



## Our Own Karen Moritz, Mission Co-Worker in Prague, Czech Republic

A renewed spirit of mission commitment is moving across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and it captured the heart and mind of Karen Moritz.

“As I began my discernment process for a new call, I learned that our denomination had renewed its commitment to worldwide mission,” she says. Karen had thought that mission service would be an option as she approached retirement. However, the current mission renewal caused her to look carefully at current opportunities posted by Presbyterian World Mission.

“As I moved through my discernment process it became clear to me and my discernment committee that God was calling me to serve in the Czech Republic,” Karen says. She became aware of the connections she had with the region and PC(USA) involvement there. She also is attracted to the ministry’s ecumenical component and its interfaith context. She senses God is calling her to both change her place of ministry and re-examine her personal priorities. “I believe God is inviting me to live in another culture and in that process simplify my life,” Karen explains. “God certainly opens doors and presents opportunities in the most unexpected ways.”

The leaders of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB) want to realize more potential for expanding the church’s ministries. Karen helps to help build relationships and

facilitate mission work with Christian denominations of other countries. She works with several congregations and presbyteries from the PC(USA) that are involved in partnerships in the Czech Republic and helps the ECCB and Presbyterian congregations explore even more opportunities for such relationships.

Though the church has only 117,000 members, it operates 32 Diaconal Centers that offer much needed social services for children, youth, seniors and impoverished people. They are highly respected by governmental and community leaders. The ECCB sees these centers as presenting good opportunities for ministry with Presbyterian World Mission and PC(USA) congregations and presbyteries.

Karen brings experience as a chaplain, parish pastor and campus minister to her new duties. For the past three years, she has been pastor at Cornerstone Campus Ministry, an ecumenical outreach at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Previously, she was pastor of Miller Park Presbyterian Church in Omaha, Nebraska, and for part of her tenure there also held a part-time campus ministry position at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Karen has also been a chaplain at Iowa Lutheran University in Des

Moines and First Presbyterian Church in Guthrie Center, Iowa. She holds a bachelor’s degree in humanities from Coe College, a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary. She also earned a diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction from San Francisco Seminary.

Karen says the guiding Scripture for her life is Luke 4:16-21, where Jesus proclaims the inauguration of God’s reign whenever those on society’s margins are served. She anticipates the truth from this passage will illuminate her ministry in the Czech Republic.

“As a legally blind woman, I resonate with those on the margins, particularly at the edges of our churches,” she says. “Throughout Jesus’ life he ministered to those on the margins and every time we do that we manifest God’s reign.”

In her position, she will help U.S. Presbyterians join with Czech Christians in their efforts to serve God and others. She looks forward to the ministry opportunities that await her. “Many of their churches strive to reach out to those on the margins, and I value the opportunity to be a part of such a ministry.”

# THANKFUL

I am thankful for all of our family and most of my siblings being together at my mother's assisted living center on Thanksgiving. There were twenty seven of us. Joyce

I'm thankful for Sput, who takes the time to do this newsletter. !!!!

I am thankful for the girls who take time to do some extra cleaning in the church. This fall the sanctuary benefited. Wilma

I am thankful to Laura for many years of working (and enjoying) the youth. Wilma

I'm thankful for the chance to have this news letter. for the Love of God, Friends and family. Every person who helps with treats on Sunday's. That I have a home to live in, food for myself and family. Clothing and coats to keep me warm. I am thankful for all that God have provided for us. Peggy

I am thankful to those who supplied food and those who worked at funerals. Wilma

I am thankful to Sput. We do enjoy the newsletters. Wilma

I am thankful for your prayers and concerns since my son Michael's heart attack. He is home and doing quite well. He assures me he is doing as the doctor ordered. He had three stints put in. He will be admitted to the hospital again on the 28th for tests and will have three more stints put in on the 29th, then home again on the 30th. After ten days, he can resume his school. Hopefully he hasn't missed to much that he has to start the course again. Mom is hanging in there, doing o.k. God Bless you all. Von Vaughn

I am thankful for everyone who contributes to the newsletter. Sput

I am thankful for the health of my family & friends. Sput

**2011 Church Officers**

United Church Council

Christian Church Reps:

Janet Vetrovsky (Vice-Chair), Dave Williams, Jeff Bice

Presbyterian Church Reps:

Wilma Droge (Chair), Mary Neill (Secretary), Patti Rice

Treasurer: Jill Sunneberg

**United Presbyterian Church (USA)**

Clerk of Session: Carolyn VanHorne

Treasurer: Mary Miller

Organists: Jeanette Ulmer and Mary Alice Thiemann

Church Pianists: Gail Mach and Carolyn VanHorne

Choir Director: Jeanette Ulmer

Memorial Fund Treasurer: Kris Kubik

Financial Secretary and Benevolence Fund Treasurer:

Mary Neill, Lyle and Wilma Droge

Presbytery Delegates: Vance and Jeanette Ulmer

Officers of the Corporation: President.....Ross Thiemann

Vice President.....Clerk, Carolyn VanHorne

Secretary/Treasurer.....Treasurer, Mary Miller

Session Christian Education Committee:

Kellie Wiers, Alan Strong, Connor Sweeney

Session Worship Committee:

Sherri Smith, Carolyn VanHorne, Charlene Chittick

Session Properties Committee:

Rick Mach, Roger Thiemann, Paul Rogers

Investment Committee:

Byford Metzger, Carolyn VanHorne, Mary Miller

**First Christian Church/Disciples of Christ**

Moderator: Virginia Mort

Vice Moderator: Jeff Bice

Secretary: Karen Harlow

Treasurer: Anita Lang

Financial Secretary: Janet Vetrovsky

Pianist: Lyanna Inglis

Committee Chair-persons:

Stewardship and Finance, Betsy Williams

Worship, Cheryl Bice

Christian Education, Deb Kerl and Jody Poskochil

Memorial, Roxann Buman and Linna Mort

World Outreach and Evangelism, Karen Harlow

Property, Jeff Bice

Social, Joan Snyder and Millie Troxel

**Praise & Ponder**

By the time this is in print, Thanksgiving will be over. This is somewhat sad, as it is the least cluttered holiday with commercialism, and yet one with deep significance.

Halloween is fast becoming a very commercial, (and expensive, if we let it) holiday.

Christmas begins in July (almost) with the push to get us to spend our money or use the credit card. This year many stores had Christmas selections on the shelves long before Halloween.

Christmas is a pendulum of emotions. Some people are most depressed at this time; others are most jubilant and expectant.

For us as Christians it should be a time of worship and of rejoicing and reflecting.

Christmas music is glorious, and awe inspiring; Christmas decorations range from the gaudy to the gorgeous.

Of course the candy, carols, candles, and church are important.

But let us remember it was God's greatest gift, His son who's birthday we should keep foremost in our observations.

May the season be a happy one with friends, family, and outsiders as well be one of contentment, excitement and joy.



## Noteworthy

**The Christian Church** is having 9 am service Dec. 25th at the Presbyterian Church. Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas. Christian Church Board.

**CrossBridge Christian Church** is going to be headed to Joplin, MO and Lake Charles, LA from Saturday March 10th to Saturday March 17th. This is the week that Lincoln Public Schools will be out for Spring Break. Anyone wanting to join us in serving in either location can call me at (402) 202-0752 or email me at desertbluedevel@yahoo.com.

We are also going to be going to Joplin from December 9th - 11th if anyone would like to join us on that trip. Thanks! Vern

### Celebrate Jesus

Wednesday, December 7	7PM	PresbyterianChurch basement
Wednesday, December 14	7PM	PresbyterianChurch basement
Wednesday, December 21	7PM	Pawnee Village – our last time there until Spring
Wednesday, December 28	7PM	PawneeManor

**After-School Youth Activities** Thanks to Danny Walker, the after school youth have been drawing and penciling in copies of Danny's drawing that he provides for the kids. The kids drop in after school and have some great snacks, actually a light meal, that Susan Kimes provides for them. They draw until everyone is done eating, then we have a prayer and devotional, and they games or quest speakers. We appreciate Linda Kell for teaching the kids how to make a group spider web and wrap each other up as toilet paper mummies. Lyle Droge brought a variety of puzzles for the kids to figure out and we look forward to having Laura Turnbull come to tell the kids what their name means. We also appreciate the help of Lois Rush and Larry and Tabitha Packett. We are always looking for other volunteers to show and tell or volunteer once or more than once. Stop in and join the fun!

**Worship services:** December, Presbyterian Church: We will meet together at 10:00 AM every Sunday in December except for Christmas Day Sunday when the Christian Church will have their own worship in the Presbyterian Church at 9:00 AM and the Presbyterian Church will meet at 11:00 AM.

**Remember** to sign up/volunteer to supply coffee and goodies following our worship services at each church.

**Sunday School**, 9:00 AM; Youth Group, Thursdays, 3:40 PM; Celebrate Jesus, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM; Bible Study, Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Pawnee Village

The beautiful "God's Creation" 2012 Calendars \$6

Session Meeting, December 5, 7:00 PM

Men's Breakfast, December 7, 7:00 AM, Christian Church

Board meeting, December 7, 7:00 PM

**Thirty-one** voting members were present at the Annual Congregation Meeting held November 13. A quorum is twenty so it was pleasing to be well represented.

**Donations** for the cost of siding the Church will be received until the work has been completed. The youth group made a very generous donation and if you wish just note "siding" on your check or contact Deb Niss at 402-852-2177.

**SENCA** still needs Bell Ringers: Monday, December 5.

**Also, still needing blankets**, coats, hats, scarves, gloves ad sleeping bags for the winter. For information call 402-852-2481. Clean out your closets.

*If you send something for the newsletter, please check the spelling of names. I do not know how to spell everyone's name and I do not proofread every item that is emailed to me. I simply copy and paste. So PLEASE check the spelling of names when you send an item. Thanks*

# Christmas Giving

Wow, it is hard to believe that we are already in the season of Advent and Christmas is just around the corner. As we anxiously await the coming of the Christ child and then celebrate his birth, I pray that each of us will be blessed in new and wonderful ways.

This is a time to rededicate our lives to better serving Jesus Christ and his church. It is much more than a holiday season with plenty to eat and fun times with family. It is a time to realize that most people in the world do not have plenty and it is our responsibility to change our lifestyle in such a way that we give to those in need year around. This is the true

Christmas spirit.

There are some in need in our community, but for the most part, the poor in the U. S. would be rich in third world countries. We have a duty to give to those outside our borders and there is no better way to do this than through our church's missions. Both of our churches have opportunities to give throughout the year and it is easy to give on line. Just search NE Region of the Christian Church (DOC), Homestead Presbytery, PCUSA Missions or Global Missions.

Please put mission giving on your shopping list this Christmas season.

# Share Your Faith

I would encourage you to share your faith, how you have been blessed, what you are thankful for, or how God and his church have made a difference in your life. It is most important to share these things with family or one on one, but the rest of us would like to hear your words as well. Please feel free to share these things with me so I can share them Sunday and/or put them in the newsletter. And, yes, I will keep it confidential if you like. Here are a couple of faith quotes from our region.

The Newsletter from First Christian in Lincoln recently contained two interesting and provocative quotations used in a recent sermon by the interim minister, Penny Greer:

"My coming to faith did not start with a leap but rather a series of staggers from what seemed like one safe place to another. Like lily pads, round and green, these places summoned and then held me up while I grew. Each prepared me for the next leaf on which I would land and in this way I moved across the swamp of doubt and fear." ( Anne LaMotte's "Traveling Mercies")

"When you come to the edge of all the light you have, and you must take a step into the darkness of the unknown, believe that one of two things will happen. Either there will be something for you to stand on — or you will be taught how to fly." (Patrick Overton)

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Ric Hofmann
- 3 Roger Bowman
- 4 Holly Schmitz Wempe
- 5 McKenzie McClellan
- 8 David Thiemann
- 10 Tom & Clarene Fisher
- 13 Nicholas Rogers
- 15 Lewis Nicholas  
Scott & Carla Hanna
- 16 Karin Rogge
- 17 Peggy Packett  
Lowell & Peggy Packett  
David & Mary Miller
- 20 Mike Rice  
Deb Kerl  
Larry McClellan  
Roger & Iva Bowman
- 21 Lauri Hofmann
- 22 Laura Kubik Fuehrer  
Lee Rogge  
Kenny & Janice Bowman
- 23 Jill Ritchie
- 24 Wilma Droge  
Roxann Buman
- 26 Ross Thiemann  
Jean Percival  
Paul & Mary Bennett
- 28 Lewis & Linda Rogers
- 30 Janis Rogge
- 30 Jane Mort  
Jim & Susie Huber
- 31 Larry & Cathi Spitzer

*\*anniversaries in red*

# Snapshots...

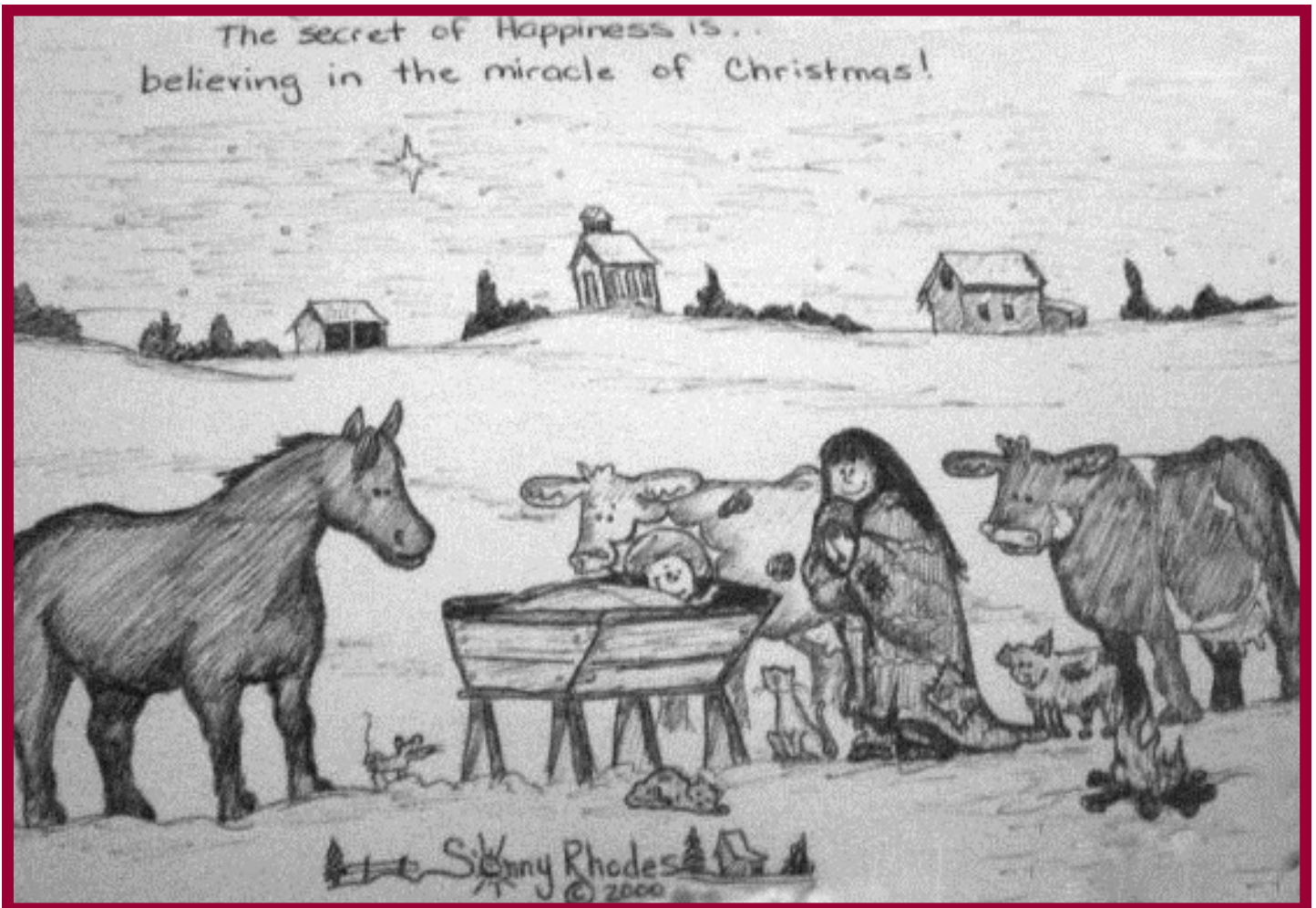


Elizabeth Miller is the Koo Aid Man In a skit that she helped put on with the Alpha and Omega Sorority.



**Halloween 2011**

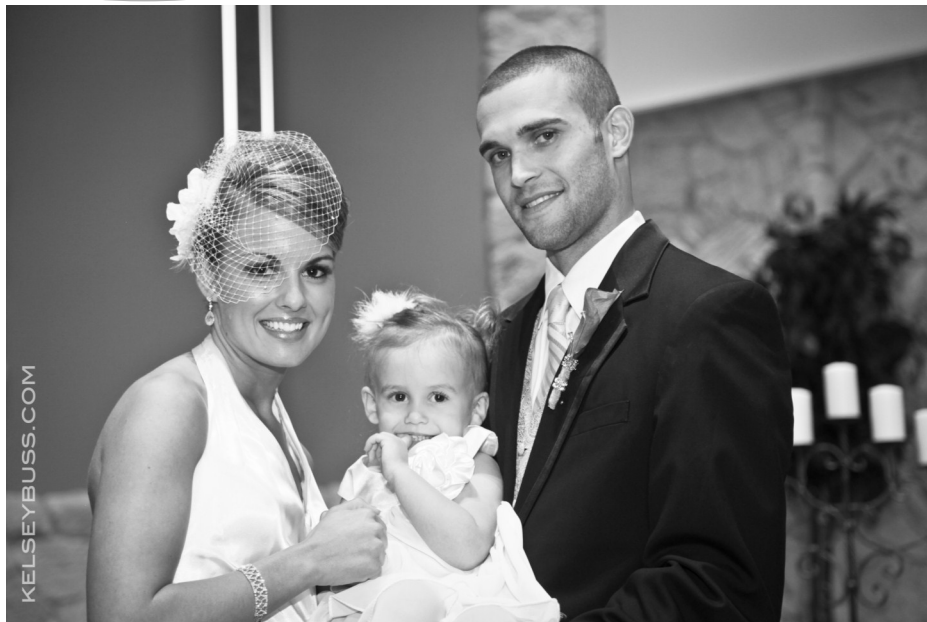
Matt, Beth, Keagan and Addie Miller ready to trick or treat.



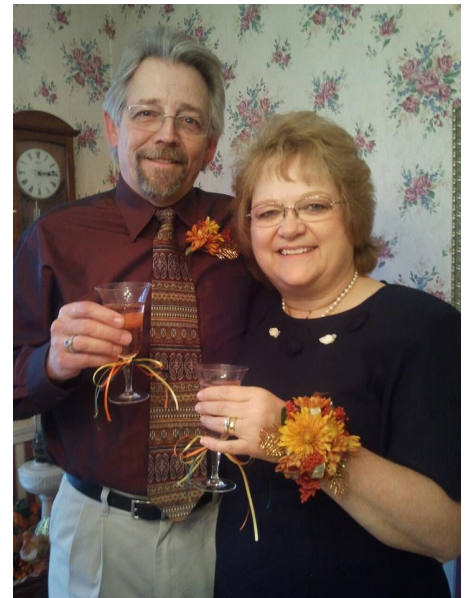
# Congratulations



Scott and Hanna Brumbaugh and Eve Beethe  
Married June 18, 2011



Ryan and Monica (Kerl) Polivka and Adryna  
Married October 22, 2011



Don and Anita Bents  
Married Nov. 24, 2011

***All Christians are a member of the body of Jesus Christ, the greater church.***

*Please know that we love to have you attend our services, and contribute to the ministry of our churches, whether or not you are a member of either church. We believe that every Christian is an important part of the body of Christ whether you are a formal member of a church or not. However, should you wish to be a member of either of our churches, we would love to talk with you about how you can be a member. The important thing is that we are actively following Jesus Christ in our lives through worship, prayer, Bible Study, fellowship, and reaching out with love to others.*

# Merry Christmas



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DEADLINE 20TH OF EACH MONTH

This newsletter printed especially for:



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