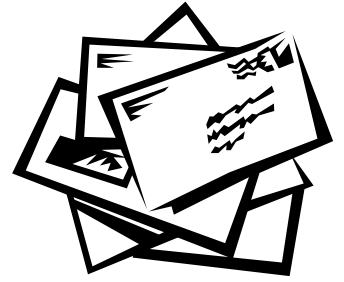


FIRST MONDAY



September, 2008

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** is changing back to a separate page while we work on a new calendar.
2. The **Calendar** for September. See who's meeting when.
3. **Presbytery News – *What's Happening Around The Presbytery.***
4. **Sabbath on Gun Violence** Flyer
5. **Faith in Search of Understanding** Flyer

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

MIAMI PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST



September, 2008

- 7 September **First Presbyterian Church** located at 127 School Street, Bradford;
Commissioned Lay Pastor Irwin Roberts.
- 14 September **Lebanon Presbyterian Church** located at 123 North East Street,
Lebanon; Pastor Peter Larson.
- 21 September **First Presbyterian Church** located at 202 North Miami Avenue,
Sidney.
- 28 September **Corinth Presbyterian Church** located at 4269 Corinth Boulevard,
Dayton; Pastors David & Megan Collins.
- 5 October **Heritage Presbyterian Church** located at 10425 Lebanon Pike,
Dayton; Pastor Karen Cassedy.

With transitions to the online calendar, I thought it best if we return to a text document for the prayer list. I'll take this opportunity to start over again on the Presbytery committee or group we ask you to pray for: For the month of September, please keep the Coordinating Council in your prayers.

Thank you.

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Sep 2008 (Eastern Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Keep in Prayer: First Presbyterian	1 Labor Day	2 4pm - Presbytery Meeting @	3 9:30am - Nominating Cmte	4 7am - Agenda @ Panera	5	6
7 Keep in Prayer: First Presbyterian	8 4pm - Presbytery Meeting @	9 4pm - Presbytery Meeting @	10 9:30am - Nominating Cmte	11 Patriot Day 8am - Council 12pm - Staff Lunch Mtg	12	13
14 Keep in Prayer: Lebanon	15 4pm - Presbytery Meeting @	16 4pm - Presbytery Meeting @	17 12pm - SE Neighborhood Lunch @ 4pm - Staff Services 5pm - Trustees	18 9:30am - Preparation for Ministry	19	20
21 Keep in Prayer: First Presbyterian	22 4pm - Presbytery Meeting @	23 4pm - Presbytery Meeting @	24 5:30pm - SDOP	25	26	27
28 Keep in Prayer: Corinth Presbyterian	29 4:30pm - COM	30 4:30pm - COM	1 3:30pm - NSC	2	3	4

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 - Covenant Presbyterian Church of Springfield, OH is seeking a part-time Director of Christian Education to resource, administer, and lead the ministry to young children (infants to fifth grade). The Director will assist the Elementary Education Committee in determining curriculum and educational tools for Sunday School, Nursery, and Vacation Bible School programs. A background in teaching or related areas is preferred. The church allows some flexibility in determining your work schedule (approximately 15 hours a week) as well as a limited summer schedule. Salary is competitive. Send or email resume to: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 201 N. Limestone St., Springfield, OH 45503; 937-325-2427; cpc-s@sbcglobal.net

Church Musician/Director and Youth Minister Program Coordinator: College Hill Church, located in Dayton Ohio, is currently looking for qualified individuals to fill positions within our church. We have openings for Church Musician/Director and Youth Minister Program Coordinator. If anyone is interested they can send letters of interest with resume to Personnel Committee, College Hill Community Church, 1547 Philadelphia Drive, Dayton Ohio 45406 or email at collegehillchurch@ameritech.net.

Looking for Employment: Michael Wilson seeks a job as a church business manager and web manager. A copy of Michael's resume is available on request from the Presbytery office. To contact Michael directly, call 380-687-8528 or email mmwilson@mmwilson.com.

Miami Presbytery is a Member of the Pastoral Counseling Center of Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton: Our Covenant Agreement with the Counseling Center ensures that all members of the Presbytery and their households will have access to the Center for individual and group counseling, at 50% of the \$100 fee. A counselor is available 24-hours a day for crisis and urgent needs. Call 208-6606 for an appointment. Be sure to tell the receptionist that you are a member of the Miami Presbytery. The Pastoral Counseling Center is also available to Clergy and other Church Professionals for confidential consultation regarding pastoral care and counseling needs. Please contact a member of the Committee on Ministry for more information.

Attention Pastors and Church Webmanagers: The Presbytery of the Miami Valley is completely redesigning its website, a process that will take several months. The new site will allow for more interactive use and information for networks, committees, congregations and individuals. As part of this redesign we can no longer act a "reseller," hosting your church website through Readyhosting. Because of changing technologies, our current system of hosting church websites has become very cumbersome and out-of date. Therefore the management of your website will be turned over directly to your congregation. This will also alleviate much of the difficulty and frustration that has accompanied trying to make changes and update. The cost for maintaining the website through Readyhosting runs as little as \$100.00 per year, with an additional cost of maintaining the domain name of about \$14.00. You are not obligated to continue with Readyhosting when you assume website control. Additionally, the "free" web pages currently available through the presbytery website (from the "Find A Church" link) will be taken offline in the next few months as our new site goes up.

Thank you for your understanding and support through this transition.

First Monday will become an online-only publication in the near future. Watch for more information.

Home for Rent: Good Shepherd's Administrative Session announces our manse is available for rent. The house is located in the Forest Ridge subdivision of Riverside, OH -- close to Highway 4. 4 bedroom and 3.5 baths, located in the Mad River school system. It is well maintained. Our contact person is Marybeth Phelps, Trustee Chair, 937-545-4241.

New Hours for the Resource Center: Due to changes in staffing, the Resource Center Hours are changing. The new Resource Center staff member, Jeanette Andrews, will be in on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-1:00. The Resource Center is available anytime that the Presbytery office is open, Monday through Friday, 9-5, by stopping by the office for a key. You can also email the Resource Center at resource.center@miamipresbytery.org or call directly to 937-781-0470, which rings directly in the Resource Center now.

Support the Troops: Several young men and women from the Miami Presbytery area are serving in places around the world. If you know somebody you would like to mention for prayers, letters or packages, please share the word with us so we can get the word out to all our churches. Our troops deserve the best support we can offer, wherever they are. As we

accumulate a list, if your church would like to add these men and women to your own prayer lists, or would like to send letters or packages to show your support, contact Tom Oxley at the presbytery office. Those of us who have served know what it can be like, and we are thankful for your kind words and prayers.

Do you have a group in your church that sews, knits, crochets, or quilts? Crating for a Cause, a new network of the Presbytery, needs your help contacting the crafting groups in our Presbytery. We will be bringing together the groups for a crafting convention in the fall of 2008. Please contact Megan Collins, Co-Pastor at Corinth Church with the contact person for your crafting group. She can be reached over e-mail (Megan@CorinthChurchDayton.org) or by phone (937-479-0681).

Mission Yearbook Orders were due the end of August. I have ordered a few extras just to be safe, so if you forgot to get your order in, contact me to be put on the list for when the extras are available. Thank you.

Bread for the World is now offering a helpful monthly email resource for pastors preparing sermons. It's called "Bread for the Preacher," and it provides preaching aids and worship resources surrounding issues of hunger and poverty. "Bread for the Preacher" is delivered directly to the email inbox of pastors and other church leaders who ask for it, and includes:

- Weekly lectionary-based reflections on hunger and poverty written by pastors, professors, and lay people around the nation who are Bread members. These are drawn from a series of books called "Hunger for the Word" edited by an elder in our presbytery, Larry Hollar, who is a regional organizer in Bread's Dayton field office.
- Prayers and other worship resources.
- Children's activities.
- Bulletin inserts and announcements.
- Information about additional resources and opportunities.

Church leaders can sign up for "Bread for the Preacher" by visiting www.bread.org and entering their email address in the "newsletter signup" box on the homepage. They will then be taken to a page to fill out contact information and check the "Bread for the Preacher" box in the online newsletters section.

Bread for the World is a Christian anti-hunger advocacy group based in Washington, DC. The 58,000-member, non-partisan organization is supported by 2,500 churches and more than 45 denominations and church agencies, including the PC(USA), the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) and [Presbyterian Women](#). The group urges Congress and the administration for public-policy changes to address the root causes of hunger and poverty in the United States and abroad.

Let's Celebrate! Join the Multicultural Network of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley for the Hispanic Heritage Celebration and Flea Market, Saturday September 27th, 2008, Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM at College Hill Community Church, 1547 Philadelphia Drive, Dayton, OH 45406. For Info: (937) 278-4203. Featuring North American and Hispanic foods, music and dance performances, activities for children and free health screening. Join Us for Fun, Fellowship, and Great Food!

The Somerville Church dedicated a Memorial Plaque on August 10th in Loving memory of Rev. George Witmer and his wife Virginia. George served the church from 1989 till his death in 2007 with three years off while he was recovering from heart surgery.

Every song has a story... *After the Chase* is an Acoustic-Rock group composed of husband and wife team, Nathan & Jenna Strong and friends. Together they seek to convey the love of God through their music ministry. They will be giving a free concert (\$5 suggested donation) open to the public on Sept 5th at 7:30pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Invite your friends! For more info go to www.afterthechase.com.

Farewell, Ed DeLair: It is with a mixture of sadness and rejoicing, I write to inform you the Rev. Ed DeLair has accepted a call to become Pastor of the Faith United Presbyterian Church in Washington, PA effective October 1, 2008 and has resigned as Executive Director for Kirkmont Center effective September 30, 2008. We will certainly be sad at Ed's departure as he has been such an integral part of this Presbytery and had a wonderfully meaningful and vibrant ministry at Kirkmont Center. We rejoice with Ed, however, for God's call to his next place of service and the ministry opportunities that await him.

We will take time to celebrate and give thanks for Ed and his ministry among us at the September 9 Presbytery meeting to be held at Kirkmont Center. More details about an upcoming celebration will be forthcoming.

Shalom,
Rev. Denise Ingram
Moderator of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Dayton Trinity Events:

Trinity conducts Bible Study classes every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. A prayer meeting and bible study is also scheduled for every Wednesday evening. Prayer starts at 6:00 p.m., and bible study starts at 7:00.

Trinity's older adult group, The Elderberries of Trinity, will host guest speaker, Mrs. Tanya Mason, who will discuss African American women age 40 and over and their health on Thursday, September 18th at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to come, have fun and get informed!

You are invited to attend an Old Fashioned Southern Revival and Homecoming program during the week of September 22nd through 26th, concluding with a Homecoming Service on Sunday, September 28th at 11:00 a.m., followed by an old fashioned family picnic. All day on Monday, September 22nd, there will be continuous prayer in the prayer room. Church choirs will perform during the week, along with our choir: Monday night, Dayton: Trinity; Bethel Choir on Tuesday night; Greater Allen AME on Wednesday night; Omega Baptist on Thursday, and Tabernacle Baptist on Friday night. Join us as guest minister, Rev. Cecil Bromell, from Marion, South Carolina, will lead services beginning at 7:00 pm each evening.

On Saturday, October 4th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Dayton International Museum Peace Bus will be at Trinity. Join us for peace building exercises and games for all ages. If the weather is good, this will be held outside in Trinity's parking lot.

Join Dayton: Trinity for our 60th Anniversary Celebration, to be held on November 15th and 16th.

For more information on any of these events, contact the church office at (937) 268-4111.

UTS Media in Ministry Program: I'm pleased to announce a new program offered by the Digital Media Center. Beginning in September of 2008, we are offering a new series of continuing education courses that focus on the integration of church and technology. Called the Media in Ministry Certificate, its designed specifically for laity and for pastors from congregations of all sizes who would like to explore and implement technology into the life of their church. Topics range from camera operation, lighting and sound, and editing, to building a media team, and will include other facets of digital communication. Students will have the option of custom designing their own programs depending on their individual strengths, weaknesses and goals. Each course is three weeks long and takes place here on campus on Tuesdays from 5-7 and Saturdays from 9-12. The first course is Introduction to Digital Video Production for Ministry and will begin on September 8th. Cost is \$150 per course, and we have discounts available for church teams. We'd love it if you could pass this information along to any church that you think could benefit! Information online can be found here <http://www.united.edu/institute/mediaministrycertificate.shtml> and registration is available online. Please come by the studio if you have any questions. We also have brochures available to share.

RESOURCES PERSONS IN JUDAISM AND ISLAM NEEDED! The Bellefontaine Church is planning a fall adult study on other religions and is looking for resources persons particularly in the area of Judaism and Islam. If anyone in the Presbytery has done such a study and/or is aware of persons of either faith who could be good resource persons/speakers on their respective religions, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. Please contact: Rob Fulton, 937-592-6611, or rob@bellefontainepres.com.

The Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence asks you to encourage your member congregations to participate in a Sabbath focusing on peace and nonviolence. This year, the annual Sabbath will be September 26-28, 2008.

This Sabbath commemoration seeks to raise awareness of gun violence as a spiritual and moral crisis and calls upon individuals, congregations, and ecumenical and interfaith groups to work toward a peaceable society. Annually, the sponsoring partnership invites people of faith to reflect on and respond to the epidemic of gun violence in our midst. Through worship, prayer, and art, the Sabbath remembrance asks people of faith to reflect on the spiritual and moral ramifications of gun violence, and calls on them to make real the Divine vision of a peaceable kingdom by creating non-violent and loving communities where all children have the opportunity to grow and prosper and everyone can live without fear of being cut down by gun violence.

Each year nearly 30,000 Americans are killed by gun violence. According to the CDC, firearms are the second leading cause of injury in the United States. It is a public health issue, since the United States taxpayers help to defray the more than 20 billion dollars in health care related costs resulting from gunshot injuries each year. Gun violence clearly affects everyone, but it disproportionately affects those who are already most vulnerable – the young, the elderly, those in despair, and those who are marginalized by society. As people of faith, we are called to minister to the “last” and the least.

Living our faith in ways that build stronger people, families and communities is a powerful demonstration of our commitment to Christ in our lives. We are attempting to call people of faith to action, to awaken them to the spiritual issues at the core of gun violence, and to give them the necessary tools to build vital gun violence prevention ministries in their congregations and communities.

We invite your member congregations to participate in this event and celebrate the peace of God in our lives. Find ways to participate that work within your congregations' worship lives. A few suggestions are:

- Use the enclosed bulletin notices to increase awareness (just cut and paste!)
- Include special prayer petitions (an example is attached) during your prayers at worship
- Focus your Sunday school teachings on peace and nonviolence
- Invite special speakers or educators to address the issue
- Hold a special prayer vigil for those affected by violence
- Request a special offering to help support our work for peace
- Have a meeting or discussion group about ways your congregation can be involved in peace and justice in your community

There are many additional resources available through our organization (www.ohioceasefire.org) or through the interfaith partnership with the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence online (www.godnotguns.org). We will enjoy assisting you in any way. Contact us if you have any questions or would like our help.

Please let us know if your churches do participate in this Sabbath remembrance in any way. We will use that information and feedback to improve our future efforts.

Thank you.

Toby Hoover, Executive Director
419 244 7442
toby@preventgunviolence.org

Briana Richardson, Columbus Coordinator
614 214 2299
brianar@preventgunviolence.org

Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence
PO Box 1078
Toledo Ohio 43697

Bulletin 'Blurbs' –

**Sabbath
focusing on Peace and Nonviolence
September 26-28, 2008**

**Join faith communities across the country in participating in Sabbath activities
focusing on peace and nonviolence in our world.**

www.godnotguns.org

Over the weekend of September 26-28, take part in a special Sabbath worship by remembering in prayer those most affected by violence. Pray for peace in our homes, our communities, and our world. Reflect upon the ever-widening ripples of violence and the calming way of peace and consider how your actions – individually and communally – can usher the peace of God into the world. Focus your Scripture reading and Bible study on calls for peace and consider opportunities for reconciliation within your own life.

While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.

St. Francis of Assisi

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Prayer Petition –

We remember all who have been harmed by violence. We acknowledge the strength of those who survived and of those still struggling to heal. For all our sakes, we commit ourselves to building each other up and to healing together.

Let us remember the families and loved ones of those lost to gun violence. We acknowledge their pain and their deep grief. They too are part of our community and need our love and help towards healing.

Let us remember the perpetrators, and the families of those who commit violent crimes. We acknowledge that their lives too, are devastated and their hopes dashed. For all our sakes, we remember that pain goes in many directions from each act of violence.

Let the Holy Spirit of our Creator move through us. Help us to transform and heal our communities and let us begin by being transformed ourselves. We go in peace and with hope. Amen

FAITH IN SEARCH OF UNDERSTANDING: Viewing Homosexuality Through the Eyes of Faith



The public is welcome

To be held at Christ Presbyterian Church [4225 Sylvania Avenue, Toledo].
Symposium sponsored by the Toledo Cluster of the Maumee Valley Presbytery, with support from the Synod of the Covenant.

How does the Bible's message of love relate to the issue of homosexuality? How does new biological and psychological research affect society's view of same-sex relationships? What can the faith community do to strengthen acceptance of LGBT persons, in both institutions of worship and institutions of everyday life?

Schedule of events

8:30-9:00 SIGN-IN [*See registration information below.*]

9:00-9:15 WORSHIP

9:15-10:45 **JACK ROGERS:** Biblical issues related to homosexuality.

Jack Rogers is Professor of Theology Emeritus at San Francisco Theological Seminary and Moderator of the 213th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He is the author of many books, including *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality* and is a nationally-recognized speaker on the issue of the Bible and homosexuality.
[www.drjackrogers.com/]

10:45-11:00 BREAK

11:00-12:30 **DAVID MYERS:** Non-Biblical issues on homosexuality, including marriage and sexual-orientation

David G. Myers, Professor of Psychology at Michigan's Hope College, is the author of seventeen books, plus articles in dozens of periodicals, from *Science* and *Scientific American* to *The Christian Century* and *Christianity Today*. He serves on the National Marriage Project advisory board. He is the co-author, with Letha Dawson Scanzoni, of *What God has Joined Together: The Christian Case for Gay Marriage*.
[www.davidmyers.org]

12:30-1:15 LUNCH

1:15-3:30 WORKSHOPS

1. Film screening of award-winning film, *For The Bible Tells Me So*, followed by a panel discussion.
2. Transgender People and the Faith Community – The Path to Greater Understanding and Acceptance

Registration

Advance registration is required. The fee, which includes lunch, will be collected at sign-in on September 27th. Early-bird registration [by Sept. 15] is \$15. For registrations made between Sept. 16 and Sept. 23, the cost is \$20. After Sept. 23rd, please call 419.352.5176 or send an e-mail to PresbySymposium@yahoo.com, to see if space is still available [fee \$20].

To register, send the following information to PresbySymposium@yahoo.com or to Janet Sorrells, Registrar, First Presbyterian Church, 126 S. Church St., Bowling Green, OH 43402.

1. Name[s] of person[s] being registered.
2. Phone number or email address of person[s] being registered.
3. First and second choice of workshops.
4. Optional information: name of home church.