

Peoria Great Banquet

Volume 5, Issue 3

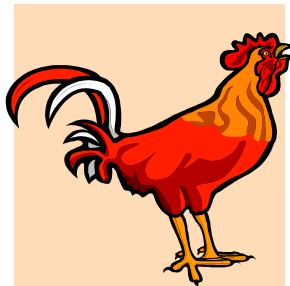
June 2010

*A newsletter by and for the
Peoria Great Banquet Community*



A Warm Welcome

Here are the newest members of our Great Banquet community



Important dates

- Men's Great Banquet will be Nov. 4-7. Set-up will be at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 3. Candlelight is Nov. 6.
- Women's Great Banquet will be Nov. 11-14. Set-up will be at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 10. Candlelight is Nov. 13.
- Team meetings begin 7:00 p.m. Sept. 13.

Men

Walter Bell
Wade Berry
Tim Cunningham
Larry Johnson
Jim Kreid
Scott Ligeski
Jeremy Lowrance
Don Reul
Patrick Roesler
Joel Strader
Steve Tucker
Mike Ulrich
Carl Walraven



Women

Ann Anderson
Theresa Anthony
Michele Dawson
Sue Elliott
Betty Fyffe

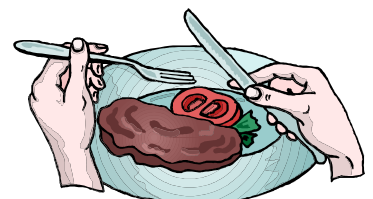
Peggy Hansen
Linda Leathers
Kim Ligeski
Debbie Livezey
Holly Mehawich
Barbra Moran
Carol Morrell
Mindi Perkins
Lori Petran
Mary Jo Pink
Ann Roa
Jenny Rusk
Beth Schlicksup
Amanda Vander Wal
Sue Wilkinson
Kari Wilson

Teens

Jake Pemberton
Jack McGee
Jon Brattin

*Please
join us*

Save the date! The Peoria Great Banquet is having a **Community Gathering July 17** at Northminster Presbyterian Church. A potluck will be at 6:15 p.m., with a worship service at 7:00 p.m. Families of community members are invited.



Fall Great Banquets

Men's #15 will be November 4th - 7th. The Lay Director is Ric Fritz.
Women's #16 will be November 11th - 14th. The Lay Director is Amy Mauser.

Ric and Amy will be calling community member soon to serve on the fall teams.
Team meetings will begin September 13th at 7:00 p.m.

IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO START ASKING GUESTS!

Kairos Prison Ministry

The first weekend for men is at Menard on Sept. 23-26. An informational meeting about the weekend will be at 9 a.m. July 10 in Chester. Team meetings will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 17 and 31, Aug. 14 and 28, and Sept. 11 and 18 in Chester. The team is asked to return to the prison once a month for the reunion meetings for guests. The total commitment is about nine months.

If serving on the team is not an option for you, there are other areas of service available. When Kairos goes in for a weekend, they take *2,000 to 3,000 dozen cookies!* The inmates do not get cookies or sweet treats of any kind, so this is their agape. There are four recipes available for cooks to choose from. The inmates also receive placemats that have been decorated with words of encouragement, pictures, scripture, etc. The walls of the conference room can be decorated with agape posters, paper chains and handprint cut-outs. Of course green agape — monetary donations — also help the weekend. And pray, pray, pray!

The next women's weekend at Dwight is in August. Kairos also has Kairos Outside for Female Family & Friends of inmates. This ministry helps the loved ones of an inmate as they struggle with all the issues associated with having a family member in prison.

If you are interested in any level of commitment for this or any Kairos weekend, please contact Fran Butler at franbethb@aol.com.

National Great Banquet & Awakening Conference

This conference will be Sept. 16-18 at Lampstand Presbyterian Church in Decatur. Workshops will be on various topics, some directed toward the Banquet & Awakening, but others will be more generic in nature and will apply to everyone. For more information go to www.lampstand.net.



FOUND:

Two Veggie Tales DVDs were left after the last Women's Great Banquet candlelight service. Contact Karen Ring, if they belong to you.
Thanks!



Peoria Great Banquet Ministry Team

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Community

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Prayers

Open

Agape

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Website

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Fourth Day Spotlight: Band of Brothers

What was BoB doing last weekend?

BoB, also known as the Band of Brothers, is a Fourth Day group here in the Peoria Great Banquet community. BoB has seven members: Rich Kruiswyk, Dave Edwards, Adam Curry, Keith Petran, Ric Stuck, Michael Johnson and me, Jason Flanagan.

Over the past several weeks, BoB has been on an adventure reading a book by John Eldredge called “Wild at Heart.” The book allowed us to explore our masculine spirit and helped us understand God designed men to be heroes in His battles, to have a beauty to rescue, and to live for an adventure greater than ourselves!

To push our group even further we participated in an event called, “Wild at Heart: A weekend at The Shaque.” You can learn more about this weekend at wildatheartpeoria.blogspot.com/. BoB was joined by five other men from the Peoria area and one from north of Chicago. We did this so we could take our small group’s spiritual learning even further and look into our hearts as men.

The weekend consisted of four formal video sessions by John Eldredge, with discussion that followed. We explored a little more in depth topics from the book, such as “A Battle to Fight,” “A Beauty to Rescue” and “An Adventure to Live!” We also participated in some exciting manly activities as well.

What kind of “manly” activities, you ask? First came knife and hatchet throwing. Trust me if we were hunting for our dinner then we would be extinct. Then we moved on to some pistol and rifle shooting. Here we fared a bit better, although one of us didn’t follow the instructions to shoot the BIG GUN at the mangled bucket, which resulted in some really funny banter!

Next came cooking a traditional South African BBQ on a bonfire for dinner. Then late in the evening, we had one final discussion around the bonfire before some went to bed. Texas coffee seemed to always be brewing over the hot coals, which burned all through the night until breakfast. That night we were surrounded by God’s creation; enjoying the night’s music performed by His creatures, conducted by God himself.

The following morning we were all a little groggy, but were led to a beautiful little clearing for early morning worship. The sun broke through the trees and lit up the morning fog, bringing to life the nature around us. God’s presence was felt in our prayers, in our hearts and in our minds.

Breakfast was hearty! It was a meal that took my mind back to the family campouts I had as a young child. The scramble eggs were cooked in the fat from the mound of

bacon, which was cooked to perfection on a cast iron grid-
dle over coals still hot from Friday night’s bonfire. It is always amazing to see grown men perform tricks with food. The old camp favorite game of “Toss the scrambled eggs into my mouth” was taken to a whole new level.

After breakfast we finished our final video session then moved on to a very special friendship building exercise called PAINTBALL! Nothing says “You’re my best friend” better than wailing on each other with a half-inch paint filled pellet traveling at 270 feet per second. Sure you could shake hands like normal people, but then you wouldn’t have any welts, bruises or scratches to show off to your family and friends. The welts, bruises and scratches will heal, but the camaraderie and memories will be with us forever. These are experiences we’ll talk about for years to come.

Paintball required us all to contribute to the team. Some had the job to hunker down and provide cover fire while others charged forward to capture flags and take out the enemy. Regardless of role, all were rewarded with welts and bruised egos for our efforts to attack, defend, protect and destroy. After what seemed like hours it was time for lunch and a much needed break from taking on enemy fire.

After lunch we rode four wheelers through the grounds around, “The Shaque” which intertwined through the recent paintball battleground. Last we had a showdown straight from the Old West, except this shootout was against a clay pigeons rather than outlaws. We each got a chance to prove our shotgun shooting prowess against ourselves and then we had a competition to see who would be the last man standing, if you missed a clay pigeon you were

out! I am not at liberty to discuss the outcome, but someone in the group needs to take this up as a career. With that we ended up on a high note as our time at “The Shaque” had ended. Each of us drove home contemplating the meaning of the weekend. For some it was returning to the biggest adventure of their life, the family that was waiting for Dad to return to them. The embrace from our “beauty” or a squeeze from our child meant a little more than it did perhaps the day before. Some left the weekend with a little more, though. Some left focused on trying to understand what God has written on our hearts. What adventures has He planned for me? What is it that sets me apart and makes me come alive as a man? Those are the questions the BoB left this weekend pondering and praying about.



Jason W. Flanagan
Proud member of BoB!



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A Note From the Ministry Chairperson

I'm thrilled to be serving as Chairperson for the Great Banquet at Northminster Presbyterian Church. I've been excited by all the people who have come up to me with their suggestions on how to improve the Great Banquet.



As we go forward, my goals for the future are as follows:

1. Energize the Great Banquet Community through more frequent events and communication.
2. Preserve the integrity of the Great Banquet.
3. Keep the Great Banquet on the Community's mind throughout the entire year.

As always, feel free to bring your questions and suggestions to Karen Ring or myself.

Lisa Lucas