



The Homesteader

A Publication of Homestead Presbytery

November 6, 2012 Issue

Dear Kris

Welcome to the The Homesteader!

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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.



Holy Smoke The Balloon Moment!

by Richard "Doc" Wyatt, Executive Presbyter
Psalm 19:4b,ff

What gives you energy? I mean the kind that gets you excited, makes you jump up, raise your arms and shout. The thing that not only makes you smile, but makes your heart glad all over.

Being relatively new to our great state, I have only recently been privileged to attend a home University of Nebraska football game. And I was thrilled by the whole experience. I've gone at least once each year since coming to Homestead. I look forward to it. What I experienced on the first touchdown by the Huskers was astonishing. There was energy! The whole stadium jumped up, raised their arms and cheered! Balloons from all over went up, dotting the sky with red polka dots. The joy was not only self-evident, it was contagious. Sharing the moment with everyone else magnified the joy and the energy.

I got to thinking...what is it in the church that gives us that kind of energy. Where is it, in our church life that we have that experience of unleashed joy...our "balloon moment"?

I think for some of us, we don't think of church in that way. But what if we all did? Wouldn't we all like to feel like releasing balloons of joy when we think about our church?

It is possible! I know many of our congregations have experienced those moments, and those moments have inspired a renewed energy and a sustaining energy. I've seen it. A youth group takes its first mission trip. A congregation burns its mortgage. A new pastor is given a welcoming reception. A community dinner ignites a congregation to new possibilities.

Sometimes these energy moments come naturally from the life of ministry and mission in a congregation. Sometimes, a congregation needs a little help. I've also seen how a little help can make a big difference. And in Homestead, there are several such helps. A team can help a session think new thoughts, there are coaches to guide a congregation through a series of re-energizing seasons, and mentors are available to spark a host of hospitality activities in the congregation.

I am heartened by the stories of energy in our churches. Tell me your balloon story. Drop me a line and I will share them with everyone.
richardw@homesteadpres.org

Why I Love My Church....

Presbytery is my church. I love my church because I am able to have fun with my friends from various churches as we worship and hear someone else preaching, listen to the reading of scripture, and support one another in prayers. I feel supported in times of need - like hospital visitation for my family, and also kind words when needed. Plus my church puts up with my brand of humor.

Duncan Nichol, pastor,
Tekamah, NE

Send us a note about why you love your church!

krisp@homestead.org

[PYT 2013](#)

Registration

for High
School age

youth begins **January 31- May 31, 2013 (Fall 2013 freshman thru graduating spring of 2013)**

Cost: \$469.00 per person

Homestead Presbytery covers transportation costs

Registrar: Rev. Cathy Allen
twevrs52@yahoo.com

or 402-892-3362

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PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM
July 16-20, 2013 • Purdue University
www.presbyterianyouthtriennial.org

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Report of Fall Gathering by Joan Berglund, Moderator

Our Fall Gathering was held Oct. 20th at the Presbyterian Church in Fremont, NE. In past years we have met at Camp Calvin Crest which is near Fremont. Our registration was up and the women liked the church setting rather than the camp setting.

Our theme this year was "MISSION POSSIBLE: PW OFFERS HOPE" and the scripture from Isaiah 43:18, Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! This speaks volumes about what we need to do to keep this organization alive and active. This is happening in other Presbyteries, we need to step up and excite the women in the pews about all the great and wonderful things that PW does and can continue to do with all of us working together. Let us not stand still or look back but keep moving forward as the scripture says, "See, I am doing a New Thing!". Our speakers who were members of our Presbytery, gave us reports on the Churchwide Gathering and General Assembly. The speakers for the Churchwide Gathering were Joan Berglund, Christy Abraham, Maggie Horak and Terri Sherman. The Reverends Cathy and Neal Allen spoke about General Assembly. Our mission worker from the Czech Brethren, Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz told us about her experiences. Linda Hora, our Synod global exchange representative to India, did a slide presentation which showed some of the really poor areas in India.

Music was provided for us by our wonderful Kris Peterson and her aunt Pat Watts.

What a great day it was. Being with old and new friends is always a joy. We are a family. Quoting from our new Moderator, Mary Jorgensen, "Presbyterian Women is the best kept secret in the denomination-and it's our own fault. Don't get me wrong, we know that we do great things. We know we're one of the strongest and most active organizations related to the PCUSA.; we're just too polite to say anything about it! It's time we get over our lady-like behavior and start bragging about how wonderful we are.

She challenged us to tell someone about Presbyterian Women every month, every week, every day! Invite them to your next PW event; tell them about everything we are doing. We're Presbyterian Women and we are wonderful! Who are you going to tell? When are you going to tell them?"

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
or mail to 1135 Eastridge Road, Lincoln, NE 68510

Contact Information

Congregational Resource Coordinator, Kris Peterson

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about her life in Africa as a YAV -
check it out at
<http://gmyav2012.blogspot.com/>



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