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Homesteader - June 3, 2014

Pentecost

Celebrating The Birth of the Church

An Opportunity for Discipling a New Congregation

Pentecost celebrates the start of the Christian church. As Peter and the disciples told of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit descended upon the people and the disciples were identified by fire above their heads. The gospel was heard by each person present, in their own language, and thousands believed! We are told the church increased in numbers as the disciples carried the message to other towns and cities throughout the Roman Empire. As we celebrate the 'birthday' of the Church, we celebrate the beginnings of our own congregation. Whether the congregation is fairly new, or over a century old, people came at it's start to help establish each congregation. Perhaps a minister from the old country was sent. Trained by others and sent by others to serve a new fellowship in America. Perhaps a congregation formed because of the growth in the community. In the 1950s and 1960s the General Assembly employed a network of ministers through its Board of Home Missions to preach and establish congregations. Before that, the General Assembly made grants to build churches. Now, the General Assembly has a grant program for new worshipping communities and for new church developments. In all of this, presbyteries have been a working partner. Homestead Presbytery wants to continue this tradition of encouraging new churches to grow disciples and witness. To help in this effort, we have established the Homestead Presbytery Pentecost Offering. Funds given in this special offering will be dedicated to assisting establishment of a new church or new worshipping community on

Youth Mission Trip

The Youth Mission Trip left today for Estes Park Colorado - 50 Youth and leaders began their journey to Colorado to assist with Flood Clean up from the Summer 2013 Floods that ravages Estes Park. 5 churches have come together - (Lincoln) First Presbyterian, Good Shepherd Presbyterian, First Plymouth, (Omaha) Presbyterian Church of the Master, and (Bellevue) Avery Presbyterian Church. Please keep these youth and leaders, as well as the community of Estes Park in your prayers this week. If you'd like to follow along, you are invited to read the blog by [Good Shepherd](#) or Tweets from Lincoln First PC: 1pcyayam The youth and their leaders will be returning to Lincoln Sunday, June 8 at First Presbyterian Church in the evening.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance- Responding to Tornadoes

Severe thunderstorms moved across the Central and Southern United States April 25 through April 28, 2014. Strong winds, large hail and at least 30 tornadoes were reported. PDA has been in contact with mid councils in the affected areas, and One Great Hour of Sharing funds and funds designated for disaster response in the United States are available for immediate disbursement. You can stand in the GAP for disaster survivors and help the church with this response.

Give. Share your financial blessings by designating gifts to [DR000015-2014 tornadoes](#).

Act. Like us on [Facebook](#) and share updates with your congregation and others.

Pray. Please pray for the success of those involved

Pentecost Sunday - June 8, 2014.

It seems appropriate that at a time of celebration of the Birthday of the Church, we give a gift for the birth of a new congregation. [Bulletin inserts](#).

in rescue and early response efforts; and that through the response of the faith community, the people and communities impacted by the tornadoes and those offering assistance will be reminded of the faithful hope that is found in Christ.

Blessing Opportunity

You have probably heard about the New Pool Project at Calvin Crest. They been raising funds for several years now. In the past few years, many donors have given sacrificially to make this dream a reality. They are very close to their goal. A generous anonymous donor has pledged a \$50,000 matching gift to help reach the goal. They are asking for your generous donation to help match the \$50,000. There are a few ways to give!

1. You can send a check to Calvin Crest and designate it for the pool project.
2. You can donate online through [PayPal](#).
3. You can give through your church offering, or through the Homestead Presbytery office.

Thank you!

Keep Thinking...

Arnold Toynbee: "**Nothing fails like success**" In other words, when a response is equal to the challenge we call that success. But for the next new challenge, the old, once successful response, no longer works.

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