

Reaching UP

United
Presbyterian
Church

It's a Beautiful Day by Erin Cox-Holmes

Erin Cox-Holmes is executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Donegal and a contributor to Presbyterian News Service

- This article outlines the multi-dimensional covenant that binds Presbyterians.

What do the band U2 and a hotel ballroom full of 250 mid council leaders have to do with each other?

That's what the Rev. Corey Schlosser-Hall, executive presbyter of North Puget Sound Presbytery, wanted to discuss with the participants of the annual Polity Conference, held Oct. 14-16.

The answer? Both the band and leaders create emotional frameworks that shape what is healthy about life, he said. Or, as U2 puts in in the song "Beautiful Day," the heart is a bloom that shoots up through stony ground.

While the life of a mid council leader might often seem to be one of plowing stony ground, this is an exciting time to be in mid council ministry, Schlosser-Hall said. There are blooms everywhere trying to shoot up and establish new life.

Mid council leadership is like gardening. It is also like converging weather systems. Leaders must choose which stream will drive the current of the coming years. The downward spiral "high-pressure system" of departures, separation, decline and conflict is an option. But leaders can also choose a "low-pressure system" of aspiration, one that nurtures the shoots of new growth.

The choice is which stream will gain more of our attention, energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Schlosser-Hall said the covenant that binds Presbyterians together is a multi-dimensional one:

- mutual love for God, one another and neighbor;
- a living and growing commitment to Jesus the Christ as Lord and Savior;
- a vibrant, Reformed faith articulated in Scripture and the confessions;
- of shared mission;
- a shared way (aka polity);
- Shared risk to engage in mission and ministry;
- Shared liability to protect and stand together through thick and thin;
- and of material stuff (money, property, belongings) stewarded in trust for the mission of God.

The part of the covenant that should make the headlines is the shared risk, he said. "The headlines of our hearts should be about all the ways we encourage each other to risk reaching out, to listen deeper to people, to experiment and be willing to fail, to exercise courage, to shape a gospel that speaks the language of the soul today."

One way that Schlosser-Hall shapes an aspiring emotional framework is by championing the "big, pragmatic, moderate, middle of this denomination and the church in general.

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As a social movement scholar, I have a deep appreciation for those who are on the poles both the right and the left ... they have a key role in our life together. But I'm noticing a much less vocal, much more influential bunch in the middle."

These are the ones who pull their church forward, get it done, and get on with it.

What are the habits of heart and mind of an aspiring presbytery?

- Future orientation matters. Jesus preaches that the Kingdom of God is near, leading us into the future, not back into the past. Rather than grieving what we once were, be astonished at what we still are.
- Practice trusting. Failing. Gaining in humility. Trying again.
- Play offense rather than defense.
- Put feeling first. Change happens when people see and feel, rather than think and analyze.
- Analyzing leads to negative emotions and dire predictions that can motivate change for the short haul. Lasting change comes from positive aspirations.
- Look for the bright spots rather than the problems.
- Allow people to experience the dignity of the consequences of their ideas and decisions.
- Develop a wide field of vision to connect unlikely convergences, particularly between the fringe and the middle.
- Leaders surround themselves with networks of innovators.
- Quit complaining about our own insufficiency and quit blaming something else for our own stuckness.
- Decide that failing equals learning.
- Discover that vulnerability is the path out of shame and perfectionism.
- Ditch being a middle manager for being an artist.
- Give up believing there is a model, or a secret just around the corner that will fix things

When we believe the Kingdom of God has come near, said Schossler-Hall, then we will be an aspiring — breathing — ecosystem.

"When I stand before my God, I want to know that I did everything possible to help us cohere and stretch beyond ourselves, in order to bless others," he said.

When we choose to quit letting worry and anxiety colonize our hearts, mind and imaginations, U2 is right: It's a beautiful day. (Taken from PCUSA October 21,2013 online issue)



| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Jessica Hong |
| 7 | Kimberly Stephens |
| 13 | Jessica Loop |
| 14 | Gerrit Heitink |

If you would like to make additions to the birthday and anniversary calendar please email: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Pulpit Schedule

The Worship Committee has prepared the November schedule of our guest preachers. Please see the notice placed in each Sunday's Bulletin titled *The UPC Pulpit* regarding the process of filling our pulpit, since Rev. Bremer retired.

November 3: Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort, members of UKirk assisting with the service. Holy Communion served by Rev. Kim-Kort and the UPC Elders.

November 10: Rev. John VanderZee, Andy Notebaert, liturgist.

November 17: Rev. Sarah Cochran, Don Root—liturgist

November 24: Rev. Sarah Cochran, TBA—liturgist



UKirk

UKirk is endeavoring to provide a venue for First Presbyterian Church and United Presbyterian Church to reach out to IU students.

Wright on

Wednesdays:

Please join us at the Wright Education building on Wednesdays from 8 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. in room 2277. This is a time for fellowship, learning, and spiritual growth.

Student Lunches:

FPC continues with student lunches on Sundays at FPC after the 11 A.M. service. If you would like to help with this ministry, they are always looking for donations of paper goods (plates, utensils, cups, and napkins).

Please Note

Ukirk is working on bible study and book studies to meet during the morning/afternoon hours. If you are interested, please let them know. For more information please visit ukirk-indiana.com



Montreat College Conference
January 2-5, 2014.

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

For Children

Youth Sunday School (Pre-school through sixth grade)
Following dismissal from worship

College Students and Young Adults

UKirk – Various activities check out www.iukirk.com

Adults and College Students

People of the New Testament at 9 A.M. on Sundays in Anderson Parlor
Bible Study with Reverend Lorimer, 12:15 P.M. on Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall
Book study, participant led, 6 P.M. on Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall



Fall Back!

Sunday, November 3
at 2:00 a.m.

Turn your clocks back one
hour!

Nov. 7, 2013 is designated "My Hope with Billy Graham."
There will be a special "Living Room Crusade" on television, tablets, and smartphones to bring a special message to America regarding the need to turn back to God to save ourselves and our nations.

How to Get Involved

Guest performers:

Throughout the year we have many special guest performances to enhance our worship experience. If you have a musical talent and are interested in sharing it with the congregation, please contact Jeeyoon Kim!

Volunteering with Sunday School:

Do you love children? Are you excited about crafts? The Sunday School teachers would love to have you assist them. Please contact Karen Like for more information!

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a time to share with one another over coffee and snacks. Everyone is invited to attend. It is held immediately following the Sunday worship service. Fellowship hours can be hosted by groups, families, or individuals. If you feel led to serve in this way, a signup sheet is in the fellowship hall.

Utilize Scrip:

When Scrip cards are purchased UPC receives a percentage from the merchant. The Scrip table will only be set up on the last Sunday of the month to accept order forms and payments. The purchased cards will be available to be picked up the following Sunday!

UKirk:

UKirk is in need of assistance with transportation, food donations, speakers, and mentors. If you are interested, please contact Elaine at NPlane01@aol.com.

Bible Studies:

The church offers three gatherings to explore faith and knowledge outside of the worship service. Please know these are not always bible classes, each is an interactive time to learn and share.

Flowers:

Sanctuary flowers can be donated in honor or in memory of someone special, a birthday, an anniversary, a special event, or just to the Glory of God. To place sanctuary flowers for a special occasion or to honor a loved one, see the sign-up sheet posted opposite the church office. If you would like the Worship Committee to order, the cost is \$23 with delivery included.

Little Red Wagon:

The little red wagon is waiting to be filled with canned goods and hygiene products for Monroe County United Ministries. For more information ask one of our Deacons..



The Sacrament of Holy Communion Served by the Moderator and the Elders the first Sunday of each month & certain other special occasions. Holy Communion will be served on November 3rd by: Elaine Hubbard, Billy Rhodes, Rachel Loop, and Gerrit Heitink



Sunday School Teaching Schedule

Sunday School classroom are being staffed for both classes. The following is November teaching schedule for Pre K—2nd grade: 3rd – Stephanie Worden, 10th – Melanie Mathis-McBride, 17th – Angie Notebaert, and 24th – Aline Haddad. November teaching schedule for 3rd– 6th grade: 3rd- Karen Like, 10th – Michelle Heitink, 17th – Linda Coggin, and 24th – Leina Joseph

Additions to Reaching U.P.

Do you have something the congregation should know about? Is there something you would like to share? Please email any submission for Reaching U.P. to upcbloomington@gmail.com, before the 15th of each month.

Letters of Gratitude

...from the members of the 6pm Sunday night OA meeting. We greatly appreciate that the church allows us to meet here weekly in the parlor, and are happy that we can make a small contribution to the church.

Sincerely,
Harriet

Thank you for the beautiful bouquet and all the prayers regarding my surgery. God has and continues to answer them. You are all in my heart and prayers.

Love,
Leei Schuman (Michelle's Mom)

Benevolent Greetings from Hungary and Turkey! Thank you again for the unforgettable Days last October in the 13th annual conference of CESS. I hope that all of you are very good. God Bless You all!

Sincerely in the Love of Jesus,
Attila Mateffy

Submissions Needed!

- What brought you to UPC?
- What do you think is the most intriguing part of attending UPC?
- What support has UPC given you?

Allen Pease on Medical Leave

Our Church Secretary and Event Planner Allen Pease is currently on medical leave.

Allen had surgery on Friday, October 25 and will be in intensive care for several days followed by an extensive home recovery. Please keep Allen in your thoughts and prayers.

During Allen's recovery, the church office will be open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Tuesday through Friday; closed Monday.

Financial Report

Our cash flow was negative in September. We took in a total of \$9,834 for the month and our expenses were \$10,889.08, giving us a negative cash flow of \$1054.64 for September and a total positive cash flow of \$7,515.26 for the year to date.

| INCOME | | | | | EXPENSES | GAIN/LOSS |
|---------|------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| | OFFERING | MISSION | FUND R. | TOTAL | | |
| SEPT. | 8271.50 | 0.00 | 1,562.94 | 9,834.44 | 10,889.08 | -1054.64 |
| TO DATE | 114,265.66 | 1,786.04 | 8,477.19 | 124,528.89 | 117,013.63 | 7,515.26 |

In spite of a boost of just under \$1,400 from the ethnic food fair, we still came out in negative territory in September. Our year to date cash flow is positive, but we are now behind where we were at this time last year by \$1,860.72 and we still have some mission obligations to pay before the end of the year.

Don Root, Stewardship Chairman

Hanging of the Greens

The annual **Hanging O' the Green is Sunday, November 24**. The Worship Committee will host Fellowship Hour with special holiday treats and the Fellowship Committee will add hot chocolate followed by festooning the church to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is a fun time for singles, teens, seniors, families and, of course, kids! Please put this UPC tradition on your calendar now. A sign-up sheet will soon be posted in the narthex.

| ~ November 2013 ~ | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Sunday | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| Sunday Evenings— 5:30 Gamblers Anonymous, 6pm Overeaters Anonymous, 8pm AA Campus Group | | | | | 1 11:45 Men's Lunch 7pm Temple Shir Tikvah | 2 11am Overeaters Anonymous |
| 3 Deacon's Sunday 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship and Communion 11am Fellowship | 4 | 5 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study | 6 8pm Overeaters Anonymous | 7 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group | 8 11:45 Men's Lunch 7pm Temple Shir Tikvah | 9 11am Overeaters Anonymous |
| 10 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship ** VWC performing during worship*** | 11 5:15 Kiwanis | 12 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study 7pm Session | 13 8pm Overeaters Anonymous | 14 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group | 15 11:45 Men's Lunch 7pm Temple Shir Tikvah | 16 11am Overeaters Anonymous |
| 17 9am Bible Study 9am choir and VWC Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship | 18 | 19 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study | 20 8pm Overeaters Anonymous | 21 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group | 22 11:45 Men's Lunch 7pm Temple Shir Tikvah | 23 11am Overeaters Anonymous |
| 24 9am Bible Study 9am Choir practice 10am Worship 11am Fellowship | 25 | 26 12:15 Bible Study 6pm Book Study | 27 8pm Overeaters Anonymous | 28 6:30pm AA Woman's Group 8pm AA Campus Group | 29 | 30 |