. The spokesperson said things like "It has not changed; we want you to not stop buying Coke. It is basically brown sugar water and leads to obesity. . ." You get the idea. As we were watching that part, I leaned over to my husband and said, "Help me remember this." I wanted to write about it here. The reason that I wanted to write about it is that it sounded so much like the way members sometimes talk about their churches. I have met with sessions that are upset about no new members in awhile and that are trying to figure out something to do about that. I will ask the question, "What do you brag about when you tell your friends and co-workers about your church? What are you so proud about that you must tell people about it?" Usually there are blank stares around the table. That's because when they talk about their church--if they talk about it at all--it may sound like the Coke ad in the movie. It would be true that the Coke spokesperson would have had to lie if he were to say that there was something new or innovative about Coke or that it would change your life in some way. Surely, that is not true about our congregations, at least not about the ones that are truly interested in telling new people about the fact that God loves them in Jesus Christ.

The second thing (and this is a spoiler alert if you are planning to see the movie) is that the central lie perpetrated in the movie is about heaven and, thereby, about God. The main character wants to comfort his mother as she is dying and tells her a "lie" about heaven that sounds pretty much like what you would hear at a Christian funeral. There are some funny scenes--like when he steps out onto his front porch to tell people ten things about this new revelation and he has affixed his paper to two large Pizza Hut boxes that look just like tablets. But, it is pretty disturbing that the central example in a movie about lying is the idea that there is a being who is in charge of the world about whom people ask the kind of deep questions about evil and misfortune that take more than a few scenes to discuss in any depth.

## Investments/Endowments

### Workshop

Tuesday, October 27

10:00 - 2:00

Westminster, Springfield

### COM Meeting

Tuesday, October 27

10:00 - 3:00

Northminster, Peoria

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

Wednesday, October 28

### Assembly Papers on Website

Friday, October 30

after 3:00

What does this say about the culture in which we are trying to help people to see themselves as beloved children of God? What does it say about the obstacles we face in talking with people about a faith that gives our lives meaning but, if this movie reflects any reality, seems just completely far-fetched to them?

We do not create faith in people, or even the openness to faith that allows them to begin asking the ultimate questions about their life and their relationship with other people. We are more like midwives, assisting in the birth of that faith and helping to nurture this new faith as it begins to grow. When our culture encouraged people to go to church every Sunday and kept stores closed on Sundays, etc., it was our ally in encouraging people to be open to belief. Our culture is no longer our ally in such specific ways, but that does not diminish our call to go into all the world and make disciples so that people may live in the knowledge of God's love for them in Jesus Christ.

## **Pathways Youth Ministry Leader Seminar**

This Saturday, October 17, 2009 the Pathways Youth Ministry Leader Seminar will be held at Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, IL - an event that is being co-sponsored by Princeton Seminary's Institute for Youth Ministry and the PC(USA) Offices of Ministries with Youth and Vocation.

This one-day event is for both adult youth leaders (volunteer, clergy, etc.) as well as youth in grades 9-12 and will be held. Our hope is to offer both theological as well as practical education relevant to ministry with youth in an all-in-one seminar that will last one day, from 9am - 4:30pm.

[Pathways Flyer](#)

[For more information.](#)

## **Administering the Sacraments and Moderating a Session (One Day Class)**

If you are a CLP in Great Rivers and have not taken Rev. Dick Johnson's one day class on Administering the Sacraments and Moderating a Session, the next event is coming up **October 17th, at Canton-First from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** The same is true for Ministers of Word and Sacrament of denominations other than ours. The Committee on Ministry requires this class before granting permission for you to moderate the session or administer Holy Communion or to Baptize anyone in the church to which you are commissioned. Call 800-537-8592 or e-mail [Julie Bainbridge](#) at the presbytery office to **make your reservation for this class by Monday, Oct. 12th.** There is no cost to you except your time and travel to Canton.

## **Investments & Endowments Workshop**

The deadline for registering for the workshops on investments for churches has been extended because of the wonderful response. Here are the details.

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

Monday, October 26, 4:00pm - 8:00pm, First Pres., Normal

Tuesday, October 27, 10:00am - 2:00pm, Westminster Pres., Springfield

You may register for the workshops until Thursday, October 22 by e-mailing [Julie Bainbridge](#) or call her at the presbytery office at 800-537-8592.

## **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	<b>RSVP before October 29</b>	@ Third Pres., Springfield
November 14	<b>RSVP before November 5</b>	@ First Pres., Elmwood
November 21	<b>RSVP before November 12</b>	@ St. Luke Union, Bloomington
January 9	<b>RSVP before January 4</b>	@ First Pres., Lewistown
January 16	<b>RSVP before January 7</b>	@ United, Woodhull
January 23	<b>RSVP before January 14</b>	@ United Pres., Peoria

## Presbytery Night at the Ballpark

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, June 11, 2010

If your choir would like to sing the National Anthem before the game, please contact [Julie](#).

## Working on Your Church's Budget?

The rate for employees and pastors in the traditional plan for the Board of Pensions remain the same for 2010, see table below..

	<u>%</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Medical	19.5%	\$33,930	\$104,400
Pension	11%	\$13,050	Not yet determined
Death & Disability	1%	\$13,050	Not yet determined

The Board of Pensions also has an [online tool](#) to help you accurately predict your 2010 dues. This site includes rates for the affiliate plan and dues for vacancies.

## Presbytery Confirmation Retreat

United Presbyterian is hosting a confirmation retreat for all the confirmation classes in the Presbytery on March 5-6, 2010. It will be an overnight lock-in style retreat with worship, games, small groups, food, and a lot of fun. If you are interested in having your church's confirmation class participate or you would like to help plan the event please contact [Rev. Stephen McKinney-Whitaker](#). We hope this can be a fun and educational event where youth get to meet other youth from around the area going through confirmation. We need your help in planning the event though, to know what you would like the retreat to focus on, should we bring in guest speakers, etc.? We also need to know how many churches plan to participate so we can figure out costs, etc. Thanks and we hope all the churches with confirmation classes will participate in this fun weekend event.

## World Mission Challenge 2009

### WORLD MISSION CHALLENGE 2009

From September 25 to October 19, more than forty missionaries have been traveling simultaneously throughout the church to over 130 presbyteries and the weekend of October 17-18 the Presbytery of Great Rivers will be hosting a missionary couple, Drs. Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta who come to us from Indonesia.



Bernie teaches graduate courses at the State Islamic University and at Gadjah Mada University, the oldest and largest national university in Indonesia, which has 56,000 students, most of whom are Muslim. This experience led to the founding of Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies, which quickly became an internationally acclaimed, inter-religious program and is the only known cooperation of its kind, between secular, Muslim, and Christian universities.

In the late 1990s, Bernie and Farsijana built a home in an all-Muslim neighborhood that is at the same time a center for community outreach and hospitality. At any given moment they share it with several other people of both Muslim and Christian faith. Their house also serves as a center for the Indonesian Women's Coalition, which Farsijana leads in empowering women and serving the victims of natural disasters.

Here is their schedule of events. We hope that you will make time in your schedule to visit one of the planned events and hear about the work of these PCUSA missionaries.

October 16 Friday	Evening arrival in presbytery	
October 17 Saturday	<b>9:00 a.m. Gathering at First Presbyterian Church, Geneseo</b>	
	<b>5:30 p.m. Worship Service at Central Presbyterian Church, Petersburg</b>	
October 18 Sunday	<b>Dr. Bernie Adeney-Risakotta</b>	<b>Dr. Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Danvers 9 a.m. Bible Study Group 10 a.m. Worship w/ Dr. Bernie Adeney- Risakotta preaching</b>	<b>Federated Church, Carlinville 9 am – worship w/Dr. Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta preaching</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Morton 12 noon Luncheon Gathering</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Jacksonville 12 noon - Luncheon Gathering</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Pekin 4-6 pm Youth Gathering with Pizza</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Federated Church, Peoria 5-7 pm Youth Gathering &amp; Meal</b>

Please make this information available to your congregations so that interested individuals may plan to participate in at least one of the planned events.

If you have any questions, contact Rev. Julie Peterson at [pastorcentral@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorcentral@sbcglobal.net) or 217-280-1395.

### Rediscovering Calvin for the Church Today

You're invited to join Princeton Theological Seminary in a special initiative. As part of our celebration of the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, we have created an [online community](#) dedicated to reading and discussing John Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion. Now is a great time to begin participating, because the reading of Book IV-which focuses on the church, the sacraments, the civil order, and how they work to "increase faith within us"-begins on August 25. Please share this opportunity with the ministers and elders in your congregations.

Form a small group (a session, adult education class, or weekly fellowship group) and Princeton Seminary will provide the following:

- A [reading schedule](#) that will guide you and your group through Book IV by the end of the year
- [Audio and text](#) versions of the McNeill/Battles translation of the Institutes, updated daily
- [Weekly reflections](#) based on the readings, complete with questions for further discussion, updated weekly

We also offer the following resources designed to help you rediscover Calvin's relevance to the church today:

- [Bulletin inserts](#) to advertise this initiative in your local church
- "[Book 4 Overview: What to Expect](#)," a short reflection by Professor Gordon S. Mikoski
- An [audio podcast](#) explaining the initiative and discussing its benefits

For more information, [visit our website](#) or call 609.497.7990.

## Presbyterian Foundation Offers Innovative Gift Program

[Click here for more information.](#)

## BOP Important News About Your Healthcare

[Click here for more information.](#)

### [Forward email](#)

#### ✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

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

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

Email Marketing by

