



# 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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**May 24, 2010**

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

### Vacation Planning

The vacation time allotted to ministers often is a delicate subject for congregants. On more than one occasion many clergy have heard a church member growl, “I didn’t get any vacation until I had worked a year and I only got one week!”

Ministers should not be placed in the position of justifying their vacation time! Validating clergy vacation is the responsibility of the Personnel Committee, and if there is not one, the Clerk of Session.

### Reminders for Elders

It is better to be proactive than reactive. Clear communication about the pastor’s vacation may help erase concern. Those elders who respond to inquiries from congregants should be armed with these facts:

- The *minimum requirement* of the Presbytery is four weeks of vacation time.
- Ministers are “on call” every day of every week. Many make hospital calls on a day off, answer the phone at 2 a.m., as well as return early from an out of town vacation because of a death in the church family.
- There are no “three day weekends” for clergy! The “second day” of such a weekend is a Sunday. In addition, some congregations schedule church picnics, youth lock-ins, and other activities over a holiday weekend.
- Ministers often are present for *all* church events! There is a difference between lay leaders serving/ participating in *many* church events and clergy leading/ taking part in *most (if not all)* of the church’s programs, week after week!

### Reminders for Ministers

Some ministers have reported the following actions have been helpful in communicating vacation time:

- Schedule and inform! Plan the time away well in advance, alerting leadership of the dates. Be sure that key leaders have emergency contact information for those “on call” as well as for you.
- Speak with appreciation for the time both before and after the vacation. Gratitude is received better than entitlement. Let people know how thankful you are for the respite.
- Send a postcard to church staff thanking them for their efforts while you are away. If an important meeting is scheduled during the vacation, send a note to the Chair/ Convener offering your prayers for their work.
- Consider the manner in which you state the *purpose* of your time away. The *intent* of a vacation is for rest and relaxation as well as restoration and renewal. Members tend to respond better to “nurturing the soul and spirit” than to “getting away”.

As our ministers prepare for summer vacation, I pray that the time will be meaningful and restorative to the spirit!



Kevin

## 2010-2011 Planning Calendars

The new 2010-2011 Planning Calendars are now available in the presbytery office. They are \$6.30 each

### Apply Now for a Komarek Trust Grant

The Komarek Charitable Trust was created by Joseph C. and Phyllis C. Komarek.

**Grants are to be used for physical repairs and improvements to Presbyterian churches within Missouri River Valley Presbytery.**



First-time applicants will be given priority.

**Applications are due by June 15th.**

The Mission Committee of MRV Presbytery will make recommendations to the

Board of Trustees by late July, and the funds will be available in September or October.

*Committee evaluations are based on detailed estimates of costs and fundraising in progress.*

**For an application for a Komarek Trust Grant, click on or paste the following link in browser:**

<http://www.pmr.org/docs/Forms/Komarek%20Application%2008%2017%2009.pdf>

## Positions Available

### 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](mailto:ddaisy@dpcomaha.org)



#### **Editor' Note:**

- ***Do you know someone who feels a call to work with youth?***
- ***Share this opportunity with them today!***

## **Mission Stories in Our Presbytery**

### **Spotlight on The Sudanese Administrative Working Group**

**Would you like to try a Mission Trip, but don't have the time or money to travel to a distant Mission Field? Have you ever dreamed of traveling to Africa?**

Why not stay home and work closely with a former resident of the Sudan, learn first hand about the beauty of the Sudanese terrain, the generousness of the Sudanese people, learn how they developed their great faith and how that faith has sustained them through their experiences with unbelievable atrocities, years in refugee camps, and being chosen to leave family and friends to be transported to a foreign land with confusing customs, strange language, and great expectations for newcomers.

**The MRV Presbytery's Sudanese Working Group has adopted a plan to come along side the Sudanese Fellowship Elders and Deacons in one to one relationships with the leaders of the following committees with the goal of developing a self-sufficient thriving congregation.**

**Finance** – establish a budget, set up a bookkeeping system, and develop and execute a stewardship plan.

**Membership** – develop activities that would introduce the Fellowship to potential members, create an evangelical plan and organize new member classes.

**Christian Education** – research curriculum for adults, youth and children, recruit teachers and establish *educational programs for all age levels*.

**Worship** – develop a worship calendar, oversee the implementation of the sacraments, ensure that the worship experience is meaningful and relevant.

**Pastoral Care** – develop and train Fellowship members to assist the Pastor in caring for the members, become familiar with community resources and how to utilize them for the benefit of members.

The Working Group will welcome the Sudanese Leaders of these committees as members of the Working Group and together with Presbytery elected members (*Maybe you or a member of your congregation*) will work together in these five areas pairing experienced Presbyterians with creative, faithful Sudanese to develop a vibrant congregation that will serve the 10,000 Sudanese (*What a potential congregation!*) in the Omaha area.

**What skills and experience can you share?** You will gain new understanding of a vast population, learn wonderful things about an ancient culture, and witness a very deeply faithful people. The combined Presbytery Working Group/Sudanese Elders and Deacons will meet the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 A.M. to share and support each areas progress.

***The Working Group is looking for people to join us in this exciting adventure. Come see how you might contribute and learn, no initial commitment needed or call Jackie McLellan 491-3692 or Bernie Monbouquette 556-8762.***

## Mission and Ministry Opportunities in the Presbytery

### Presbytery Youth Mission Trip 2010 Senior High Mission Trip

**All Senior High Youth in the Presbytery are invited to attend this year's mission trip to Lexington, Kentucky.** We will be working with the Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church's "Mission Immersion Project." The Mission Immersion Project is committed to identifying & addressing the needs of those whom Jesus called "the least of these" with the goal of "helping youth understand the plight of those who are poor in America.

**When:** June 19-26

**Cost:** \$100

**Contact:** Brent Janzen, Youth Director, Avery Presbyterian Church, Bellevue  
(402) 690-5258 – or – [brjanz01@hotmail.com](mailto:brjanz01@hotmail.com)

**If your youth group or a young person you know is interested in going on the mission trip, please contact Brent and let him know.**

### Presbytery Mission Trip: *Meet our Nicaraguan Partners!*

**When:** October 29 – November 5, 2010

**Who:** Everyone!

**For Informational Flier, click on or paste the following link in browser:**

[http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm\\_100308\\_mission\\_nicaragua.pdf](http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm_100308_mission_nicaragua.pdf)

**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.net](mailto:blackcat100@cox.net)

### Calvin Crest is calling all creative types

**Calvin Crest's board of directors has creative plans in the works and is putting out a call for volunteer creative help from members of Homestead and Missouri River Valley presbyteries.** This is a unique opportunity for amateurs and professionals to share their talents to benefit Calvin Crest Camp–Conference & Retreat Center.

**Are there members of your staff and/or congregations that would enjoy helping us develop a new logo, branding materials, a new Web site, gateway and facility signage, and other marketing elements to enhance Calvin Crest?**

Please get the word out among your congregations and colleagues. The board's Marketing Committee would like to hear from interested parties by June 4. Please email Phil Whitmarsh ([loraxjr@aol.com](mailto:loraxjr@aol.com)) with your name and contact information to receive more information.

The individual whose design is selected as Calvin Crest's new logo will receive a selection of new Calvin Crest items featuring their design. Participating volunteers will also receive new Calvin Crest T-shirts.

p.s. – **Wood Carvers, too!?** There are several tall tree stumps that remain after large evergreen and other trees were removed. Might anyone be willing to design and carve one or more trunks, to be enjoyed for years by Calvin Crest's visitors?

## Scholarships

### PC(USA) Scholarships

Student Opportunity Scholarship applications are due by June 1 for the 2010-2011 academic year. This scholarship serves PC(USA) college students in select majors – education, health service/science, religious studies, sacred music, social services/sciences – by providing financial aid for the third and fourth years of an undergraduate program. Preference in this program is extended to racial ethnic students in order to promote diversity. Visit the Financial Aid for Studies website to download an application and/or to learn more about other scholarships, loans and grants.

**Click on or paste the following link in browser:** <http://www.pcusa.org/financialaid/>

**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.

**For the application form, click on or paste the following link in browser:**

**browser:**[http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm\\_100329\\_scholarship.pdf](http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm_100329_scholarship.pdf)

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.*

## Presbyterian Women

### Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Gathering of Women

**When:** June 16 – 19, 2010

**Where:** Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, Iowa.

**For information or a registration form, click on or paste the following link in browser:**

**Gathering Information:**

[http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm\\_100308\\_synod\\_gathering.pdf](http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm_100308_synod_gathering.pdf)

**To Register:**

[http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm\\_100308\\_synod\\_gathering\\_registration.pdf](http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm_100308_synod_gathering_registration.pdf)

## Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries OWLS Celebration

May was the month Seniors were to be honored as long time members of the Presbyterian Churches -The OWLS of MRV and Homestead Presbyteries are Very Aware of the valuable services we Older, Wiser, and Livelier Saints offer to our individual churches! To let you know this - the POAM/OWLS Committee has planned an OWLS Celebration.

**Join us on the 15th and 16th of September** for 2 days of pleasure, enlightenment, and meeting new acquaintances.

**Mark your calendars now** - You won't want to miss your trip to Venus!!

***Watch for more information!***

## News from our Congregations

### Faith Church



#### **Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University**

**When:** Wednesday evenings, June 2 – August 25, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

**Where:** Faith Church

**This summer take advantage of the opportunity to learn how to use your money God's way and end up in better financial shape than you ever thought possible.** In 13-lessons, *Financial Peace University*, taught on video by best-seller author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey. takes the knowledge from Scripture and turns it into real action steps in our lives.

***Financial Peace University is for every adult and youth – from the financially secure to the financially distressed.*** It will be the best time you'll ever have learning about money! Each family (from a single adult to a married couple with teenagers) attending will need to purchase a lifetime membership kit which includes a lifetime membership to attend classes anywhere and anytime at no extra fee, a workbook containing all 13 lessons, budgeting forms, an envelope system, all 13 lessons on CD and a copy of Dave Ramsey's book *Financial Peace Revisited*. **The lifetime membership kit costs \$100 per family.**

**Sign up today for one of the free preview classes:** Sunday morning, May 16, 9:30 am or Wednesday evening, May 19, 7:00 pm.

**For more information or to register,** please check online at [www.DaveRamsey.com](http://www.DaveRamsey.com) or contact Pastor Mark Miller (331-6944, [Mark@faith-presbyterian.com](mailto:Mark@faith-presbyterian.com)).

### Westminster, Council Bluffs

GRILLED STEAK SUPPER

**When:** Saturday, June 26, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Westminster Church Fellowship Hall, 517 South 32nd Street, Council Bluffs

**Cost:** \$7.00 (PREPAID)

Meal includes grilled steak, baked potato, vegetable, roll/butter, beverages and dessert.

**Prepaid tickets are available from:** John & Mary Adkins, Chris Gillette, Don & Joan Hoden, Army & Fran Rathke, Royce Tornblom  
**or by calling the church office (322-5732).**

**Tickets must be purchased by Sunday, June 20th!!!**

Sponsored by the Fellowship-Dream Team !!

**Invite your friends!**

**Bring your family!**

## Social Justice Opportunities

### **Harmony Week ~ Omaha's War on Crime**

#### **Harmony Week - Town Hall Meeting**

**When:** Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> Arrive by 6:15pm

**Where:** Lewis & Clark Middle School @ 6:30 pm.

For information on other Harmony Week activities, click on or paste the following link in your browser <http://www.kmtv.com/global/Story.asp?s=12494082>

## 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 at South Omaha for One World's expectant moms.

- **Plan to attend** the concert.
- **Promote the concert** in your congregation or at your office,

**For more information, contact:** Howard Dotson

[hr\\_dotson@yahoo.com](mailto:hr_dotson@yahoo.com)

**For the promotional flyer, click on or paste the following link in browser:**

[http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/100501\\_charity\\_jam\\_session\\_flyer2.pdf](http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/100501_charity_jam_session_flyer2.pdf)

## Continuing Education Opportunities

### PC(USA) Pastors Invited to Czech Conference "How Shall We Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land? – Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Society"

**When:** March 23-April 1, 2011.

**Where:** The Protestant Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic

Rev. Barbara A. Renton describes this as an "exciting continuing education opportunity" for Presbyterian Church (USA) pastors to "share experience, discovery and reflection with Czech pastors." A former chairperson of the General Assembly Mission Council, Renton urges us "to consider engaging with Czech pastors in what is the oldest Reformation country (100 years before Martin Luther) that today has been called the most secularized country in Europe, to explore the challenges facing Christians today."

Registration is limited to 12

Participants will also encounter local Czech congregations and have an opportunity to explore the city of Prague.

**The seminar will be in English.**

**For additional information and the registration form, click on or paste the following link in your browser:** <http://czechconnections.org/conferences.html>

***The deadline for registration is June 30.***

### Adolescent Suicide: An Essential Guide for Mental Health Professionals

**When:** Wednesday, June 9, 2010 ~ 8:45am – 12:30pm

**Where:** Scott Conference Center, 6450 Pine Street Omaha

**For more information and to register,** please click on or paste the following link in your browser [http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/100524\\_adolescent\\_suicide.pdf](http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/100524_adolescent_suicide.pdf)

**Montreat Conference Center**  
**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**

**FAITHFUL POLITICS**, August 8-11. **New in 2010**

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.

**CHURCH UNBOUND**, August 11-14. **Back by popular demand**

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 <http://www.montreat.org>*

**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>

**Crisis Care Responder Training Courses**

**Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support**

**When:** August 6 & 7 (Friday and Saturday); 8:00 – 4:30 both days

**Where:** Omaha NE (Exact Location: TBA)

**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](http://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>

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

### Event Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

May	24 5PM MISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE)	25 1 PM LOWE AVENUE COMMISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE)  4:30PM COM (NEW HORIZON)	26	27	28	29	30 TRINITY SUNDAY
May	31 Presbytery Office CLOSED - Memorial Day Holiday	JUNE 1 11:30AM PASTOR/SPOUSE LUNCH BUNCH – (LAKE MANAWA GOLDEN CORAL)	2	3	4	5	6

### Prayer Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

May	24 Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Fort Calhoun Rev. Gregg Miller is  	25 Pray for our Executive Presbyter, Rev. Kevin Keaton Pray for his leadership in our presbytery,  Pray for JoAnn Mutum, member of the Presbytery's Nominating Committee	26 Pray for Joan Royer and her ministry here in the presbytery as our presbytery's administrative assistant  Pray for Carole Warnes, chair of the Presbytery's Nominating Committee	27 Pray for Rev. Becky Balestri, pastor of Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church.  Pray that the vacancy on the Presbytery's Nominating Committee will be filled	28 Celebrate the calls of Rev. Neal Earley, ordained in 1972;  Rev. Harold Johnson, ordained in 1947  and Rev. Dr. Paul Lundell, ordained in 1950.  Pray that the vacancy on the Presbytery's Nominating Committee will be filled	29 Pray for Rev. Kathryn Bates. Kathryn is living in Walnut IA.  Pray for Rev. Dick Skelley, member of the Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission	30 Celebrate the call of Rev. Bill Beatty. Bill was ordained in 1965. Pray for PMRV's Youth Advisory Delegates (YADS) Synod YAD: Daniel Bennett, Church of the Cross. GA YAD: Lauren Watson - Bethany, CB
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