



# PRESBYTERY OF WABASH VALLEY

## GOD CALLS

September 16, 2009

CREATES, CONNECTS AND  
NURTURES CONGREGATIONS TO  
FULFILL CHRIST'S MISSION

### Links to Special points of interest:

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is on track to reverse the 50-year long downward trend in the number of mission co-workers serving internationally, according to Hunter Farrell, director of [Presbyterian World Mission](#).

### One-Hour Teleseminars Presented by Lynette Hawkins

Thursday, September 17th  
noon (EST) "Speak with An  
Audience in Mind." [Learn  
How to Identify Your Target  
Audience and Uncover Their  
Needs](#)

Thursday, September 24th  
noon (EST) "Shape a Rele-  
vant Ministry Mes-  
sage" [Learn How to Reach  
Out with a Relevant Message  
& Image](#)

Thursday, October 1st noon  
(EST) "Share Where They  
Are" [Learn Practical Ideas to  
Reach Out & Invite](#)

Sign Up at  
[www.awesomeinsight.com](http://www.awesomeinsight.com)  
or Call 888-834-7525!

### PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

- Tues, October 13

### ASSEMBLY

- Friday-Saturday,  
September 18-19  
Geneva Center
- Tuesday, November 17  
Peabody Retirement  
Community



## Prayers of the Presbytery

Eternal God we pray that by your compassion you will sustain the lonely, give hope those who are feeling hopeless and fill all with courage as we face the trials of the world.

We ask your healing presence for **Sue Johnson** wife of **Rev Les Johnson**, Minister Member at Large, during her knee surgery and recovery.

O' God we thank you for the work of **First Presbyterian Church, Fowler & Geetingsville Presbyterian Church, Frankfort** we pray for their continued ministry.

It is only with Your faithfulness O' God that we are able to share the good news with courage and love. It is in your name we say, Amen! Amen!

## Celebrate Evangelism Sunday on September 27

### Personality Based Styles of Evangelism

Mention the word "evangelism" and Presbyterians generally tend to deny, ignore and make any excuse that evangelism is not a significant part of what we are called to do. Excuses range from: "Evangelism is offensive!" to "I don't want to go knocking on doors!" and "Who am I to push my religion upon someone else?" When I encounter these responses in presbyteries, I find that the biggest "Ah-ha!" moment is to demonstrate that Scripture offers more than one way to do evangelism.

In an excellent book, *Got Style? Personality Based Evangelism*, author and pastor Jeffery Johnson argues that "personality is the human component involved in effective evangelism." He says:

Evangelism is not about convicting, convincing, or converting the non-Christian. That is the work of God through the activity of the Holy Spirit in a person's heart. Evangelism is about persuasive presenta-

tion, using both speech (lips) and actions (life) to share the Good News. (p. 12)

Johnson offers six chapters to explain six styles of evangelism: Assertive, Analytical, Storytelling, Relational, Invitational and Incarnational. There are detailed explanations of each style, the pros and cons of each, as well as how Scripture supports each style. This is a great book for any church leader looking for Biblical texts to preach or teach a series on the styles of evangelism. Johnson also provides a rich bibliography that helped shape his thoughts on evangelism. There is also a unique assessment tool (which is recommended to be taken first) for people to discover their own particular "personality based evangelism" style. *Got style* is a well written, detailed resource to help churches move beyond themselves and into the world that needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ."

## ORDINATION RECOGNITION

Best wishes are extended to the following on their ordination anniversary:

- **Rev. David Horner**; Pastor Faith PC, West Lafayette , September 15, 1975
- **Rev. Ruby I. Kleymann**; Interim Pastor First PC, Monticello, September 22, 1996
- **Rev. David Detamore**; Honorably Retired, September 24, 1967
- **Rev. William Haworth**; Pastor Garrett PC, Garrett September 24, 1989

Please accept my sincere apology if you have not been acknowledged. Please forward your updated information to [Vicki Dreibelbis](mailto:Vicki.Dreibelbis) or call 574-223-5678.



*Your service is appreciated!*

## Hear from Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of General Assembly

during

### Presbytery Assembly Retreat at Geneva Center

#### Friday, Sept 18

- 5:30 p.m. Supper with advanced reservations
- 7:00 p.m. - Gathering
- Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Gradye will paint for us a picture of the state of today's church and where he sees signs of transformation.
- Celebrate the Lord's Supper
- Commission Elder Jim Dougans

#### Saturday, September 19,

- 9:00 a.m. EDT Convene Assembly
- Gretchen Seidler-Gibbs and members of the Missional Transformation Coordinating Team will lead us in conversation and Bible Study.
- Rev. Diane Karay Tripp will share with us "trusted voices" from her recently published book
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry will move Edwin Brinklow from Inquirer to Candidate
- Committee on Ministry to recognize the honorable retirement of The Rev. Nancy Becker.
- Board of Pensions update from Rev.

Douglas Kelly.

- Elect commissioners to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010)
- Hear a report regarding the Economic Challenge Grant



The Presbytery Council will bring to us many items which affect our common ministry:

- first reading of the 2010 budget
- an update on our finances
- an update on Mission Challenge 2009
- news of potential improvements to the Geneva Center conference center facility
- receive reports from Administrative Commissions
- hear from our Interim General Presbyter, The Rev. Ray Fancher.

Throughout the retreat, we will sing and pray and be in conversation together.

To make reservations for housing and meals, please contact Vicki Dreibelbis at [Vicki@ourpresbytery.org](mailto:Vicki@ourpresbytery.org) or 574-223-5678

*Please makes checks payable to Presbytery of Wabash Valley for your meals and/or over-night accommodations.*

## Commissioned Lay Pastors and Lay Preachers Urged to Act Now

Once again, October 21-23, at the peak of the fall season in the mountains, Montreat Conference Center is pleased to offer [Continuing Education for Commissioned Lay Pastors and Lay Preachers](#). This year's theme, "The Place of Prayer in Reformed Worship," brings together the resources and wisdom of leaders John Rogers, Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Eric Wall, and Glenn Bannerman to enhance

and strengthen the important ministry of commissioned lay pastors and preachers.

[Register today](#) to assure your place among this nationwide network of CLPs.




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## Giving Heart at Work

Thomas Moelker, The Presbyterian Church LaPorte

Eleven year old Marissa, the youngest of three children received \$50 for Christmas last year from one of her grandparents. A couple of months later her Sunday school class was learning about the missionary work that their church supported. When an offering was taken from the class Marissa gave her fifty dollars to help support the churches mission workers. After church that day the Sunday school teacher asked her parents if they knew Marissa had made such a contribution. They did not know but after speaking with Marissa they were very proud of her choice.

A few months later Marissa took a trip with her Grandpa Phil in his truck. One night as they stopped at a Flying-J Travel Center, they spent time watching TV in the driver's room. As they talked with other truckers, Marissa became an instant hit with the drivers as she helped swatting bothersome flies. As they left, a driver approached them wanting to give Marissa his Gateway laptop computer. The driver explained to a very apprehensive Grandpa that he was retiring and no longer has a use for it and wanted Marissa to have it. With apprehension they accepted the

gift. I believe the reason this man gave the laptop to Marissa is because he saw God's love in her.

I believe we have many people in our congregation just like Marissa. I see God's love in our members. Our church is moving forward "Striving to be Christ's Presence in a New Way for a New Day."

"Give, and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38

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## Lay Pastor Graduate to be Commissioned

Dr. Jim Spindler a graduate of the Wabash Valley Lay Pastors Training Course has recently been approved by the Lake Michigan Presbytery to serve on the staff of the Hastings

Presbyterian Church in Hastings, Michigan. Jim will be commissioned by Lake Michigan Presbytery in the Hastings Church on September 27th. Dr. Spindler attended DePauw University and

Indiana University Medical School before moving to Michigan. He is now retired from medical practice and is looking forward to serving the Lord in ministry at his local church.

## Feasting on the Word

### Westminster John Knox Press

Next month, fans of [Westminster John Knox Press](#)' "[Feasting on the Word](#)" series will be able to take a bite out of the latest installment.

The sixth volume will be released Oct. 1.

"Feasting on the Word" is a 12-volume [lectionary](#) commentary series covering all the Sundays in the three-year lectionary cycle. For each of a day's four lectionary texts, readers can see essays from four perspectives - exegetical, theological, pastoral and homiletical.

The series offers "16 different ways into the text" said David Dobson, executive director of publishing and editorial for the [Presbyterian Publishing Corporation](#).

"Feasting on the Word" is a resource for preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, which provides a disciplined way to read the Bible. The sixth volume will cover the lectionary's Year C, volume 2, running from Lent through Eastertide. The entire series is expected to be released by May 2011.

"LITERARY LEANS"

## The Alban Weekly

### MAKING GOD MORE ACCESSIBLE

by Mark I. Pinsky

The television commercials were disturbing: Traditional-looking churches barring or physically ejecting racial and ethnic minorities, gay couples--and people with disabilities. One tag line was "Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we." The national campaign, which aired several years ago, was sponsored by the liberal United Church of Christ. "We included people with physical disabilities in these commercials--in a wheelchair or with a walker--as an extension of the call and hope that churches would be intentionally inclusive of 'all the people,'" said the Rev. Gregg Brekke, a spokesman for the denomination.

Instead, the imagery provoked grumbling from some

denominations because of its implied critique of other church traditions. But at least when it came to the physically handicapped, the criticism had more than a grain of truth. Churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples are places where people with disabilities might not expect to feel excluded, isolated or patronized. Yet that has often been the norm. For years congregations have effectively excluded the disabled from worship--by steps, narrow doorways, and strained attitudes--or segregated them in "special" services. Houses of worship (except those with more than 15 employees) were excluded from the 1992 Americans with Disabilities Act, which, among other things, bars discrimination against people with physical or intellectual disabilities--including ac-

cess and architectural barriers--in public accommodations and transportation.

Most faiths' scriptures mandate corrective steps, and pragmatism may soon require them. The U.S. Census in 2000 counted 54 million disabled individuals--one in six Americans--and that number is probably growing. Wounded Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans are swelling this population. Thanks to neonatal care and technology advances, at-risk infants with severe disabilities now survive into adulthood. Most significantly, the boomer generation is aging and getting ill. Many of them may develop disabilities but still want to pray at houses of worship.

**Continue Reading** "[Making God More Accessible](#)"



## PWV STAFF/OFFICERS

- [Raymond Fancher](#)  
Interim General Presbyter
- [Linda L. Long](#)  
Stated Clerk
- [Eric Herzog](#)  
Financial Consultant
- [Doug Capper](#)  
Bookkeeper
- [Gladys Sargent](#)  
Office Manager
- [Vicki Dreibelbis](#)  
Church Relations Coordinator

Presbytery of Wabash Valley  
5822 N OLD US HWY 31  
ROCHESTER IN 46975

Phone: 574-223-5678  
Fax: 574-223-3545  
E-mail: [vicki@ourpresbytery.org](mailto:vicki@ourpresbytery.org)

Website:  
[www.ourpresbytery.org](http://www.ourpresbytery.org)



**Record Review**  
**Friday September 18th**  
**2:00 - 4:00 pm**  
**Geneva Center - Butler Lodge**

2010  
**PRESBYTERY OF WABASH VALLEY**  
**ASSEMBLY and COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

All will be held at GENEVA CENTER

COUNCIL DATES

January 22-23 Retreat  
  
March 16  
  
May 18  
  
August 17  
  
October 19

ASSEMBLY DATES

February 16  
  
April 13  
  
September 17-18 Retreat  
  
November 16

## *PWV Meetings & Events*

### Thursday, September 17

- 10 am - COM Executive Meeting

### Friday, September 18

- 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Record Review
- 7 pm - PWV Assembly Retreat

### Saturday, September 19

- 9 am - 2:30 pm - PWV Assembly Retreat

### Tuesday, September 22

- 10 am - Committee on Preparation for Ministry

### Wednesday, September 23

- 12 - 2 pm - Interim Pastors Gathering
- 2 - 5 pm - Missional Transformation

Coordinating Team

### Thursday, September 24

- 10 am - Church Development Ministry Team

### Tuesday, September 29

- 10 am - 3 pm - Leadership Development

### Wednesday, September 30

- 10 am - 12 pm - Staff

For more scheduling & calendar information go to [http://](http://www.ourpresbytery.org)

[www.ourpresbytery.org](http://www.ourpresbytery.org)

All meetings are held at PWV Office, times are Eastern Time (ET) unless noted otherwise.