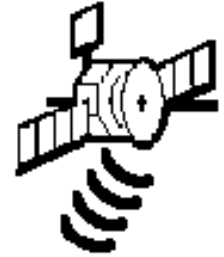


FIRST MONDAY



October, 2009

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 October Calendar**
3. **Tom's Thoughts on Renewed Friendships**
4. **Presbytery News – *What's Happening Around The Presbytery.***

Submissions must 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



October, 2009

- 4 October** **Covenant Presbyterian Church** located at 201 North Limestone Street, Springfield; Pastor Raymond Stewart.
- 11 October** **Presbyterian Church of Wilmington** located at 840 Timber Glen Avenue, Wilmington; Pastor David Judd.
- 18 October** **Covington Presbyterian Church** located at 30 North Pearl Street, Covington; Moderator Kazy Blocher Hinds.
- 25 October** **Memorial United Presbyterian Church**, 343 West Ankeney Mill Road, Xenia; Pastor Wayne McLaughin.
- 1 November** **Immanuel Korean Presbyterian Church** located at 10425 Lebanon Pike, Dayton; Pastor Soo Kwang Kim.

The Presbytery committee or group we ask you to pray for: For the month of October, please keep the Network Support Committee and all the Networks in your prayers.

Thank you.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 27 Please keep Springhill church in | 28 5pm - COR ? | 29 4:30pm - COM | 30 | 1 7am - Agenda | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Please keep Springfield Covenant | 5 | 6 Docket Request Deadline 9:30am - Nominating ? | 7 | 8 7am - Council 12pm - Staff Mtng/Lunch | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Please keep Wilmington church in | 12 Columbus Day | 13 5pm - Trustees | 14 Advance Pkt Material Deadline | 15 9:30am - CoPM 3:30pm - Staff Services Cmte ? | 16 1pm - PW Coordinators | 17 |
| 18 Please keep Covington church in | 19 | 20 7pm - Session Record Review @ | 21 3:30pm - Network Spt Cmte 3:30pm - Staff Services | 22 5pm - SDOP? | 23 | 24 10am - Session Record Review @ |
| 25 Please keep Xenia; Memorial in your | 26 5pm - COR? | 27 4:30pm - COM 4:30pm - COPM 7pm - Session Record Review @ | 28 Supplemental Pkt Materials | 29 | 30 | 31 Halloween |

Friends, Old and New

My wife and I decided to reach out to some of our old high school friends. It was amazing how quickly we all seemed to bond again. Nearly as though 30-some years hadn't passed by since we last saw each other.

In catching up, we discovered shared pains, shared healing, shared problems, and shared helps. None of us knew anything of what had happened to the others, but we discovered that sharing was a great healing for us.

While my wife and I celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary, my friend celebrates freedom from 3 rough marriages. We talk about the places we saw while in Europe, she talks about what Indianapolis was like. We both talk about the similarities – our dog Sidney, her dog Sydney. Her best friend that suffers after a surgery that did more harm than good. Our experience with pain and pain management that may help. We speak of how we were raised, things we didn't know about each other's childhoods when we knew each other in high school. We share some memories of the time we did know each other and what ever happened to mutual friends.

Another friend celebrates a new call as a minister in Iowa, while his wife suffers from her first time being away from their children, even though those children are all adults now, and hadn't lived under their roof for some time. Feelings all too familiar to a military family, or to any family that has had to move for one reason or another and now find their children living far away from them. I can identify with new ministry to new people, having supported quite a few new ministers. My wife can identify with their loss of parents and family members over the years.

How we reached out was this amazing tool, the internet. With just a few minutes of searching, we found what community to look at, many things that our friends had been involved in that left meeting minutes on websites. Obituaries of family members. And finally how to make contact with them. I guess that could sound like a bad thing, and could make somebody a bit paranoid. But imagine that it was your friend you decided to try to contact. And, those who wish us harm in some way know a lot more tricks than simply searching on the web in order to take our identity or our money. And, our friends still had that final opportunity to simply say, no thanks. I'd rather not correspond right now. But in this case, they didn't do that.

I've felt for years that most things happen for a reason. Wins, losses, ups and downs are all a part of the plan. We have free choice to travel from one path of events to another, but the events are a part of shaping who we are. We can learn from them, and share the life lessons we learn, or we can ignore them and let others learn the hard way. I was told that this was somewhat a Calvinist way of looking at life. I didn't know I was a Calvinist.

I chose to share. And now I have some new old friends.

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.

New Church Development training events sponsored by our colleagues in the Office of Church Growth of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The next session is the “**New Church Development Pastor Discernment**” event held at [Hot Metal Bridge](#) Faith Community in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 15—17, 2009. Experience three days of prayer, discernment, and conversation with NCD coaches as you contemplate if God is calling you to New Church Development ministry. There will also be the option of staying an extra day to visit and worship with several NCDs in the Pittsburgh area. Space is limited to 25 participants who will be selected based on two letters of reference and a brief essay on “*Why I Would Like to Attend this Discernment Event*”. All participant’s meals, lodging, and transportation (up to \$250) will be covered by the Office of Church Growth and will be reimbursed at the event. Email references and essay to Sherry Britton (sherry.britton@pcusa.org) or Meredith Kemp-Pappan (meredith.kemp-pappan@pcusa.org). Registration deadline is September 1, 2009.

The third session is the “**Can I Get a Witness?—New Church Development Team Training**” held at [San Clemente](#) Presbyterian Church, San Clemente, California, November 2—4, 2009. Questions dealt with at this event will be what will your new church grow into, will it be around 10 years from now, and will it make an impact for the gospel? The answers to these questions can be found by examining the end purpose of your discipleship training. For us to develop healthy growing congregations, we need to form disciples who exist “Not for ourselves, but for those we have yet to meet”—discipleship goes beyond the self-satisfaction of individual believers. The “Can I Get a Witness?” New Church Development Team Training Conference will focus on discipleship that is intent on reaching those outside the church community, sowing the gospel and seeing communities of believers grow, teaching the church to be a witness in both word and deed to the world, replicating churches through the process of church planting, and learning from our sisters and brothers in majority-world churches. We are encouraging the leadership team of your new church to come and learn what God is doing in the world and wants to do in your church. The price is the same if you bring 1 or 4 people. Increase the value and participate together. Register and pay online through the San Clemente Presbyterian Church website, <http://www.scpres.org/>. Registration deadline is September 1, 2009.

Tim McCallister, Associate, Office of Mission Program Grants, General Assembly Council,
Tim.McCallister@pcusa.org, (888) 728-7228, X5230, (502) 569-5230, Fax # (502) 333-7251

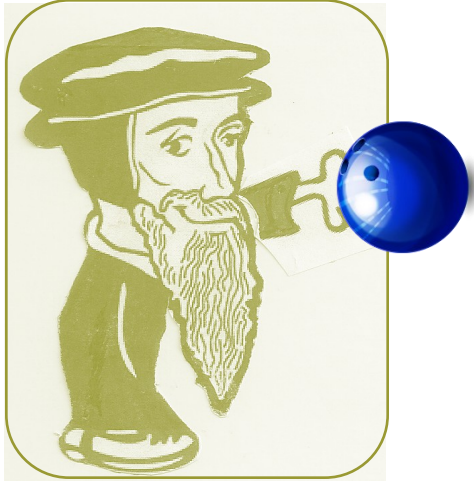
Kirkmont Center: 4th, 5th, 6th Youth Grade Retreat at Kirkmont Center December 4th and 5th: Friday at 6:30 - Saturday at 6 p.m. Jill Ogle and Eric Frisch will again be the leaders. Watch your mail for more information and plan to send youth and advisers from your church.

First Presbyterian Church in Middletown will welcome the Miami Valley Pipes and Drums for their annual Kirkin’ of the Tartans service on Sunday, October 11 at 10 a.m.

Banners of clan plaids will lead the processional. Participating in the service are Allan and Fay Smillie, natives of Scotland and longtime members of FPC. Gifted with a beautiful, clear soprano voice, Fay will sing a favorite Gaelic hymn and Allan will read the Scripture and call out the clans.

All are invited to join in this celebration of our Scottish heritage and our membership in Clan Dia.

You are invited to:



John Calvin Jubilee Bowling Event

- ☺ **Celebrate John Calvin!**
- ☺ **Celebrate Reformation Sunday!**
- ☺ **Enjoy One Another!**

Who:

Presbyterians of all ages in the Presbytery of the Miami Valley

What:

Birthday Bowling Party

Where:

Beaver-vu, 1238 N. Fairfield Rd., Beavercreek, Ohio

When:

Reformation Sunday, October 25th, 3:00-5:00 pm

Why:

...because 2009 is the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth
...because tradition has it that Calvin enjoyed lawn bowling on the afternoon of the Lord's Day, so a bowling party seems fitting
...because we'll be enjoying God's blessings on the Sabbath by recreation and Christian fellowship
...because (as Rev. Tom Harmon put it) just because Calvin was dour, doesn't mean we have to be!

Cost:

\$5 per person (includes lane rental, pizza, soda, birthday cake, and shoe rental) [pay at the door]

Reserve a spot...we are limited to 100 bowlers...call the Presbytery of the Miami Valley at 800-270-8118. Deadline: October 15

