

# FIRST MONDAY



*January, 2010*

***First Monday*** is a monthly mailing to Church Professionals and committee members 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. This month we have included:

1. **The Prayer List**
2. **The January Calendar**
3. **Tom's Thoughts on Being Called for Ministry**
4. **Presbytery News – *What's Happening Around The Presbytery.***

***Submissions must be in by the 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tom.oxley@miamipresbytery.org).***

# MIAMI PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST



## January, 2010

- 3 January**      **Belle Center United Presbyterian Church** located at 202 Walnut Street, Belle Center; Pastor Kathy Clark.
- 10 January**      **Honey Creek Presbyterian Church** located at 212 West Jefferson Street, New Carlisle; Pastor Shelly Wiley.
- 17 January**      **Southminster Presbyterian Church** located at 7001 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton; Pastor Eric Pasanchin.
- 24 January**      **First United Presbyterian Church**, 117 North Main Street, Bellefontaine; Pastor Robert Fulton.
- 31 January**      **First Presbyterian Church** located at 314 Xenia Aveune, Yellow Springs; Pastor Doris Arnett Whitaker.
- 7 February**      **Blue Ball Presbyterian Church** located at 6901 Roosevelt Avenue, Franklin; Student Pastor Kevin Lawler.

The Presbytery committee or group we ask you to pray for: For the month of January, please keep the Trustees in your prayers.

Thank you.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Please keep Dayton: Sugar Creek in	28 Office Closed for Holidays	29 Office Closed for Holidays	30 Office Closed for Holidays	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2
3 Please keep Belle Center United in	4 9:30am - Nominating Committee 4:30pm - COM Meeting (Dec & Jan)	5	6	7 7am - Agenda @ Panera Bread 12pm - Staff Meeting/Lunch	8	9
10 Please remember Honey Creek	11 5pm - Trustees	12	13	14 8am - Council	15 1pm - PW Coordinators	16
17 Please remember Southminster	18 Martin Luther King, Jr's Day	19	20 3:30pm - Staff Services Committee	21 9:30am - Committee on Preparation 5pm - SDOP?	22	23
24 Please keep Bellefontaine: First	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Please keep Yellow Springs: First	1 Groundhog Day	2	3	4	5	6

## On Being Called to Ministry

By Tom Oxley

How is it that church members are called to ministry as deacons or elders? How do they recognize their calling. Many times we see new pastors, still fired up in their calling to ministry, but are YOU being called to do something special in your church or community? How can we know?

I can only start with my own calling to an administrative support ministry. Maybe you will see something similar in your life that you haven't recognized yet.

My calling started while I was a scout jeep driver in Korea in the mid 1970s. I was the "holy joe" in the scout platoon, the kid that didn't make trouble, that didn't go to the clubs, that could always be counted on to lend an ear or a bit of elbow grease when somebody needed help. The kid in the platoon that was always in chapel on Sunday, and in Bible studies whenever I could find one. The names my buddies called me in jest are unprintable in this type of story, but while they poked fun and called me names, there was a respect shown, a protective barrier that these guys put up around me when members of other platoons would say things. In August, 1976, two American officers were killed by North Korean guards at Panmunjom. My scout platoon moved out on what we thought was going to be a shooting war, and after we had guided our tank units into position, we stopped to do maintenance checks on our jeeps. While sitting there cleaning and oiling our weapons, it seems nearly every one of the 28 other young men in the platoon came to my jeep, one at a time, and asked me to pray with them. During those months away from home and my young family, I started to look into ordained ministry. As a United Methodist, I realized I was looking at 7 to 8 years of education, and already having a wife and child, and not having had any of the college preparatory courses in school, I didn't see myself being able to handle that sort of program. But some sort of ministry kept calling to me. Walking through the town outside of Camp Casey, I felt some sort of administrative missionary sort of thing might be possible. I met an administrative missionary who ran the Christian Serviceman's Center there, who had been working in administrative support to other missionaries since just after the Korean War. But I still didn't know which way to go to get there. Those I spoke to were more predisposed towards ordained ministry.

After leaving Korea in 1977, I served as a Scout Observer in a scout helicopter unit at Fort Hood, Texas. While there, we lost our second born child. She was born prematurely at Fort Hood's Darnall Army Hospital and flown to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, but respiratory problems during the flight caused them to land at a small civilian hospital in Austin. After the baby died, we started getting hospital bills from that small hospital. We knew the Army was going to pay the bill, but getting bills in the mail nearly every other day became a constant reminder of our loss. After several weeks, I went to see my unit chaplain. The chaplain was out of the office, but his chaplain assistant was there, and took the situation in hand. He called the Command Sergeant Major at Brooke Army Medical Center and told him what was happening. Both Darnall and Brooke were working out which one was going to pay the bill, as Austin was pretty much exactly between the two, and the baby was somewhat still a responsibility of Darnall, but was also on the way to Brooke. After the chaplain assistant got off the telephone with the Sergeant Major, we waited and talked for about 5 minutes before the Sergeant Major called back, saying all was taken care of. We never got another bill from the hospital in Austin. And at this moment, this young enlisted man was more able to help in that time of need than all the consoling that I might have gotten from my unit chaplain.

In February 1978, I was due to reenlist, and I wanted to try to move into Military Intelligence, but I also asked the reenlistment sergeant about the chaplain assistant field. After trying to get accepted for a Military Intelligence school and being denied, I was given a class date of September that year to start the chaplain assistant school, then at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island. I realized that I wanted to do for others what that unit chaplain assistant had done for me. And I wanted to use my skills as a scout to help keep my chaplains out of trouble if and when we might get into trouble some day. And I found my calling.

No job is without its ups and downs. Ask anyone in ministry, ordained or lay, if they have a perfect relationship with those they serve. But even with those bumps in the road, I found an opportunity to serve God through serving those who serve others. I did get an opportunity to counsel a young couple who had just lost their child. I did get an opportunity to support and protect my chaplain in the field, and to support the needs of multiple congregations in my chapel facilities. When my time for retirement drew near, the first thing I did was to start networking with Army Reserve chaplains in this area that I chose to retire to, and through them, found my first civilian job as a church secretary in Springfield. With just three years working in another non-profit agency (still serving those who serve others), I have spent nearly 30 years in this administrative support ministry.

I think it is safe to say that I found my calling. Perhaps you have had thoughts of some sort of religious work. Ordained or lay ministry, campus or homeless ministry, military or missionary ministry, hospital or hospice ministry. There are ministries you can perform with or without specialized training. But you must be open to the call. You must listen. And you must act.

**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).

**Youth Leader**  
[Memorial United Presbyterian Church](#)  
Xenia, Ohio

**PURPOSE:**

Rekindle and rebuild youth ministry at Memorial United Presbyterian Church, Xenia, Ohio. This is a part time position requiring about 10 hours per week at \$10 per hour to start.

**GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Teach youth Sunday School on Sunday morning. Organize and lead youth group activities on Sunday afternoons and evenings, and on Wednesday evenings. Combine/join with other Christian youth groups.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:**

To Christian Education Committee and Pastor.

**CONTACTS:**

Mary Ann Noble (937-372-3908) or Don Humphrys (937-426-2699) email: [djhumphrys@earthlink.net](mailto:djhumphrys@earthlink.net)

***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.***

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**Three Kings Services:** On January 10th, the Multicultural Network of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley will once again sponsor the Three Kings service. This service, popular throughout Mexico, tells the story of the three kings who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. The festivities begin with a pot-luck dinner at 5:00 PM and the service at 6:00 PM (meat is provided; all other dishes welcome). Families with children who would like to be a part of the play that enacts the kings arriving at Bethlehem are invited to arrive at 4:30 for rehearsal. Everyone is welcome! While much of the service is in Spanish, this year there will be simultaneous translation into English available.

Three Kings Service, January 10, 5:00 PM, Honey Creek Presbyterian Church, 212 W. Jefferson St., New Carlisle, OH 45344

**Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Training:** Many young men and women are returning to our congregations with PTSD and other combat related problems. There is help out there for those who are interested in getting training to help those who have PTSD or who have loved ones suffering from it. For more information, look at <http://www.militaryministry.org/families/ptsd/>.

**To See Your Church News Here,** email ready to use articles to [tom.oxley@miamipresbytery.org](mailto:tom.oxley@miamipresbytery.org) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month (or last working day prior if that will fall on a holiday or weekend). Watch for the January issue after the 4<sup>th</sup> of January due to the holidays. Thanks for taking your time to read First Monday and for telling others in your Church family.

On April 9-11, 2010 come and share the

# “Stories We Live By”

2010 Spring Youth Retreat at Kirkmont Center

An event for Youth in Grades 7-12 and their Advisors!



Guest Speaker – Rev. Jennifer Fouse

We are very excited that Rev. Jennifer Fouse will be our guest speaker for the 2010 Spring Youth Retreat! Jennifer is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary and is currently serving as the Presbyterian Campus Minister at Vanderbilt University. She has been a preacher and keynote speaker at youth events around the country including the Montreat Youth Conferences!

Registration Form: Please contact the PYC Network or visit [www.miamipresbytery.org](http://www.miamipresbytery.org) to obtain registration forms.

Registration Fee: \$65 per person

For more information, please contact the Presbytery of the Miami Valley Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC) Network at [MiamiPresbyYouth@yahoo.com](mailto:MiamiPresbyYouth@yahoo.com).

# “Stories We Live By”

## 2010 Spring Youth Retreat – Registration Form

An Event for Youth (grades 7-12) & Advisors

April 9-11, 2010 at Kirkmont Center in Zanesfield, OH

The Spring Youth Retreat will begin with registration at 7:30pm on Friday. The event will conclude at 11:30am on Sunday.

The cost is \$65 per person.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church & City: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Leaders attending the Retreat: \_\_\_\_\_

I am: \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Adult

T-Shirt Size: Child: \_\_Small \_\_Medium \_\_Large OR Adult: \_\_Small \_\_Medium \_\_Large \_\_xL \_\_2xL \_\_3xL \_\_4xL

**Are you leaving early or arriving late? Please enclose details with this form.**

### Parent/Guardian Permission (This section MUST be filled out for those under 18 years of age.)

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter, whose name is shown on this form, to attend the Spring Youth Retreat, April 9-11, 2010. In case of medical emergency, I hereby give permission to the Presbytery of the Miami Valley Advisors to secure proper treatment for my son/daughter, including, but not limited to hospitalization, injection, surgery, anesthesia.

Parent/Guardian's Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Youth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Youth: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs and/or Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications (Prescribed and Over the Counter): \_\_\_\_\_

### Presbytery of the Miami Valley PYC Network Picture Release

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I do give Presbytery of the Miami Valley permission to use my child's image in print and web media for promotional purposes.

\_\_\_\_ No, I do not give Presbytery of the Miami Valley permission to use my child's image in print and web media for promotional purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**What to Bring:** Bible, sleeping bag/bedroll, pillow, clothes & jacket for the weather, something to sleep in, medications (must be turned in to retreat nurse at registration), flashlight, money for Sunday offering, rain gear, toiletries (soap, toothpaste, etc.) **What Not to Bring:** Knives, guns, cell phones, computers, video games, DVD players, alcohol, tobacco products, matches, lighters, fireworks, candy or food. (Adult leaders may bring cell phones but they should be kept on silent mode.)

**Please send this form and a check for \$65 made out to Westminster Presbyterian Church to:**

Nancy Hodgkins

Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N. Wilkinson St.

Dayton, Ohio 45402

For more information please contact the Presbytery of the Miami Valley Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC) Network at MiamiPresbyYouth@yahoo.com or call advisors; Kristie Marcum, (513) 305-7134; Nancy Hodgkins at (937) 223-7285.