

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 out of focus, with their flames providing a warm, glowing light.

Heartland Connection

February 27, 2013

Made possible by our Mission Dollars

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1

Update on the Heartland Connection

Friends,

You may all rejoice with me that my time as the editor of the Heartland Connection is drawing to a close. Today, the Personnel Committee has welcomed to our staff Callie Riggs. Callie has agreed to serve as our administrative assistant. Among the pieces of that position that she will be assuming over the next few days are the editing and sending of the Heartland Connection. A brief paragraph of introduction will be shared in the announcement section and you can look forward to meeting Callie in person when you visit the presbytery office or at the April presbytery meeting.

The Nominating Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee for the Stated Clerk Search presented the stated clerk nominee, Ruling Elder Sally Hinchman, to our Council on Monday. Sally will be placed in nomination at the April 13 presbytery meeting. A brief bio and terms of call will be presented in the presbytery packet in preparation for the presbytery's vote. If the vote is in the affirmative, Sally will begin service as our stated clerk on Monday, April 15. In order to familiarize herself with our presbytery, Sally may be visiting and observing some of our committees and commissions. In this way she will be prepared to hit the ground running if elected on the 13th.

My thanks to all who served on the various committees whose work is bringing us closer to being fully staffed. I also want to thank all of the members of the Heartland Presbytery staff who have covered pieces beyond their usual work load, while we have had these vacancies. I am especially grateful for Jessie Echavarria's cheerful and faithful service during these transitions. I also appreciate the patience the presbytery has shown us, as we have tackled tasks not usually our own, like editing and electronic newsletter.

As you approach the various services of the coming Holy Week in your congregations, may you all find time truly grasp the greatness of the gift and its meaning for our life and work.

In Christ,

Charles



OUR PARTNERSHIP OF PRAYER

March 24, 2013—Passion/Palm Sunday

First Presbyterian Church, Pleasanton, KS

Ms. Verna Bright, Clerk of Session, Communicator

First Presbyterian Church, St. Joseph, MO

The Rev. Krista Kiger, Pastor

The Rev. Jacqueline Thomas, Parish Associate

The Rev. John D. Watson, Pastor Emeritus

Ms. Mary Jo Hornaday, Clerk of Session

Ms. Joanne Anderson, Communicator

Getzemaní, Pachaj Cantel (see page 3)

The Rev. Benjamín Yac

The Rev. Narsiso Morales

March 31, 2013—Easter

Heartland Presbytery

Retired Ministers of Heartland Presbytery

Pastors serving in Validated Ministries

Candidates and Inquirers of Heartland Presbytery

All members serving on Divisions/Committees

All members of Heartland Presbytery

[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)

- + The "Healthy Congregations" workshop is coming to Kaw Prairie Community Church in Lenexa, Kansas, on April 5-6. The workshop was originally designed by Dr. Peter Steinke based on the work of Dr. Murray Bowen. The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center later modified the workshop to a Friday evening-Saturday format. The workshop addresses conflict, anxiety, and the role of leadership in congregations using an approach that considers the entire system and not just the individuals. While the workshop specifically addresses congregations, the principles apply to businesses, families and organizations as well. Contact Dave Moore for further information and to sign up: dave@news Summit.org or 816-591-2059. (submitted by Dave Moore)

- + 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)

- + 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)

- + Last Call...There is still some space on the buses taking Heartland Presbytery youth to the 2013 Youth Triennium. Additional information is attached to the email delivering the Heartland Connection. The original deadline has passed, but we want as many youth as possible to attend and will keep the opportunity open just a bit longer.

+ We are now entering the season when churches are considering the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering for Palm Sunday/Easter. This offering is the sole funding for Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People, all of which are vital programs of social justice ministry within the Presbyterian Church (USA). Additionally, it is the source of funding for Environmental Ministries, as PHP has brought EM under its wing. Otherwise, the program would likely have been abandoned. Please spread the word in your congregation about the importance of One Great Hour of Sharing, as the PC(USA) helps bring the ministry of caring and compassion to those who hunger and thirst; those who seek shelter from the storms of life...and the storms of climate change. Blessings and thanks, (submitted by Diane Waddell, Member, Presbyterian Hunger Program Advisory Committee)

+ Hello, my name is Callie Riggs and I was recently hired as the new administrative assistant for Heartland Presbytery. I have a longstanding connection with the Presbyterian Church as my mother and grandmother have been attending Blue Ridge Presbyterian all my life. I have one sister Erin, a niece on the way, and am the proud mother of basset hound named Zeke. I am extremely blessed to have been given this opportunity and look forward to serving this community the best I can.



OUR HEARTLAND HAPPENINGS

- **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)
- **Village Scholar Event, April 5 & 6, 2013** – Village Presbyterian Church presents Diana Butler Bass, author, speaker, and independent scholar who specializes in American religion and culture. She holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and has taught church history and related studies at a number of colleges and universities. She is the author of eight books including *Christianity After Religion: the End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*, *A People's History of Christianity: _e Other Side of the Story* and *Christianity for the Rest of Us*. (submitted by Meg McLaughlin/flyer attached)

- **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)

- **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)



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*.

