

Heartland Presbytery's
**Spring Gathering of
Presbyterian Women and 4th
Annual Festival of
Peacemaking**

Schedule

Noon-12:30 PW registration
12:30-1:30 PW lunch/business meeting
1:30-2:00 refreshments, view displays,
Peacemaking registration
2:00-3:30 worship, communion, and
keynote
3:30-4:30 workshops A
4:40-5:40 workshops B
5:40-6:40 dinner and recognition

April 24, 2010

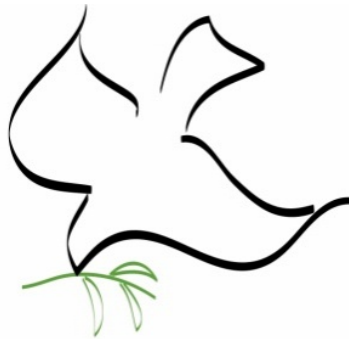
Village Presbyterian Church
6641 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208

Keynote speaker

Byron Wade, Vice-moderator of the 218th General
Assembly: *Christ's Call to Discipleship and
Peace*

*Child care will be available by reservation.

Please pre-register by Thursday, April 15



Name _____

Contact phone number _____

Church and city _____

Any special needs? _____

both lunch and dinner \$12 _____ lunch only \$7 _____ dinner only \$7 _____

Workshop A _____

Workshop B _____

To register for **child care**, please call Mindy Fox at Heartland Presbytery, 816-924-1730, by April 15.

To register

- Please **mail** completed form and your check to
Heartland Presbytery
Attn: Mindy Fox
Suite 200
3210 Michigan Ave
Kansas City, MO 64109
- Or **online** using Paypal at <http://tinyurl.com/yawsoac>
- Or by **phone**, 816-924-1730

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Workshops block A

1A--Inner Peace--The practice of being "present" - in our day, with ourselves and with others, in the world, and most of all in the Presence of God. How do we slow down, be still, listen to God and to ourselves. We are currently over stimulated and need encouragement to "center" ourselves in the Presence and the present. If we commit to practicing this inner peace every day our lives will be transformed. *Tara Ross is the wife of the Interim Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church. She has practiced psychotherapy in Colorado and spiritual direction in Arizona. She holds degrees from Mills College, the University of Northern Colorado, and San Francisco Theological Seminary.*

2A--Toward a More Perfect Union—Peace begins at the personal level, affecting the community, then the nation, then the world. This workshop will explore scripture and our individual calls to be peacemakers and change the world. *Alvin Brooks is a popular speaker and community figure. Repeated in block B.*

3A--Seeking Justice for All Women— For 10 years, Veronica's Voice has been educating and providing resources to help clients in the Kansas City area leave a life of prostitution, sexual exploitation, drug addiction and violence, and to transition into new lives free from abuse. Learn the myths and realities of women exploited in the commercial sex industry, and engage in discussion about restorative justice responses, as well as a recent victory over a city ordinance that would have further criminalized victims. **Kristy Childs, a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation, trauma and drug addiction, is the founder and director of Veronica's Voice.*

4A-- Immigration 101--Explore the economic, social, political, and moral issues regarding immigration. Come and discover key elements of comprehensive immigration reform we will face this year; Gutierrez's Bill (CIR-ASAP) introduced in December 2009; and gain tools to discern what are a myth or reality in the immigration debate. *Laurie Anderson, Elder, member of Presbyterian Church of Stanley, national Coordinator of the New Sanctuary Movement, President of Immigrant Justice Advocacy Movement (KC metro organization), part time youth coordinator at Argentine United Presbyterian, and mother of middle-schoolers Ben and Bonnie.*

5B--Is Afghanistan the "Good War?" This workshop will consider the portrayal of the Afghanistan war as a "just war" and the moral implications of continued U.S. military actions in Afghanistan. We will explore U.S. interests in the region; the likelihood that continued and increased U.S. military presence will have a positive effect; and alternate non-military U.S. policy and actions which could be implemented. The session will include excerpts from recent documentaries and resources that congregational leaders can use to educate others and increase dialogue about the Afghanistan war. *Ira Harritt, Program Coordinator, American Friends Service Committee.*

6A--Question and Answer with the Vice-moderator—Heartland Presbytery is fortunate to welcome General Assembly Vice-moderator Byron Wade. Byron will be taking questions from the workshop attendees during this workshop.

7A--TLC and Teens--Do you find yourself advising, moralizing, warning and lecturing your teenager, and wondering why you are no longer close? This workshop will help you begin to explore a different way to communicate with teens, for your sake and theirs. *Annette Lantz-Simmons is the Associate Director of The Community Mediation Center, which offers mediation, facilitation and conflict education to schools, families, courts and businesses. Annette holds a master's degree in conflict transformation from Eastern Mennonite University.*

8A--Caring for Creation-- With the winter we've had in Kansas City, can the world really be getting warmer? And if it is, so what? We must work in our homes, churches, and communities to come up with a new paradigm to help become more sustainable in our overall lifestyles. Please join us as we study this issue and its importance in our lives and the lives of future generations. *Sponsored by Earthkeepers (Presbyterians for Earth Care in Heartland Presbytery)*

9A--An Up-Close View of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict—Cindy Howard will present information and reflections from her recent trip to Israel and Palestine, sponsored by Interfaith Peace-Builders. During the trip, Cindy and the other 22 members of the IFPB delegation had the opportunity to hear directly from Israelis and Palestinians regarding the role of the United States government in promoting a resolution to the conflict. The delegates met with Israelis and Palestinians representing a wide swath of both societies. Delegates visited the homes of Palestinian families evicted by Israeli forces in Jerusalem and toured communities in southern Israel targeted by home-made rockets fired from the Gaza Strip. A special focus was on the work of nonviolent activists and other peace-builders working to create a better future for Israelis and Palestinians. *Rev. Dr. Cynthia Carter Howard is Rector of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Lee's Summit, MO.*

10A--From Heartland Presbytery to Thwake Village--Rev. David Nzioka and Rev. Kirk Perucca have recently returned from a trip to Thwake Village in Kenya which is David's home village. They will report on the progress made in the work in the village and the connection with Heartland Presbytery. Images of the people and the village will be included. *Kirk is pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO. David is pastor of the Neema Community Fellowship.*

11A—Advocacy from Cherith Brook-- As followers of Jesus we understand our lives to be centered in God's Shalom. Cherith Brook strives to be a "school" for peacemaking in all its dimensions: political, communal, and personal, working constantly to undo poverty, racism and militarism.—*Eric Garbison and others from the Cherith Brook community articulate their "works of mercy."*

Workshops block B

1B--Can't Pray Sitting Still?--Some find it easy to practice contemplative prayer--to sit still and sit in the presence of God. Others just can't sit still. For them the labyrinth is another way to pray while walking. There will be finger labyrinths available for those who can't walk, but want to experience this ancient way to pray. Led by *the Rev. Glenda Watts and Rev. David Cliburn.*

2B--Toward a More Perfect Union—Peace begins at the personal level, affecting the community, then the nation, then the world. This workshop will explore scripture and our individual calls to be peacemakers and change the world. *Alvin Brooks is a popular speaker and community figure. Repeated in block A.*

3B--Everyone IS Welcome: Opening our Hearts, Our Minds, and the Doors to our Churches to include the "others" of our communities--What does it truly mean when we offer our congregations as places where everyone is welcome? In our hearts and our minds are we truly where we need to be to be a fully inclusive congregation that welcomes individuals who may be very different from the "typical" member of the congregation? Come and learn how we can honestly offer a welcome to EVERYONE who may come to our door. We will look at including individuals with physical/developmental disabilities and/or their families, individuals with mental health issues and/or their families, and our "others" who are in our community. *Jenny Hatfield-Callen is an elder at the Southminster church, Prairie Village, and is the mother of an adult special needs child.*

4B--Immigration 201--Faith Based Response to Immigration will explore the Policy Statements of PCUSA as well as relevant current concerns and issues around immigrant detention practices. Together we will discover our own prophetic voice and how we can respond. Some say, immigration is the civil rights issue of our time. *Laurie Anderson, Elder, member of Presbyterian Church of Stanley, national Coordinator of the New Sanctuary Movement,*

President of Immigrant Justice Advocacy Movement (KC metro organization), part time youth coordinator at Argentine United Presbyterian, and mother of middle-schoolers Ben and Bonnie.

5B--Hope for Iraqi Refugees--This course will examine the Iraqi refugee crisis, the second largest refugee population in the world. We will explore how life for Iraqi refugees and internally displaced Iraqis differ from the experience of other refugee groups. The moral responsibility the U.S. may have to help those forced from their homes by the war will be considered. Finally, we will identify ways individuals and groups in Kansas City can help refugees seeking to make a new life here in the Kansas City metro area and ways we can advocate for U.S. policies and funding to relieve some of the suffering of the over four million Iraqis who are displaced inside Iraq or refugees in neighboring countries. This class will include a talk by an Iraqi refugee creating a new life in Kansas City. *Ira Harritt, Program Coordinator, American Friends Service Committee.*

6B--Institutional Racism--Why is it that 45 years after the legal end to discrimination and the height of the Civil Rights Movement that for much of our daily life we live in two separate and unequal experiences? Rev. Kirk Perucca will lead us in a discussion of the reality major segments of our separate and unequal society. This workshop is not for the faint of heart.

7B--Upcoming General Assembly Issues—The 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA) will meet this summer. This workshop will provide information on how a GA meeting is shaped. *Byron Wade is the vice-moderator of the 218th General Assembly.*

8B--Youth Leadership in Social Justice--The Kansas City Interfaith Youth Alliance (KCIYA) was created in 2009 to empower youth of all backgrounds and faiths to come together to create understanding and respect by serving their communities. This workshop will be led by high-school-age students, who are members of the KCIYA leadership council, and Jon Willis, one of the adult mentors for KCIYA. The students will describe why they joined KCIYA, how involvement in KCIYA has impacted their faith, and describe past and planned service projects and other events. *Jon Willis is an economist and an elder at Second Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, MO. Over the past year, he has led an effort to establish the Kansas City Interfaith Youth Alliance, inspired by the vision of Eboo Patel and the Interfaith Youth Core.*

9B--How to Live Peaceably When Disagreeing--Aids or hindrances to peaceful resolutions when families disagree. Doug Bertsch has graduate degrees in Counseling, Divinity, and Psychology. Mr. Bertsch mediated over 1000 divorces and performed 350 child custody settlements before retiring from the Kansas Court Services system. He is also a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor.

10B—Haiti: Needs Are Ongoing—Hear about how the PC(USA) and others have responded to the earthquake.

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