



Missouri School of Religion - Center for Rural Ministry

E~Highlights

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What Does Your Church Need?

We asked that question this summer at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (DOC) in Indianapolis. We also asked ministers to fill in the blank: I wish I had learned _____ in seminary. The answers filled sheet after sheet on two large flipcharts at the MSR exhibit booth!



We now have a partner working with us to develop online continuing education for pastors and church leaders. He is Rev. Scott Woolridge, Associate Regional Minister of the Christian Church of Illinois-Wisconsin. For several years, Scott has been coordinating and presenting continuing education for churches in his region. As a Sabbatical project, he will be working on the development of online opportunities. We look forward to the first of these online continuing education modules in 2010.

Scott will be working on such topics as the training of elders, the development of vision within a congregation, practical ministry roles such as funerals, weddings, etc., stewardship, evangelism, pastoral relations committees and personnel committees, board leadership, spiritual gifts, the role of the deaconate, growing healthy congregations, etc. If you have ideas about useful training for yourself or your congregation--regardless of your denomination-- please contact Scott at scott@cciwdisciples.org.

It's time to start!

If you have thought about enrolling in the Certificate of Pastoral Ministry program, it is a good time to begin, whether online or at the Rickman Center in Jefferson City. In October, Fran Schnarre will be teaching an online introductory Understanding the Bible class for the Certificate of Pastoral Ministry program. It will be offered online again in the spring of 2010. The course will also be offered in an overnight session at the Rickman Center January 9-10, May 13-15 and August 13-14.

Farewell and Best Wishes to Kay Miller

Parish Nurse Planning Committee Chairperson

In 2003, Kay Miller became the Parish Nurse Planning Committee Chairperson, and a member of the Board of Trustees. Earlier this year we received her letter of resignation, as she and her husband have retired to Colorado. In her resignation letter Kay wrote: "I have been privileged to serve as the Parish Nurse Committee Chair for the past six years. Many friendship have been formed through Board and Parish Nurse activities, and I will hold this mission close to my heart."

We sincerely thank Kay for almost 6 years of dedicated service to both the Parish Nurse Planning Committee and our Board of Trustees.

Calendar of Events

Links in the course/event titles will take you directly to the website for more information when available.

October

- 19 [Rural Church Award Applications](#) Due
19 [John Bennett Award Submissions](#) Due

- 22 **Church Money Matters**
Leader: Preston Gilson
Rickman Center, Jefferson City

November

- 13 **Missouri School of Religion Annual Dinner**, Olivet Christian Church, Columbia

December

- 4-5 Certificate in Pastoral Ministry Course:
"Evangelism in Your Local Context"
Instructor: Bill Tenny-Brittian

Missouri School of Religion Annual Dinner date set for November 13

We hope you can join us November 13th at our Annual Dinner. Olivet Christian Church, Columbia, MO is hosting the event. We will celebrate the growth of our online program, successful continuing, new initiative in parish nursing and our positive financial situation. We have a future and we invite you to be part of it!

Our evening will include:

- ≈ A delicious dinner catered by Jack's Gourmet Restaurant and accompanied by piano music performed by MSR student Joe Jorgensen of First Christian Church, La-Belle.
- ≈ Presentation of the **John Bennett Awards for Service to Church and Community** and the **Rural Church of the Year Awards**. [For an application for these awards click here!](#)
- ≈ Music by "Homeward Bound: Destination Heaven" from Buffalo, Missouri. Members of the group include Tim and Patty Case, Tim and Jennifer Long and Terry and Beverly Gentry.
- ≈ Presentation of Certificates of Pastoral Ministry and MSR stoles to those completing requirements this year:
Patty Case, John Holley, Joe Jorgensen, Jennifer Long, and Deborah Stidham.

Invitations will be sent the second week in October. If you would like to make an early reservation, contact krystalmsr@earthlink.net.

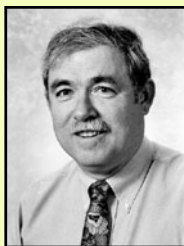


Church Money Matters

October 22, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Rickman Center, Jefferson City, MO
\$50 Registration includes lunch



Church Money Matters is a workshop for pastors, church leaders and members. We will discuss why a healthy and open approach to congregational funds is beneficial to the church. We will look at how outside entities exert influence on the church and money. We will consider how church money can have a positive impact on the church and its mission and how money is often used inappropriately in faith communities.



Our workshop leader is **Dr. Preston Gilson**. Preston has taught finance for over 20 years and has been a church treasurer and diocesan finance committee member. He earned his Ph.D. from St. Louis University. He has served on the MSR Strategic Focus committee for four years. Preston and his wife, The Reverend Christine Gilson, live in Lebanon, MO, where Chris serves as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Date:
December 4-5, 2009

Times:
7:00 p.m. Friday to 5:00
p.m. Saturday

Location:
Rickman Center, Jefferson
City

Cost:
\$125.00
(includes lodging & meals)
\$100 Commuter
(meals only)

Required Reading Texts:
Tenny-Brittian, Bill. *Hitch-
hiker's Guide to Evangelism*
(Chalice Press, 2008).
Reese, Martha Grace. *Un-
binding the Gospel* (Chalice
Press, 2007).
**MUST BE READ BE-
FORE CLASS BEGINS.**

Evangelism in Your Local Context

Professor of Record: Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian

Evangelism in the North American context has "lost its luster" in many respects. Because faith is considered a "private" matter, many in our churches and parishioners have foresworn to simply let it be ... no faith-sharing for them. And yet, this stands in complete contrast to Jesus' great commission to go and make disciples of all nations (people groups).

The *Evangelism in Your Local Context* course is not simply a study about evangelism. Rather, it is a training course that will give you the tools to evaluate and articulate your own theology of evangelism and to exegete both your community's and your congregation's culture in order to design and lead effective evangelism efforts.

Objectives:

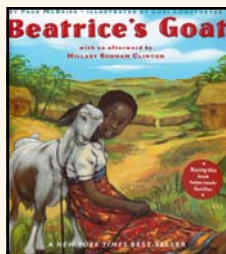
By the end of the course, the student will have the ability to:

- ◆ Articulate their personal understanding and motivation for evangelism;
- ◆ Articulate the North American cultural change from Christendom to post-Christendom;
- ◆ Exegete the community's culture and the local church's culture;
- ◆ Develop successful evangelism efforts in the local church;
- ◆ Model and lead successful evangelism efforts in the local church.

Heifer International Celebrates Through Festival of Sharing

It is not too late! You can still join in the celebration of Heifer International's 65th anniversary and the remarkable work they have accomplished. Since 1944 Heifer has helped over 10.5 million families move themselves from lives of poverty to lives of self sufficiency. These families can be found from Massachusetts to Oregon in the United States and in 52 other countries around the world. World-wide, there were 869 active projects during the year 2008. Festival of Sharing participants are invited to celebrate Heifer's anniversary and the lives that have been changed by supporting one of the projects highlighted at this year's Festival.

If you need more information contact Carol Oliver at 573-474-7155 or at oliver@umocm.com. Please join in celebrating Heifer's 65 years of lending a hand up by supporting one of these projects!



Beatrice Biira, the little girl featured in the children's book, "Beatrice's Goat," and as one of two children featured in the Heifer International video, "The Promise," will be attending the Festival of Sharing at the State Fairgrounds in Sedalia on October 17th. She will be speaking at the worship service and at Youth Fest. Plans are still in progress about other possible venues but she will also visit and to celebrate the Festival and Heifer International's 65th anniversary.

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