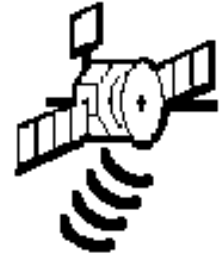


FIRST MONDAY



June, 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 June Calendar**
3. **Tom's Thoughts on Thank You**
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 June 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



June, 2011

- 5 June** **First Presbyterian Church** located at 114 East Fourth Street, Greenville; Pastor John Person.
- 12 June** **Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church** located at 4417 Bigger Road, Dayton; Pastor Julia Wharff Piermont.
- 19 June** **Belle Center United Presbyterian Church** located at 202 Walnut Street, Belle Center.
- 26 June** **Honey Creek Presbyterian Church**, located at 212 West Jefferson Street, New Carlisle; Pastor Shelley Wiley.
- 3 July** **Southminster Presbyterian Church** located at 7001 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton; Pastor Eric Pasanchin.

The Presbytery committee or group we ask you to pray for: For the month of June, please keep the Self Development of People Committee in your prayers.

Thank you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 John F. Kennedy's Birthday Please keep Dayton: Corinth in	30 Memorial Day	31 4:30 pm - COM	1 9:30 am - Nominating	2	3	4
5 Please keep Greenville: First in	6 3:30 pm - Network Support?	7	8	9	10	11
12 Keep Dayton: Sugar Creek in	13 Flag Day 6 pm - SDOP	14	15	16 9:30 am - CoPM	17	18
19 Father's Day Keep Belle Center United in your	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Keep New Carlisle Honey Creek	27 4:30 pm - COM	28	29	30	1	2

“Thank You”

As I write this, we are just a few days away from celebrating Memorial Day. There will be a lot of visitors to cemeteries, flags planted there on the graves of the veterans. There will be cook-outs if the weather cooperates, and families doing yard work as they listen to the races on their radios. Some communities will have special services and ceremonies to remember those the community lost over the last year. This all reminds me of something that happened in 1983, something I may already have shared but I think is worth sharing again.

My family had just gotten back from our first 3-year tour in Germany in spring of 1983 and we were driving from Dover Air Force Base in a rental car to visit my mother-in-law in Florida. We stopped at a small restaurant just off the highway and had lunch. I always traveled in uniform then, before a terrorist attack on military passengers on an airliner forced the military to stop advertising possible targets among the civilian community. As we got up to leave, and just after I finished paying the bill, an older couple came up to me and just said, “thank you.” This was in that interim period, after people had stopped spitting on veterans and people stopped calling them baby killers, but before it became fashionable to show appreciation for the men and women in uniform. A time, it seemed, to just be quiet, and not make eye contact or say anything. There were still the little kids, who loved to see a uniform and do their best imitation of a proper salute, and that always drew laughs and praise. But it seems to me now that it was so rare to have anyone acknowledge me that I didn’t really know what to say in return. I think I said “thank you” back to them but that part seems to be lost from my memory.

Today, it is popular to most people to acknowledge the service people. I see it at the airport when a service member is coming home on leave or the end of an overseas tour in his or her fatigue uniform and several people stop them, shake their hand and say thank you. And I think I see the same thing in the service members’ face that I felt. “What do I say now?” No matter how you feel about war, the men and women who volunteer to serve should be acknowledged. But there has been no message of etiquette that I’m aware of to say anything besides “your welcome” or to say “thank you” in return.

In that moment, if you reach out and acknowledge somebody, please don’t be insulted if that person just nods their head, shakes your hand and moves on. We don’t know what they have seen, what they have witnessed, or how desperate they are to see a loved one waiting somewhere nearby that is keeping them from knowing what to say, how to acknowledge the recognition given. But if they have anything at all of what I felt when I got those two words in 1983, they hear it, and they feel it.

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).

Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries: The First Presbyterian Church of Middletown, Ohio is seeking a full-time Director of Christian Education to lead the education and youth programs of the Church. This appointed (non-ordained) position will lead all adult, youth, and children's Christian Education and fellowship programs. The Director will lead the Vacation Bible School. Qualified applicants may respond by submitting resume or CV with a letter of application to sandy@fpcmiddletown.com or to Christian Education Director, First Presbyterian Church, 2910 Central Ave., Middletown, OH 45044

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.

Covenant Presbyterian Church (CPC) offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group for CPC members and the general public who are caregivers for an elderly/senior loved one. Please join us at CPC in Room 213 for our support groups scheduled on the 4th Tuesdays, 12-1:15 PM with light lunch provided (June 28th with presenter TBD). For information, contact group facilitator, Linda G. Butler, MSW, ACSW, LISW-S, at 937-399-7192.

Miami Valley Presbyterians Lend Helping Hands in Haiti



Back row: Art Lloyd & Shawn Lloyd, Bellefontaine; Marilyn Perkins, New Carlisle Honey Creek; Leanne Wierenga, Springfield Covenant
Front row: Derrick Weston, Springfield Oakland; Shelley Wiley, New Carlisle Honey Creek; Jennifer Crisler, Bellefontaine; Ann Morrison Springfield Covenant

A group of eight people from four Presbyterian churches will be in Haiti in June to help with the post-earthquake rebuilding efforts at two of the St. Joseph Family homes in the Port-au-Prince area. Lead by the Rev. Shelley Wiley, pastor of Honey Creek Presbyterian Church in New Carlisle, the group also includes members from First United Presbyterian Church, Bellefontaine, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Honey Creek, and the Rev. Derrick Weston, pastor of Oakland Presbyterian Church, Springfield. Wiley has been traveling to Haiti since 1997, and has worked with the St. Joseph Family ever since that first trip. The family operates three homes: two homes for boys who had formerly lived on the streets, and one home for children who live with severe physical and mental disabilities. Two of the three homes were destroyed by the January, 2010 earthquake. After the earthquake, the St. Joseph Family was able to purchase one existing house and rent two others, and those serve as the temporary housing for the children and guest quarters for mission groups coming to help them rebuild. A group of six people traveled to Haiti in October from Honey Creek to work at St. Joseph's Home for Boys; much of the work of the June trip will be at the Wings of Hope, the home for children with disabilities. We will also visit Trinity House, the 3rd home of the St. Joseph Family, in the southern coastal town of Jacmel, to see their many ministries. Pictures of the progress of rebuilding, as well as more information about all the ministries of the St. Joseph Family, can be found at www.heartswithhaiti.org. While on the trip, June 14-21, check out the Honey Creek Presbyterian Church Facebook page for daily updates and photos: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Honey-Creek-Presbyterian-Church/123006177749011> (You do not need a Facebook account in order to view this page.)



Piqua Daily Call

Online Edition

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Program a huge success

By Will E Sanders

Staff Writer

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

PIQUA - In the inaugural year of the city's Cold Shelter Network, organizers are calling it all a huge success, and one they want to improve and build upon in the coming year.

The Rev. Kazy Hinds, a pastor with Westminster Presbyterian Church, 325 W. Ash St., and organizer for the Cold Shelter Network in Piqua, said she looks forward to next year and will continue to strive to make improvements as the program gains momentum.

"We feel this year was a great success and are interested in getting other churches and individuals to join us in this needed ministry here in our community," Hinds said.

Calling the first year a "maiden voyage," Hinds said the program got off the ground and was received well by guests who took advantage of the kind-hearted initiative.

"We never had any trouble from our guests," the pastor said. "They were fabulous and were very appreciative and thankful that they had a place to stay."

As the program continued over an especially cold winter, Hinds said numbers grew as the word got out. She said some of the consumers appreciated having a warm place to sleep without someone beating a Bible over their head.

"Our evangelism is opening our doors and giving them a place to sleep," she said. "We are very committed to it."

Hinds is no stranger to such programs. She and her husband assisted with similar shelters and homeless causes while they were residents of Atlanta, Ga.

In the summer and fall of 2010, local volunteers met at a Homeless Summit in the city where the cold shelter idea was first proposed to allow those without shelter who sleep in the elements a nice, dry and warm place to stay.

Now, the Cold Shelter Network is already in the works searching for additional area churches to join them, in addition to volunteers willing to donate their time.

Last year, four churches took part in the network, but Hinds said the goal is to get a total of seven churches, so a different one can be used for each night of the week. The four churches that took part were Westminster, Congregational Christian United Church of Christ, the Gathering Place, and Piqua Pentecostal.

"There is always room for improvement," Hinds said, speaking about next year. "The Cold Shelter Network is planning and hoping to be open from Nov. 1 through April 1 every night of the week, no matter how cold it is. ... We need to get more churches involved and more volunteers. It is our dream and goal."

In order to open, the temperatures had to be 25 degrees or below outside.

According to statistics released by the network, over the past winter the shelters had guests on 48 of nights.

At one point in time, one shelter had eight guests over a 48-hour period. Many guests stayed more than just one day. One guest used the shelter as many as 23 nights, while other guests stayed only a day or a few days.

Mission to the USA is alive and flourishing in the Synod of the Covenant!

MISSION TO THE USA

September 28 – November 9, 2011

MEXICO AND CUBA

If your congregation has an interest in the Mexico or Cuba or you would like to host a church leader from one of these countries, you might want to learn more about the

2011 MISSION TO THE U.S.A. PROGRAM.



In the fall of 2011 the Synod of the Covenant is inviting four (4) church leaders from Cuba and six (6) church leaders from Mexico to spend six (6) weeks as staff members of particular congregations.

As participants in the Mission to the U.S.A. Program, these ecumenical partners will preach, teach and become a part of a host congregation, celebrating oneness in Christ as they share their stories of faith and teach us about life in their home countries and the ongoing issues there.

Mission partners are not just guests or visitors. They come here as missionaries to us. In our abundance, we usually think about what we have to give to others. Mission to the U.S.A. gives us an opportunity to think about what we might receive from those whose faith may have been shaped by their culture or by persecution, poverty, or politics.

The goals of the Mission to the U.S.A. Program are to:

- Educate members of participating churches about another part of the world and the challenges facing Christians there,
- Provide a fresh perspective on the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- Help U.S. Christians acquire a deepened understanding of the global nature of Christ's church;
- Challenge U.S. Christians to greater faithfulness in our own country

Any church in the synod is welcome to apply.

Download FAQ's and application to learn more.

<http://www.synodofthecovenant.org/index.php/ministries/musa>

For more information contact the program coordinator:

Karen Nottelmann 231.652.1056 musa@synodofthecovenant.org

Committee members:

Eileen Best, Presbytery of Lake Michigan

James Bohren, Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Janet Bohren, Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Rev. Leland Platt, Presbytery of Scioto Valley

Rev. Les Sauer, Presbytery of Scioto Valley

Rev. Lynn Shetzer, Presbytery of Muskingum Valley

Gordon Shull, Presbytery of Muskingum Valley



Peace by Piece



Covenant Gathering 2011

Covenant Gathering 2011

July 3, 4:00 pm to July 8, 11:00 am

Michindoh Conference Center

Hillsdale, MI 49242

For more information:

www.covenantgathering.com

www.michindoh.com

Email:

covenantgathering@comcast.net

Phone: 269-429-1916

A week of learning, laughter and worship presented by members and churches of PCUSA Synod of the Covenant and Synod of Lincoln Trails

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. "

John 16:33



Join other Christians for Covenant Gathering 2011 at beautiful Michindoh Conference and Retreat Center in southern Michigan, close to the Ohio and Indiana borders as we find God's peace within ourselves and let it flow like ripples into our families, our churches, our communities and the world. **Covenant Gathering** is a little bit *conference*, a little bit *vacation* with facilities for all abilities!!!



Adult class options include the PW *Horizons* 2011-2012 Bible Study on Beatitudes...Hands on Mission: Building a Prayer Path... Bible 101... A Taste of John Ortberg... Peacemaking with Sara Lisherness, director of Compassion Peace and Justice for the General Assembly Mission Council... Photography as a Spiritual Discipline... Church Transformation...I'm not crazy; I'm grieving. ...The Art and Christian Symbolism of Ukrainian Eggs.

Children and Youth have age appropriate educational and fun activities. The whole community worships together, and enjoys delicious meals, evening programs, and afternoon options on many topics...and a lovely lakefront and beach!



Check us out at www.covenantgathering.com, and join us this summer.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202

Big Tent Registration Now Open!

This summer, thousands of Presbyterians will gather from across the country to celebrate the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Registration for the Big Tent Conference opened February 28 and already dozens have begun to respond.

The Big Tent (June 30-July 2) combines nine national church conferences under one roof, bringing together events such as:

- Clergywomen's Leadership Institute/Young Women's Leadership Development
- Evangelism and Church Growth Conference
- Healthy Ministry Conference
- National Elders Conference
- National Multicultural Church Conference
- Peacemaking Conference
- Presbyterian Communicators Network National Conference
- Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation, and
- World Mission Matters

Children and youth are vital participants of Big Tent too! There will be children and youth programs, and older youth will have the option to participate in a Pathways event that will run in tandem with the Big Tent.

The Big Tent conference is scheduled to take place in Indianapolis, Indiana. It is our hope that these plans can be maintained, due to the excellent accommodations and arrangements provided by the Convention & Visitors Association, the hospitality community, and local Presbyterians. However, immigration legislation under consideration in Indiana's state government, may cause the event to be moved. In 2010, the General Assembly instructed its agencies to "refrain from holding national meetings at hotels in those states where travel by immigrant Presbyterians or Presbyterians of color or Hispanic ancestry might subject them to harassment due to legislation similar to Arizona Law SB 1070/HB2162." We are hopeful that Indiana legislators will reject this legislation quickly, so that our plans can continue, but this is uncertain. Big Tent meeting planners will make a final decision regarding location by May 2, 2011. Until this time, participants are encouraged to register for the conference, but to delay making travel arrangements until the meeting location has been finally determined.

Three spirit-filled days of Presbyterian celebration are planned for the Big Tent, including:

- Worship, led by Mark Labberton and J. Herbert Nelson
- Keynote speaker: Serene Jones
- Your choice of nine partner conferences
- An exhibit hall showcasing the newest ministry resources from the PC(USA)
- Time to reconnect with Presbyterians from across the country

We look forward to seeing YOU at the Big Tent!

GRADYE PARSONS
STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LINDA VALENTINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GENERAL ASSEMBLY MISSION COUNCIL