

# 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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## June 28, 2010

Page:	In this issue:
1	• GA News Website Address
2	• News from our E.P., Kevin Keaton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Interpreting General Assembly</li> </ul>
3	• Family Day at Rosenblatt
3	• 2010-2011 Planning Calendars
3	• Social Justice Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Book, Movie &amp; Music Drive for Omaha Digital Bridge Project</li> </ul>
4	• Positions Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Part-time Director of Youth Ministry, First-Bellevue</li> <li>◦ Nursery Attendant, Presbyterian Church of the Cross</li> <li>◦ Full-time Youth Director, Dundee</li> </ul>
5,6&7	• Mission Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Step Out and Serve</li> <li>◦ Castelar Kids Summer Trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding Needed</li> <li>▪ Volunteers Needed</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Calvin Crest us calling all creative types</li> <li>◦ Nicaraguan Partnership Trip</li> </ul>
7	• PC(USA) Malawi Mission Network Meeting
7	• News from Our Congregations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ This section is for congregational news, submit your articles to: <a href="mailto:pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com">pmrv.mondaymorning@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>
7&8	• Continuing Education Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Continuing Education for Staff: APA Conference</li> <li>◦ PC(USA) Pastors Invited to Czech Conference</li> <li>◦ Montreat Center Programs</li> <li>◦ Crisis Care Responder Training Courses</li> </ul>
9	• Events Calendar
10	• Prayer Calendar

**"For those who aren't attending the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) July 3-10 in Minneapolis, the business of the assembly can be tracked online at the denomination's website**

[http://www.facebook.com/l/202b7TnG1T\\_HeKVRWQ9Uf4vudyg;www.pcusa.org/ga219](http://www.facebook.com/l/202b7TnG1T_HeKVRWQ9Uf4vudyg;www.pcusa.org/ga219).

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

### Interpreting General Assembly

As we continue to pray and prepare for the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly July 3 – 10 in Minneapolis, I would offer a few reminders that may inform one's interpretation of the flood of information that emerges from the meeting.

- An item before the Assembly is not "official" until it is acted upon by the whole assembly and in some cases acted upon by a majority of the Presbyteries! An issue presented in an Overture must go through a lengthy process (with multiple revisions) before it makes its way from a Committee onto the floor of the Assembly, where it again may be revised prior to its approval (or rejection). Simply put: what goes **in** to the Assembly may not be the same as what comes **out**.
- Please remember the Assembly speaks **to** the church not **for** the church! This is an important distinction. Larger expressions of the church may inform but cannot dictate the ministry and corporate judgment of congregations. Documents from the Assembly labeled "reports" or "study documents" deserve the consideration of the local church; however, they do not demand implementation.
- National media need "stories that will sell". Many reporters are employees of for-profit corporations, who understand that controversy and conflict generate sales. For several previous Assemblies their coverage concentrated on two issues: the ordination of members of the LGBT community and actions regarding Israel and Palestine. Indicators suggest these once again will dominate "prime time".
- Information about the General Assembly is available online at <http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/> In addition, during the Assembly, all worship services as well as all plenary sessions are featured online via live-stream through the same website.
- There are publications, journals, and blogs that simply cannot resist the urge to "interpret". Some accounts, therefore, will reflect a particular viewpoint and champion a specific agenda. Historically, reports of the Religion News Service (RNS) <http://www.religionnews.com/> and the Presbyterian Outlook <http://www.pres-outlook.com/> have provided balanced, objective reports of previous Assemblies.
- One should anticipate the "best stories" will be under-reported or go unreported! Good things actually happen at GA; they simply don't create profits for multinational media corporations or generate the "buzz" coveted by interest groups.
- Ask yourself, "Does that sound right?" On more than one occasion, what initially was *reported* to have occurred at GA bore little to no resemblance to the actual action of the Assembly!

With this in mind, you are encouraged to pray for our commissioners, for the Assembly, as well as for the Spirit's guidance in our corporate understanding of the actions of the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.



Kevin

## Family Day at Rosenblatt

**Missouri River Valley Presbytery is hosting a fun-filled family day at Rosenblatt Stadium on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

The Omaha Royals baseball game begins at 1:35 p.m. with clowns doing face painting and balloon art during the game, as well as a "fun area" for kids.

A block of 100 tickets has been purchased on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line. **If you and your family would like to attend you may pick up the tickets, \$5 each, at the Presbytery office which is \$2 off the regular price.**

We hope you are able to come and enjoy one of the last games at The "Blatt" as well as a summer afternoon with other members of the Presbytery.

## 2010-2011 Planning Calendars

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

## Social Justice Opportunities

### Book, Movie & Music Drive for Omaha Digital Bridge Project

**Spring Cleaning? First Presbyterian Church, Omaha needs your unwanted or no longer needed Books, Movies and Music.**

**All proceeds will support** FPC Omaha's computer lab's newest mission: Omaha Digital Bridge

**The goal:** to eliminate unemployment in Omaha and build contributors to our community by: Serving the needs of the un- and under-employed; Equipping them to bridge the digital divide\*; and Deploying them with employable skills to serve others and our community.

*\*Digital Divide: The troubling gap between people who have the ability, access and skills to benefit from computers and the Internet and those who do not.*

**Bring your books, movies and music to FPC, Omaha.**

**Program contact:** Rev A David Paul 402-345-5383 [adpaul@fpcomaha.org](mailto:adpaul@fpcomaha.org)

**For more information and a flyer to promote this program,** click on or paste the following link in your browser:

[http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm\\_100531\\_book\\_movie\\_music\\_drive.pdf](http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm_100531_book_movie_music_drive.pdf)

## Positions Available

### Part-Time Director of Youth Ministry (20 hrs per week)

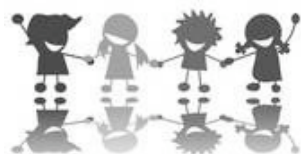
**First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue** is currently seeking a part-time director of youth ministry to resource, administer, and lead the ministry to its 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth.



Qualified candidates should possess a personal faith in Jesus Christ, a love and appreciation for youth and their faith development, an ability to empower and give ownership to volunteers, and strong organizational skills. Some experience, either paid or volunteer, in youth 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 [donmcon3@cox.net](mailto:donmcon3@cox.net). **Job description is posted at [1stpresbvue.org](http://1stpresbvue.org).**  
**Application deadline is July 1.**

### Nursery Attendant



**Presbyterian Church of the Cross** is seeking a caring nursery attendant.  
**For Sunday mornings, 8:45 – 12:15**  
**and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.**  
\$9.00 per hour.  
**Interested persons should call 333-7466, ask for Sheri Sessions.**

### 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)



## Mission and Ministry Opportunities in the Presbytery

**Step Out and Serve**  
***An amazing Opportunity for churches***  
***in our presbytery to step out in practical acts of service.***

### Vision

Churches joining together, expressing God's love for our city, in practical acts of service.

### Event

**Step Out & Serve** is a one day event in which churches across the greater Omaha area join together to serve our city in practical acts of service. Churches from all denominations and of all sizes send out volunteers from their buildings into the surrounding community.

Projects vary from church to church and include assisting local non-profit organizations with work projects and needs, volunteering at homes for Veterans and/or disabled individuals, cleaning up parks or trails, handing out bottled water to joggers, throwing block parties, or mowing lawns. Each church picks its own projects and organizes its own volunteers.

All of the volunteers wear the same bright "Step Out & Serve" T-shirt and in 2009 as many as 6,000 servants for the kingdom could be found across our city.

In 2010 the coordinating leadership of Step Out & Serve transitioned to Imagine Omaha, a team of servant leaders from a variety of expressions of God's Kingdom in the expanded Omaha Metro Region who have come together with a commitment to discover, facilitate and support the emerging God opportunities for the Greater Life of our region.

Step Out & Serve will be August 22, 2010. Currently over 19 churches in the metro area are involved. New this year, all participating churches will be asked to preach on common scripture text with a common title on that Sunday. A common ad will be in the Omaha World Herald under the title "*One Lord, One Church, One Message*" listing participating churches and their worship times.

Step Out & Serve is an amazing testament of the love of Jesus for His people in Omaha.

If you are interested in participating, contact Caitlin O'Hare at [Caitlin@whcomaha.org](mailto:Caitlin@whcomaha.org)

*"In the same way, let your light shine before men,  
 that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*  
 Matthew 5:16

For information about Step Out and Serve efforts in 2008 and 2009, click on or paste this link in your browser:

[http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm\\_100607\\_sons\\_08\\_09.pdf](http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm_100607_sons_08_09.pdf)

**Please note:**  
***Today is the last day to sign up for Step Out and Serve.***

## **Castelar Kids Summer Trip to Fontenelle Forest**

**When:** Saturday, July 10, 2010; 8am til shortly after lunch.

### **50-60 children will participate.**

Activities for younger children will be arts and crafts (green - eco friendly oriented)  
Older kids will go on guided tour of the Forest.

**Needed help to cover expenses** for the trip and activities, including t-shirt, food, bus and entrance fee - total cost **\$800**.

**Any amount is welcome, or you might consider sponsoring one or more children by providing a scholarship of \$15 per child.**

**Also needed volunteers willing to help day of trip - you do not need to be bi-lingual.**

Will meet at church at 8am, bus will leave at 8:30am, and returning to the church shortly after lunch.

**Contact:** Lyle Franzen at 346-9492 if you have any questions.

### **Send donations to:**

Castelar United Presbyterian Church,  
2410 South 16th Street, Omaha, NE 68108-1401  
mark for: Castelar Kids

***Please share this opportunity with members of your congregation.  
Give them the opportunity to participate in this wonderful program.***

## **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?

## **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)

## **PC(USA) Malawi Mission Network Meeting**

**The annual conference of the Malawi Network will be held from August 12th through 15th in South Bend, IN.** This conference will be very informative and enjoyable for any individuals or congregations interested in mission in Malawi. *PMRV has a mission partnership in Malawi.* There will be many outstanding speakers and organizations represented, including Hunter Farrell, head of World Missions for our denomination and the ambassador of Malawi.

**For a flyer about the meeting, click on or paste this link in your browser:**

[http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm\\_100531\\_malawi\\_network.pdf](http://pmrv.org/newsletters/attachments/mm_100531_malawi_network.pdf)

**For more information about the conference, including registration and cost information see:** [www.malawinetwork.org](http://www.malawinetwork.org)

## **News from our Congregations**

**Submit activities or stories about your congregation to Jody at**

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

## **Continuing Education Opportunities**

### ***Continuing Education for Staff***

The Administrative Personnel Association (APA) offers opportunities for professional development and personal growth for those called by God to serve as support staff of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Encourage your support staff to attend.

### ***The 2010 APA Rocky Mountain Regional Conference***

**When:** August 5 - 8, 2010

**Where:** Cheyene Wyoming.

Courses include: Biblical Interpretation, Church History, GA Entities, Effective Meeting Minutes, Directory for Worship, and Office Administration

**Registration Deadline:** July 15, 2010

**For more information, a brochure and registration form:** click on or paste the following link in your browser: [http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm\\_100607\\_ap\\_a\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/mm_100607_ap_a_brochure.pdf)

## 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>

## Montreat Conference Center

### **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>*

## **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.crisiscarerresponders.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))

**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.

## 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.

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

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

### Event Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

June	28 1 PM NOMINATIONS (FIRST, BELLEVUE)  5PM MISSION (PRESBYTERY OFFICE)	29	30	JULY 1	2	3  219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN	4  INDEPENDENCE DAY  219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN
July	5  PRESBYTERY OFFICE CLOSED – OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY  7PM YOUTH MINISTRIES (CENTRAL)  219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN	6 11:30AM PASTOR/SPOUSE LUNCH BUNCH – (LAKE MANAWA GOLDEN CORAL)  219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN	7  219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN	8 1PM CPM (CENTRAL)  219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN	9  219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN	10 CASTELAR KIDS SUMMER TRIP  219th General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN	11

**Prayer Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)**

<p>June</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Missouri Valley. Rev. Barbara Todd is serving as pastor of this conversation.</p>  	<p>29</p> <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Kirk Ryckman. Kirk was ordained in 1975.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Dr. Gary Eller. Gary is the President of the Omaha Seminary Foundation</p>  <p>Pray for Carol Dworak, member of the Presbytery's Policy and Poility Committee</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Bob Meanor; ordained in 1958.</p>  <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Marvyn Schultz; ordained in 1989.</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Jody Filipi. Jody is the edior of Monday Morning, chair of the presbytery's mission committee, and convener of the PCUSA, Czech Mission Network.</p> 	<p>July 1</p> <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Bill Denny; ordained in 1960.</p>  <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Mark Miller; ordained in 1979.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Ed Fish. Ed is retired and living in Omaha. He is a chaplain at the VA.</p>  <p>Pray for Jan Pellant,,member of the Presbytery's Policy and Poility Committee</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Sally Carlson; ordained in 1978.</p>  <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Roy Fox; ordained in 1961.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev, Lyle Franzen. Lyle is serving as pastor of Castelar Church.</p>  <p>Pray for Marilyn Diercks, member of the Presbytery's Policy and Poility Committee</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pray for General Assembly meeting in Minneapolis (July 3-10)</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Roy Fox. Roy is retired and living in Omaha.</p>  <p>Pray for Mike O'Bradovich, member of the Presbytery's Policy and Poility Committee</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Dean Sparr; ordained in 1982.</p>  <p>Pray for General Assembly</p> <p>Pray for our Commissioners</p> <p>Elder Bonnie Brown</p> <p>Elder Mike O'Bradovich</p> <p>Rev. Sally Carlson</p> <p>Rev. Rick Sleyster</p> <p><b>Alternates</b></p> <p>Rev. Nancy Ross-Hullinger</p> <p>Rev. Lyle Franzen</p> <p><b>YAD</b></p> <p>Lauren Watson</p> <p>July 4<sup>th</sup>. Pray for our country and those who lead it.</p>
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