

FIRST MONDAY



August, 2009

First Monday is a monthly mailing to Church Professionals and committee members in The Miami Presbytery from the Presbytery Staff including information of events and news of interest as submitted by appropriate Presbytery entities. Publication of such information does not imply presbytery endorsement of the views and opinions expressed or implied. This month we have included:

1. **The Prayer List**
2. The **August Calendar**
3. Tom's Thoughts on Being Average
4. **Presbytery News – *What's Happening Around The Presbytery.***

Submissions must be in by the 25th of the month or the last working day prior in order to be placed in the packet. Email submissions to Tom Oxley at the Presbytery, tom.oxley@miamipresbytery.org.

MIAMI PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST



August, 2009

- 2 August** **Covenant Presbyterian Church** located at 415 North Main Street, Springboro; Pastor Kenneth Howard.
- 9 August** **Somerville United Presbyterian Church:** Pastor Edward Brown.
- 16 August** **Oxford Presbyterian Church** located at 101 North Main Street, Oxford; Co-Pastors Mark and Barbara Barnes.
- 23 August** **New Jersey Presbyterian Church**, 780 Fairview Drive, Carlisle; Pastor Jeff Foster.
- 30 August** **Central Presbyterian Church** located at 4699 Lamme Road, Dayton; Pastor David Jackson.
- 2 August** **Westminster Presbyterian Church** located at 125 North Wilkinson Street, Dayton; Pastor George McConnel.

The Presbytery committee or group we ask you to pray for: For the month of August, please keep the Committee on Preparation for the Ministry in your prayers.

Thank you.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Please keep Springboro Covenant	27	28 4:30pm - COM	29	30	31	1
2 Please keep Somerville church in	3	4	5	6 8am - Agenda @ Panera	7	8
9 Please keep Oxford church in your	10	11 5pm - Trustees	12 9:30am - Nominating? 12pm - Staff Mtng/Lunch 3:30pm - Network Spt	13 7am - Council	14	15
16 Please keep Carlisle New Jersey	17	18	19	20 8:30am - COPM	21 1pm - PW Coordinators	22
23 Please keep Dayton Central church	24	25 4:30pm - COM	26	27 5pm - SDOP?	28	29
30 Please keep Dayton Westminster	31 5pm - COR?	1 5pm - Trustees	2	3 8am - Agenda 12pm - Staff Mtng/Lunch	4	5

The Guy in the Middle – Hiding in Plain Sight

Have you ever noticed that people either talk about the best dressed or worst dressed, the richest or the poorest, the biggest or the smallest of people, places or things around them? Nobody ever seems to notice average. Average people are the people you see every day, but when you get home, you don't remember their name. Average buildings are houses or businesses that you pass by and couldn't tell anyone what color they were, or how many floors there were. I was an average student in school, never smart enough for anyone to pay attention, never bad enough to be known. I understand average pretty well.

We often think about the scripture, about "the poorest of these" and we make efforts to do ministry to them. We consider the "best" people are good enough and probably don't need our help or our concern, outside perhaps of an occasional prayer request that they stay in good health or something like that, so long as their being the best means they produce great movies, make great cars, or do something else we consider important. While recognizing the best, and ministering to the worst, do we forget about the average? Working with military camouflage and sorting out what things can be hidden and what can't, the old "hide it in plain sight" adage comes along.

When we look at the second coming of our Lord, we tend to think of His return as the poor beggar. We hope we will not turn away from Him. That He will notice that we gave Him food or drink, put bandages on His wounds. We assume He would never come back as a rich man, or a movie star, music star or anything like that. Certainly not as a politician or comedian.

But what if He came back average? How could we tell? I have this picture in my head, somewhat like the Joe the Plumber concept. Somebody who is not too light skinned to be "black", and not too dark skinned to be "white", somebody who would walk through China Town and possibly be mistaken as a native of that community, or any other area He might choose to walk through. I see Him as the high-school student, perhaps dressed a bit "Goth", perhaps as the proverbial "nerd", but somebody common enough that we don't really notice Him. I see him as average. Not the beautiful European image we have in so many wonderful pieces of art. And being average, I fear many people will pass Him by, never realize who He is. Hidden in plain sight.

When we practice "love one another", on our way home from helping at the homeless shelter, or networking to help find somebody a job, volunteering at church, or just a regular day at work or play, whatever it is that we are called to do in our ministry for others, don't forget to stop and notice the average things in life. God made them, too. The smile or friendly greeting you share just might make a difference in an otherwise average life.

Tom

First Monday Job Corner: Drop us a line if there is a job opening you need to fill at your church (and please let us know if you want it continued in future months).

Southminster Presbyterian Church is seeking a Director of Music. This is a 15 hour a week position, requiring skill in direction of both vocal and bell choirs. Comfort with contemporary praise music would also be helpful. We would welcome a motivated, spiritually focused, team player to join us in our ministry of worship. Contact Pastor Eric Pasanchin at 433-1810 or eric@sminster.com.

Fairmont Presbyterin Church has openings for a part-time Chancel Choir Director, Bell Choir Director, and Praise Band Leader. Positions can be combined as individual qualifications dictate. Contact the church at 937-299-3539.

Cedarville United Presbyterian Church needs a Part Time youth director: 15hrs per week. \$15 per hour. Sep through May (9 mo). Experience desired. Send resume to bdfrazier1@hotmail.com or mail to Cedarville United Presbyterian Church. Send by September 8th.

Please note that the Presbytery website also lists some area job hunting assistance. If you know of somebody in your congregation that needs some help looking for their next job, please share that information with them.

Miami Presbytery is a Member of the Pastoral Counseling Center of Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton: Our Covenant Agreement with the Counseling Center ensures that all members of the Presbytery and their households will have access to the Center for individual and group counseling, at 50% of the \$100 fee. A counselor is available 24-hours a day for crisis and urgent needs. Call 208-6606 for an appointment. Be sure to tell the receptionist that you are a member of the Miami Presbytery. The Pastoral Counseling Center is also available to Clergy and other Church Professionals for confidential consultation regarding pastoral care and counseling needs. Please contact a member of the Committee on Ministry for more information.

The Shadow Effect - A Journey From Your Darkest Thought To Your Greatest Dream "The Shadow Effect" premieres in Dayton at The Neon 130 East Fifth Street on Wednesday, Aug 5, 2009 at 8:00PM. Presented for everyone by The Dayton Chapter of the ManKind Project. Admission is a suggested \$5.00 donation. With appearances from some of the most brilliant and evolutionary thinkers of the 21st century, including Deepak Chopra, Marianne Williamson, Mark Victor Hansen, James Van Praagh, and others, this world-class cinematic experience pulls no punches as it traces the stories of individuals who have met with some of life's harshest experiences — war, child abuse, racism, a German concentration camp — but learned how to face their terror, heal their wounds and meet their higher, heroic selves in the process. Visually beautiful and highly stylized, with vignettes and special effects that dramatize the concepts and the real life stories, this film unveils the fascinating story of why we do what we do, fear what we fear, and why good people do bad things. "The Shadow" will leave you breathing a little deeper and feeling more compassion and kindness for your own dark, conflicted, or repressed urges. It may even inspire you to make the most life-altering step of all - to embrace your entire self.

Please contact Stan Gockel, Interim Pastor, Bellbrook Presbyterian Church (848-2378, 513-594-7970), for more information.

We are pleased to announce the latest round of **New Church Development training events** sponsored by our colleagues in the Office of Church Growth of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The first of these sessions is the “**New Church Development Training for Presbytery Teams**” event at [Riverside](#) Presbyterian Church in Sterling, Virginia, September 21—24, 2009. This event will focus on the third task of the discernment process—*Developing a Mission Plan*. Presbytery and church teams working to start a new church are strongly encouraged to attend this event. Teams that have at least 3 people will receive the added benefit of working with coaches on their projects during all of the break-out sessions. This period of training and discernment will not present “the only way” to start new churches, but will also explore the many possibilities for starting new churches for the people that God has placed on your hearts. Teams will go on area site visits and will hear from presenters with a wide variety of experiences and contexts. You may register online by going to www.riversidechurch.com. The online registration will accept payments via credit card (Visa, MasterCard) or electronic check. Registration deadline is August 15, 2009.

The next session is the “**New Church Development Pastor Discernment**” event held at [Hot Metal Bridge](#) Faith Community in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 15—17, 2009. Experience three days of prayer, discernment, and conversation with NCD coaches as you contemplate if God is calling you to New Church Development ministry. There will also be the option of staying an extra day to visit and worship with several NCDs in the Pittsburgh area. Space is limited to 25 participants who will be selected based on two letters of reference and a brief essay on “*Why I Would Like to Attend this Discernment Event*”. All participant’s meals, lodging, and transportation (up to \$250) will be covered by the Office of Church Growth and will be reimbursed at the event. Email references and essay to Sherry Britton (sherry.britton@pcusa.org) or Meredith Kemp-Pappan (meredith.kemp-pappan@pcusa.org). Registration deadline is September 1, 2009.

The third session is the “**Can I Get a Witness?—New Church Development Team Training**” held at [San Clemente](#) Presbyterian Church, San Clemente, California, November 2—4, 2009. Questions dealt with at this event will be what will your new church grow into, will it be around 10 years from now, and will it make an impact for the gospel? The answers to these questions can be found by examining the end purpose of your discipleship training. For us to develop healthy growing congregations, we need to form disciples who exist “Not for ourselves, but for those we have yet to meet”—discipleship goes beyond the self-satisfaction of individual believers. The “Can I Get a Witness?” New Church Development Team Training Conference will focus on discipleship that is intent on reaching those outside the church community, sowing the gospel and seeing communities of believers grow, teaching the church to be a witness in both word and deed to the world, replicating churches through the process of church planting, and learning from our sisters and brothers in majority-world churches. We are encouraging the leadership team of your new church to come and learn what God is doing in the world and wants to do in your church. The price is the same if you bring 1 or 4 people. Increase the value and participate together. Register and pay online through the San Clemente Presbyterian Church website, <http://www.scpres.org/>. Registration deadline is September 1, 2009.

Tim McCallister, Associate, Office of Mission Program Grants, General Assembly Council, Tim.McCallister@pcusa.org, (888) 728-7228, X5230, (502) 569-5230, Fax # (502) 333-7251

The Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women in Miami Valley Presbytery cordially invites you and your members to a “MEET & GREET” on Saturday, August 15th at Xenia Memorial United Presbyterian Church, 343 W. Ankeney Mill Rd. at 1:00 p.m.

Meet Joshua and Greet other Presbyterian Women
in our Presbytery and the Northeast Neighborhood.

Vann Rogers, Coordinator of Studies/Spiritual Development of PW in MVP will introduce the Horizons Bible Study for this year - JOSHUA - as she learned about the study at Churchwide Gathering this summer.

Members of the Coordinating Team will be here to bring you up-to-date info. concerning local women’s Circles and Associations. Many of these officers are also attending Churchwide Gathering this July.

Helen Watkins, Treasurer of PW in MVP will be here to consult with any treasurers of local women’s groups who come.

We thank the Women of Xenia Memorial for hosting us this day and serving light refreshments.

“Meet & Greet” is open to all women of the Presbytery, especially in the Northeast Neighborhood. Directions to the church are:

From south, west, or east, come into Xenia to the center of town: Corner of Rt. 35 and Rt. 68; turn north on Rt. 68 at the Courthouse (N. Detroit St.) The second light is West Ankeney Mill Rd. Turn west here (left). From the north, come south on Rt. 68 to W. Ankeney Mill Rd. and turn west (right). The Church is on the south (left) side across from the fairground race track. Turn left either before or after the church to the parking lot in back and come into the central door in the back of the church. There are several handicapped spaces and ramps to the sidewalk. Registration table will be just inside the central door and we will direct you to the activities room.

Please reply approximate number of women coming to Helen Watkins, 937-299-0855 or HelenandDaryl@msn.com

HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU IN XENIA ON AUGUST 15TH