

GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

November 16, 2009



[PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

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

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Mark Your Calendar

COM Meeting

Tuesday, November 17
10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

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

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, November 26
Friday, November 27

Installation of

Rev. Troy Aqema

Sunday, November 29
First, Princeville

Clergy Group

Thursday, December 3
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

We have had several busy seasons of installations and commissionings in our presbytery this year. They have come in bunches. In the late summer, we had several Sundays in a row when your moderator and moderator elect were on the road every Sunday afternoon and we are in the middle of a time like that right now. It is interesting to see the way different congregations approach this. The one constant is cake!

The moderators for the last few years have passed on a script that they all use, so I have heard the same opening words often. Although the congregation has set the time for the service and it is in their sanctuary and their committee of volunteers has put together whatever kind of refreshments follow the service, it is still a worship service (actually a meeting) of the presbytery. The moderator always points out that this is almost unique among our Christian brothers and sisters, that a committee carries out this office. You may know that the quorum for a meeting of the presbytery is much lower than the quorum for committees like COM. We just need to have three minister members of the presbytery and three elders from three different churches to make it official. Once the commission that carries out the installation or commissioning is in place (that is usually five people) then we only need one other minister or one other elder and we are good to go. Sometimes, that has been a close thing! Many ministers and elders are pretty tired on Sunday afternoons after their Sunday morning responsibilities are met, and they often are not "done" on Sunday when the benediction is pronounced. Many churches have meetings, there are visits to be made or wedding couples with whom to meet, and then there are the youth events to oversee. And, of course, the installation or commissioning of a new pastor in a neighboring (or distant) congregation is nice for them, but we may think it has nothing really to do with us.

I was with several other executive or general presbyters last week at some continuing education around the issue of leadership. One of the presenters was a business person who did not really understand what leadership is like for us. One of the hardest things to which to adjust is that just when you feel that a person who is serving the presbytery on a committee or in other leadership roles really understands their work and knows a lot about the presbytery, they rotate away from their role. Now, this happens in congregations as well. But, in the congregation, those people are generally still around on Sundays and in the life of the congregation in other ways. When people finish a term of service to the presbytery, I may go months without seeing them and their participation in

presbytery is very different than it was. It is hard from a leadership perspective and from a personal perspective as well. After all, I do not tend to bump into people in the grocery store or at the mall who have been leaders in the presbytery (since they are scattered all over West Central Illinois) and if I want to just have lunch with them, it usually involves a three or four hour commitment by the time I drive to where they are!

So, although the installations and commissioning may seem like they only effect the congregations to which these people have been called, it really changes the make-up of the presbytery. These people are now voters and speakers at our meetings and will, in many cases, serve on committees. Their official welcoming into the presbytery is a good way to meet them and to meet their families (whom we only rarely see at meetings) and to help their new congregations to celebrate.

Our new moderator, Danie DeBeer, is one of the few members of presbytery who have travelled the presbytery to be at almost every installation and commissioning since I have been in the presbytery. I know that he hopes that many of you will attend as well. Installations and commissionings are listed in this newsletter in the calendar section. I hope that you will find a way to attend one or two and help us to welcome our new leaders into the life of our presbytery.

Elder Training

Each training event will be held on a Saturdays 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 21	RSVP before November 18	@ 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

Do You WANT Your Church to Grow?

SAVE THESE DATES.
April 23 & 24, 2010

[Click here](#) for more information and [Brochure](#)



PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer Appears on CNN

By Linda B. Valentine
Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council

A national television audience learned this week what many of us have known for a long time-our Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program changes lives. One of our recently returned YAVs, Shelvis Smith-Mather, shared his inspiring story during a [CNN interview](#) Sunday morning. He told CNN that his faith was strengthened by seeing the African church at work in the face of poverty, conflict and other pressing problems. "It's important to know that in the midst of the tragedy there's a whole lot of hope," he said. "There are a number people who are doing amazing works for God there and engaging in these issues, and that's encouraging." [Keep reading.](#)

Knitting Circles...We Need Your Help

This project came up in one of the workshops held at the November 10th Assembly Meeting.

The project is knitted premie baby caps, any and all sizes, patterns, etc.

Our Chinese Daughters Foundation (OCDF) works with orphanages all over the country of China, including a children's hospice, where the babies are buried in the knitted caps. Although, with great care, the babies at the hospice have been surviving. As we all know, there are knitting circles in our churches that love to help others using their talents, yarn and knitting needles and this would be a quick project that people could do in their spare time. Once you've collected all of the baby caps...

Then mail or take the finished baby caps to:

Our Chinese Daughters Foundation, Inc.
109 West Monroe Street
Bloomington, IL 61701 USA

Presbyterian Coffee Project Delegation

In January, the PC(USA) is sponsoring a Delegation to Nicaragua, where participants will have the opportunity to experience Nicaragua, Fair Trade and the church's work there firsthand. The delegation is perfect for anyone involved in a congregation, college or camp that uses Fair Trade coffee or Sweat-Free Ts, has hosted a holiday bazaar using Fair Trade products, or simply wants to learn more.

Delegates will:

- Meet Fair Trade farmers and artisans
- Pick coffee and stay in homes of farming families
- Meet the women who sew Sweat-Free Ts
- Build community with fellow Presbyterians
- Learn about Nicaragua, Fair Trade and more!

The delegation will take place **January 16-23, 2010**, and is sponsored jointly by three organizations: [PC\(USA\)](#), [Equal Exchange](#) and [CEPAD](#) (the council of Protestant churches in Nicaragua).

Applications are due November 20. For information and an application contact (774) 776-7366 or [e-mail](#). Some scholarship assistance is available.

Montreat Conference Center Unveils New "Center for Faith and Life"

(Montreat, NC) - At the fall meeting of the Mountain Retreat Association Board of Directors, November 1-3, 2009, final approval was given for the launch of Montreat Conference Center's new Center for Faith and Life (CFL). As a key component within the institution's newly adopted 5-year Ministry and Mission Work Plan, the CFL will focus primarily on a restructured adult programming strategy designed to serve the 21st century challenges and opportunities of the emerging church and world.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Moving Back Into Our Neighborhoods: Developing the Missional Church

with special guests Alan Roxburgh and Mark Lau Branson Friday and Saturday, March 5-6, 2010 at Second Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Illinois.

Join Second Presbyterian for this unique conference, geared toward education, inspiration and motivation in growing as the Missional Church. Practitioners and scholars alike, Roxburgh and Lau Branson will lead and challenge us as pastors, elders, deacons and leaders of all kinds in a variety of large and small group conversations.

[Registration](#)

Nov. 1, 2009 - Feb. 1, 2010: \$75, After Feb. 1: \$95
Full-time students: \$40, After Feb. 1: \$50

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