



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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News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton

Presbytery Meeting, April 24, 2010, 11am – 3pm at Florence Presbyterian Church
8314 N. 31st Street, Omaha, NE; (402) 455-8343

Pre-Presbytery Gathering: Exploring interfaith relations in the Middle East and in our communities. This program will run from 9:30am to 11am (**See article below**)

"To Meet or NOT!"

On occasion members arrive to a meeting to hear the chair state, "Well, we really don't have much to talk about..."

One almost can hear the thoughts of those gathered, "So why then are we meeting?"

It is a valid question! In fact several questions should be asked by leaders **beforehand**: "Does the committee actually **need** to meet?" and "What will be **accomplished** by the meeting?"

If a leader cannot identify a clear answer to these questions, perhaps the group does **not** need to meet.

Also, if the actual "business" is limited to action on few limited, routine items, a chair may choose to poll the members electronically in lieu of conducting a meeting.

Two reminders about electronic meetings first should be noted.

First, before conducting an electronic meeting, the committee/ group must first adopt a policy regarding electronic meetings. A good example may be found in the Presbytery's *A Manual of Administrative Operations*.

Next, electronic meetings should not be used to replace committee meetings! An essential element of gathering for a meeting is the fellowship and camaraderie that is formed by working together on tasks and projects. If anything, a committee is able to utilize electronic polling of members because of the trust established and relationships formed during meetings!

A phone call or e-mail announcing, "We actually do not have enough business to justify meeting this month" may not only be welcomed but also be more helpful to the overall effectiveness of a committee. In addition, the members will appreciate that their time is being respected ... as well as they may be eager for the next meeting!



Kevin

Pre-Presbytery Gathering

The Report of the Middle East Study Committee will receive great attention prior to and during this year's General Assembly.

In order to assist our leadership in being prepared to make an informed response to the issues involved, the Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee is sponsoring a Pre-Presbytery Gathering. The program will begin at 9:30am.

Beth Katz, Director of Project Interfaith, will present "No Easy Answers" to explore with those present the complexity of the issues involving Jewish, Christian, and Muslim relationships in the Middle East.

Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Obituary

From Rev. J Keith Cook:

Dr. Ralph Gerber, longtime pastor of Presbyterian Church of the Cross, died Friday, April 16 in Sun City, AZ. A service for him will be held April 25, which would have been his birthday. Ralph was a significant presence in our presbytery and synod for quite a number of years. His wife, Eleanor, survives him.

Missouri River Valley Presbytery Prayer Team Meetings

When and Where: 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.

Positions Available

Editor's Note: Please share these opportunities with individuals you know who may be interested in working with youth or children in our congregations.

Full Time Youth Director

Dundee Presbyterian Church of Omaha is seeking a Youth Director.

This position is a full time position with benefits. Candidates must have a love for Christ and Bachelors level degree or equivalency in Christian Education experience.

The Youth Director is not an ordained position. This position will report directly to the Senior Pastor of Dundee.

Please send your resume to: David Daisy, Director of Operations, Dundee Presbyterian Church, 5312 Underwood Ave, Omaha, NE. 68132

or by email to: ddaisy@dpcomaha.org

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"

New Horizon Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University

When: Sunday May 2 ~ 6-8pm for 13 weeks

Where: New Horizon Presbyterian Church, 30 Valley View Dr, Council Bluffs, IA

This program, taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey, incorporates small-group discussions to encourage accountability and discipleship. Learn how to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt via a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and biblical messages. Find out if this program that has helped millions can do the same for you.

The first week's program is free and there is no obligation.

Cost: \$100 (for an individual or couple).

If you want to register, please call Bob Karcher at 657-2417, 614-0911 or 328-9733.

First Presbyterian Church, Shenandoah

"Seeds of Faith" is an ecumenical hunger ministry that is shared between 5 different churches in Shenandoah. First Presbyterian Church, Shenandoah is one of the participating ecumenical partners.

In the five years of the program's existence, over \$121,000 has been raised and channeled to the Foods Resource Bank to aid those around the world in need. The dollars provide financial aid, direct food aid, and production aid. A local field in the Shenandoah area is planted each spring with soybeans (the goal is 40 acres). Time and machinery are donated by local farmers, and there are planting and harvest dedication services both in the spring and the fall. Profits from the sale of the crop goes to the Food Resources Bank.

Mission and Ministry Opportunities in the Presbytery

The Great Presbyterian Disaster Kit Haul

You are invited to participate in the Great Presbyterian Disaster Kit Haul!!

There will be drop off sites in Homestead Presbytery and Missouri River Valley Presbytery for area churches and / or PW's to deposit "**Gift of the Heart disaster kit boxes**" **prior to April 26**. A truck would then stop at those churches on the 26th and deliver all kits gathered to the disaster kit collection site in Arkansas. Kits will then be delivered to Haiti, Chili, and other disaster sites around the world. **Joining this effort would alleviate shipping costs for your group or congregation.**

HOW YOUR CONGREGATION or PWCAN PARTICIPATE:

- **Invite** individuals and groups within your congregation (i.e., Sunday school classes, Presbyterian Women, youth group, Bible study groups) to donate items and containers for hygiene kits and baby kits (*see attached Gifts of the Heart flyer*).
- **Arrange** times to put together your kits.
- **Package** kits according to flyer directions, placing kits of like types in shipping boxes, being sure to include name of church, type of kit and number of kits on outside of box.
- **Choose** a drop-off site near you, and call to make an appointment for delivery.
- **Take** labeled shipping boxes to selected site prior to April 26 pick-up date.

Drop-off sites in our presbytery: *Please call ahead and schedule a time for one bulk delivery per church (all kits packed in cartons and labeled).*

- **Central Presbyterian Church, Omaha**
726 S. 55th Street
Omaha, NE 68106-1364
553-4500†
- **Bethany Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs**
1900 S. 7th Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-7240
(712) 323-0901†

Pick-up date: April 26, 2010- so all kits should be completed and at the drop-off site prior to April 26

For more information, Contact:

- Barbara Hipple, 402/802-2703, barbarah@homesteadpres.org
- Darin Bentzinger, 402/788-2847, therevs@windstream.net (Darin will be driving the truck.)

Please note: Let us know if your congregation has already sent disaster kits or contributed money to PDA for Haiti or Chile, by contacting Barbara at the above email address or phone number.

Financial donations to help offset the cost of our coordinated shipping program would be appreciated. Make checks payable to Homestead Presbytery, memo field "disaster kit shipment" and mail to: Homestead Presbytery, ATTN Barbara Hipple, 1135 Eastridge Drive, Lincoln, NE 68510. We will credit your church with the donation.

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.

Vehicle Needed!!! for a UNMC transplant family during their stay in Omaha

Do you have a vehicle you would like to donate or sell inexpensively?

If so, please notify Westminster Presbyterian Church.

By phone: 402.345.5423 or **By email:** westminsteromaha@msn.com

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 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)

Presbyterian Women

Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Gathering of Women

When: June 16 – 19, 2010

Where: Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, Iowa.

Highlights:

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

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

Social Justice Opportunities

A Night of

Traditional Palestinian Music and Culture with Ibrahim Sbehat

When: Saturday, April 24, 2010, 5:00 pm - 8:00pm

Where: First United Methodist Church-Cary Hall 7020 Cass St., Omaha, NE
(Enter East side of building)

The event will include a potluck dinner (bring a food dish to share with everyone) and Arabic food. This concert is part of a national tour.

Suggested donation: \$5 (\$10 for families).

Editor's Note: Social Justice and Peacemaking is a co-sponsor of this concert.

See: Attached bulletin insert

I've Got a Name Human Trafficking Conference



TINYHANDS
INTERNATIONAL.ORG

*God's grace expressed through compassion
A ministry to children, women, and the poor*

Imagine violently, brutally losing everything – your family, your freedom, your hope, and your identity, even your name. This is the sad reality for the one million children each year forced into the global sex trade industry.

You have the opportunity to help prevent this injustice and provide a future of hope for these voiceless children! Learn how Tiny Hands International, a Lincoln-based organization, is making an impact on the lives of these innocent girls.

Where: Berean Church, 400 S. 70th Street, Lincoln

When: Tuesday, May 4th at 7 p.m.

Each girl has an identity and a name...help protect it. **I've Got a Name** is an initiative to create awareness, prayer, and financial support to help eradicate sex trafficking, with an emphasis on protecting the daughters of Nepal.

For more information, contact Denise at Tiny Hands International at (402) 310-9271 or via e-mail at denise_THI@hotmail.com.

Editor's Note: The sex trafficking industry is one of the most devastating inhumanities in the world today, and it is growing. Young girls are kidnapped, sold by their parents, or lured by false marriages and false offers of employment. They are then smuggled to another country where they are forced to work as prostitutes. These children, some as young as seven years old, are forcibly detained in a strange land, and made to service several clients a day against their will, usually until they contract HIV or another disease, at which time they are turned out on to the streets to die. Many women will have had several children by that point born to them by sex clients. Tiny Hands International of Lincoln NE is fighting the sex trafficking industry by monitoring national borders between Nepal and India; they are intercepting girls before they arrive at their destination.

A promotional poster is attached.

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

Continuing Education Opportunities

Crisis Care Responder Training Courses

Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support

When: May 7 & 8 (Friday and Saturday) ; 8:00 – 4:30 both days

Where: Salvation Army Division Headquarters (3738 Cummings St., Omaha)

Cost: \$115.00 or if CCR Member \$100.00

This course is designed for anyone who desires to increase their knowledge of individual (one-on-one) crisis intervention when dealing with individuals who are working their way through the grief cycle, recovering from a crisis in their lives, or suffered loss.

This course is required to serve as an Emotional & Spiritual Care Provider with CCR (<http://www.crisiscareresponders.com>) and it is a required course to obtain a Certificate of Specialized Training with the International Critical Incident Foundation. (www.icisf.org)

International Fellowship of Chaplaincy Training

When: June 14-18, 2010

Where: Omaha, NE ~ Monday through Friday (a total of 47 hours)

Registration and Fees: \$295.00, includes training, materials, and workbook

To Register: go to <http://www.ifoc.org>

Course Description: IFOC Chaplaincy Certification Training is necessary for Emergency Service Personnel, Law Enforcement, Industrial Chaplains, and those who wish to become Chaplains.

For a complete listing of courses offered in 2010 and a registration form please email Marcia Flom: mflom@cfc.org or call her at 402.408.6888.

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

For more information and to register: see attached brochure

Montreat Conference Center

<http://www.montreat.org>

New Center for Faith & Life

Presents Great Summer Adult Conferencing Line-Up

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.

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>

Conference on Presbyterian History

What: *Christianity and Liberalism*

When: April 21 and 22, 2010

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>

Spotlight on Crossroads Connections

Reflections from Tim Locatis,

full time Project LIFE Manager (Living in Freedom Eternally)

When I first discovered Crossroads it was approximately 2005. My church, Westminster Presbyterian, had just committed to become a sponsorship church. At the time, along with my wife Kim, I was involved at Westminster as a youth leader. I also played guitar with the Westminster Praise band. It is important to point out that at this point in my life I was at the beginning of my walk with Christ.

I attended Westminster's first service for Crossroads to play with the praise band. I remember feeling very apprehensive about doing so. Something that night happened within me that I really can't explain. The next week I returned on my own and have been ever since.

I became a transportation sponsor and over time developed trust and friendships with a few of the inmates. I began inviting inmates to my house on furloughs to spend days with my family and me. The first time I did this was for a man named James and it was for Thanksgiving dinner. I also became increasingly involved with the transitional housing.

To keep this as short as possible we can fast forward to October 2008. Up until this point my occupation was that of branch manager for a well known payday lender. I had been doing this for ten years but over time my feeling for my occupation began to change.

In October of 2008 my mother- and father-in-law took us on a vacation cruise. It is there that once again something happened I cannot explain. On the last night of the cruise I was alone watching the water go by and it occurred to me that when I went back to work the following Monday it would be my last day. That came true as on Tuesday in a discussion with the companies General Manager I was told they felt I no longer was able to carry out their philosophy pertaining to their business, and we parted ways.

I left that day with mixed emotions, one telling me that I had just left employment that paid me well, the other telling me I was beginning a change in my life. A journey that is far, if ever, from being over. Soon after that event I became the Project LIFE Manager for Crossroads. Working with these men has slowly brought to light my own transgressions that I need to work on, a process that I find in both myself and those I help that can be difficult.

Some we help do not make it, yet there are those that do. And to be able to witness some of the amazing good things that can happen is truly a blessing and a privilege.








Crossroads Connection is a ministry to inmates and their families to help heal wounded hearts and minds. We do this not by predicting the future, but rather helping inmates to prepare for the future by calling them to experience God's grace in Jesus Christ.

If you or your church want to be part of this ministry, or expand your involvement, or if you would like to become a donor lending needed financial support to this ministry, please visit our website for more information: www.crossroadsconnectionomaha.org or contact Becky Balestri at 397-4318 or bkillion@hotmail.com

Event Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

April	19	20 9AM STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES - (PRESBYTERY CENTER) 5PM SOCIAL JUSTICE PEACEMAKING - (WESTMINSTER-OMAHA)	21 GREAT PLAINS PILGRIMAGE #7 (CALVIN CREST) APRIL 21-25	22 GREAT PLAINS PILGRIMAGE #7 (CALVIN CREST) APRIL 21-25	23 GREAT PLAINS PILGRIMAGE #7 (CALVIN CREST) APRIL 21-25	24 9:30 – 11AM PRE-PRESBYTERY GATHERING – FLORENCE PC, OMAHA 11AM-3PM PRESBYTERY MEETING - FLORENCE P.C., OMAHA GREAT PLAINS PILGRIMAGE #7 (CALVIN CREST) APRIL 21-25	25 GREAT PLAINS PILGRIMAGE #7 (CALVIN CREST) APRIL 21-25
April	26 5PM MISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE)	27 1 PM LOWE AVENUE COMMISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE) 4:30PM COM (NEW HORIZON) 4:30PM SPIRITUALITY, THEOLOGY & WORSHIP (PANERA – CB MALL)	28	29	30	MAY 1	2

Prayer Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

Apr	19 Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Faith  Rev. Mark Miller serves as pastor of this congregation. 	20 Celebrate the call of Aaron Simons. Aaron was ordained in 1991 and serves as pastor of Westminster, Council Bluffs  Pray for Rev. Dee Jay Reiff. He is retired and serves as stated supply at Gethsemane,  Pray for Al Zimmerman, CLP, member of the Presbytery's Mission Committee	21 Pray for Rev. Gun Song Rhee . He serves as pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church  Pray for Penny Koenig, ex-officio member of the Presbytery's Mission Committee	22 Pray for Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger. Nancy is serving as pastor at United Church, Avoca, IA.  Pray for John Eidenmiller , member of the Presbytery's Sudanese Administrative Working Group	23 Pray for Rev. Kirk Ryckman. Kirk is pastor at Church of the Cross in Omaha.  Pray for Jackie McClellan, chair of the Presbytery's Sudanese Administrative Working Group	24 Pray for Rev. Marvyn Schultz. Marvyn is honorably retired and lives in Omaha with his wife, Martha. Pray for Curt Ratiiff member of the Presbytery's Sudanese Administrative Working Group	25 Pray for the members of the Stewardship of Resources Committee. Rev. Mark Miller serves as chair of this committee.
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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

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. Deadline for the next week's Monday Morning is Thursday at 5pm.