

The logo for Heartland Connection features the words "Heartland" and "Connection" in a light-colored, elegant serif font. The text is overlaid on a dark background with several lit candles, their flames glowing warmly. The entire logo is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

# Heartland Connection

*February 20, 2013*

*Made possible by our Mission Dollars*

*"Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness. Psalm 143:1*

## *Update on the Heartland Connection*

I hope everyone is safe and warm as you read this week's Heartland Connection. The predicted snow actually arrived and with it difficult roads, closed schools and a run on milk and bread. The Harold Thomas Center does not close in inclement weather, but the presbytery staff is encouraged to use their own good judgment about whether they can arrive safely. If they do not believe they can arrive safely, they are encouraged to work from home or have a snow day. The Harold Thomas Center does close if there is a power outage. Without power the building loses all phones, lighting, alarms and the ability to open the main entrance, so it becomes unsafe.

The season of staff transitions grows nearer to its close. Final interviews are being conducted this week and recommendation for the administrative assistant position and the stated clerk's office should be announced next week. The Heartland Connection will publish next week, so if you have information to be shared with your brothers and sisters in Christ across the presbytery, please submit those to me at [cspencer@heartlandpby.org](mailto:cspencer@heartlandpby.org) on Monday. Be safe in the snow and have a blessed Lenten season, truly preparing hearts and minds for the great good news of Easter and planning to make known this good news in your town, neighborhood, and work place.

In Christ,

*Charles*



## OUR PARTNERSHIP OF PRAYER

February 24, 2013—Second Sunday in Lent

*Second Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO*

The Rev. Paul Rock, Pastor

The Rev. Don P. Fisher, Associate Pastor

Ms. Debbie Pagels, Candidate

Mr. James H. Bernard, Jr., Clerk of Session

Ms. Marsha Kirsch, Communicator

March 3, 2013—Third Sunday in Lent

*King City Presbyterian Church, King City, MO*

The Rev. Robert Dahlgren, Pastor

Ms. Julia Goforth, Clerk of Session, Communicator

*Raymore Presbyterian Church, Raymore, MO*

Mr. David Kremer, Commissioned Lay Pastor

Ms. Juanita Carl, Clerk of Session

*Liberación Divina, Nueva Candelaria, Totonicapán* (see page 3)

The Rev. Esteben Matul

[Click here for the Link](#) to 2012-2013 Partnership of Prayer book

[Click here for the Link](#) to The Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study

[Click here for the Link](#) to all Joys and Concerns



## OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ Presbytery Middle School Retreat – Mark your calendars the Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) is coming up fast, April 26-27, 2014 at Heartland Presbyterian Center. For

more information or questions contact Holly Samborski at [holly@johnknoxkirk.org](mailto:holly@johnknoxkirk.org).  
(submitted by Cathy Brookerd)

+ **First Presbyterian Church of Independence** is offering a Lenten Taizé service, on **March 24 at 7 p.m.** Everyone is invited and welcome. The Worship Committee at First Independence is also interested in other Heartland congregations that may be offering Taize services, so that there might be an exchange of ideas and learning. If you are interested in a conversation about your experience with Taize services you may contact Emily Hollenbeck at [ehollembaek@att.net](mailto:ehollembaek@att.net).  
(submitted by Emily Hollanbeck)

+ **PLACE (Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Christian Church Educators)** will have a Lenten observance **Tuesday, February 26, 1:30 p.m., at Second Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO.** The host church is providing coffee/tea & light snacks. The program will be presented by Leigh Gills, Heartland Presbytery's associate for congregational vitality. The program will include a Lenten meditation and also experiencing the One Great Hour of Sharing materials. RSVPs always appreciated but not required, to Malinda Spencer, [education@heartlandpby.org](mailto:education@heartlandpby.org)  
(submitted by Malinda Spencer)

+ The Church Resource Center has two portable labyrinths with some dates still available to schedule for your use. Call to schedule or for more information. (submitted by Malinda Spencer)

+ *Welcoming People with Disabilities in Faith Communities* will be offered as a collaborative course between Central Baptist Theological Seminary & University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Institute for Human Development. The course will be offered June 10-15, 2013. An informational flyer is attached to the email delivering this edition of the Heartland Connection.  
(submitted by Charles Spencer)



## OUR HEARTLAND HAPPENINGS

- *Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2013: Generosity for Every Generation* March 11-13, at the Hilton Frontenac, St. Louis, Missouri. Heartland Presbytery has been a sponsor and participant in this national Presbyterian stewardship event for several years. Our pastors and elders who have attended in the past have found it useful and meaningful for their own stewardship ministries. With this year's event in St. Louis, it may be more convenient for our congregations than some years. A complete brochure and registration information is available at <http://stewardshipkaleidoscope.org> The hotel block is filling

up, so make reservations as soon as possible. (submitted by Charles Spencer)

- The Environmental Action Committee of Village Church is sponsoring an Environmental Forum on Climate Change, Saturday, March 9, 9:00 -11:30 a.m. at Village Presbyterian Church, Room 228. This will be a moderated panel with the following panel participants:

**Panelists:**

- Kristin Riott: Executive Director of Bridging the Gap in KC, MO; an Al Gore Climate Change presenter; and a Village Church member who collaborated with Rev. Tom Are to pass out 1500 CFL's on Palm Sunday 2007.
- Dennis Murphey: Chief Environmental Officer of KC, MO, since 2006 who is in charge of developing the city's Climate Protection Plan.
- Dr. Chris King, retired Brigadier General currently serving as Dean of the US Army Command and General Staff College at Ft Leavenworth. He has represented the US on an international military advisory council dealing with security and climate change and was invited to deliver technical sessions at the Copenhagen Climate Summit in 2009. He is an authority on the impact that climate change, water scarcity, and other related environmental issues will have on National Security and International Stability.
- Rev. Jay McKell: Founding pastor of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in OP, KS, who served 25 years as its senior pastor. During his tenure, he fostered the formation of Kairos, a group called to address intertwined issues in the realms of peace, justice and the environment.
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**Moderator:**

Dr. Cynthia Holder Rich, the Executive Pastor for Ministry at Village Church. Asking questions and fielding questions from the audience, she will facilitate a thoughtful and respectful conversation about this divisive issue.

This Forum is being offered under the auspices of Village University. There is NO CHARGE. To register or ask questions, contact Marianne Weber in the Adult Ministry Office, 913.671.2333 or [marianne.weber@villagepres.org](mailto:marianne.weber@villagepres.org). (Submitted by Jerry Rees, member of Heartland Earthkeepers and Village Church's Environmental Committee.)

- **Acts 16:5 Plenary Meeting** will be Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bethel Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas. The focus of this plenary is growing generous congregations. The seminar will explore biblical guidelines for giving, steps to bring our giving house in order, what motivates generosity and four kinds of stewardship campaigns. Because these topics may be of interest to Heartland Presbytery congregations beyond those participating in Acts 16:5 the plenary will be open all congregations. Please call the church office 913 299-2479 to make a reservation. (submitted by Leigh Gillis)
- **Mark your calendar for July 31, 2013 for Heartland Presbytery Youth Day at Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun.** This is a great summer activity for youth groups. It is the park's 40th anniversary. The park will experience its largest expansion and Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun will be one park with a single admission ticket! Tickets are \$32 and

include an all you can eat lunch buffet. Details will be in future Heartland Connections or contact Cathy Broockerd ([cathy@johnknoxkirk.org](mailto:cathy@johnknoxkirk.org)). (submitted by Cathy Broockerd)

- **Heartland Presbytery's Mission Share Fair will be June 22, 2013** in conjunction with the June Presbytery meeting. The Mission Share Fair will be a day filled with worship, fellowship, the docketed business of the day, and lots of displays and information about the many-faceted mission work of Heartland Presbytery, its churches, organizations in our area, the Synod of Mid-America and the PC(USA). The preacher for the day is Rev. J. Herbert Nelson from the Washington Office, PC(USA). You may click [HERE](#) to reserve display space for your congregation or ministry. (submitted by Mission and Social Justice Division)
- **An Invitation to Peace Discernment** is extended to all interested parties. The 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly initiated a churchwide discernment process to examine new directions in peacemaking and encourage every Presbyterian to be challenged by the witness of Jesus Christ. You can join this conversation on April 8, 2013 at the Presbytery Office, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. You may visit [www.pcusa.org/peace-discernment](http://www.pcusa.org/peace-discernment) to download materials to read before the gathering. You may register for this event by calling 816 924-1730. (submitted by the Peacemaking Committee)
- **Amendments from the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** may be discussed at four listening sessions to be held by Church Order and Listening. These gathers are intended to provide opportunity for conversation and information on the amendments in preparation for voting on them at the April Presbytery meeting. All listening sessions are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. and will be held, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at First Church, Maryville, March 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke Joy Church, Kansas City, Mo., March 12<sup>th</sup> at Overland Park Church, Overland Park, and March 14<sup>th</sup> at Blue Ridge Church, Raytown. (submitted by Church Order and Listening)
- **Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Gardner, Kansas. The theme for the gathering is *Building the Beloved Community*. The Reverend Dr. Rhashell Hunter, Director of Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministry for the Presbyterian Mission Agency will be the leader. Registration is \$8 and the deadline is Monday, April 15. For more information you may contact Janet Kelley 913 341-5074 or [janet.kelley@us.huhtamaki.com](mailto:janet.kelley@us.huhtamaki.com) (submitted on behalf of the Presbyterian Women in Heartland Presbytery)
- The Earthkeepers pass along for your information the following link to a resource on a sacramental universe <http://justiceunbound.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ASacramentalUniverse-Larry-Rasmussen-final.pdf> (submitted by Diane Waddell)



## OUR REMINDERS

- Like the Heartland Presbytery [Facebook page](#)? Tell others about it! (Submitted by Presbytery Office Staff)
- **Covenant Presbyterian Church is in need of a van.** We have older adults and others that need a ride to church. We have lots of activities for children and youth. We are in need of a van to get people to worship and children and youth to their activities. If you have a van that you would like to donate, we will make great use of it. Please contact the church at 816-444-3693 or Kirk Perucca at 913-486-7010. Thank you. (Submitted by Kirk Perucca)
- There is a wealth of information available at [pcusa.org](#). You might want to search for Lent. A few clicks will take you to the picture and text below, and there are worship planning ideas, prayers, daily readings, and special readings for Holy Week. Another search option is One Great Hour of Sharing where there are short video segments (some versatile to be used as audio file only in case you can't project), information about where the special offering goes, and resources to interpret. (submitted by Malinda Spencer)

### The Season of Lent



A depiction of Jonah from the façade of the Amiens Cathedral (thirteenth century).

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.



## OUR JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church is seeking a part time Technical Director for Worship. This person will serve Sunday mornings, special events, and some seasonal work. The position requires skills with audiovisual systems and lighting equipment. Experience with PC based and interactive A/V systems is preferred. A more complete job description was attached to the email delivering today's Heartland Connection.

Link to a somewhat current Job Opportunities <http://www.heartlandpby.org/Job/jobs.html>

## OUR Upcoming EVENTS

- 2013 Presbyterian Youth [Triennium registration open!](#) —July 16-20, 2013—Purdue University
- 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly—June 15-21, 2014—Detroit, Michigan

[Click here for Links to additional Upcoming Events](#)

Have something share with the Heartland Presbytery community? Email it to [nurture@heartlandpby.org](mailto:nurture@heartlandpby.org). We welcome any joys, news updates, prayer requests, upcoming events, poems, stories, mission events, etc. Deadline for articles to be posted in the next week's Heartland Connection is 5:00 p.m. Monday.

