First Monday is a monthly posting 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 **March Calendar**
3. Tom’s Thoughts are out to lunch this month
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 May 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

May, 2012

6 May  
**Covenant Presbyterian Church** located at 201 North Limestone Street, Springfield; Pastor Ray Stewart.

13 May  
**Presbyterian Church of Wilmington**, 840 Timber Glen Drive, Wilmington; Pastor Jeffrey Ott.

20 May  
**Mt Olivet Presbyterian Church** located at 509 West State Street, Trenton; Pastor William Philips.

27 May  
**Covington Presbyterian Church**, located at 30 North Pearl Street, Covington. Pastor Greg Kurtz.

3 June  
**Memorial United Presbyterian Church** located at 343 West Ankeney Mill Road, Xenia; Pastor Kelley Wehmeyer Shin.

The Presbytery committee or group we ask you to pray for: For the month of May, please keep the Permanent Judicial Commission in your prayers.

Thank you.
### May 2012 (Eastern Time)

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**Presbytery of the Miami Valley**

**Please keep Seven Mile:**

- **7am** - Agenda @ Panera
- **9:30am** - Nominating
- **5pm** - Admin Council
- **5pm** - Network Spt

**Please keep Springfield:**

- **4pm** - Presbytery Meeting

**Please keep Wilmington in**

**Mother's Day**

**Please keep Trenton Mt**

**Please keep Covington in**

**Memorial Day**

**John F. Kennedy's Birthday**

- **4:30pm** - COM
**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.*

Marion Hemphill Palmer began playing the piano for the **First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville**, Ohio when she was 15 years old. Members of the congregation took turns picking her up to bring her to church to play as her mother passed away when she was ten days old, and her grandparents were raising Marion. A few years later the church was torn down, and Marion went to the Belle Center Presbyterian Church for a couple of years. Then she was married and returned to the present day Huntsville Presbyterian Church where she has been since leaving Belle Center.

She began to play the organ too when she was about 24 years old. Marion has been faithfully playing for the Church and for the choir. She continued to play even though she was the mother of four children.

Marion has played for hundreds of funerals and weddings throughout her career. Marion was a pioneer for homemakers back in the early 60’s as she decided to attend Ohio Northern University to earn a teaching degree in addition to being a farmer’s wife and mother of four children. Marion earned her degree and began teaching at the age of 41 for Indian Lake High School. She taught high school English for 25 years. After retirement, she began tutoring Japanese men at Honda of America. Additionally she was a 4-H leader of the Yum Yum cooks, helped with high school musicals, volunteered at Mary Rutan Hospital, and many activities/duties in the church.

Her husband of 66 years passed away two years ago and she recently remarried.

The Church honored Marion Hemphill Palmer during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, April 29th at 9:00 and then during the worship service which began at 10:00. They had a reception for her after the church service in the church basement.

2012 is the 200th anniversary of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Piqua, Ohio. April 14th and 15th have been set aside as the official dates to celebrate this anniversary. On Saturday, April 14th, present and past members, families, and friends of Westminster have been invited to attend a celebratory dinner at the church, followed by a concert at 7:30 pm, open to the public, featuring the Piqua High School Concert Choir. Former pastors, including Dr. William Philips, Dr. Judy Mitchell Rich, and Dr. John Salmon, will be returning for the weekend, and will be honored at a reception following the concert.

Sunday morning worship at 10:30 am, the celebration will continue, with special music featuring a brass ensemble, and with additional participation by the former pastors. Following the service, the deacons are planning an additional reception honoring the returning pastors.

Continuing the month-long celebration, the Women of Westminster (WOW) will be hosting their annual salad luncheon, open to the public, at 11:30 am on Thursday, April 26, and the following evening, Friday, April 27, at 7:30 pm, the public is again invited, this time to the dedication of Westminster’s new organ and the following organ concert, presented by Nick Bowden, the longtime organist at the nation’s largest Presbyterian (USA) church, Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.
Catch the Building Spirit
The 20th Year of Presbyterian and Catholic Churches Partnering Together with Dayton Ohio Habitat for Humanity

Visit our website: www.CatchTheBuildingSpirit.com

Last year’s house on Stratsburg Avenue

This year’s house on Edison Street

This year we will be building on Edison Street in northwest Dayton. We plan to have our Blitz Week starting on the Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend, May 26 and running through Friday, June 1. We will continue to work throughout the summer.

Any churches that are interested in participating either with labor, hospitality, or financing Please contact: Hank Baust, Presbyterian Coordinator for “Catch the Building Spirit.”

hbaust@woh.rr.com
or call (937) 429-0360.

You may also sign up directly at the Dayton Ohio Habitat Website and receive email information on the upcoming build. http://daytonhabitat.volunteerhub.com/Events/Browse.aspx
Application
Synod of the Covenant 2012 Mission to the U.S.A. Program
Program Dates: September 26 – November 1, 2012
Application deadline has been extended to June 1, 2012

Name of Church_____________________________________________________________
Address_____________________________ City________________ State and Zip_______
Phone___________________ Fax______________ Church email_____________________

Name of your presbytery______________________________________________________
Name of pastor_______________________________________________________________
Pastor’s email (required) _____________________________________________________
How long has the pastor been serving this congregation?___________________________
Name of associate pastor(s)___________________________________________________
Name of lay contact person__________________________________________________
Address____________________________ City_________________ State and Zip________
Phone______________________ Fax_______________ E-mail________________________
Who will serve as the primary contact for this program?___________________________
Has your congregation hosted an Ecumenical Mission Partner in the past?
Yes____  No____  If yes, when?_________________________________________________
How many attend worship on Sunday morning?     ______________________________________
Please specify the category under which you wish to apply:

____ Small Church – up to 100 in worship ($250 contribution toward travel expenses plus $150 per week gift of cash for mission partner’s personal expenses- $1000 total)
____ Mid-sized Church – up to 350 in worship ($500 contribution toward travel expenses plus $150 per week gift of cash for mission partner’s personal expenses- $1250 total)
____ Large Church – over 350 in worship ($750 contribution toward travel expenses plus $150 per week gift of cash for mission partner’s personal expenses- $1500 total)
____ Full Supporting Church (willing to pay up to $1000 toward mission partner’s round-trip travel - in addition to $150 per week gift of cash for personal expenses – up to $1750 total)
Any church can apply under any category. Do not let finances prohibit participation. If you need financial assistance, explain your circumstances in your application and talk to the program coordinator.

Please complete the following questions on a separate sheet.
Please attach the answers to these questions.

1. How does your congregation believe it will benefit from participation in the Mission to the U.S.A. Program?

2. What program or mission efforts in your congregation would mesh with the Mission to the U.S.A. Program and how would hosting a mission partner strengthen those programs?

3. Does your church or presbytery have any international partnerships If so, please share that information.

4. Describe your congregation’s understanding of its mission in your community and in the world.

5. Tell us about your worship style. How are children or youth included in worship?

6. Describe your programming for youth and children.

7. In what specific opportunities and activities in your congregation and in your community would you offer participation to your visiting ecumenical leader? How would you make him or her feel useful and accomplish the goals of this program?

8. How would your church initiate study sessions about the country and church of your ecumenical mission partner prior to his/her visit?

9. Do you have a preference for a male, female, clergy or lay person? Why?

Please return this completed form by April 1, 2012 to: E-mail: knottelmann@aol.com Or Karen Nottelmann, Program Coordinator, Synod of the Covenant Mission to the U.S.A., 5569 Front Street, Newaygo, Michigan 49337, Phone: 231-652-1056 Fax: 231-652-1056, Synod of the Covenant Fax: 419-754-4051

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS June 1, 2012
Don’t miss this opportunity to host a “missionary in residence” in your church this fall!

Imagine every member of your congregation involved in a “stay at home” international mission trip for five weeks when you participate in the Synod of the Covenant Mission to the USA Program.

Host congregations are still needed for our 2012 program. Missionaries are coming from Taiwan, China, Madagascar, and Mexico from September 26 to November 1, 2012. Cost to your congregation could be as little as $1,000.

Everyone in your congregation would have the opportunity to learn about another part of the world and the challenges facing Christians there. Each person can gain a fresh perspective on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, acquire a deeper understanding of the global nature of Christ's church, and be challenged to greater faithfulness.

Your "missionary" will be a church leader, prepared to preach, teach, and share fully in the life of your church as he or she shares his or her life and faith.

If you would like to develop more interest in world mission in your congregation, this is an opportunity to develop a deep and personal relationship with a Christian from another part of the globe and learn what the Christian church is doing there. If your church already has an interest in world mission, this would be an opportunity to expand that interest. You can host a mission partner for five weeks for LESS than it would cost to send ONE person to another country.

What might happen if you take advantage of this opportunity? Here are some quotes from recent hosting experiences.

From a church in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan:
“\text{We loved (our mission partner). God has blessed her with an intuitive sense of what people can and need to hear…. People eagerly attended in-home small groups, adult classes, and other events.}

“In small groups gathered to get to know her, we talked about our faith and she talked about living her faith in a secular country where, when she was young, being a Christian was costly. She taught us gratitude for the many material things we take for granted and the open-hearted sharing of the Christians in her country who don't count giving as a loss to themselves. Her singing and guitar-playing brought us together with common melodies and new words.

“Reflecting on her experience in her final worship with us, she reminded us how much we live our faith "on the street" and among “the least of these” and encouraged us to continue a congregational life balanced between time within our sanctuary and time in the world. She
encouraged us to treasure one another, for members to treasure the pastors, and for the pastors to treasure the congregation. She saw us with optimistic and loving eyes.”

From the Presbytery of Scioto Valley:
“An important aspect of the experience was an improved understanding of the circumstances Christians live under in other parts of the world. Also, we learned that our actions as Christians in the United States have powerful, sometimes dangerous, implications for Christians living in Islamic states. Many people in both the church and community were unaware there were Christians living in Pakistan. Or, they had given very little thought to it. People came to a realization that not all Pakistanis were terrorists. As a pastor, it was exciting to see as awareness grew with the people and former fears and misunderstandings disintegrated into new friendships. “

From the Presbytery of Eastminster:
“This was unusual to have a mission partner who was so worldly and familiar with the USA and our language. She definitely was very candid and very perceptive to what is going on in the church and with the young people in America. (They are not as respectful to their elders as they should be. This is definitely true as is demonstrated in the schools today, etc.)”

Want to learn more?
Read the Frequently asked questions attached or contact the Mission to the USA Coordinator, Karen Nottelmann at 231-652-1056 or knottelmann@aol.com.

Deadline for application has been extended to June 1. Apply now! HOST CONGREGATIONS ARE NEEDED! Is there another congregation with which you could partner in hosting?
“DON'T LET THE CHAOS GET YOU DOWN”

An Evening Conversation
Thursday, May 31, 2012
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
held at
Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church
4417 Bigger Road
Kettering, Ohio

How might we learn to better maintain our emotional-spiritual-
personal-physical-relational equilibrium in our daily living?

How do we foster balance, pace and contentment for self?

How might we let go of our frequent attachment to
stress, worry, busy-ness and anxiousness?

This evening’s conversation won’t offer “the answers”,
but it will invite us to actively consider and incorporate
what makes for health and wholeness in mind, body
and soul. You are invited to attend not to lament what
“ails us”, but to celebrate what calls us into care of self
toward recovery of soul-full and health-full living.

-please see other side-
Rev. Robert Skipper is an ordained Lutheran pastor, a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and a Fellow with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Our congregation is affiliated with his pastoral counseling practice as a member of the Cooperative of Congregations to provide pastoral counseling services to our members.

Bob also continues to serve part time as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lynchburg, Ohio and Peace Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, Ohio. He has worked in treatment and recovery with chemical abuse and addiction. Bob and his spouse love to travel especially to Ireland and Italy.

• The presentation is free of charge to our congregation

  • Please register by Friday, May 25th:

  • By phone: 937-299-9005

  • By e-mail: bob@rskippercounseling.com

  Provide your: Name
                Congregation
                Phone or e-mail address

Our thanks to Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church for providing their space!