

THE VALLEY BRIDGE



September 8, 2015

SEPTEMBER 13: 16TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Christian Education Week Begins

Fellowship of Prayer: First Presbyterian Church of Windom

Pastor - Bonnie Roys

Organist - Joanne Nelson

Office Administrator - Kelly Piotter

Prayer Concerns:

First Presbyterian Windom's New Beginning Group Reunion
Day on Sunday September 20th.

A brief worship using materials from the leaders training retreat will be followed by lunch and a last conversation with the whole congregation together. We will focus on who is our neighbor, how we can use our resources to serve, and how we can make connection with the community.

All who work in the many farms and agricultural business during the upcoming busy harvest season.



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MN Valleys Presbytery
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Willmar MN 56201
320-235-7910

minnesotavalleys.org

Monday-Friday:
8:00-4:30

We're on Facebook, too!

AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

Come celebrate the New Beginning of **Grace First Parish of Russell**—the unification of both First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) and Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA) and the installation of our new pastor on Sunday, September 27 at 9:30. Join the festivities with a special ceremony and potluck to be held after church services, participate in a scavenger hunt around the church, meet Vicar Jeff Greathouse—he is excited to meet members of the church and our community. Special guests from both the presbytery and the synod will be present.

We bid farewell to Rev. Karen Crawford, who has served the **Ebenezer Presbyterian Church of Renville** for the past four years. She has accepted a call to the Merritt Island Presbyterian Church in Florida. Her last Sunday in worship is September 20.

Intergen Sundays at **First Presbyterian Church of Lake Crystal**: Generations are too often divided and even set against the other in today's world. We believe we're called to "oneness" in Christ. We believe faith is formed *across* generational boundaries: through informal mentoring relationships, by modeling one's faith, and by living our faith in our everyday, ordinary lives! Goals of Intergenerational Worship— "Intergen Sundays" — October 4, November 1, November 29 and more: 1) Model our faith to children & youth in worship; 2) Be inclusive: Allow Sunday School students and teachers and helpers to all be a part of a creative, fun, participatory, innovative, inspiring, and Christ-centered worship experience; 3) Create meaningful connections across generations.

The folks at **First Presbyterian Church of Willmar** are gearing up for the annual Church Rummage Sale to be held September 19 from 8:00–1:00. In addition to the typical treasures found at a rummage sale, items for sale include baked goods, craft items, and a car wash fundraiser.

Just a reminder that the Welsh Hymn Festival takes place on Sunday, September 27 at 1:30 at **First Presbyterian Church of Mankato** (220 E Hickory). The afternoon includes visiting conductor Betty Cullingworth of Toronto, The Windom Area Chordhustlers, and four-part congregational singing of Welsh hymns (in English).

Members at **Crosslake Presbyterian Church** are invited to share their stories of faith and life during the Adult Forums beginning in September using words, photos and/or powerpoint presentations. Questions to get you started: When do you first remember hearing about God or Jesus? Did you attend a certain church, Sunday School, or Vacation Bible School?—What do you remember about that? What religious, secular, or Sunday School songs impacted you? What was your own family's religious involvement? Choose photos of you that represent various aspects of your life. Tell about your work history.—What elements of faith did your work require? Were you ever persecuted or teased about your faith? How has your understanding of God changed through the years? What is the Bible to you? What feeds your faith the most? Have you witnessed any miracles or special encounters with God? What are your biggest faith questions?

EVANGELISM SUNDAY 2015

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you...”

Get ready for Evangelism Sunday, September 27, 2015. Our scriptural theme from John 20:21 is centered in the words of Jesus that are at the core of who God is and what God is about. God *sends* Jesus, who with Jesus *sends* the Holy Spirit, and the three together as the Triune God *sends* you and me. We are *sent* into the world— not only gather together—but also to engage those outside the church. For more information, please follow this link: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/evangelism-sunday-2015-father-has-sent-me-so-i-sen/>

Available materials include an introduction, a free sample [“Gathering (Identifying Ministry Shifts in order to Accomplish God’s Mission)”] from our *Engage Mission curriculum*, and worship and liturgy materials—to help you move from an inward “church” focus to an outward “people in your community” focus.

DREAM GRANTS AVAILABLE

NEW GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE through the General Assembly to facilitate new ministries (not new worshipping communities ~ that is a separate program). Titled DREAM Grants (Developmental, Risky, Experimental, Adaptive Mission), these one-time grants of up to \$10,000 are available to provide assistance with start-up costs for new ministry initiatives. Applicants can be churches or mid-councils. In the remainder of 2015, there are two windows for applications, although the first is very soon. For the second window, **applications are due at the synod office by November 15, 2015**. Contact the presbytery office for an application.

TECHNOLOGY GRANTS AVAILABLE

Submitted by Peter Mann

Congregational Resources and Development (CRD) Committee of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery has funds available for technology upgrades at your church. Technology Grants can be used to update office computers, printers, telephone systems, AV, PowerPoint equipment, and other technologies. Grant request forms can be secured by contacting the presbytery office which supplies the form and directs the request. The grant request form can also be found at <http://www.minnesotavalleys.org/forms.html>

How it works: Grants will be honored UP TO \$500 and will be UP TO 50% of the overall project expense. For example, on an \$850 project, CRD would pay \$425, if approved. Once approved, receipts must be submitted to Virginia Molitor. Your church can receive one Technology Grant per calendar year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS SOUGHT APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15

The 222nd General Assembly will meet June 18-25, 2016 in Portland, Oregon.

On October 31, The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys will elect two commissioners (one Teaching Elder and one Ruling Elder), along with two alternate commissioners and a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to participate in the Assembly. The Committee on Representation and Nominations has approved a process for making the nominations of our participants.

Information and application forms are in the hands of every Clerk of Session and are also available on the presbytery's web site. Individuals who wish to be considered for this service to the church are invited to submit an application to the Committee on Representation by September 15.

From <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga/>: The 222nd General Assembly will convene with worship at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, and adjourn no later than noon on Saturday, June 25. Some important events precede the official start of the assembly: on Saturday morning, commissioners and advisory delegates are invited take part in Riverside Conversations - a debate-free time to begin conversing about some of the topics before the assembly.

The [proposed docket](#) includes more information on the official assembly meetings.

The assembly schedule will include many other optional events and meals sponsored by various entities and organizations. These can be good ways to learn about church programs, meet other attendees with similar interests, and hear outstanding speakers.

Opportunities abound for spiritual nourishment at the assembly. The assembly begins with worship on Saturday morning. On Sunday morning, all participants will have the opportunity to worship in area churches; transportation will be provided. Worship services and bible studies are planned throughout the week.

LEADING LONG, LEADING WELL WORKSHOPS

September 28–October 1, 2015 in Jamestown, ND

Leading well in today's church is especially challenging for clergy. How do you remain resilient so you can focus on leading God's mission in the world, when the future of God's church feels so out of focus? Adaptive Leadership is a style of leadership that's needed for the 21st century church, and staying its course requires resilient leaders who understand the importance of their own self-care.

In April, the Presbytery of Northern Plains offered a two-day workshop for its clergy members – Leading Long, Leading Well. The leaders of the event, Rev. Dr. Mark Sundby and Ms. Mary Kay DuChene, were superb and the reception was so enthusiastic that the participants requested a Part II.

Mark and Mary Kay are coming back! Part 1 of Leading Long, Leading Well will be repeated, in Jamestown, ND, on September 28th and 29th, and the new Part II will be offered on September 30 and October 1 ([see brochure](#)).

Cost:

\$100.00 per training session due by September 11, 2015. Please register early, this training must have at least 20 participants for it to be held. Meals and hotel accommodations are on your own.

Location:

Leading Long, Leading Well will be held at United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown (302 2nd Avenue SE, Jamestown ND). Part I will begin on Monday, September 28, at 9:30 a.m. and will end on Tuesday, September 29, at 5:00 p.m. You are encouraged to stay for Part II of this training. Part II will begin on Wednesday, September 30, at 9:30 a.m. and will end on Thursday, October 1, at 5:00 p.m.

Questions: Please contact the Northern Plains Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or email pnpoffice@gmail.com

To register: You may either register online by filling out the form on the Northern Plains Presbytery website or download the [brochure](#) and mail it to the Presbytery office.

More information about the workshops: <http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com/#!/leading-long-leading-well-workshop/c12xe>



Pray for the Next Pres Team



CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 8: Next Pres Team meets at 9:00; Council conference call at 1:00

Wednesday, September 9–Saturday, September 12: Karen attends National APA Conference

Thursday, September 10: Committee on Ministry meets at 10:00 at the presbytery office

Sunday, September 13: Rick preaches at First Presbyterian Church of Ashby

Tuesday, September 15–Thursday, September 17: Rick attends EP Forum at Okoboji

Wednesday, September 16: Committee on Preparation for Ministry meets at 10:00 at First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls

MARK 8:27-38

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'