



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

PMRV GA Commissioners and their committee assignments:

Bonnie Brown - Health Issue, Vice Chair

Mike O'Bradovich - GA Procedures

Sally Carlson - Bills & Overtures

Rick Sleyster - Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Foundation, & Presbyterian Publishing

Also serving on a GA committee:

Gary Eller - Theological Education Fund

"It Takes So Long to Get Anything Done!"

Those words often are offered as a common lament of those frustrated by process. Since our denomination values doing things "decently and in order" church leaders tend to hear this refrain on a routine basis.

While the details of our system of polity may seem restrictive to those who want to "get something done" the procedures serve as a protective device against hasty decisions that later might prove unwise.

Presbyterian process values the deliberation of ordained lay and clergy leaders. It seeks to protect the rights of all parties involved, to respect different views, and reach decisions that reflect the will of God. It moves at a measured pace that allows for participation. It provides opportunities for debate and discernment. It allows for alternative forms of decision-making. It is subject to the review of higher governing bodies. It is a system of corporate judgment that operates with the understanding that accomplishing anything significant and of value *takes time!*

By its very nature, "getting anything done" is a time-consuming process. Once a determination is reached about a matter, even more time is required for people to respond, to amend, or to adjust.

Organization systems often require a longer timeline than expected not simply to initiate change but also to respond to reactions to the change. If change is occurring swiftly and "progress is being made", it is very likely that there are some frustrated and unhappy people, who have not as yet "bought in". It also takes time to see the real effects of change. More often than not "measurable results" will show a negative trend before revealing a positive direction.

It does indeed take time to get anything done; and this is a good thing!



Kevin

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.

Mission Stories in Our Presbytery

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Council Bluffs

The congregation of Westminster, Council Bluffs generously donated (over \$600) plus some of the items needed to our Haiti Hygiene Project. They were able to assemble and ship 126 kits to Church World Service in New Windsor, MD on April 13. Included with their shipment was \$2 per kit to help cover the postage cost that would be needed to ship these kits on to Haiti. Each kit included: a washcloth, a hand towel, a comb, clippers, soap, 6 band-aids, and a toothbrush.

Editor's Note: *Also See ~ Spotlight on Crossroads Connections*

Spotlight on Crossroads Connections

Reflections by Charlie Peterson and Brian Doty.

Charlie is currently incarcerated at the Work Release Center; he's a member of Underwood Hills Church; and he hopes to be paroled during this month. Brian is also at the Work Release Center and became a Christian after being invited to attend Crossroads Connections by Charlie Peterson.

My name is Charlie Peterson and this is my testimony on the contributions that Crossroads Connection has made in my life. I arrived at the Omaha Work Release Center on 1 February 2008. I had been at the Nebraska State Penitentiary since June of 1991. I was invited to Crossroads by other inmates at the Work Release Center. I found a cheerful, comfortable place to worship and to have fellowship. Later I found that not only was this a good place, but it was filled with good people. They have offered me clothing, bus passes, food and they even have a program to help me find a place to live. In addition, the biggest thing is that it is a group of people that do not judge; and, provide me with excellent spiritual guidance. I have been with Crossroads for 2 years at this point. I have been helped so much I can't even begin to fathom how I could ever pay these wonderful people back for their kindness. I have no family in the area and they have provided me with all kinds of assistance to find a job, get to work, get to worship, find a place to live, and have taken me on numerous community passes. I am now working and hoping for parole on April 22nd. I will continue to stay with this program and hopefully be able to help others in my situation of February 2008 get to where I am today. Life is getting better all the time. God is good and Crossroads is one of His programs!

Hello, I am Brian Doty. This is my testimony on the way the Crossroads Connection has helped me. On 5 May 2008 I was sent to the Omaha Work Release Center after spending 8 years at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln. I was invited to attend Crossroads by Charlie Peterson. I met some really nice people and felt that they genuinely cared about me. It was a great place to worship. After 6 months, I talked with Roy Fox and told him I wished to get baptized. Roy told me that I needed to join a church. Since I had met many of the Underwood Hills members, I joined that church and was baptized at Underwood Hills Church with water from the actual River Jordan! Underwood Hills assigned me a mentor, Bob Howard. He is always available for counsel and gives me good advice and assistance as I try to transition back to society. I feel so loved and it is all possible because of Crossroads Connection. They are the most helpful people I have ever met. The service is great and the meals are wonderful! God is good all the time!

Editor's Note: The Spirit of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is at work in our community helping inmates and their families to heal wounded hearts and minds as they experience God's grace in Jesus Christ through His ministry and mission at Crossroads Connection.

If you or your church would like to become a donor lending needed financial support to this ministry or if you want to be part of this ministry, or expand your involvement, please visit their website for more information:

www.crossroadsconnectionomaha.org or contact Becky Balestri at 397-4318 or bkillion@hotmail.com

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

Social Justice Opportunities

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

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

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.crisiscarerresponders.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.

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>

Presbyterian Older Adults Ministry (POAM)

Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend:

The OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier, Saints) **Celebration** ~ an annual retreat for older adults in Missouri River Valley and Homestead presbyteries.








When: September 15 and 16, 2010

Where: Calvin Crest Camp Conference Retreat Center

Event Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

April	26 9:30AM MRV PW CT MEETING (NEW HORIZON) 5PM MISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE)	27 11:30 AM EDUCATOR'S LUNCH (PRESBYTERY OFFICE) 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
May	3 7PM YOUTH MINISTRIES (CENTRAL)	4 11:30AM PASTOR/SPOUSE LUNCH BUNCH – (LAKE MANAWA GOLDEN CORAL)	5	6	7	8	9

Prayer Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

Apr	26 Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: First Bellevue. Rev. Matt Nieman is pastor of this congregation.  	27 Pray for Rev. Darin Seaman. Darin is pastor of Faithful Shepherd.  Pray for Bernie Monbouquette, member of the Presbytery's Sudanese Administrative Working Group	28 Pray for Rev. Aaron Simons. Aaron is pastor of Westminster, CB.  Pray for Diane Plasek, member of the Presbytery's Sudanese Administrative Working Group	29 Pray for Rev. Dick Skelley Dick is retired and living in Omaha with his wife, Marion.  Pray for the vacancy on the Presbytery's Sudanese Administrative Working Group to be filled.	30 Pray for Rev. Rick Sleyster. Rick is pastor of Shenandoah.  Pray or the vacancy on the Presbytery's Sudanese Administrative Working Group to be filled.	May 1 Pray for Rev. Jon Sloan. John is pastor of First Omaha.  Pray for the vacancy on the Presbytery's Sudanese Administrative Working Group to be filled.	2 Pray for the members of the Presbyter Youth Ministry Committee. Kris Adler is chair of this committee. Pray for the youth in our presbytery.
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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.