



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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Communion Cups Available ~ Free

Presbyterian Church of the Cross has communion cups available for the asking. Please call, June Fettig at 402-333-7466, if you are able to use them. The cups are from Crystal Cups. They are “Royal Cup” size rather than “Perfect Cup” size. These cups are about 3/16 of an inch larger.

News From Our Congregations

Mount View Presbyterian Ordains Three Young Elders



Mt. View Presbyterian Church celebrated the ordination of three young elders on Sunday, January 22nd. **All three** of the candidates **are in their 20's and are very enthusiastic about their involvement in the Church.**

Bidong Tot came to Mt. View Church 12 years ago as a refugee from Sudan. He is now a graduate of Creighton University and very active in the life of the Church. Ashley Humpal is a nurse who spent nine months in the Sudan doing mission work. Christopher Lunbeck graduated from Dana College and has been active in music and drama at Mt. View.

Mt. View Presbyterian Church is an aging congregation in North Omaha and rejoices in the youthfulness of its new session members.

Westminster, Omaha – Soccer Club Update

The kids who played soccer the past two summers are now playing soccer at Field Club Elementary gym every Friday 6 to & 730 pm.

Makayla and Abel Montes have made a commitment to keep the soccer team going for Field Club kids.



Westminster Presbyterian ~ Omaha Invites You To Our Pancake Supper



News from Calvin Crest

Summer at Calvin Crest

Summer Camp is a great chance to have a blast!

Check out the video for a taste of what's in store.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e_RvDGbIMY&feature=youtu.be

Did you know there are materials available for worship services designed specifically for Camp and Conference Center promotion? They feature readings, song suggestions as well as other resources for a full worship service. To download the PDF version, click on this link: <http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/CCCworship.pdf>

Some easy suggestions for promoting Camp and Conference Ministry include:

- Find a current or former Calvin Crest Camper who would be willing to share a personal story during a Minute For Mission.
- Use the Youtube Video above during the worship service or Sunday School Opening. Share the link in your church's newsletter.
- Invite a Calvin Crest staff member to share about the ministry. Send an email to Craig at craig@calvincrest.org check on availability.

Other Calvin Crest News:**Save the Date for the 15th Annual BBQ and Quilt Auction.**

It will be held August 25, 2012. This exciting event helps raise money for a specific Calvin Crest project. Past projects include New Carpet in Proett Conference Center, New Playground Equipment, A New Garden Tractor and Upgraded Electrical Systems in the Cabins.

Upcoming Events:

- March 9-11, 2012--Scrapbook Retreat
- March 21-25, 2012--Quilt Retreat
- April 20-22, 2012--Confirmation Retreat

HELP Adult Services' (formerly Presbyterian Outreach) Celebrating 30th Anniversary!

HELP Adult Services is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. To honor our founders and all of those who have served as a Board member, volunteer or staff or has used its services, we will post a fact about our history and impact. Look for these facts each week!

October 22nd 1982, the mission began as Presbyterian Metropolitan Ministries of Omaha (PMMO).

HELP Adult Services: a Presbyterian community outreach
1941 S 42nd St Suite 200 (The Center Mall)
Omaha NE 68105
(402) 341-6559
www.helpadultservices.org

Mission and Ministry Opportunities in the Presbytery

Are You 55 Or Older And Looking For A Volunteer Opportunity?

PMRV Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry (55+) is looking for individuals or couple interested in serving on their board. If you or someone you know is 55 or older and is interested in ministry with other 55+ individuals in our presbytery this is a great opportunity for you or them.

If you are interested, give Ernie Gutha a call at [712-347-5918](tel:712-347-5918) or have your friend or family member call him for more information. It would be great if his phone was always with people volunteering to serve. Or come to the February presbytery meeting and hear Ernie speak about this important ministry in our presbytery.

Please pray for the right people to come forward and consider whether God may be calling you or someone you know to be involved in this ministry.

**Mission Crossroads PC(USA) invites you to attend a free webinar
on the Arab Awakening and the Church's response**

**Wednesday, February 1
2-3 p.m. EST**

TO REGISTER: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/235936274>

Much has changed in the Middle East over the past year. In fact, the revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests that began in Tunisia and spread throughout the Arab world that began in December 2010 are still ongoing, resulting in sweeping governmental changes in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. In Egypt in particular, Hosni Mubarak resigned in February 2011 after 18 days of massive protests, ending his 30-year presidency. Time magazine named "the protester" its Person of the Year, signifying the importance and influence of the unrest in the world at this time.

READ MORE ABOUT THIS WEBINAR: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/global/attend-webinar-arab-awaking-february-1/>

Send a Child to School in Nicaragua

Extreme poverty prevents many children from attending school in Nicaragua. For \$35, you can purchase a school uniform, shoes and backpack of essential supplies. Our partners' sewing collective in La Concepcion, Nicaragua will sew the uniforms and gather the supplies. This will enable the women of the collective to earn a fair wage while supporting their community. The pastors of our Nicaraguan partnership have a firm conviction that education lifts people out of poverty. Will you or your church send needy children to school?

Please send donations to MRV Presbytery office, and mark them with account 2095.34, "Nicaraguan School Uniforms". Questions may be addressed to Joyce Serenil at [\(402\)345-6093](tel:4023456093). **(News!! Our partners have secured funding for 45-46 children in addition to the 51 we are hoping to fund.)**

Mission Partners from Cameroon to Visit Omaha

The West Hills Church mission partners from the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon will be visiting Omaha March 1-13, 2012. One of our guests will be Rev. Dr. Julius Ambe Ngwa, National Sunday School Officer for the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon. Our other three guests are Sunday School teachers and organizers.

Our partners are interested in building new relationships, the exchange of ideas and practices, and sharing their experiences and knowledge with us. **If you would be interested in hosting our mission partners from Cameroon for an event with your congregation, to meet your Mission Team/Committee, or for a causal meal please contact Caitlin O'Hare, Director of Mission Ministries at West Hills Church, Caitlin@whcomaha.org or 402-391-8788.**

West Hills is also making plans to host a "meet and greet" dinner where one or two representatives from each interested congregation could meet our guests and also be

introduced to their work in Cameroon. *If you would like to be informed of the details of this event once they are confirmed please contact Caitlin.*

Please enjoy the following story from a West Hills congregation member's experiences with our mission partners in Cameroon.

A Godson in Cameroon by Priscilla Powell

I met Tetuh David when the first West Hills mission team traveled to Cameroon in 2001. It was at a meeting of the Sunday School Organizers of the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon (PCC). In a large warm room, we slowly pulled the long wooden tables together into a "U" shape. West Hills sat among the Organizers; David sat to my left. Listening to their reports about their various Sunday Schools, it was apparent they all shared the same problem - poverty. But they had traveled by foot and on dirty, bumpy, slow buses to get there. They were dedicated to the Sunday school children of the PCC.

David was quiet and assuming. We spoke of our families and our faith in Jesus. He was married with one daughter, Daniela. We prayed together about the Sunday School in his small village. He had helped build the one-room church with the Sunday school room attached to the back. Throughout our days at the Church Center in Bamenda, David appeared. He came to see me. We finally exchanged mailing addresses, like we did scores of times with almost everyone we had met. I was going to wait for them to write me first, as it was almost humanly impossible to write everyone with whom I had exchanged addresses. I didn't know what to expect.

The first letter I received back home was from David. It seemed his wife Mary was having health problems, so he asked me to pray for them. Correspondence was slow. We were finally able to exchange email addresses with each other. It was faster, but only when there were no storms and the electricity was working there. Over the next months it seemed health was no longer the issue. Mary was expecting another child, and David was thrilled.



A baby boy was born to David and Mary in January, 2003. To my amazement, David asked me to give his newborn son a name. I was stunned and humbled. I never dreamed anyone would ask me to name their child! I needed to pray about it, and so David's son went without a name until I knew what God wanted me to do. I prayed and also emailed Ernst Schmidt in Germany to ask him what all this meant. I was culturally out of my realm, while he was an expert on it from his years of living in Cameroon as a missionary. What it all came down to, I was being asked to be the baby's godmother. I prayed some more. Today Aaron is my godson, named after my own son.

At that time, emails continued back and forth across the world. David mentioned Aaron's baptism. David wanted me there. No matter how long it would take, they would wait. Prayers were lifted up. It came time for West Hills to think about another mission trip to Cameroon, so I prayed. Four others felt the call, and we formed a team. It was going to happen in May, 2004. We would piggyback the Germans' trip that was already in place. I emailed Ernst again to make arrangements for my travel to David's village.

By the time we arrived in Cameroon, I knew I would spend Saturday night at David's house in preparation for the Sunday baptism. Little did I know what a life changing experience it would be! The dirt floors of their home did not surprise me, but I was taken aback by the love Mary and David showed for the village's homeless children. Though they had little themselves, they shared the responsibility with the other village families for the homeless children. Dormitories had been built for them and even Daniela, at her tender age, pitched in to help at bath time. To see the children sit on that dirt floor and enjoy sharing a meager meal together, is a picture that is forever imprinted in my mind. I learned it truly does take a village.

David and I walked the unpaved, rocky streets of the village, finally coming to his sister's house. She did not expect us, and was in the yard feeding her chickens while our version of a boiled corn porridge cooked on the open wood fire. We both spoke "English", but we could not understand each other's words, so I never understood her name. But she embraced me to the point I didn't think she would ever let go. As is customary in Cameroon, one must eat something when in another's home, so David and I shared some of her porridge. When it came time to leave, after another gripping embrace, I felt sad to go. I thought I would never see her again, but unbeknownst to me, bright and early Sunday morning, she swooped into David's and Mary's house with a newly embroidered outfit, complete with a traditional head wrap, for me to wear to the baptism. She took no time in removing what I was wearing and securely wrapping me up in the thick black skirt. I was surprised at her forwardness and couldn't breathe. By the time I had the top on and my head tightly wrapped, as women traditionally do, I was perspiring profusely. Now I only had to waddle (My skirt was so tight.) to the church and make it through the baptism without fainting. David had reviewed the strict protocol with me, especially with the village chief present. Of course, I blew it during the service, which lasted 2 and a half hours.



By the time we returned to the house, others had started arriving, a party was underway, and my opportunity to hold Aaron was quickly passing. I had brought gifts for both Aaron and Daniela, but she was shy to open them. I wanted to communicate with everyone who was there, but my ride appeared out of nowhere, and I had to leave.

The time in David's and Mary's home is forever in my heart. They have opened up a whole new world to me. Thankfully, I was able to visit Tetuh

David and his family again in 2007. Since I had seen them last, Mary and David had another boy and a child on the way. Mary was as excited to see me as I was her. Aaron was very shy around me, which was expected because I was probably the first white face he had ever seen. David lost his job, so they had moved out of their home and village with his beloved church and were living with family members. In 2009, the National Sunday School Officer of the PCC, the Right Rev. Julius Ngwa, and I met in Beilstein, Germany at a training for German Sunday School teachers. He took some gifts back for Aaron's birthday. I look forward to returning to Cameroon to personally give my 8-year-old godson Aaron his next birthday gifts.

Crossroads Connection Prison Ministry Needs Drivers

WE NEED DRIVERS to transport the men and women who are waiting to attend the service. If you think you might be interested in a hands-on ministry, please call Diane Greenfield [402-516-2403](tel:402-516-2403), or Mary Ann Fox, [402-397-1833](tel:402-397-1833) for more information. Mary Ann would be glad to arrange for you to ride along with one of our sponsors before you make a commitment, to see if this ministry is a way you are being called to serve God. This ministry makes a difference in the lives of so many people.

Social Justice and Peacemaking Opportunities in the Presbytery

Project Interfaith - Spring 2012 Internships Available!

We are looking for college students, recent college graduates, or individuals interested in getting incredible non-profit experience and helping to create a better world in the process. Let us be your resolution solution. Apply today.

Click for more information: <http://projectinterfaith.org/page/development-internship>

Project Interfaith presents...

"All in the Family: Having Healthy Relations in Multifaith and Interfaith Families"

Part of Project Interfaith's Parenting Series

When: Thursday, February 16, 2012, 7:00 pm

Where: First United Methodist Church (7020 Cass Street)

Cost: \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Join Project Interfaith for the first program in our brand new parenting series as we discuss the various models of raising a multi-faith and interfaith family. A panel of four couples from the Omaha area will discuss different models for raising a multifaith or interfaith family. Parents will share and discuss the strengths and challenges of each model, lessons learned, and advice for others in considering these models.

This program is open to the public.

Child care will be provided free of charge. Refreshments will be available.

Go to allinthefamily.eventbrite.com to register now!

Children's Story Time and Show and Tell

Itching to teach your kids about different faiths and belief systems, or even wanting them to learn more about their own? Not sure how to have that conversation? Not sure where to start?

Join us at The Bookworm (8702 Pacific Street) from 3:00-4:00 pm for:

Buddhism: Sunday February 5, 2012
Christianity: Sunday, February 12, 2012
Hinduism: Sunday, February 19, 2012
Islam: Sunday, February 26, 2012
Judaism: Sunday, March 4, 2012

Join Project Interfaith this February and March for our 5-week series to educate children and families about some of the basic beliefs and holidays of five of the major world religions: **Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.**

Each week, we will focus on a different religion. A member from that religious community will read a children's book about a major holiday, talk about some of the basic beliefs and practices of their faith, and show different items connected to that religion. Project Interfaith will also provide a bibliography of suggested children's books that parents and families can use for further learning and exploration of religions, belief systems and cultures.

This event is FREE and open to the public.

Donations are welcome.

Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required.

You can go to projectinterfaithstorytime.eventbrite.com to register now, or just stop by and drop in for one, three or all five of these events!

Snacks will be provided and children's books will be on sale.

So bring the whole family! We hope to see you there!

Questions? Please contact Sierra Pirigyi at sierra@projectinterfaith.org.

Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Conference

When: February 1 -4, 2012

Where: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Scholarships Available

The Faith Education and Leadership Development Committee invites all paid and volunteer faith education leaders in our presbytery to attend the 2012 national conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. It includes daily worship opportunities, inspirational key note speakers and workshops conducted by a wide variety of successful church educators from all over the country. We hope to send a group from MRV to learn and grow from this fabulous event.

The FELT Committee is providing 10 scholarships, and can connect participants who wish to arrange car pooling and/or room-sharing. **Please contact Linda Reffert** at Hope ([402-895-4044](tel:402-895-4044)) or **Sheri Sessions** at Church of the Cross ([402-333-7466](tel:402-333-7466)) **for more information about the conference.**

The Scholarship Application Form is available at this link:

http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/apce_schlrshp.pdf

Continuing Education Opportunities for Everyone

Discernment Retreat: Discerning God's Call To Spiritual Direction

When: Wednesday, April 11 (5 p.m.) through Thursday, April 12, 2012 (3 p.m.)

Where: Carol Joy Holling's Swanson Retreat Center in Ashland, Nebraska

For more information, click on or paste the following link in your browser

http://www.pmr.org/newsletters/sp_discern_2012.pdf

The Importance of the Sermon in the 21st Century

with Dr. Alyce McKenzie ~

LeVan Endowed Chair of Preaching and Worship Perkins School of Theology

Selected Publications: *The Parables for Today*, *What Not To Say: Practical Advice for Provocative Preaching*, and *Hear and Be Wise: Becoming a Teacher and Preacher of Wisdom*

When: Saturday, March 10, 2012 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dr. McKenzie will lead a workshop for worship leaders around the proclamation of the Word in the 21st century

Where: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 324 S. Jackson St., Papillion

THE WORKSHOP IS FREE AND INCLUDES LUNCH

Please register in advance for the workshop as it includes a hosted lunch.

In addition, on Friday, March 9, 2012 at 7 p.m., Dr. McKenzie will preach at a worship service open to everyone, laity and clergy

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to:

Dr. Dan Flanagan, United Methodist Church Missouri River District Office,
2665 Farnam St., Omaha, NE 68131

2012 Stewardship Kaleidoscope

When: March 12-14, 2012 event to be held in

Where: Charlotte, North Carolina

You may go to www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org for more information, to download their brochure or to register online.

The theme this year is ***Gratitude and Generosity, Living the Faith***. The keynote presenters are Rev. Dr. Michael Jinkins, President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Professor of Theology; Clif Christopher, author of *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate* and *Whose Offering Plate Is It?* And founder the Horizons Stewardship Company and Rev. Maggie Lauterer retired pastor serving the Montreat Presbyterian Church as supply pastor and candidate for Moderator of the 218th General Assembly .

There will be over thirty workshop choices covering wide range of stewardship and financial discipleship topics. There will be opportunity for conversation and network development among the elders, pastors, judicatory staff and volunteers attending.

"Hope for Rural Congregations"

A Conference featuring Rev. Ed Kail

February 3-4, 2012

Norfolk, Nebraska

Open to all denominations.

- Help your congregation grow spiritually
- Discern the plan that God has for your congregation, "to give you a future with hope." (Jer. 29:11c)
- Face the challenges confronting rural congregations
- Focus on the tremendous strength, resiliency and opportunities for mission found in our small membership churches.
- Return to your congregation with renewed vision, passion and resources to engage in vital ministry in the 21st century.

Ed Kail (pronounced Kyle) is a long-time advocate for rural churches. He is co-author of *Partnersteps: Developing Cooperative Ministries Today*. He is also a gifted musician and storyteller.

Cost: \$75. For an individual

\$100. Per congregation (Pastor and up to 4 laity. Additional laity \$15/person)

Advance registration required. All fees increase after December 14th.

Registration form available at: <http://www.evdistrictumc.com> or by email from elkhornvalley@umcneb.org

Clergy Fellowship Lunches

February Pastors' Brown Bag Lunch

If you are a Teaching Elder, a Commissioned Ruling Elder, or in any other way charged with pastoral duties - you are invited to a brown bag lunch. This will be a gathering to build relationships and to provide support in your ministry.

When: Tuesday February 21 ~ noon to 1pm

Where: First ~ Omaha

The host church will supply coffee and other drinks, and all you need to bring is yourself and whatever you are going to have for lunch! Come and join your colleagues in ministry!

For more information you may contact Paul Masters at pastorpaul@newhorizonpc.org

Save the Date: Clergy Women's Brown Bag Lunch

When: Monday March 12, 2012 ~ 12:00-2:00 PM

Where: Presbyterian Church of the Cross; 1517 South 114th Street Omaha, NE 68144

This is a follow up to the November "Deborah's Daughters" event.

We will eat lunch (please bring your own) and have time for conversation.

All female teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders, etc. welcome!

Questions? Contact Rev. Nadia Mullen - [402-333-7466](tel:402-333-7466) or Rev. Sarah Dickinson [402-731-7222](tel:402-731-7222)








Retired Ministers and Spouse Lunch

Retired ministers and spouses meet on the 3rd Friday of every month at 11:30 at the Golden Corral
6006 N. 72nd street.

Event Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

JAN	30 WINTER PASTOR SCHOOL – HASTINGS COLLEGE	31 WINTER PASTOR SCHOOL – HASTINGS COLLEGE COM/CPM RETREAT BUFFALO MN	FEB 1 WINTER PASTOR SCHOOL – HASTINGS COLLEGE COM/CPM RETREAT BUFFALO MN	2 WINTER PASTOR SCHOOL – HASTINGS COLLEGE COM/CPM RETREAT BUFFALO MN	3	4	5
FEB	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Prayer Calendar (Calendar begins on Monday)

<p>Jan</p>	<p>30 31</p> <p>Keep this congregation in your prayers throughout the coming week: Bethany Rev. Greg Carlson is serving the congregation as stated supply.</p>  	<p>31</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Sarah Dickinson. Sarah is the pastor at Mosher Pilgrim</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Bob Keefer, chair of the Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>Feb 1</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Howard Dooley. He is retired and living in a care center in Aurora NE.</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Sandy Wainwright, member of the Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Howard Dotson. Howard is a member-at-large in our presbytery. He lives in Maple Grove MN.</p>  <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Jack Pettit; ordained in 1960. Jack is retired and living in Arizona.</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Neal Earley. Neal serves as associate pastor at Faith Presbyterian in Papillion.</p>  <p>Pray for Carloe Warnes, member of the Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pray for Rev. Dr. Gary Eller. Gary is the President of the Omaha Seminary Foundation</p>  <p>Pray for Rev. Dwight Williams, member of the Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Celebrate the call of Rev. Ken Bunnell; ordained in 1967, Ken is retired and living in Elkhorn.</p>  <p>Pray for the people of Syria and the people of Sudan</p> <p>Pray for all those who are oppressed around the world.</p> <p>Pray for those who are ill and those who are lonely.</p>
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