

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

October 20, 2009



[PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614

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Mark Your Calendar

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

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

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 1

Supplemental Papers

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

I have a skill that I have developed over the last three and half years. I have not worked at it particularly hard and have only needed the skill intermittently. Sometimes I have worked on it in the light of day, sometimes in the middle of the night. Sometimes I have practiced this skill one episode at a time and sometimes I have worked on it several episodes at a time. The last time I practiced--and was reminded how proficient I have become at the skill--was Sunday afternoon.

What is this skill you may wonder? I can fill a baby bottle with exactly six ounces of water from the tap without even looking. As I was doing this on Sunday afternoon, I was trying to figure out how I know when there are six ounces. Is it the amount of time? Is it the weight of the bottle? No, I realized, it is the sound of the water. I can tell by the way the sound deepens when we have reached the magic six ounces. (It is easier to get the powdered formula used by all of my grandchildren into the bottle with only six ounces of water in it instead of eight. It is easier to refill than to try to cram the powdered formula in when the bottle is already essentially full of water.)

Now, this is not a skill that is particularly useful outside of a very limited area. And, for me, it is a skill that has only been needed for a few days at a time every few weeks or months. But, I am really good at it and it has served a very good and specific purpose for the last three and half years.

Here's the thing. I will only need to do this a few more times, at least in the foreseeable future. My youngest grandchild is almost eight months old. He will soon be moving to a sippy cup and, near the same time, leaving formula behind. My highly developed skill will be worthless very soon. If another grandchild comes along in a few years or when I am a great-grandma, will this skill still be a part of my repertoire? Will it be like riding a bike and come back even after a prolonged time out of use? I don't know.

On Sunday afternoon as I was getting a bottle ready for a ride back to Chicago, I thought that this soon to be superfluous highly developed skill is quite like many things that we have learned to do very well in our congregations. We have some skills in each of our congregations that were at one time very necessary and at which we developed great expertise, but they are no longer useful. It does not matter if we learn to do those skills better or more often or if we just keep plugging along doing them as we always have. They are still superfluous and we probably need to see if there is anything about those skills that could inform what we

on Website

Friday, November 6
after 3:00

Elder Training

Saturday, November 7
8:30 - 3:00
Third, Springfield

Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, November 10
9:30

First, Normal

[Remember to RSVP for Two
of the Workshops](#)

Elder Training

Saturday, November 14
8:30 - 3:00
First, Elmwood

need to be doing in the present and into the future.

For instance, in bottle preparation, I have learned to be hospitable to my house guests and provide them with the kind of meal that they find quite satisfying. I can continue to do that as their tastes change. I have learned how to be helpful to my children and their spouses by following their rules about how to interact with their children. I can continue to do that. I have found a way to streamline a repetitive task. I can continue to do that.

What has your congregation done well in the past that may have become superfluous a decade into the 21st century? Perhaps it is a potluck dinner. I have a sense that there are not as many potluck dinners in churches as there once were. There are multiple reasons for this, I think. In some communities, county health laws regulate dinners at churches in such a way that potlucks are not allowed. There are fewer people who cook big meals at home and, therefore, fewer people who either have things at home to fix or have recipes handy that will feed a lot of people. There seem to be more food allergies--or maybe we just know more about them--and the kind of casseroles that usually fill potluck tables are off limits for many who suffer from these allergies.

Are there aspects of a really good potluck dinner that could be used to develop new ways of interacting with one another and reaching out to others? No doubt.

I encourage you to think about what it is that needs to be left behind, if anything, in your congregation, once you have learned the traits that gave it life.

We Prayed For You This Week

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

Taylor Ridge, [Edgington Presbyterian Church](#)
Viola, Viola United Presbyterian Church
Virden, First Presbyterian Church
Virginia, First Presbyterian Church
Virginia, Sangamon Valley Presbyterian Church

PGR Retired Pastors & Their Spouses

We will meet the fourth Tuesday, October 27, 10:00 am at the First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown, Illinois. After the meeting we will go to a near-by restaurant for lunch.

Come early (9:30) to enjoy fellowship and refreshments. No RSVP needed

Rev. Henry Hein 309-691-1981

Workshops to Challenge, Inspire & Educate Your Congregation

Don't forget to **RSVP** for two of the workshops offered **during** the November 10th Assembly Meeting.

[Workshop Brochure](#)

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.

Do You WANT Your Church to Grow?

SAVE THESE DATES.

April 23 & 24, 2010



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 14	RSVP before November 5	@First Pres., Elmwood
November 21	RSVP before November 12	@ St. Luke Union, Bloomington
January 9	RSVP before January 4	@ First Pres., Lewistown
January 16	RSVP before January 7	@ United, Woodhull
January 23	RSVP before January 14	@ United Pres., Peoria

Self-Development of People Disburses Over \$140,000 to Fund 7 Self-Help Projects in the U.S.

To read more...[click here](#).

Legacy Five in Concert

Hank and Karla Daubs invite you to an afternoon of gospel music with Legacy Five in concert.

SUNDAY, November 8, 2009, 2:00 PM
ARLEE THEATER
MASON CITY, IL

Advance Tickets \$15.00 At the Door \$18.00

Tickets can be purchased now by sending a Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope and Check payable to:

Karla Daubs

504 South Keefer Street

Mason City, IL 62664

or purchased in person at City Hall, 145 South Main Street, Mason City, IL Hours 9-12 and 1-4 M-F.

For more information, call 217-482-5114 leave a name and phone number and we will return your call within 48 hours or e-mail [Hank Daubs](#).

Group seating available for groups of 10 or more

RESERVED SEATING
DOORS OPEN AT 1:00 PM

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](#).

Zimele

Join Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington to meet and greet Zimele.

Thursday, October 22

4:00 - 6:00pm

[Click here](#) for more information.

500th Anniversary of Calvin's Birth

Join the Synod of Lincoln Trails in celebrating the 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth at the First Presbyterian Church, 602 W. Green Street, Urbana, Illinois, on Friday, October 30, 2009.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. (CDT) and the keynote address at 9:15 a.m.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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