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## The Homesteader - October 7, 2015

### Grace & Gratitude

The Christian life is shaped by gratitude - gratitude for the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. It is by God's grace that we receive the gift of our own lives, and so we are called to shape the whole of our lives by our grateful response. "The stewardship of all of life" is a common phrase, yet too often stewardship is reduced to an annual program, the annual program is reduced to the means to achieve an end, and the end is reduced to the church budget. "Gratitude for all of life" may be a way to broaden and deepen our understanding and our use of the gifts God has given us.



Paul's letters often begin with expressions of gratitude.

Read through [Paul's Letters](#). Perhaps the churches of the Presbyterians, like Paul, can thank God for every expression of generous faith, liberal hope, and charitable love within it.

### Outstanding Homesteader: Nominations Due by October 15

Please think of someone you know who has done a lot for Homestead Presbytery and nominate him or her for the Outstanding Homesteader award. The nomination form is on the Presbytery website. Click [here](#) to download the nomination requirements and form.

### Pope's visit was on Common Ground

Presbyterians are among those that were eagerly anticipating the September 22-27 visit of Pope Francis to the United States. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly, was part of a delegation of religious leaders who welcomed Pope Francis to his first official engagement-a meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House.

One reason Presbyterians were eager to welcome the pope is because "he has brought a certain openness to the Catholic Church," said Robina Winbush, director of ecumenical relations for the Office of the General Assembly. Another reason the papal visit has stirred interest among Presbyterians, Winbush says, is because "the PC(USA) has a long history of dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church, both nationally and internationally." To read the full article from PC (USA) click [here](#).

## 2016 Mission Yearbooks

The 120 year old Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study will become an online-only free digital resource starting in 2016. This move broadens the reach of the book's audience by sharing its inspiring content in a timelier manner and also demonstrates good stewardship of church resources. The Mission Yearbooks will be available online as of January 1st, 2016 for free!! If you would like to read an article or find out more information please visit [2016 Mission Yearbooks](#).

## DREAM Grant

Dream Grant is available in 2015 and 2016 through the General Assembly to facilitate new ministries (not new worshiping communities - that is a separate program) titled DREAM Grant (Developmental, Risky, Experimental, Adaptive Mission). One-time grants of up to \$10,000 are available.

This is the second of two windows for applications in 2015. Applications are due by November 15, 2015. There will be two windows of opportunity in 2016, updates to follow. We encourage you to contact [Mission Program Grants associate Tim McCallister](#) for more information.

## Your Pastors Work so Hard

If you're tempted to think that most of the hours they're on the clock are Saturdays or Sundays, consider how many hours they spend organizing, counseling, leading, administrating, planning, and preparing. October is Pastor's Appreciation Month. This is the time of year to go beyond saying, "Nice sermon," or "Thanks for being there." Look at these [10 Ideas for Pastor Appreciation Month](#) and remember that your pastor works all year round!

## Preaching in Nebraska

Rev. Doc Wyatt preached at Faiths United Parish in Niobrara on October 4th, 2015. The Congregation has worked with the ELCA Congregation across the parking lot and is now searching for a called pastor together.



## Blessing Opportunity 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

After an unusually wet late spring and early summer, heavy rains and flooding continue to plague several communities in the United States. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been monitoring and responding to flooding situations all over. Donations are always needed and very welcome.

*Please give directly to your congregation or send to Homestead Presbytery.*

## Keep Thinking...

"The word 'listen' contains the same letters as the word 'silent'."  
-Alfred Brendel

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