



# 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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**April 5, 2010**

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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](mailto:pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com)*

## News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton

### **Numbers**

The traditional litany uttered on the Monday after Easter begins “*How many were in church yesterday?*” It is almost as if the efficacy of the Resurrection depended upon the number of people who participate in its celebration!

The Gospel accounts, of course, show us that relatively few showed up for the first Easter. In fact, depending upon the writer, the exact number of those who showed up at the empty tomb could be counted on one or two hands!

None of this seemed to bother Jesus, who rarely seemed concerned about numbers. Apart from a few questions such as “How many loaves have you?” he appeared to leave the accounting to the disciples. The Lord gave the impression he was more concerned with the *quality* of relationships than their *quantity*.

Needless to say, there are occasions where *quantity* is important! There simply are basic amounts required to keep a church operating, to staff a Vacation Bible School, etc. There, however, are more instances where *quality* matters.

At times congregational leaders may become obsessed with the accounting of *numerical* indicators. One writer calls this the “Three B’s” ... size of Budget, number of Baptisms, and number of Butts in the pews!

All the while leadership may overlook *qualitative* gauges that may be more reflective of the overall health of the community of faith. The latter markers may be more clearly identified through asking such questions as “How are we maturing in faith/ deepening our life in Christ?”, “What is the quality of our life as a community?”, “In what ways are our lay leaders growing in their abilities and developing new skills?”, and “How are we impacting/ influencing the community in which we live?”

These latter questions well may guide us to new discoveries about the *quality* of ministry that is or might be occurring in our congregations! Perhaps, then, a better question to ask following Easter might be, *How could we live/ act differently because of the Good News of the Resurrected One?*



*Kevin*

### **Council Meeting**

**When:** Thursday, April 8 ~ 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Central Presbyterian Church in Omaha.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:donmcccon3@cox.net). Job description is posted at [1stpresbvue.org](http://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 8<sup>th</sup>)

**Where:** First Presbyterian Parking Lot (34<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 30<sup>th</sup>. Online applications are available at Omaha Seminary Foundation website:

[http://www.omaha-sem-found.org/studentaid\\_apollosprogram.html](http://www.omaha-sem-found.org/studentaid_apollosprogram.html).

## 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](mailto:craig@calvincrest.org).

## 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](mailto:jmuhle1@hotmail.com)  
(from the Communications and Resource Coordinator, Homestead Presbytery)

## Social Justice Opportunities

### Benefit Concert for Every Baby Matters ~ One World, Omaha

**When:** Sunday June 13 5-9 PM

**Where:** Arthur's 222 North 114th St Omaha 68154

*Local Bands are volunteering their talent for the event.*

Consider coming together to support weekly prenatal clinics in South Omaha for One World's expectant moms.

- Plan to attend the concert.  
or become a sponsor of the event along with Westminster, Omaha

**For more information, contact:** Howard Dotson [hr\\_dotson@yahoo.com](mailto:hr_dotson@yahoo.com)

### 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 Feria, 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](http://synodsw.org).  
A pre-conference trip to Douglas/Agua Prieta (April 12-15) is also an option.

**To register on-line:** [www.synodsw.org](http://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

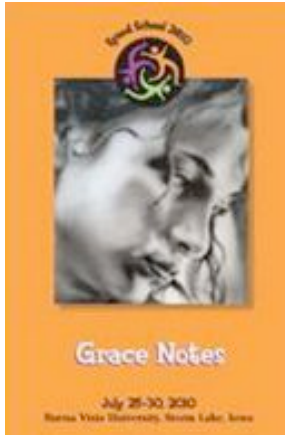
**When:** June 13-26.

**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>

## 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.

**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**

## **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

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>

## Announcing: Presbytery Youth Ministry Newsletter

**The Committee on Youth Ministry has developed a "somewhat monthly" e-newsletter.** It will be sent to those working with youth in the Presbytery.

If you are working with youth did you receive our first newsletter ~ sent out March 21<sup>st</sup> using Constant Contact. If not, check your spam folder.

**If did not receive the newsletter and / or would like to request the newsletter for yourself or for someone else who works with our youth, please contact:** Kris Adler at [kris@centralpresby.org](mailto:kris@centralpresby.org). Our goal is to get the information out to as many people as possible!

## Spiritual Formation and Growth Opportunities

### 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 22<sup>nd</sup> of April and concludes by 4pm on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 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.

*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.*

## Spotlight on Nicaragua 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](mailto:lyl_franzen@yahoo.com) or 210-6845, or  
Joyce Serenil at 345-6093 or blackcat100@cox.

### A Note from One of Our Nicaraguan Partners

We wish that October would be next month...to give you our warmest welcome. When you visit us we feel very happy and we feel that your stay in Nicaragua is very short. We already wish that you would be with us longer.

May the peace and the love of our Father be with you and all our brothers and sisters in Christ,










Give our greetings to all,  
Sincerely,  
Pastor Noel Sotelo Corea



## Event Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

April	5 7PM YOUTH MINISTRIES (CENTRAL)	6 11:30AM PASTOR/SPOUSE LUNCH BUNCH – (LAKE MANAWA GOLDEN CORAL)	7	8 9-10AM MISSION VISION / MISSION SUBCOMMITTEE (PRESBYTERY OFFICE)  1PM CPM (CENTRAL)  3PM COUNCIL MEETING (CENTRAL)	9	10 MRV PW Spring Meeting at Bethany P.C., Council Bluffs (Coffee - 8:45am, Mtg. 9:15-12:30)	11
April	12	13 3PM EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP ((MOSHER PILGRIM)  6PM HISPANIC WORKING GROUP (CASTELAR)	14	15 12:30 FAITH, EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP (CENTRAL)	16 NOON RETIRED PASTOR/SPOUSE LUNCH (OLD COUNTRY BUFFET , 75 <sup>TH</sup> / DODGE)	17 10AM SUDANESE WORKING GROUP (CLIFTON HILLS)  10am - 3pm GA Commissioner Training (Calvin Crest)	18

## Prayer Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

Apr	5 Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Dundee Rev. Bob Jordan is the senior pastor at Dundee.   Pray for our brothers and sisters in North Omaha as they stand up and say "Enough is Enough"	6 Celebrate the call of Rev. David Paul. Ordained in 2003, David is serving as associate pastor at First, Omaha.  Loren Parker  Pray for the vacancy on the Presbytery's Faith, Education, and Leadership Committee to be filled.	7 Pray for Rev. Caryn Pedersen. Caryn is pastor of Red Oak Presbyterian Church.  Pray for Rev. Greg Carlson, member of the Presbytery's Mission Committee	8 Pray for Rev. John Pettit. Jack is retired and living with his wife, Doris, in Lake Havasu City, AZ.  Pray for Geri Clanton, member of the Presbytery's Mission Committee	9 Pray for Rev. Steve Pike. Steve is a member-at-large and serves on the Committee for Preparation for Ministry.  Pray for Rev. Jeff McDonald, member of the Presbytery's Mission Committee	10 Pray for Rev. Steve Plank. Steve is pastor at Central Presbyterian and Stated Clerk of our presbytery.  Pray for Joyce Faltis-Serenil, member of the Presbytery's Mission Committee	11 Celebrate the calls of Mike Harvey  and Greg Reid  Mike was ordained in 1976 and serves as pastor of the three churches that form the Cooperative Parish in Iowa. Greg was ordained in 1945. He is retired and lives in Omaha.  Pray for the people of Haiti and Chili
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- Please send dates, times, locations of events to: [pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com](mailto:pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com). However, to plan and schedule events talk with Joan Royer ([joan@pmrv.org](mailto: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](mailto:pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com).
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