

Monday Morning in the Presbytery

A weekly news update from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley in Iowa and Nebraska

Distributed by e-mail only to the churches, Clerks of Session, ministers, Presbytery officers and committee members and others who wish to be on the e-mail list.

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Editor's Note: Please send announcements of events, opportunities for spiritual growth, ministry and mission or continuing education and other items of interest to members of the presbytery to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com

News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton

Re-entry

The narrative accounts of the Easter story reveal the great care exercised by Jesus in his “re-entry” into the community. Sensitive attention was given to the exact manner in which he approached the women at the tomb as well the disciples in the Upper Room.

We, for whom the Empty Tomb is all too familiar, would do well to reflect on this sensitivity as we share the Good News with those who visit our congregations during this season. We might pay particular attention to the manner we welcome others – especially those who potentially bear the wounds from negative experiences in previous communities of faith.

The thought of re-entry calls to mind the early days of space flight. The news coverage of the day offered great detail describing the precise angle required to keep the capsule from incinerating before splashdown.

These two, very different aspects of “re-entry” have shaped my thinking as I prayerfully consider my own return to the Presbytery toward the end of the month. I am excited about resuming my contact with the wider community of the Presbytery: its congregations, committees, council, and the staff.

Clearly, I know there is much “catching-up” to do. There also is a keen awareness that I shall need to prioritize my commitments until I am operating at 100%. Thus I covet your prayers and patience I as seek to re-engage and negotiate the proper approach so as not to “burn up” upon re-entry.

I am looking forward to being back with you and to seeing you around the Presbytery!



Kevin

Missouri River Valley Presbytery Prayer Team Meetings

When and Where: April 10, 10:30 a.m., Mosher-Pilgrim

May 15, 10:30 a.m. at Walnut First Presbyterian.

This team is praying for revitalization, re-development, and new church development within our presbytery. Everyone is invited to attend or join us in prayer by becoming a part of our internet-based prayer team. Send your email address to

walnutpres@walnutel.net and ask to be included on the PMRV Prayer Team list and we will send you the specific prayer requests for our team.

Former Interim Director of Calvin Crest Dies

Warren Negley passed away in his place at Westgate Assisted Living in Omaha. He was 81 years old. Warren served as interim director of Calvin Crest. A Gathering of Family and Friends is planned for 5-7pm Sunday, April 11 and Warren’s Celebration of Life Service will be 11am Monday, April 12. Both will take place at Faith Presbyterian Church, LaVista. Memorials include Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center, 2870 County Road 13, Fremont, NE 68025-7951.

Positions Available

Part Time Youth Leader

NEW HORIZON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 30 Valley View Drive in Council Bluffs is looking for a **Youth Leader**. This position will be part time, approximately 4-6 hours a week for 40-45 weeks a year and can start within the next few months. Experience in organizing and executing church ministries is preferred. Salary will depend on experience with a starting hourly rate of \$15.

Responsibilities will be to (1) Plan and lead two weekly youth group meetings. One group is grade school students and the other is middle school and high school students. These meetings should include group building, worship, discipleship, mission and outreach. (2) Communicate with pastor, church staff and leadership, youth, parents and congregation. (3) Develop meaningful relationships with the youth, encouraging them to grow in their faith.

Characteristics of applicant must be (1) Well grounded as a follower of Christ, having a personal theology consistent with the Bible and Presbyterian beliefs. (2) Live a Christian life embracing Christian disciplines, ethics and morals to be a role model for our youth. (3) Have strong inter-personal skills, working well with youth and adults. (4) Be able to create, plan and execute youth ministries. (5) Be able to provide faith based counseling to youth and adult volunteers.

Contact: Donna Pritchard, Personnel Chair at 712-325-8192 or e-mail dj.pritch@cox.net.

Part-Time Director of Children's Ministry (25 hrs per week)

First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue is currently seeking a part-time director of children's ministry to resource, administer, and lead the ministry to young children (infants-sixth grade).

- Qualified candidates should possess love and appreciation for children and their faith development, an ability to empower and give ownership to volunteers, an ability to be organized, and a personal faith in Jesus Christ.
- Some experience, either paid or volunteer, in children's ministry is preferred.

Interested candidates should send a resume to Don McCon, Personnel Chair, First Presbyterian Church, 1220 Bellevue Blvd S., Bellevue, NE 68005 or by email to donmcccon3@cox.net. Job description is posted at 1stpresbvue.org.
Application deadline is April 20.

News from our Congregations

First Presbyterian Church, Omaha

Electronics Recycling Drive

When: May 1, 2010 ~ 8am -noon (Rain Date: May 8th)

Where: First Presbyterian Parking Lot (34th and Farnam)

For complete information on what to recycle, special fees for tv's and computer monitors, and a flier to promote the event in your congregation or business.

See: attached pdf "Electronics Recycling Drive"

Scholarships

For Synod School. Calvin Crest Summer Camps or Special Needs Camps

Missouri River Valley Presbytery is offering a variety of scholarships for Synod School (July 25 - 30); for Camp Calvin Crest summer camps; or for Special Needs camps, to be attended in 2010.

Please see the attached application form, to apply, and return the completed application to Linda Reffert at Hope Presbyterian Church.

These scholarships are administered through the Faith Education & Leadership Development Committee of the Presbytery.

For Seminary Students

A reminder:

Apollos Scholarship Program for those enrolled in one of the 10 Presbyterian seminaries. Applications are due by April 30th. Online applications are available at Omaha Seminary Foundation website:

http://www.omaha-sem-found.org/studentaid_apollosprogram.html.

Organist Seeking Position

Is your congregation in need of an organist?

An organist / pianist from the Federated Church in Columbus NE is going to school in Omaha and is interested in serving as an organist / pianist for a local congregation.

If you are interested in her services, contact Jessica Muhle, jmuhle1@hotmail.com

(from the Communications and Resource Coordinator, Homestead Presbytery)

Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center

Calvin Crest Confirmation Retreat

When: Friday-Sunday, April 30-May 2, 2010

Where: Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center ,
2870 County Road 13, Fremont, NE 68025

Who: Confirmation classes of any size church,
along with your Pastor, Youth Leaders and / or Parents.

Why: Experience the larger church, Christ in community, and
to have fun at Calvin Crest!

Cost: \$54

Deadline for Registration: April 12, 2010 *Brochure and Registration form attached.*

Horses Needed

Calvin Crest is looking to borrow or rent horses for the summer.

If you, or someone you know, has a horse or two that we can use that is suitable for children and youth to ride, please contact Craig Huffman at 402-628-6455 or craig@calvincrest.org.

Social Justice Opportunities

CROSSING BORDERS: ENCOUNTERING GOD

Sponsored by the Synod of the Southwest

When: Thursday, April 15 (lunch) – Saturday, April 17 (am)

Where: Phoenix Hilton Airport Hotel

This conference is designed for congregations that are encountering new populations in their communities – refugees, migrants, immigrants. In other words, virtually *all* congregations, including ours! The event will feature church leaders including Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow and Rev. Saul Fera, president of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, and presentations on “The Bible and Migration,” “Fair Trade, Economic Issues and Migration,” “An Overview of Immigration Policy,” and “Planning for Where We Live and Minister.” Twenty workshops, ranging from equipping congregations for refugee, immigrant and multicultural ministry to the issues and ministries of the US/Mexico border area, are available on Friday.

For further information: Synod of the Southwest, 520-791-9600 or synodsw.org. A pre-conference trip to Douglas/Agua Prieta (April 12-15) is also an option.

To register on-line: www.synodsw.org.

Presbyterian Hunger Program's Heaven on Earth Agrarian Road Trip

Join a delegation of college students, farmers, musicians, bloggers and other adventurous souls

When: June 13-26.

Where: Starting in Louisville, Kentucky, and making stops in six other states along the way to Detroit, Michigan to visit with congregations and community groups who are participating in the grassroots sustainable and just food revolution that is sprouting up everywhere.

For More information: <http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/roadtrip>

Mission and Ministry Opportunities in the Presbytery

Presbytery Mission Trip: Meet our Nicaraguan Partners!

When: October 29 – November 5, 2010

Who: Everyone!

Informational Flier: Click on link on [PMRV Mission Page](#)

Contacts: Lyle Franzen at lyl_franzen@yahoo.com or 210-6845, or
Joyce Serenil at 345-6093 or blackcat100@cox.

Spiritual Formation and Growth Opportunities

Presbytery of Central Nebraska 3rd Annual Spring Prayer Retreat

Sabbath ~ Recovering God's Gift of Rest and Renewal

When: April 12 – 14

Where: Country Inn and Suites, Kearney NE

Speaker: Kris Haig

For More Information and Registration Materials: see attached brochure

Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage #7

It is life-altering. It is empowering. It is inspiring. It is a body of believers, knit together by God, coming together for the sole purpose of nurturing one another on a personal journey with Christ, and then charging them to go home and impact their own churches"

Great Plains Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a three-day renewal retreat:

Where: Camp Calvin Crest in their comfortable Retreat Center.

When: The weekend begins at 5pm on Thursday the 22nd of April and concludes by 4pm on Sunday the 25th of April.

Cost: \$230 per person (*scholarships available upon request.*) The weekend is all-inclusive, and every guest need is met.

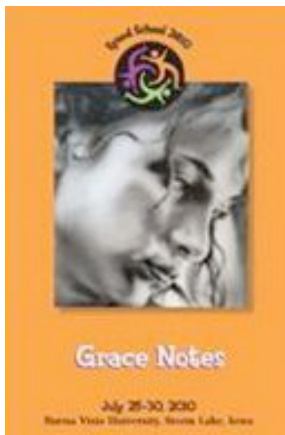
Who: Everyone. All are welcome!

For further Information and Registration Materials: See

[http://www.gppilgrimage.org](http://www.gpppilgrimage.org)

Continuing Education Opportunities

**Synod School
July 25-30, 2010
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa**



Synod School is a special learning and personal enrichment experience for all ages. The week is designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth and children – some separately, some intergenerational – to stretch the mind, nurture the soul, and offer hope.

- Come...and grow in faith through action, relationships, and a centering of the spirit.
- Come...for continuing education, for a special family experience, or for individual growth.
- Come...to participate in a unique experience of Christian community, as we worship, study, play, and live together.

Convocation Speaker: Rodger Nishioka ~ Rodger is Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

Worship Leaders: Mark Davis and Barb Nish and Steve Plank

For more information: For more information contact Diana Barber at the synod office, 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207, or visit the synod Web site at

<http://www.lakesandprairies.org>.

Montreat Conference Center

<http://www.montreat.org>

New Center for Faith & Life

Presents Great Summer Adult Conferencing Line-Up

PREACHING THE WORD. TEACHING THE WORD.

Two annual summer favorites at Montreat Conference Center,

[Proclaiming the Text](#) and [Christian Education](#), once again run simultaneously, May 31-June 4, sharing dynamic worship and key leadership.

Proclaiming the Text, with its theme "Lift Up Your Voice With Strength," offers the biblical scholarship, theological insights, and contemporary tools for preaching that help preachers proclaim a confident, exuberant, and expansive faith.

Christian Education, "Words to Build a Life On," draws from Jesus' parable about the wise man who built his house on rock.

Click on the links above for more information and to register online

THE WOMEN'S CONNECTION 2010 - Take advantage of a special offer!

July 6-10, Eugenia Gamble heads a stellar cast of leaders for the third annual [Women's Connection](#) at Montreat Conference Center. This year's theme, "Named, Redeemed and Called," incorporates timely workshops, lively worship, and life-changing fellowship designed to empower and rejuvenate the daughters of God.

New this year, the conference offers a money-saving special:

register with a daughter, niece, friend, neighbor - any woman younger than you - and she can attend for a reduced program fee of \$100.

[Learn more](#) when you register online.

BEING "CHURCH" IN A CHANGING WORLD: Two Timely Conferences

New in 2010 [FAITHFUL POLITICS](#), August 8-11.

If God Doesn't Quit When Things Get Political, Why Do We?" For all the talk about faith and politics in the media, there are precious few conversations in our congregations about faithful political engagement. It is time to do better.

Back by popular demand [CHURCH UNBOUND](#), August 11-14.

The dialogue continues ~ take part in fashioning a new vision for the church are invited to join the conversation.

For more information or to register online, click on the links above.

Annual Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation School for Pastors

When: June 16-23, 2010.

Where: Hasting College

The four faculty members who are participating this year are:

Dr. James E. Cobble, Jr., Christian Ministry Resources, NC

Dr. Mike Graves, Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City

Dr. Bonnie Sue Lewis, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

Dr. Paul Allen Williams, UNO at Omaha

More information and an online application are available at:

<http://www.omaha-sem-found.org/PastorRegistration.aspx>

Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Lectures

Fifteenth Annual Daniel W Nelson Lectures

When: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 ~ 9:30am – 2:30pm

Where: Thompson Alumni House, University of Nebraska Omaha

Speaker: Dr. M. Craig Barnes "The Pastor as Minor Poet"

Cost: \$25.00

Third Annual Heartland Lectures

When: Monday, April 12 and Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Where: Heartland Presbyterian Center 16965 NW Highway 45, Kansas City, MO

Speaker: Dr. Cynthia M. Campbell ~ "Being Faithful People in a Multi-Faith World"

For more information and to register: see attached brochures

Interim Pastor Course at Ghost Ranch.

When: April 5-9, 2010

Where: Ghost Ranch in Santa Fe

What: Beyond Basics Interim Ministry Week:

Two advanced training tracks are being offered for Interims who want continuing education. Courses are also open to governing body folk who want to grow in their ability to support their interims.

- 1) First Responder Ministry (concerns following the difficult departure of the former pastor) (Prerequisite: Weeks One and Two)
- 2) Congregational Transformation and Transitional Ministry (fostering transformation in the congregation) (Prerequisite: Week One only)

For Further Information see: www.ghostranch.org or

http://www.ghostranch.org/index.php?option=com_oscommerce&osMod=product_info&cPath=193&Itemid=199&products_id=891

Scholarship money is available. Register Now.

Conference on Presbyterian History

What: *Christianity and Liberalism*

When: April 21 and 22, 2010

Registration begins at 11:30am and will begin with worship at 1pm

Where: Covenant Presbyterian, 15002 Blondo Street

Featured speaker: D.G. Hart. *Dr. Hart serves on the editorial board of the PC USA's Journal of Presbyterian History, has taught at several seminaries. He edited the Dictionary of the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition in America (IVP) and has published biographies on two leading Reformed churchmen. Co-author of a historical survey of American Presbyterianism, Dr. Hart will be giving four talks on Presbyterian history.*

Rev. Parker Williamson will also be speaking at the conference.

Cost: The cost to attend is \$30.00.

Dinner on Wednesday and Lunch on Thursday are included in the cost.

Reservations: by mail ~ Christianity and Liberalism Conference, 15002 Blondo St.

By phone ~ 402.498.9000

For further information: <http://www.cpcomaha.org/CPC/Conference.html>

Presbyterian Women

MRV Women's Spring Gathering

When: April 10 8:45 – 1:15pm

followed by SOAR ~ PW Leadership Development Workshop

Where: Bethany Presbyterian, 1900 S 7th St., Council Bluffs IA

Speaker: Kay Olson "The Roma People"

Two Mission Areas are being supported at the Gathering.

1. An offering will be taken for the Roma people
2. "Hands-On" Offering for Mission for All Nations in South Omaha (~ hygiene products such a bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine products).

To make a reservation to attend the meeting and / or reserve a brown bag lunch, use the form in the attached "PW Spring Gathering Info" pdf.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Gathering of Women

When: June 16 – 19, 2010

Where: Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, Iowa.

Highlights:

- Worship and Music
- Workshops & Focus Groups
- Soul Desires Book Store
- Ten Thousand Villages – Gift Shop

For more information or to Register: see attached PW Synod Gathering pdfs.

MRV PW scholarships are available. **Deadline for applying for a scholarship:**

March 31. *See attached application.*

Editor's Note: These opportunities are for all women in our Presbytery. There are no dues and women do not need to be part of an organized PW Group at their home church. If they are interested, they are welcome to attend---it is that easy.

"Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep." One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Resources to help engage your congregation more deeply in understanding and connecting with the ministries of this offering:

- Forward this information to members of your session and committees responsible for promoting the offering.
- [Watch the video](#) *What Can I Do to Change the World?* and embed it on your congregation's Web site.
- Send a letter to your congregation encouraging members to consider how they will contribute to the offering through your congregation — or, if they won't be present when your congregation receives the offering, to [give online now](#). [Find a sample letter](#) that you can adapt.
- Visit the [One Great Hour of Sharing Web site](#).
- Make sure your congregation has received their offering materials — [contact Alan Krome](#) if you have questions.
- Make copies of the [Lenten devotion guide](#) available in your narthex and encourage members to use it.
- [Find tools](#) that can help your congregation promote the offering, such as ads for use in newsletters and minutes for mission.

Because together ~ we can change the world

Spotlight on Haiti

Mission Stories from Our Congregations

First Presbyterian Church Bellevue

Submitted by Amy Nguyen, Children's Ministry Director

The children up to 6th grade partake in two main programs, Sunday School and Word On Wednesday. Immediately hearing of the earthquake, we went into full gear and they unanimously voted to donate 100% of their mission funds to Haiti. A collection is taken every Sunday morning, and every Wednesday evening. However, before they voted, we provided them with a demonstration.

During our Wednesday evening program, (WOW), we set up a table in the middle of the dining facility with blocks where we had built a simulated city of Haiti. We were able to illustrate to the children the small houses that are typical in that country, as well as how close together they were built. We then went on to explain how they have no real requirements or standards when it comes to building and constructing a safe facility as we do in America. Therefore, as long as the walls stood, and the roof was on, it was considered a home. Then, we chose a child to come up and shake the table gently to show what happened in the earthquake, and down they went. We compared that devastation to the devastation in America had it happened here. Although we had already taken our offering for the evening, we again presented the bucket after the demonstration in case anyone wanted to donate who had not, or donate more. It was overwhelming to see the surge in donations as the children turned to their parents, and even dug into their own pockets, to give a little/lot extra that evening.

In an attempt to keep the situation in Haiti a top mission priority, we added an incentive. For each \$1.00 a child donated, they put their name in a "hopper", and names are drawn every Wednesday night for a prize.

On Sunday, I brought in a coffee from Starbucks, and the children guessed how much it cost. We determined the cost was almost \$5.00. We then explained that the poverty level in Haiti before the earthquake was around 80% of the population. My coffee could have fed a child for several days. That was before the earthquake. After the earthquake, the poverty level had increased significantly, and one coffee would have paid for several meals for several people. We explained how even the smallest penny was making a big difference and it doesn't take one person giving a whole lot, as they see on television, but that a lot of people giving a little can add up to just as much, if not more.

The need is there, and the children of our congregation understand that need, and have really answered the call. They will continue to support this mission throughout the 09-10 year through donations and prayers.

Dundee Presbyterian Church

Submitted by Ron Niederhaus





Dundee collected \$8700 for disaster relief in Haiti.

Editor's Note: Share your mission stories with the presbytery, send them to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com

Event Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

Mar	29	30	31	APRIL 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3 EASTER VIGIL	4 EASTER
			SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE – SYNOD GATHERING OF WOMEN		PRESBYTERY OFFICE HOLIDAY		
April	5 7PM YOUTH MINISTRIES (CENTRAL)	6 11:30AM PASTOR/SPOUSE LUNCH BUNCH – (LAKE MANAWA GOLDEN CORAL) DOCKET TIME REQUESTS DUE	7	8 1PM CPM (CNETRAL) 3PM COUNCIL MEETING (CENTRAL) *DOCKET PLANNING	9	10 MRV PW Spring Meeting at Bethany P.C., Council Bluffs (Coffee - 8:45am, Mtg. 9:15-12:30)	11

Prayer Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

Mar	29 Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: College Springs Rev. Jim Crapson serves as Stated Supply for this congregation.  	30 Pray for Andy Cook (Chair of Council), Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger (Moderator), and Rev. Matt Nieman (Vice-moderator) Pray for Carolyn Grice, member of the Presbytery's Faith, Education, and Leadership Committee	31 Pray for Rev. Nadia Mullin, the new associate pastor at Presbyterian Church of the Cross in Omaha.  Pray for Rev. Sara Tonje, member of the Presbytery's Faith, Education, and Leadership Committee	Apr 1 Pray for Rev. Matt Nieman. Matt is pastor of First Presbyterian in Bellevue.  Pray for Susan Mayer, chair of the Presbytery's Faith, Education, and Leadership Committee	2 Pray for Rev. Bill Osick. Bill is retired and living in Omaha. He serves on the Mission Committee  Pray for Rev. Roger Todd, member of the Presbytery's Faith, Education, and Leadership Committee	3 Celebrate the call of Rev. George Moore, pastor at West Hills. He was ordained in 1988.  Pray for Rev. Russ Palmer. Our Stated Clerk Emeritus is retired and living in Omaha.  Pray for Vonice Darling, member of the Presbytery's Faith, Education, and Leadership Committee	4 Pray for the members of the Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee. Jim Carruthers serves as chair of this committee. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Northeast Omaha and their efforts to Stop the Violence in our community. Keep the poor, the oppressed, and the victims of violence in our communities in your prayers.
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- Please send dates, times, locations of events to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com. However, to plan and schedule events talk with Joan Royer (joan@pmrv.org or 402-553-8300 or 800-603-8980).
- Please report email address changes to please send your new address to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com.
- To stop receiving Monday Morning drop an e-note to: pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com