

PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS INTERNET OPPORTUNITIES

The Presbytery of Great Rivers is working to utilize the many opportunities the internet affords us to improve our communication, fellowship, education, leadership, and ministry. Here are a few opportunities you should be aware of.

1. **GOOD NEWS E-NEWSLETTER**- Every week a brief newsletter is sent out to our email list featuring thoughts from our Executive Presbyter, announcements, and upcoming events. This is a great way to keep up with what is going on in the Presbytery and hear about how the Good News is being spread throughout Central Illinois and the world. If you have not received the newsletter in your email and would like to please let Patti Parrish know.

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2. **PGR COMMUNITY FORUM**- The PGR Community Forum can be found at: <http://groups.google.com/group/PGRcommunity>. This is a discussion board site which has already been utilized to post announcements, discuss upcoming lectionary texts, ask procedural questions and more. We have had discussions about articles from the new Good News e-newsletter, requests for youth game ideas, and discussions about current events. Anyone can read or respond to any posts by going to the site and you can join the site as well so that new posts are automatically emailed to you. All you have to do is go to the address listed and click on "Join this Group" on the right hand side of the page and then either enter a pre-existing google account name or create one.
3. **PGR GOOD NEWS BLOG**- The blog is found at <http://pgrgoodnews.blogspot.com>. The blog features articles written by a variety of members of the PGR community on a range of topics. Contributors to date include Rev. Amy Loving, Rev. Steve Akins, Elder Gary Davis, Rev. David Esche, and the Visioning Council. Also featured on the blog is a "Reformed Quote of the Month" with a brief biographical sketch of the author of the quote, links to other interesting sites including blogs of PGR members, and a slideshow of all the churches in the Presbytery. You can read all current and past posts and leave your comments on them. If you would like to write a blog post all you have to do is email Rev.Stephenwhitaker@gmail.com and he answer any questions and give you instructions.
4. **FACEBOOK**- Many people in the presbytery are already using Facebook. Facebook is a very popular social networking site where you can keep up with friends, post pictures, notes, and join different groups. There is currently a PGR group you can join and there is also a PGR Organization page. If you are a member of Facebook you can look up the Presbytery of Great Rivers and become a 'fan'. This allows you access to the organization page which features pictures, videos, a calendar, and a discussion board. This will also allow you to be invited to Presbytery events and see who else has RSVP'd that they are going to attend as well.
5. **YOUTUBE**- YouTube is a great site that features videos made by professionals to the eight year old in her room. PGR is going to begin having YouTube video contests on a variety of topics. This would be a great activity of small groups, youth groups, or committees in your church. The videos will be posted on the PGR Blog as well as on YouTube and winners will be decided. The first contest is to make a video about your \$100 Talent Project. All videos need to be uploaded to YouTube by October 20th and Rev. Stephen McKinney-Whitaker needs to be informed of all entries. A committee will then vote on the winner. We will also be posting videos like the one about PGR's flood relief work frequently and linking those videos on the blog and elsewhere.

If you have any questions about any of these websites, projects, or how to use them please talk to Rev. Stephen McKinney-Whitaker. He can be reached at Rev.Stephenwhitaker@gmail.com