

The logo for 'Heartland Connection' is set against a dark background with several lit candles. The word 'Heartland' is written in a large, elegant, cursive font at the top, and 'Connection' is written in a similar but slightly smaller font below it. The candles are lit, with their flames glowing warmly, and their light is softly blurred in the background.

Heartland Connection

February 27, 2013

Made possible by our Mission Dollars

“Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.” Psalm 147:1

Update on the Heartland Connection

We have experienced two weeks of interesting weather. It has caused a number of cancellations and postponements of meetings, events and conversations within the life of Heartland Presbytery. This edition of the Heartland Connection will call attention to some of the rescheduled activities. In general we try not to cancel things, but to encourage everyone to use good judgment in determining whether or not they can arrive safely. When whole groups decide they cannot arrive safely, the meeting is essentially canceled. Last week I attempted to keep one meeting on track by offering a ride to anyone who needed it. One brave soul rode with me for the first big snow. We had quite an adventure, but did not constitute a quorum. That pastor expressed no interest in heading out on another adventure when the second snow came. Perhaps even this recent bad weather, difficult as it has been for many, came to us as a gift, a gift of moisture for dry ground and empty ponds, a gift to slow some down and help consider the priorities and demands we accumulate, or a gift to encourage to play making snow angels and snowmen.. It is not necessarily easy to see the value of the gift as we shovel walks or are stranded in traffic. But the snow comes as a gift, whether we value it or not.

Our congregations and presbytery experience many seasons. The gifts of some of those seasons are clear. The gift of other seasons may be more difficult to see. But as the Psalmist encourages, “it is good to sing praises to our God” in all seasons, “for he is gracious” with gifts, whether we perceive the immediate benefit or not.

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 spencer@heartlandpby.org on Monday. The Heartland Connection may not publish the week of March 10th, so plan ahead on any announcements.

In Christ,

Charles



OUR PARTNERSHIP OF PRAYER

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

The Rev. Esteben Matul

March 10, 2013—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Jacoby Chapel, Warrensburg, MO

Mr. Paul, Moss, Commissioned Lay Pastor

Ms. Roberta Jaeger, Clerk of Session

Ms. Shari Doubt, Communicator

Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO

The Rev. Connie Happell, Pastor

Ms. Karen Wiederaenders, Clerk of Session

Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Communicator

Heartland Presbytery covets your prayers for the Reverend Krista Kiger and her family. Krista's father Louis Kiger passed from the church militant to the church triumphant on Monday, February 25, 2013 at the age of 89. The celebration of Mr. Kiger's life and service of

witness to the resurrection will be Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of St. Joseph.

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

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



OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + **Presbytery Middle School Retreat** – Mark your calendars the Middle School (6th – 8th grade) is coming up fast, April 26-27, 2014 at Heartland Presbyterian Center. A flyer and registration form are attached to the email that delivered this newsletter. For more information or questions contact Holly Samborski at 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. (submitted by Emily Hollanbeck)

- + **PLACE (Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Christian Church Educators)** has rescheduled their Lenten observance for Wednesday, March 6 , 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 (submitted by Malinda Spencer)

- + **PLACE** will also hold its regular **March 19** meeting, **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at **Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, KCMO** (near Zona Rosa). Micro-workshops will be presented by participants who attended the national Christian education meeting, APCE. This is our annual contributive salad luncheon. Bring a salad to share. Bread and dessert will be provided. Because of the micro-workshops, this meeting has a wide variety of information and networking possibilities, and the food is always great. (submitted by Malinda Spencer)

+ Heartland Presbytery's Peacemaking Committee and Village Presbyterian Church are co-sponsoring a *Pastor's Workshop and Luncheon With The Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak* May 7, 2013, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at Village Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak is an iconic figure in the lengthy struggle to end apartheid in South Africa. A promotional piece was attached to this email. (submitted by Leigh Gillis)



OUR HEARTLAND HAPPENINGS

- *Last Call - Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2013: Generosity for Every Generation* March 11-13, at the Hilton Frontenac, St. Louis, Missouri. 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)
- *Acts 16:5 Plenary Meeting on Generous Congregations* has been rescheduled for April 25th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bethel Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Kansas. 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)
- Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church will host a *Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale* Saturday, March 16, 2013. The Breakfast is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children from 9:00 a.m. to noon. All proceeds benefit the Raytown Emergency Assistance Program. (submitted by Delores Lunceford)
- 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). (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 219th 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 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 220th General Assembly** may be discussed at three listening sessions to be held by Church Order and Listening. These gatherings are intended to provide opportunity for conversation and information on the amendments in preparation for voting at the April Presbytery meeting. All listening sessions are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. and will be held, March 5th at St. Luke Joy Church, Kansas City, Mo., March 12th at Overland Park Church, Overland Park, and March 14th at Blue Ridge Church, Raytown. (submitted by Church Order and Listening)
- **Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Saturday, April 20th** 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 (submitted on behalf of the Presbyterian Women in Heartland Presbytery)
- **Heartland Presbytery's Earthkeepers** pass along for your use a Lenten devotional "*From Ashes to Resurrection, From Soot to Hope*." This 2013 Lenten devotional was prepared by Presbyterians for Earth Care and is attached to this email. (submitted by Diane Waddell)
- 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. (Submitted by Jerry Rees, member of Heartland Earthkeepers and Village Church's Environmental Committee.)



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)



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
- Heartland Presbytery Meeting – Saturday, April 13, 2013 – Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
- 221st 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. 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.

