

# The Homesteader



A Publication of Homestead Presbytery

August 14, 2012 Issue

Dear Kris

Welcome to the The Homesteader!

**[Homesteader Print Version](#)**

Please share this with other members of your congregation - You are welcome to use it as a Sunday bulletin insert, forward as an email, print copies OR include all or part of it in your own church newsletter.



## **The Parable of the Trampoline**

By Rev. Ray McCalla, Wayne First Presbyterian

Once upon a time, a family received a trampoline as a gift. Of course, trampolines don't come in completed form; they come in large, heavy boxes that say, innocently, "some assembly required." So the parents of this family set about one day to assemble their trampoline for their eager children. They followed the instructions as best they could-translating broken English and deciphering bad drawings-carefully putting the springs on in alternating fashion. But the "some assembly required" was a disaster. The "trampoline" looked like it had been in a tornado, and the parents of the family were ready to take the whole thing to the scrap metal yard. There were even a few discouraging words overheard during the process!

Have you ever felt that way? Frustrated? Angry? Discouraged? Like your life is at an intolerable point? Like you could just strangle someone for what they have put you through? It happens to the best of us. Life is "some assembly required," to say the least. And often times, when it comes to relationships with others, we can get ourselves bent out of shape until we are ready to throw the whole thing away. But there is a better way than the scrap yard.

The trampoline family-although frustrated and tired-decided to start all over again on their project. After they disassembled everything, they used duct tape to hold the legs together. Then they carefully reinstalled each of the 160 springs, making sure that the frame kept its shape and integrity. And finally, with grace and patience, the trampoline was complete, the children were happy, the parents felt accomplished, and the difficult trial was more-or-less forgotten because of the successful assembly.

The wonky trampoline is a parable of sorts. Sometimes, when we are at a breaking point, we need to start over again: follow God's instructions, practice patience and grace, and calmly seek to right what was wrong-even if it does take a little duct tape in the process. When we feel we are ready to discard relationships, we need to ask forgiveness, offer mercy, and take the time to get it right. And the reward might just make us forget about all the trouble we had before.



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### **[PresbyterianChurches.org](#)**

Awesome resources to assist congregations with the upcoming special campaign and to help with Hospitality and ministry outreach ideas.

Check it out today!

[30 Second TV Spot](#)

[30 Second Radio Spot](#)

## **[OWLS Celebration](#)**

Older, Wiser, Livlier Saints  
September 18 - 19

## **[FALL 2012 Homestead Presbytery Session](#)**

### **[Records Review Schedule](#)**

**[Saturday, September 8](#)**

9:30 am

@ LNK Good Shepherd

2 pm @ Tecumseh

**[Saturday, October 6](#)**

9:30am @ North Bend

2 pm @ Wayne

**[Saturday, November 3](#)**

2:00 pm @ Beatrice

## **[Presbyterian Youth Triennium](#)**

**[July16-20, 2013](#)**

Homestead Presbytery's  
Registrar is

Rev. Cathy Allen

tworevs52@yahoo.com

or 402-892-3362

**[Homestead Presbyterian  
Women Reading List](#)**



## **Pawnee City After-School**

By Rev. Duane Westing

Maybe your church is like Pawnee City, who has not been able to attract children, youth, and young families to our church services since those that have grown up in the church graduated from High School. We have tried to maintain Sunday School Classes, but in recent years, despite our best efforts (sending letters, flyers, calling, visiting, advertising), not a single child has come to Sunday School. On the other hand, we have maintained an after-school program, without advertising, and our attendance is really more than we can handle (as many as 28).

For eleven years we have opened our doors to children and youth, one day a week after school for snacks, a time of teaching and prayer, games, and a variety of community help activities including raking leaves, activities at our nursing home, caroling, picking up litter, collecting food for our action center, and various chores around the church. Sometimes we go fishing and have a campfire at our local pond. We also invited people from our area in to present hobbies, crafts, and other special activities like rope tying, drawing, and last spring, Rev. Jim McNeal agreed to lead the kids in putting on a program called "Surfin' Through the Scriptures". For four Thursdays they practiced scripture reading and memory, singing, dancing, and invited parents in for a year ending program and cook out for all. And yes, we had to deal with kids going and coming from ball practice, and other activities, but it was a great success with over 60 attending.

Tell us what's going on in the life of your congregation or ministry -  
Church news, event promotion, mission articles and photos are all welcome!

Please submit articles to [krisp@homesteadpres.org](mailto:krisp@homesteadpres.org)  
or mail to 1135 Eastridge Road, Lincoln, NE 68510

### **Contact Information**

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