

THE VALLEY BRIDGE



October 20, 2015

OCTOBER 25: 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; *Psalm* 34:1-8 (19-22); Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Reformation Sunday

Fellowship of Prayer: First Presbyterian Church of Blue Earth

Moderator: Rev. Michael Roys

Pastoral Care: Rev. Kathy Blair

Secretary/Treasurer: Connie Hedland

Clerk of Session: Cindy Peterson

Session Elders: Jim More, JR Huntley, Jo Kraayenhof, Tom Plocker, Kayla Richey

Prayer Concerns for:

- Members and friends who are struggling with illness, particularly cancer
- Our church as we continue to seek God's vision for our future
- A safe and plentiful harvest
- Volunteers to step forward and serve on council and committees

Prayer Joys for:

- Rev. Kathy Blair who will become our Pastoral Care person on November 1
- The pastors and lay people who have provided pulpit supply over the past year
- The baptism of Ryder Adams, son of Ryan & Heather Adams



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MN Valleys Presbytery
4055 Abbott Drive
Willmar MN 56201
320-235-7910
minnesotavalleys.org
Monday-Friday:
8:00-4:30

THE WORD FROM RICK: SEE YOU IN SPICER



Normally, an upcoming presbytery meeting would be my topic for the week leading up to the meeting, but our next meeting is a big one with a number of key parts, and so I felt it important to give you all a little bit of a preview of what is coming.

I do hope that Saturday, October 31, has been highlighted on your calendars for some time, and that you have been planning to attend this meeting. If you haven't, there still is time for you to tweak your schedule so that you can be at Hope Presbyterian Church of Spicer as we gather and share a day together. The presbytery call and packet items are now posted on the web site. Please take time to review them, so that you can be fully prepared to engage in the day's activities.

This meeting will be Candace Adams' last meeting as our Moderator. Candace has done a great job this year. She has been a creative and engaged leader who has guided us through some significant conversations and tested different ways of making our time together special. The Mission Fair in May was informative ~ a real treat for all of us, and this month's "hands on" mission project will be an opportunity for all of us to make a small dent in the fight against hunger.

Candace's passion for the church and for our common ministry has been evident in everything that she has done. She has led us with grace, humor, and love. We have been blessed by her leadership!

On October 31, the Next Pres Team will present the second part of its work to the presbytery. In August, we adopted the Ministry Plan which claimed our presbytery's identity, values, and ministry intentions, now it is time to act on the Mission Design. This design is a proposal for how the presbytery will work to accomplish its goals. The design seeks to address three major priorities: The Care and Nurture of Congregations, The Care and Nurture of Leadership, and Church Transformation and Growth. It emphasizes the importance of working together across the face of the presbytery, building networks and partnerships to further Christ's mission - both here and in the far corners of the world. The approval of this design will set the stage for February's presentation of a Staffing Design.

THE WORD FROM RICK, CONTINUED

Other parts of our day together in Spicer will include welcoming four new pastoral leaders; electing a new Presbytery Moderator and Vice-Moderator; approving our presbytery budget for 2016; electing General Assembly Commissioners and Alternates, as well as our Young Adult Advisory Delegate; and, of course, the aforementioned “hands on” mission project – making food packets that will feed hungry children across the world.

Our day together will conclude with worship and prayers for our common ministry going forward. I encourage you to review all the materials – there are quite a few – and get an early start for Spicer, so that you can take your coffee out to the shores of beautiful Nest Lake and enjoy the opportunity to drink in the wonders of God’s creation. It will be a beautiful day; a great day to be with your brothers and sisters as together we continue our journey into God’s future.

See you in Spicer!

Grace and Peace,

Rick

2016 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM

July 19-23, 2016 at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys “GO Team” is hard at work making plans. Keep watching the Valley Bridge and the Presbytery’s web site for more information!



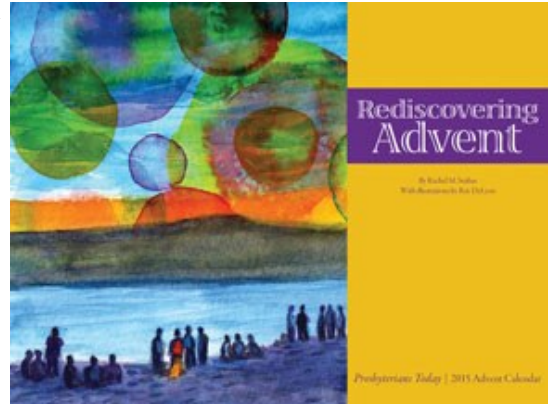
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAINT JAMES

An experienced, intentional Interim Pastor is being sought for the First Presbyterian Church of Saint James. The position description has been created and a Ministry Information Form (MIF) – ID Number 03802.AC – is in the process of being posted to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Church Leadership Connection. If you or someone you know would be a good fit for this opportunity, please check out the MIF on line, or contact Craig Christiansen at cchristiansen@mchsi.com

REDISCOVERING ADVENT

For some people, Advent is little more than a chocolate countdown to Christmas. For others, the promises and stories of Advent have become so familiar that they've lost some of their mystery and power.

Rachel Srubas—pastor, spiritual director, and author—has put together a collection of daily poetic reflections and prayers to reawaken the beauty and spirituality of Advent. Roy DeLeon's vivid watercolors add to the contemplative power of this year's Advent Calendar.



Perfect for congregations, families, and individuals, *Rediscovering Advent* provides a Scripture reading, meditation, and prayer for each day of Advent.

Your congregation is invited to order these Advent Calendars at \$1.50 per copy through the presbytery office. The deadline to order is Tuesday, November 3. Please call or email Karen at the presbytery office: 320-235-7910 or karen@minnesotavalleys.org.

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

October 31 (Saturday) - Fall Presbytery Meeting at Hope Church in Spicer

November 30 (Monday) - Open House and Hanging of the Greens at the presbytery office

February 6 (Saturday) - Winter Presbytery Meeting

February 29 - March 2 (Monday - Wednesday) - Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in San Antonio, Texas - Information on line at www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org

PLANNING CALENDARS

The presbytery office still has a small number of 2015-2016 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available for the low purchase price of \$8 each. Call or email Virginia with your order.

GATHERING OF MISSION LEADERS IN KANSAS CITY IN NOVEMBER

Local, regional and international mission leaders will be able to connect and learn from each other at a gathering of mission leaders November 19-21 at the Heartland Conference Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Called "Mission Magnified," the conference format will be retreat-style, with small group sessions complimenting plenary workshops. Details can be found at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/world-mission/mission-magnified/>

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONDS TO SOUTHEAST COASTAL FLOODING

On either side of the river is the tree of life ... and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:2)

The Southeast coast is experiencing severe and unprecedented flooding. At its height, more than 400 roads, 150 bridges and two major interstates (I-20 and I-95) were closed, isolating the communities that were most in need of comfort and assistance. South Carolina has borne the brunt of the devastation, enduring what has been described as a 1,000-year flood, and for some, more is still to come.



A family evacuates their home from flooding in South Carolina – Jason Lee/The Sun News via AP

While South Carolina is the area most recently experiencing severe flooding, other parts of the country, including Texas, are still struggling to recover from massive floods that impacted multiple counties and left numerous Presbyterian churches damaged. As the rains finally subside in South Carolina and essential aid begins to arrive, we pray for a community of healing and hope for all those in the midst of this adversity.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is walking alongside impacted mid councils to bring God's hope and healing to all affected by flooding. Gifts from One Great Hour of Sharing are helping Presbyterian congregations as they reach out to their affected communities to provide emergency provisions like water, food and other supplies to neighbors in need. Members of the PDA National Response Team have been helping with assessments, connecting with long-term recovery groups and serving as a present witness of the larger church during this difficult time.

You can join in the response and encourage those in need by standing in the "GAP"—Give. Act. Pray.

Give. Financial support for relief efforts can be sent to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys office to be forwarded to Presbytery Disaster Assistance (Account #DR000191).

Act. Learn how your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and [like](#) us on Facebook, [download resources](#) and share updates with your congregation. Make a [Gift of the Heart kit](#). Register your volunteer work team's interest in assisting with cleanup and rebuilding efforts with the PDA Call Center by calling 866-732-6121.

Pray. Pray for families impacted by flooding through loss of property and livelihood, for first responders and all others who put themselves in harm's way to care for those impacted, that communities will work together and build stronger relationships and connections, for God's sustaining grace through it all.

For more information, visit www.presbyterianmission.org/pda.

2016 WINTER PASTORS' SCHOOL
THEME: "SPIRITUALITY FOR MINISTRY"

Monday, February 1–Thursday, February 4

Holiday Inn Express

3605 Cimarron Plaza

Hastings NE 68901-2881

You're invited to our next annual 2016 Winter Pastors' School at Holiday Inn Express in Hastings, Nebraska. This event is sponsored by Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation and Quad Presbyteries. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore will be our featured speaker. Dr. Hamilton-Poore is pastor/Head of Staff at Collegiate Presbyterian Church in Ames, Iowa. He is the author of *Earth Gospel: A Guide to Prayer for God's Creation* and is currently researching/writing a book on Christian spirituality. Winter Pastors' School is a time of renewal, fellowship, spirituality and education. We encourage you to attend.

Click on a link to get more information, to register or to RSVP.

[Get more information](#)

[**Register Now!**](#)

[I can't make it](#)

You can also register at the [OPSF Website](#).

Thank you for your attention and response. We look forward to seeing you at the Winter Pastors' School. Please forward this email to other church leaders using the "Forward Email" link below so others are aware of this event.

Grace and peace,

Dr. Gary S. Eller

Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation

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888 244-6714



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NEWS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

October 14, 2015

BELIEF

October 22 - Minnesota Council of Churches in Minneapolis

“Belief” is a television series exploring humankind’s ongoing search to connect with something greater than ourselves. It invites viewers to witness spiritual journeys through the eyes of the believers. Through vivid, emotional storytelling and cinematic visual imagery, “Belief” illuminates faith and spiritual practices from around the world. This series premieres on Sunday, October 18, 7 pm, on OWN for seven consecutive nights. Because MCC believes that this series is an effective tool for enhancing interfaith empathy, we have facilitated viewing parties and discussion groups in Saint Cloud and the Twin Cities. [Learn more here.](#)

“How would my life be different if I was black?”

Last week Rev. Billy Russell, president of the Minnesota Baptist Convention and a member of the Black Clergy Speakers Bureau, headed to Morris, Minnesota to talk about his life with 150 public school students. Wrote one after the event, “Because of the things you said, I stopped and thought, how would my life be different if I was black living in my community, how would my friendships and life be different?” Putting yourself in someone else’s shoes: that’s what it’s all about. You, too, can host a [Black Clergy Speaker](#). Or [organize a Mother Emanuel AME vigil](#) to repent of racism and pray for hope and healing. Find worship resources for an [anti-racist Sunday morning service](#). Even [volunteer to tutor](#) in a school district with a high level of racial disparities. And in doing so, you will fight racism.

The Most Important Question Clergy Are Increasingly Asked

“My beloved family member is gravely ill. The doctors are recommending some extraordinary and complex medical treatments. I am confused and I am being asked to make a decision. As my spiritual leader, please tell me, what should I do?” [Religion News Service reports on this trend](#) in the clergy’s job description. MCC can help with this part of your job. Contact us to host Graceful Journey workshops on facing the end of life, making values-based decisions, and having difficult conversations with loved ones in your congregation. [Learn more about Graceful Journey here.](#)

Link to more articles: <http://www.mnchurches.org/newsandevents/commongood.html>

CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 20 at 9:00: Next Pres Team meets at the presbytery office

Thursday, October 22: Staff Reviews

Monday, October 26: Deadline to RSVP for the presbytery meeting on October 31

Wednesday, October 28 at 10:00 Personnel Committee meets at the presbytery office

Friday, October 30 at noon: Book Club meets at the presbytery office

Saturday, October 31: Presbytery meeting at Hope Presbyterian Church of Spicer



Pray for the Next Pres Team



MARK 10:46-52

The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

