First Monday Packet
January, 2008

*First Monday* is a monthly mailing to Church Professionals in The Miami Presbytery from the Presbytery Staff including information of events and news of interest as submitted by appropriate Presbytery entities. Publication of such information does not imply presbytery endorsement of the views and opinions expressed or implied. We have incorporated a few changes this month to help streamline the online version, after several comments that it takes quite some time to download this large document. These items will remain in the printed version but in a slightly different format – see the combined Prayer List and Calendar. This month we have included:

1. **The Prayer List** which now includes the first Sunday of the next month at popular request.
2. The **January Calendar**
3. **Notes from Dennis Piermont**
4. **Presbytery News – What’s Happening Around The Presbytery.**
5. **Spring Youth Retreat Flyer**

*Please let the Miami Presbytery office know if you would like to switch to e-notification of the First Monday posting to the Presbytery web site!*

*Submissions must be in by the 25th of the month or the last working day prior in order to be placed in the packet. Send or email submissions to Tom Oxley at the Presbytery, tom.oxley@miamipresbytery.org.*

**Happy New Year!**
January, 2008

6 January  Huntsville Presbyterian Church located at 6490 Fruit Street, Huntsville; 132 member congregation with Pastor Chris Martin.

13 January  The Presbyterian Church located at 23 South Front Street, Hamilton; 490 member congregation with Pastor John Lewis.

20 January  Northminster Presbyterian Church located at 400 Villa Road, Springfield; 212 member congregation with Pastor Dwight McCormick.

27 January  Memorial Presbyterian Church located at 1541 South Smithville Road, Dayton; 104 member congregation with Pastor David Foubert.

3 February  Jamestown Presbyterian Church located at 61 West Washington Street, Jamestown; 86 member congregation with Pastor Michael Helling.

Please note that we have removed the committees and groups of the presbytery for the moment. As the transition takes place, we will put the continuing committees, new groups and networks on the list. In the meantime, we ask everyone to remember the Coordinating Council of the presbytery in your prayers this month. Thank you.
# January 2008

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**Display:** Year Month Week Day Block List Condensed Abs Slide Calendars: Search

**Add Events:** Daily Duration Periodic

The Miami Presbytery- Dayton, Ohio

Calendars Net

free online interactive web calendars

http://my.calendars.net/miamipresbytery
Happy New Year

The world marks January 1st as the beginning of the new year. Even in cultures that still use chronologies rooted in history or religion, such as the Chinese and Jewish traditional calendars, there is still the parallel use of the current “world reckoning” of the passing of the years.

In Europe, up to the middle of the last millennium there was no attempt to mark a standard beginning of the new year, even though there was a general use of the same calendar. Certain traditions placed the beginning of the new year on days that were significant within those traditions – for instance, the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25th. But from the mid-sixteenth century until the middle of the eighteenth, nations slowly adopted January 1st as New Year’s Day.

So it is a new year for all of us. And for the Miami Presbytery it is also the onset of our first full year in our new look. 2007 was a hybrid year – a transitional time bridging “what we have been” to “what we hope to become.” Now, in 2008, we are really on our own in our “new vehicle” on our journey of faith. And while we are still decidedly on the “shakedown” part of our trip, we are no longer tethered to old ways of doing things. Those parts of our past that we bring along with us, are brought by our intentions, not by our habits. And they will help us to look forward because they go with us, rather than force us to look backward because we are anchored in the past.
In Luke’s gospel, Jesus tells a hesitant disciple, “No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Think of that imagery for a moment. In order to make the straight and true furrows that are necessary not only for the health and growth of the crops but also for the proper care of the land, we need to guide the plow, directing where it is to go, not reacting to where it has been. Just try moving forward while looking backward.

Yet this is what we do far too often in the church. We are looking backward, as we hope to move forward. But I submit to you we embrace this backward look not just out of our sense of nostalgia or longing (although we all seem to long for the good old days), but rather out of a lack of faith that we will be able to navigate the future’s roadways, because we are so frightened of the future’s unknown.

But while the future may not be known to us, it is known to God, who has given us assurance that we will never be alone as all the new years unfold.

Happy New Year! God’s blessings abound!

Dennis H. Piermont
Executive Presbyter
First Monday Job Corner
Drop us a line if there is a job opening you need to fill at your church (and please let us know if you want it continued in future months).

Seeking Employment - Organist/Choir Director looking for a substitute, interim or permanent position as organist, keyboardist or music director. I've had 20 years experience as a church musician and can handle just about anything. Please call Ken Dunbar (937)879-5837 or email me kendn01@netzero.net. Resume and references available on request.

Miami Presbytery is a Member of the Pastoral Counseling Center of Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton

Our Covenant Agreement with the Counseling Center ensures that all members of the Presbytery and their households will have access to the Center for individual and group counseling, at 50% of the $100. fee. A counselor is available 24-hours a day for crisis and urgent needs.

Call 208-6606 for an appointment. Be sure to tell the receptionist that you are a member of the Miami Presbytery.

The Pastoral Counseling Center is also available to Clergy and other Church Professionals for confidential consultation regarding pastoral care and counseling needs.

Please contact a member of the Committee on Ministry for more information.

New Hours for the Resource Center: Due to changes in staffing, the Resource Hours are changing. The Resource Center will be open and staffed from 10-2 on Tuesdays and from 12-4 on Thursdays. The Resource Center is available anytime that the Presbytery office is open, Monday through Friday, 9-5, by stopping by the office for a key.

Support the Troops: Several young men and women from the Miami Presbytery area are serving in places around the world. If you know somebody you would like to mention for prayers, letters or packages, please share the word with us so we can get the word out to all our churches. Our troops deserve the best support we can offer, wherever they are. As we accumulate a list, if your church would like to add these men and women to your own prayer lists, or would like to send letters or packages to show your support, contact Tom Oxley at the presbytery office. Those of us who have served know what it can be like, and we are thankful for your kind words and prayers.
SAVE THE DATE!

An invitation to the Miami Presbytery community:

The Annual Spring Youth Retreat will be held April 4-6, 2008 at Kirkmont Center!
All youth, grades 7-12, and adult advisors are welcome and encouraged to join us!

Registration forms and more details will be sent to your church in the next few months.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact any of the advisors below:

Mario Bolivar:  mario@fpctroy.org
Gregg Johnson: youth@bellefontainepres.com
Kristie Marcum: marcumkl@muohio.edu