



Update



Missouri School of Religion Launches Into Online Education

After the success of last year's online course "History and Polity of the Disciples of Christ" we are excited to offer additional courses in 2008. Last year's "History and Polity" course included 15 students and reached as far as Iowa, Illinois, North Carolina, and Idaho. Our next course "Evangelism in Your Local Context" taught by Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian has 16 enrolled including students from Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Virginia. The course will run for four weeks beginning August 2nd. Two upcoming courses include "History and Polity of the Disciple of Christ" taught by Dr. Ken Watson and "Introduction to Christian Thought" taught by Rev. Christine Isham-Walsh will begin September 2nd. For more information on these two courses or additional courses to be offered contact Missouri School of Religion or visit our website at www.missourischoolofreligion.org.

TWO GRANTS RECEIVED TO STRENGTHEN THE CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

Two grants recently approved by the **Oreon E. Scott Foundation** and the **A.P. Green Foundation** will be used to review, expand and strengthen the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry program.

- ◆ The grant from the Oreon E. Scott Foundation will provide funding to evaluate the effectiveness of the program curriculum through conversations with and surveys of students, alumni, leadership in small/rural churches, faculty and regional and area ministers.
- ◆ The funding from the A.P. Green Foundation will be directed to scholarships, recruitment of bi-vocational persons for ministry and increase the visibility of the program across diverse faith communities and denominations.

*Faithbased Re-entry Event:
"Opening Gates, Opening Hearts:
Faithful responses to
offender re-entry"*

Saturday, September 6, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
First Christian Church, Jefferson City, MO

*Sponsored by Missouri School of Religion
and the ecumenical community*

Every year, men and women are faced with the challenge of establishing a life after prison. But how do our congregations meet the needs of Christ in the person of the re-entering offender? This one-day workshop focuses on meeting the needs of Christ in the person of the ex-offender and features keynotes and breakout sessions on prison ministries and faith-based re-entry programs. Registration is \$25 prior to August 22nd, after that time it is \$35 and includes lunch, registration packet and CD of information. [Click here for more information.](#)

Calendar of Events

August

8-9 Understanding the Bible
Rev. Fran Schnarre

21-23 History and Polity of the Disciples of Christ
Dr. Ken Watson

21 Registration deadline for online courses: History and Polity of the Disciples of Christ and Introduction to Christian Thought

September

5 Certificate in Pastoral Ministry course Introduction to the New Testament
Dr. Bob Atkinson

6 *Faithbased Reentry*
Opening Gates, Opening Hearts:
Faithful responses to offender reentry

26 OLA Boundaries Training
Southstreet Christian Church,
Springfield
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

27 NWA Boundaries Training
First Christian Church, Cameron
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.


October

4 NEA Boundaries Training
First Christian Church,
Macon
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

14-18 Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course
First Christian Church, Kirksville

23 *Mid-Missouri Partners in Continuing Education*
A Call to Care: Ministry Among
Persons with Mental Illness
Dr. Craig Rennebohm
Rockbridge Christian Church, Columbia

OSAGE COUNTY FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE PROJECT UPDATE



Our Osage County Faith Community Nurse Ministry continues to provide a Registered Nurse at the service of three parishes. Currently two R.N.s are employed. The opportunities are great but the laborers (R.N.s in this case) are few. We continue to explore funding possibilities.

Allow me to share a few of the opportunities. Perhaps the greatest is keeping elderly parishioners in their homes. "I just want to stay here in my own home", is a frequent comment when I visit. Making this possible has resulted in communication with Family, fellow parishioners, and agencies in Osage County. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a County to care for its elderly.

To increase the social experiences of the elderly in my two parishes, I have started the Heart of Mary Funfest and the Assumption Prayer Group. We meet monthly for praying, caring and sharing.

Boundaries Training Offered in Three Missouri Locations

Boundaries Training explores the meaning and practice of forming healthy relationships in the context of ministry including resources from the work of Marie Fortune and the Faith Trust Institute. MSR is offering three opportunities for clergy to receive this training in 2008. The sessions will be led by Dr. Jeanne Hoeft (left), Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. The registration fee of \$50 includes lunch.



9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, September 26	South Street Christian Church, Springfield
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, September 27	First Christian Church, Cameron
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, October 4	First Christian Church, Macon

(Note: this session will fulfill the boundaries training requirement for the Disciples of Christ in the Mid-America and Kansas City regions. Clergy from other denominations should consult their judicatories. **All clergy are welcome.**) [Click here for more information.](#)

A Call to Care:

Ministry Among Persons with Mental Illness

Thursday, October 23, 2008 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Rockbridge Christian Church, Columbia
Event Cost: \$65 includes lunch

This event will explore the call of ministers, church members, caregivers, chaplains, and pastoral counselors to ministry among persons with mental illness. Laity and clergy are invited to attend.

Dr. Rennebohm's morning keynote, "[The Beloved Stranger: Mental Illness, Spiritual Care and Recovery](#)," will focus on the role of religious professionals—clergy, spiritual care providers, pastoral counselors and chaplains—in responding to the faith questions, concerns and needs of persons facing mental illness and their families. There will be time for questions and answers.

The afternoon session, "[The Way of Companionship: Growing the Congregation as a Healing Community](#)," will focus on increasing the capacity of the local church for mental health ministry. Among other challenges, congregations are called to minister to the needs of veterans returning with post-traumatic stress disorder, aging baby-boomers and their geriatric mental health needs, persons with depression and brain injuries, and young adults facing the onset of mental illness.

FEATURED SPEAKER:



Craig Rennebohm, D.Min. graduated from Carleton College in 1966 and Chicago Theological Seminary in 1970. He was ordained in the United Church of Christ and served in the parish ministry for sixteen years, eleven of them in Seattle. In 1986, Craig entered the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, where he concentrated on pastoral care and received the Doctor of Ministry degree. He returned to Seattle in 1987 and founded the Mental Health Chaplaincy.

Craig's long-awaited book, [Souls in the Hands of a Tender God](#), written with David Paul, was published by [Beacon Press](#) in May of 2008. The book tells uplifting stories of Chaplaincy experiences. It's a book for a wide audience that introduces the public to the real world of people with mental illness, explores what we can all do to help those in distress, and challenges us to create caring communities.

Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course

MSR's annual Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course will be offered in Kirksville, MO from **Tuesday, October 14 through Saturday, October 18**. A Missouri Foundation for Health grant is enabling MSR to offer this training for \$100 per person.

This registration fee includes lodging at the Comfort Inn, classes at First Christian Church, and all lunches.

Alvyne Rethemeyer, recently retired director of the International Parish Nurse Association in St. Louis, will be the instructor. [Click here for more information.](#)

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at Krystalmsr@earthlink.net or call 573-635-1187

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