



**ANNUAL PACKETS** materials are due to the presbytery office **January 29, 2010**  
Clerk's Annual Questionnaire **and** Annual Statistical Report are done **on-line** !  
If you have questions or need assistance, call Kay at the Presbytery office.

**REMINDER:**

Next Presbytery meeting is  
**9:30AM Saturday February 6, 2010.**  
**First Presbyterian Church Vail IA.**  
*Worship offering to 2010 Triennium Scholarships*  
\*\*We have 22 kids from Prospect Hill interested in attending!



**REV RICHARD FRANCIS**

*Vail & Westside Presbyterian Church  
Presbyterian Chaplain/Moderator MCT*

A friend was going through the Session minutes at his church when he came to a curious set of entries. The Session met every night for a week, and the minutes for each meeting were the same: no business appearing, the Session adjourned with prayer. This puzzled my friend until he found out what was going on: the church was holding a week-long revival, and the Session was meeting each night after the service to receive into membership anyone who came forward.

Our spiritual forebears used to hold revivals. A speaker would be secured, dates would be set—usually a series of meetings lasting a week, with the culmination on Sunday—and everyone would be expected to turn out every night to hear the speaker. It was also expected that people would come forward to give their lives to Christ during what was known as the altar call.

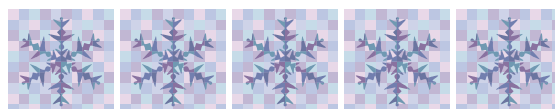
Revivals aren't completely gone, of course. Anyone who has attended a Billy Graham crusade knows what they are like. But local churches, especially in our traditions, don't have them much anymore. We have become suspicious, and rightly so, of the emotionalism, the potential for manipulation, and the lack of long-term effects. People would come forward for the altar call, but it wouldn't always last: their lives might be changed for a week, or a month, but they would often fall back into old habits.

Revival was still a word in use when I began my ministry, but it soon gave way to "renewal," which in turn gave way to "redevelopment." (note how the focus shifted from the individual to the congregation) These days we are working on Transformation, which has the advantage of being a biblical term in the way that revival isn't:

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)*

We are called to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, and we recognize that this isn't something that happens once, but is a lifelong process. Again, there is a biblical term for it: sanctification, the process by which we become more like Christ as we continue to give ourselves to him. The word translated "transformed" in the passage I just quoted is *metamorpho*, which gives us the English word "metamorphosis:" the process by which a caterpillar turns into a butterfly.

But revival, renewal, redevelopment, and transformation are all scary words, because they all involve change. We like our church the way it is, and all change involves loss. Yet at some level we know we have to change to fulfill our mission here in the Presbytery of Prospect Hill. There are people in all our communities who are not hearing the good news of Jesus Christ. We probably don't want to go back to revivals. But can we learn something from the folks who built our churches because they had a passion for souls?



Presbytery of Prospect Hill

I have received several phone calls regarding donations to Disaster Relief in Haiti. You are welcome to send donations to the presbytery office and we will forward them, please indicate on the remittance form Haiti-Disaster Assistance #DR00064

**or**

if you prefer to send it on directly,

below is the webpage from [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) website

Or the direct link is

<http://www.pcusa.org/give/online/projectSelectAction.do?numberString=DR000064>

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.



what's going on at the camp..... *email: [info@presbycamp.org](mailto:info@presbycamp.org).*

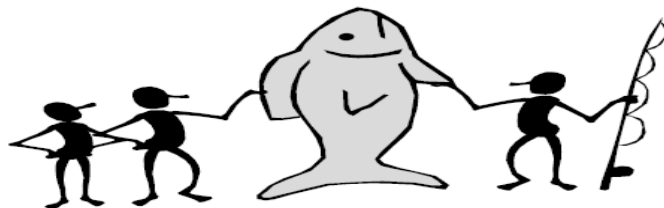
## Men's Ice Fishing Weekend

Presbyterian Camp February 5-7

Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast

Lakeview Lodge (double occupancy) and meals: \$130 per person

Cabin housing and meals: \$85 per person



## Family Winter Getaway



Presbyterian Camp February 19-21

Friday evening through Sunday breakfast

Lakeview Lodge weekend family room rate: \$150

Meals: Adults: \$33; Youth 10 & Older: \$26

Ages 4-9: \$19; No charge 3 & under.

*Non-refundable registration by February 1st.*

