

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

November 09, 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

REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER PRESBYTERY MEETING BEGINS AT 9:30 WITH WORKSHOPS at 9:30 and 10:50

FAITHFUL TO OUR CALL

"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing' (Genesis 12:1-2) If the process of Calling a pastor was only this clear! It's not, but it may still be a wonderful blessing in our life together as Presbyterians.

If you are a pastor or a member of a congregation in the midst of this discernment process, or if you think you may be some day, then this workshop is for you. Together, we will explore the process of saying, "Goodbye" and "Hello" to those with whom we have been called to serve in ministry.

Presented by the Rev. Bill Myers, pastor of Faith United Presbyterian Church in Monmouth and adjunct staff of the presbytery for Committee on Ministry

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Our population is growing older and there are increasing needs to provide the fundamental care of serving communion to not only those gathered for Sabbath day worship, but for those who are called "shut-in." Not only is this population growing, but often the availability of clergy to meet this need is short. What then does a session do to meet this need and fulfill their ordination vows? This workshop will provide one answer to this question as we will speak to training elders and deacons to administer the sacrament to shut-ins.

Presented by the Rev. Dick Johnson, pastor of the Biggsville United Presbyterian Church and adjunct staff of the presbytery for training.

TAIZÉ WORKSHOP

Taizé has become synonymous with finding peace in a fast-paced world. As we are bombarded on a daily basis with electronic messaging and feel the pressures of life, finding times of quiet seems difficult but all the more vital.

This workshop will touch briefly on the history of the Taizé Prayer service and explore how it can be made a relevant and effective part of your ministry. Resource materials and practical information such as copyright information, bulletin layout, service planning and musician participation will form the core of this workshop.

This workshop will be presented by Mr. Phil Enge, Director of Music Ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Normal.

GOING GREEN LET AMEREN LIGHT THE WAY

Can your church find a way to save money on your utility bills and benefit the planet at the same time? Come find out about ways to use solar power, wind power and the like or just to reduce your costs with insulation, etc.

The workshop will be led by Stacey Young and Rodney Tribe from Ameren/Cilco.

THE CHURCH'S CALL TO ORPHANS AND THE CHARTER OF COMPASSION

As people of God, we are called to care for "widows and orphans." How can you do that? We'll offer some local and global projects which help orphans, offer ways you can become involved, things your church school can do, and introduce you to the Charter of Compassion, and how you can become a part of this charter, which is a collaborative effort by TED (www.TED.com) and author Karen Armstrong.

This workshop will be presented by the Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard, parish associate at First Presbyterian Church of Normal and founder of the Spiritual Book Club that meets in Bloomington/Normal.

SEEKING SEEKERS: STARTING A SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Learn how to start a spiritual book club in your community, how to get the word out, some questions to jump start your group, ideas as to where to hold your book club, and 20 questions to ask each time you gather. This is a "how to" class for those wishing to try something new to reach people outside their church membership.

This workshop will be presented by the Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard, parish associate at First Presbyterian Church of Normal and founder of the Spiritual Book Club that meets in Bloomington/Normal.

PLANNING FOR MISSION TRIPS

Bring your questions about mission trips and find answers and resources. How do we prepare? How much does it cost? How can we get people interested in going? How do we find out about all of the possibilities out there? These questions and more will be addressed.

This workshop will be led by Elder Kathy Casey, a member of the Washington Presbyterian Church, and adjunct staff for the presbytery for continuing flood recovery in Henderson and Mercer Counties, and a long-time Red Cross volunteer and participant in mission trips.

THE RIGHT INSURANCE COVERAGE

Does your church have adequate insurance coverage? How can you help to prevent losses in terms of damage to the building or liability exposure? Agents from Church Mutual will be here to address these issues and more. Church Mutual provides insurance for the presbytery and a group plan for the churches in the presbytery that choose to participate. But, whether or not your insurance is with church mutual, bring your policy and they will help you look at the coverage's.

This workshop will be led by staff from Church Mutual Insurance.

NEW RECOURCES FROM PRESBYTERY RESOURCING

Vince Patton will provide an overview of new resources for ministry and education from the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) such as The Presbyterian Leader.com, Feasting on the Word, and books that are ideal for use in adult study groups. In addition, he will share some information about new additions to The Thoughtful Christian.com and highlight PPC books that are essential for Presbyterians.

This workshop will be led by Vince Patton who is the executive director of church relations and communications for the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

Self-Development of People is a mission arm of the PCUSA which provides funding for mission projects that are managed by the people who benefit from it. In other words, the ministry is not a project of a PCUSA congregation or other agency, but has been designed and is managed by the people themselves. Come learn about this program and think about whether there are people in your community who might benefit from a grant.

This workshop will be led by Elder Mike Orr, the treasurer of the presbytery, a member of First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, and a member of the national committee for Self Development of People.

TRANSFORMING IN A CHANGING WORLD

The world is changing so fast that some experts say that we are in a time of "permanent, discontinuous change." It is hard to keep up with all of these changes, especially in response to our call to go into all the world and make disciples. The presbytery has produced a DVD resource for use by your session or other planning group to help them to think about how to respond to this rapidly changing world with our ancient call to be and make disciples. You will be introduced to that resource.

This workshop will be led by the Rev. Sue Krummel, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the presbytery.

CHURCH 2.0

The Internet is revolutionizing how we get information and how we communicate with each other. Churches have begun to use the Internet to disperse information to members, introduce themselves to nonmembers, and as a way to create virtual communities. This seminar introduces and explains several online resources such as websites, interactive online Bible studies, E-newsletters, web advertising, Facebook pages, and more, while discussing how best to utilize these resources for your church's mission.

This workshop will be presented by the Rev. Stephen McKinney

Mark Your Calendar

Assembly Meeting
Tuesday, November 10
9:30 Meeting
First, Normal

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

Commissioning of
Nollan Harwood
Sunday, November 15
3:00
Eureka Pres., Eureka

Elder Training
Saturday, November 21
8:30 - 3:00
St. Luke, Bloomington

Installation of
Rev. Mark Bedford
Sunday, November 22
New Windsor Pres., New
Windsor

COM Meeting
Tuesday, November 17
10:00 - 3:00

General Presbyter's Perspective

Rev. Susan Krummel

Okay, here is what I do not understand about football, especially professional football. (Well, to be honest, what I don't understand about football would take more than the space in this newsletter to list. But, be that as it may. . .) I just got home on Sunday evening from attending Mike Claver's commissioning at Morton as one of their two Commissioned Lay Pastors. I walked into the house in time to turn on CBS to see how far behind schedule they were so that I would have some idea when The Amazing Race is going to start. I caught the very end of a football game--I think it was San Diego and New York. I saw enough to watch San Diego "march" down the field in what I think is called a two-minute drill to score a touchdown with only a few seconds left and win the game.

Here is what I do not understand. If the offensive line can give the quarterback time to throw all of those good passes and the receivers can shed their defenders on play after play in the last two minutes of the game, why can't they do it all through the game? What is it that motivates them so much, or concentrates their attention so clearly in those last two minutes that they can pull off this kind of a victory?

Then I started thinking about churches. You know that many churches struggle year after year to meet their budgets. They announce fellowship events to which the same handful of people show up. They plan mission events and ask for people to sign up only to have to cancel the event at the last minute because of lack of participation. But they will say--and mean it--that if the roof blows off or the boiler blows up, they will have the money and the concerted effort that it will take to recover in no time at all. Just like that two-minute drill in football, I do not understand why we cannot sustain that kind of effort all the time. If the money is there to replace the boiler if it blows up, why isn't that money given to support the mission and ministry of the church? If you could get a crowd of people to work on the roof and provide food for the workers on a day or two's notice, why don't those same people sign up to serve the meal at the mission down the street? If people will rally around when someone is suddenly and

Northminster, Peoria

OFFICE CLOSED
Thursday, November 26
Friday, November 27

Installation of
Rev. Troy Agema
Sunday, November 29
First, Princeville

seriously ill, why don't they similarly show up when there is a celebration event to be attended?

The truth of the matter is that for many of our congregations across the PCUSA and in other Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church, the situation is just as dire as if the roof was lying halfway down the street and the boiler just blew a hole in the side of the building. Our call as we gather together in congregations is to support one another as we grow in our faith so that we can share that faith with others, especially with the generations coming after us. But, in many Christian churches on a Sunday morning, if you look around it looks as if the minimum age to belong to the church is higher than the minimum age to belong to the AARP!

A two-minute drill in football or a tragedy in a church focuses our efforts and our attention on what we should be doing all of the time. What would it take in your congregation to help people to use their best efforts in sustaining their own faith and in sharing that faith with others on an everyday basis?

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

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

Email Marketing by



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