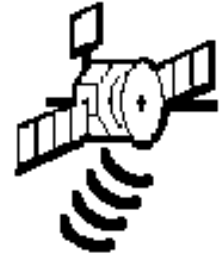


FIRST MONDAY



December, 2011

First Monday is a monthly mailing to Church Professionals and committee members in The Presbytery of the Miami Valley 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. This month we have included:

1. **The Prayer List**
2. The **December Calendar**
3. Tom's Thoughts are on the **Reasons for the Season**
4. **Presbytery News – *What's Happening Around The Presbytery***. Job listings, articles, flyers and brochures – take a close look for news affecting you and your church community!

If there are any questions about the December committee meetings, please contact your committee chair.

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

MIAMI PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST



December, 2011

- 4 December** **Jamestown Presbyterian Church** located at 61 West Washington Street, Jamestown; Pastor Michael Helling.
- 11 December** **Collinsville United Presbyterian Church**, 5091 Hamilton-Eaton Road, Collinsville; Pastor Mike Gabbard.
- 18 December** **First Presbyterian Church** located at 20 South Walnut Street, Troy; Pastor Richard Culp.
- 25 December** **College Hill Community Presbyterian Church**, located at 1547 Philadelphia Drive, Dayton; Pastor Robert E. Jones.
- 1 January** **Faith Presbyterian Church** located at 5555 Chambersburg Road, Huber Heights; Pastor Karen Cassedy.

The Presbytery committee or group we ask you to pray for: For the month of December, please keep the Committee on Representation in your prayers.

Thank you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Keep Dayton: Memorial in	28	29 4:30pm - COM	30	1 7 am - Agenda & Panera	2	3
4 Keep Jamestown in your	5	6	7	8 7 am - Council 12pm - Staff	9	10
11 Keep Collinsville in your	12	13	14	15 9:30am - CoPM	16	17
18 Keep Troy First in your	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Keep Dayton College Hill in	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve

The Reasons for the Season

Sometimes we lose sight of the faith traditions of our friends. If this is indeed the “Holiday Season” then we need to remember Christmas is not the only holiday this month although it seems to be the one that people consider as THE reason for the holiday season. While we can’t lose sight of what we celebrate, we cannot forget that many of our friends and family have something else to celebrate this month as well. This is not a “war on Christmas” as much as a movement to remember everyone this season, and to honor their faith traditions as we ask them to honor ours. Our great American “Melting Pot” has plenty of room for everyone’s faith tradition.

“Don’t take Christ out of Christmas” – it has been forgotten lately that the early Greek Christians used the letter X for the word, Christ. So, we shouldn’t assume it’s a slam against Christmas when we see “Happy X-Mas”.

“Happy Holidays” is not a negative. It is all inclusive. If you don’t want non-Christians to be angry with Merry Christmas, don’t complain when they are including Christmas as one of the holidays.

Other faith celebrations in December:

December 8, Bodhi Day (Buddhist)

December 16th, Ashura (Islamic)

December 19th, Hanukkah (Jewish)

December 25th, Yule (Pagan)

December 26th, Kwanzaa (African American, more a combination of many original African faith traditions)

It is not a matter of “political correctness” to be tolerant of other people’s faith. It is in keeping with the concept of doing unto others that which you would have them do unto you. It is also in keeping with supporting the men and women of the armed forces as many of them celebrate these days wherever they are while they work to protect your right to celebrate Christmas. And it’s a basic tenant of being an American.

Happy Holidays!

Tom

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).

Please note that the Presbytery website also lists some area job hunting assistance. If you know of somebody in your congregation that needs some help looking for their next job, please share that information with them.

Annual APCE Event February 1-4

*Jeanne McIver to be installed as APCE president,
Two other PMV educators to receive scholarships*



The Annual Event of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) will be held February 1-4 in Grand Rapids, MI. "God's Surprising Wonders" is the theme the event, which will feature more than 80 workshops, worship, speakers, regional gatherings, a spirituality center, and more.

Jeanne McIver, retired Christian Educator from Southminster Presbyterian Church, Centerville, will be installed as APCE president at the event. Marvella Lambright, the educator at First Presbyterian Church, Middletown, will also receive the Val Murphy Scholarship and JoAnn Sharp, the Christian Education Director at First United Presbyterian Church, Bellefontaine, will receive a Certification Scholarship. Learn more at <http://www.apcenet.org>

Westminster: Xenia presents Bridges out of Poverty Seminar
Wednesday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sign In is from 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by: Homeless Education Grant through Xenia Community Schools, and by Cross Connect of Xenia.

Bridges out of Poverty is a training program that provides workers from social service agencies, health care providers, educators, and community and church leaders with the best tools for addressing issues of poverty and understanding the hidden rules of class. With these tools, participants gain a better understanding of how to assist low-income people and to facilitate self-directed decision making and planning and ultimately self-sufficiency.

The seminar is free and open to the public. Books are optional and may be purchased for \$20.00. Please join us at 8:30 a.m. for a complimentary continental breakfast. To register, call or email Rex Robinson (937) 689-9068 or rex@mrcmv.org. Registration deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6.

Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 990 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia, Ohio

Presenters: Marlo Fox and Carlos Guajardo, Think Tank, Inc., Springfield, Ohio

2012 Spring Youth Retreat at Kirkmont Center

Dear Friends,

The PYC Network is excited to invite you to join us for the 2012 Spring Youth Retreat at Kirkmont Center! The annual spring youth retreat (for all youth in grades seven through twelve and their adult advisors) will be held April 20-22, 2012! The event is planned by the Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC) Network of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley.

We hope that you will join us this spring as we celebrate God's creation by relaxing, singing, playing outside, dancing, reflecting, seeing old friends and making new ones, and so very much more!

Registration forms, flyers and more information will be sent out in the near future. Please share this message with your friends, families, pastors, youth leaders and congregations.

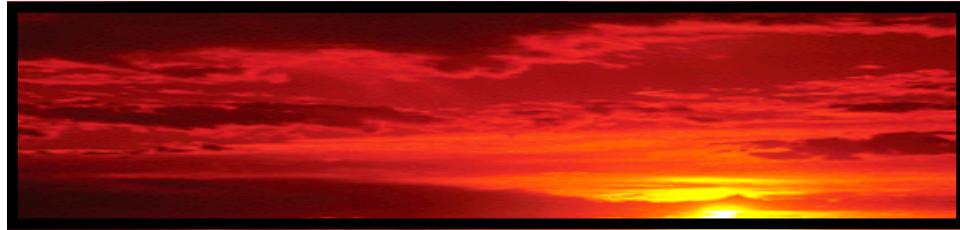
If you have any questions, please contact any of the PYC Network advisors (Kristie Marcum, Gregg Johnson, Mario Bolivar and Nancy Hodgkins) at MiamiPresbyYouth@yahoo.com.

Blessings and peace,

Presbytery of the Miami Valley PYC Network



Create Your Own Masterpiece



Join us for an afternoon filled with reflection, joy,
and humor!

Renowned speaker, Raelene Phillips, will ask the audience to dream big dreams, give those dreams to God, and watch Him work as promised. People will leave this presentation with renewed hope that God can do something extraordinary in their lives, allowing them to create masterpieces of their own. Phillips encourages individuals to find purpose and continue to use their talents until the end of life. Her excitement is contagious and she will leave you feeling like you can bring more spark to your life in 2012 and realize all of your potential no matter your age or circumstances. Give thanks this holiday season and create an era of hope for 2012.

RSVP by December 1, 2011– Lisa Jones– 513-539-7760

WHEN: Thursday, December 8, 2011

TIME: 1:30-2:30

WHERE: Mount Pleasant Retirement Village

Mary H. Kittredge Chapel

225 Britton Lane Monroe, Ohio 45050

Seating is limited and refreshments will be served



November 4 & 5, 2011

The Synod Assembly met in Maumee, Ohio, November 4-5, 2011.

Worship at the Synod Assembly was led by representatives of the Native American Consulting Committee. The Wednesday evening service was held at Fairgreen Presbyterian Church in Toledo. Retiring moderator Doris Evans gave the sermon and the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

Assembly Business

Upon recommendation of the Moderator's Committee extensive amendments were made to the Synod Bylaws. The amendments were necessary because of the adoption by the PC(USA) of a new Form of Government.

The Moderator's Committee presented a new Sexual Misconduct Policy that had been prepared by a special Sexual Misconduct Review Committee. Upon recommendation of the Moderator's Committee the Assembly rescinded the previous Sexual Misconduct Policy and adopted a new Sexual Misconduct Response Policy.

Synod Executive Raafat Zaki gave two power point presentations, one showing a summary of the feedback given by Synod Assembly commissioners to representatives of the General Assembly's Middle Governing Body Commission at it's March, 2011 meeting, and one being the presentation given by Ted Bolsinger, moderator of the Middle Governing Body Commission, at the General Assembly Polity Conference in October, 2011, reporting on the work of the Commission to date.

Upon recommendation the Cabinet on Ethnic Church Affairs, the Assembly voted to endorse and adopt a letter from CECA to the moderator and stated clerk of the PC(USA) supporting the Belhar Confession and to endorse and adopt the Belhar Confession.

Finances

Upon recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee the Assembly adopted a 2012 budget, as amended by the Assembly, of \$770,143. The Assembly established the 2013 per capita apportionment at \$3.25, the same amount as in 2011 and 2012.

New Officers

Russell Brandt of Mackinac Presbytery was elected vice-moderator of the Synod and Christine Barnes of Lake Michigan Presbytery was elected president of the Synod Corporation for 2012. David Bartley was elected the Transitional Synod Stated Clerk, effective November 5, 2011.



Ministry and Mission

Karen Nottelmann, Mission to the USA coordinator, introduces the three overseas mission partners who were serving churches in the synod, and the mission partners spoke to the Assembly about their experiences.

George Baird Retires!

The Assembly recognized George Baird as he retires following nine years of service as the Synod Stated Clerk. He received an engraved clock and we celebrated with cake and punch following adjournment of the meeting.



*We, the Synod of the Covenant,
in partnership with
our presbyteries, congregations, the General Assembly
and other faith communions,
are called and sent by God
to be a living, active and inclusive witness
to the love of Christ.*

