



The Grapevine

CONNECTING THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

October 2006

Tri-Centennial of Presbyterianism Celebrated (excerpts from Tonya Richards news service article)

PHILADELPHIA - The great cloud of Presbyterian witnesses most certainly would have been pleased on Sunday, Oct. 1.

Peering down at the goings on inside Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church here, they had to be smiling as they watched their offspring paying homage to them. And no doubt they marveled at just how far their church had come in 300 years.

A colorful procession of presbytery banners, two choirs and a brass ensemble, an array of denominational officials and a hearty crowd gathered to mark the 300th anniversary of the first presbytery meeting in America. Held in Philadelphia in 1706, the meeting set the foundation for what is today the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Seven Presbyterian ministers organized that first presbytery, which was a general

presbytery with broad geographical boundaries. They were led by the Rev. Francis Makemie, considered the father of American Presbyterianism.

The other six men, all considered nonconformists in the Anglican-majority colonial environment, were the Revs. Jedidiah (or Jedediah) Andrews, Samuel Davis (or Davies), John Hampton, George McNish, Nathaniel Taylor and John Wilson.

"They were religious dissidents," said Frederick Heuser, director of the Presbyterian Historical Society, the Philadelphia-based national archives and historical research center of the PC(USA).

"They realized that they needed each other's fellowship," he said, adding that the men gathered for fellowship, education, and for disciplining, licensing, and

ordaining ministers. "They were individuals who were interested in establishing some sort of community."

The presbytery grew, and in 1716-17 it expanded into more presbyteries and the first synod was created. The Synod of Philadelphia consisted of about 17 congregations.

"It's important for us to mark significant anniversaries like this. To look back to the past for clues or keys to the future," said the Rev. Ed Gehres, executive presbyter of Philadelphia Presbytery and a member of the 300th anniversary service planning committee.

Philadelphia, Donegal, Lehigh, New Brunswick, New Castle and West Jersey presbyteries all helped host the tricentennial event and took part in the worship service.

Stated Clerk Continues Efforts to Clarify Effects of General Assembly Action

Ed Koster, Stated Clerk, has continued in his efforts to clarify with the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the effects of the General Assembly action on the Peace Unity and Purity Task Force Report on the process of evaluation and examination of persons seeking ordination or acceptance as ministers of Word and Sacrament in Detroit Presbytery.

The General Assembly action has

raised to a new level of seriousness the responsibility of Sessions and Presbyteries in interpreting and upholding the standards of ordination. Working closely with the Committee on Ministry, and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Mr. Koster has been working to develop protocols to guide a fair and equitable and constitutionally proper process of consultation and examination. He has

prepared an opinion on the matter, which he shall present to the Presbytery at its October meeting.

For further information and guidance in the work of your Session please contact the Stated Clerk at 734-358-5403 or ehkoster@aol.com.

Editor's note: Mr. Koster's paper is available on the Presbytery's Web site www.pbydetroit.org in the Oct Presbytery Meeting folder as Paper B.

News from the Churches – Plymouth Church Honors Pastor's Anniversary

On World Communion Sunday The Rev. Dr. Jim Skimins, First Presbyterian Church Plymouth received a standing ovation following his sermon. This was in recognition of 30 years ordained service in Ministry. As Doug Kee, the Clerk of

Session noted "Think of it 30 years of Session meetings, Committee meetings, Presbytery meetings and several General Assembly meetings all conducted with good humor. The congregation presented him with a new preaching robe because the current one is 'only' 20 years old!

Jim is a graduate of the London School of Economics, Glasgow University, and Pittsburgh Seminary. He has served congregations in Scotland, Pennsylvania

and has been in Plymouth for the last 12 years. He has led three congregations in successful building programs.

Sharing ministry with him is his wife Irene. Jim and Irene have two daughters and two granddaughters.

Finally Plymouth seems to be a place for retired clergy. They now have nine ministers between current staff, at large and retired from three denominations.

Take Pictures? We Want

You! The Spiritual Formation and Faith Development Ministry Team is currently looking for an energetic, creative, artistic, Presbyterian photographer—who has

particular passion for the gift of photography, a desire to create meaningful photos of Presbytery related and sponsored events, activities, retreats, and meetings, and a call to volunteer his/her time to serve—and who would be willing to join

the Spiritual Formation and Faith Development Ministry Team beginning immediately. Questions? Interested? Contact Rev. Jessica Nylund Salt, 586-552-1288.

A Modern Miracle - Presbytery Month of Mission

These thirty-five Missionaries are or have been in Michigan during the month of October. The Rev. Mark Adams, Border Ministry; the Rev. Durwood Busse, Tajikistan; Keiko and the Rev. Robert Butterfield, Brazil; the Rev. Suzanne Carter, South Africa; Suzie Frerichs, Border Ministry; the Rev. Leith Fujii, Thailand; Virginia Gartrell, Brazil; Jo Ann Griffith, Ethiopia; the Rev. Janet Guyer, Southern Africa; Judy and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Harvey, Singapore; the Rev. Ken Jones, South Africa; Carolyn Kurtz, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship; the Rev. Joyce and the Rev. John Michael, Czech Republic; Haejung and Simon Park, Africa

and Asia; William Richter, Border Ministry; Beth and William Rule, Malawi; Dr. William Sager, Congo; Vicki and Billy See, China; David Walter, Vanuatu; Nancy Warlich, Zimbabwe; the Rev. Cody Watson, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship; Dr. Martha and the Rev. Don Wehmeyer, Mexico; Carolyn Weinberg, Africa; Rachel and the Rev. Michael Weller Ethiopia; Bruce Wheauty, Vanuatu; and Sunhee and the Rev. Andrew Yoo, China bringing the world to the Churches of Detroit Presbytery to share the wonderful news of the ongoing reach of our Presbyterian Mission Enterprise – sharing the Great Good News of God’s Love in word and deed and in partnership with our brothers and sisters in faith across around the world.

Our Mission Guests, in active Mission Service, current Volunteers in Mission,

Short Term Mission workers, and people recently involved in a variety of Mission experiences were guests in worship services, mid-week programs and special Mission Focus events all across the Presbytery of Detroit.

By telling their stories, and sharing their experiences, our Mission Guests helped to bring alive the reality of the work of Mission in our time. Built increasingly on partnerships, and so in cooperation with the national churches, the stories of lives changed dramatically through hearing the Word, and through the compassionate care of Medical Mission efforts, are an encouragement for the ongoing and growing support of the Presbyterian Church and its ministries.

- Fran Anderson, Chair
Mission Interpretation

Barnabas Youth Center Work Day... Saturday, September 30, 2006 Presbytery of Detroit

Many people in the Presbytery are probably not aware of what a terrific job the Barnabas Youth Center does in mentoring children of Detroit. It has been doing that for 22 years with the prayerful guidance of Stan Edwards. His approach of teaching kids useful skills like making things in their wood shop and using computers provides a “place to hang out” for kids after school. *“If you can save one lost sheep it is worth it.” says Stan Edwards.*

25 adult members from 4 churches (First of Farmington, Drayton Avenue, Northbrook, Orchard Lake) came together on this day to help the center spruce up the building that our Presbytery owns. Our primary task was to prepare the rooms on the third floor so they could be rented out. This would allow them to have a small

amount of income to supplement the center’s financial needs. At 9:15 AM after an initial “Alleluia” chorus (With apologies to Handel) we took a tour of the building to understand the nature of work for the day and see how vast the old bank building was as a home for center activities.

In the wood shop we replaced damaged ceiling tiles and light bulbs. As we finished up some of the youth pitched in to clean up the place.



Stan commented it was much brighter and would really help the kids see what they were doing. He uses some of the wood stripping and staining as a teaching opportunity. There is ample opportunity to do that throughout the building.

Thanks to a private donation we had all the supplies and lunch provided for the volunteers so they could do their job. The Orchard Lake crew took a room and

patched, painted the walls, ceiling and floor so it was ready to rent. Our Drayton Avenue crew had the toughest task... removing the carpet from a few rooms and scraping off the glue residue. That was real strenuous work! Thank goodness they were able to persevere and do the job. Jim Hothem from Northbrook did he-man chores on the electrical work. In many rooms he restored the light. It sure was valuable to have a man of his talents. The Farmington and Northbrook crew completed a couple of large rooms patching and painting all needed walls and ceilings. They also built a covering over a broken window in the main stairwell.

Work wrapped up by 4:00 PM so everyone could get home to rest after a hard day’s work. Stan was over-joyed by how much got done. It is amazing how much this focused adult crew did. To learn how you can help Barnabas Youth Center contact Stan Edwards at barnabasyou@aol.com. For help on other Hands-On Mission projects contact the Rev. Karen Carl at ldypchr@comcast.net.

Sabbath and Practices of Faith

Each of the upcoming Sabbath retreats will focus on a section from Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People, edited by Dorothy C. Bass. Such shared activities to be explored, practiced and reflected upon include Hospitality,

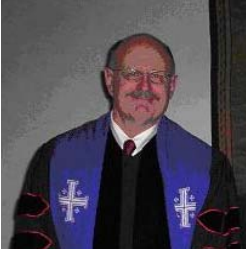
Testimony, Discernment, Shaping Communities, Forgiveness, Healing, Honoring the Body, Household Economics, Dying Well and Singing our Lives. The are rooted in Christian faith and tradition and are presented in ways that they may be integrated into everyday life to give depth and meaning.

Dates for the retreats at Skyline Center

at Almont, Michigan are September 17-18, October 15-16, November 19-20, December 17-18, January 21-22, February 18-19, March 18-19, April 15-16, and May 20-21. See the flyer on the Presbytery’s web site or call the Skyline Office (248-644-2040) for more information and to register.

Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church

By The Rev Dr. Allen D. Timm, Executive Presbyterian



Dr. Stan Ott has been leading churches in the presbytery who would like help with transformation. 23 churches have covenanted with him to meet for two years to plan for change in their congregation. He cites two kinds of churches. In traditional churches, the pastor is expected to initiate and conduct most of the ministry of the church. In transformational churches, in transitional churches, the pastor is the primary teacher and preacher, but shifts leadership to the members of the church. In churches seeking to be transformed into a new model, Stan Ott says 12 shifts have to take place:

- Shift from your present hopes of your congregation's future to the high expectation that God has a vital role for your church;
- Shift from merely running programs to implementing a vision for ministry;
- Shift from a maintenance mentality to a sustaining and advancing vision;
- Shift from an emphasis on friendliness to a ministry of friendliness and hospitality;
- Shift from assuming discipleship to developing discipleship;
- Shift from a primary emphasis on the communal life of

the church to a balanced emphasis on the communal and the missional life of the church;

- Shift from primarily audience-related programming (e.g., worship services, classes) to a balance of audience-oriented ministry and face to face ministry (e.g., small groups, spiritual direction);
- Shift from adding new people to established groups to adding new groups;
- Shift from "leader-deploying" ministry to a "leader-developing" ministry, from committees to ministry teams;
- Shift from a controlling leadership to a permission-giving "sending" leadership; and
- Shift from a pastor-centered/officer-centered ministry to shared ministry among pastors, officers, and congregation. (quoted from the book by E. Stanley Ott, Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church, Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 2002)

There is much more behind each of these shifts. Reading the book will give practical illustrations and helpful discussion questions. The book would make an excellent board retreat or opening study for any session meeting.

In my estimation, the key question is this: what is God doing in your community and longs for you to join? That involves establishing an identity that focus on your particular mission as a congregation. My prayer is that you will follow where God is leading your congregation into mission in the days ahead.

GLOBAL SOCIAL TRENDS:

A Flat World and the Next Christendom
Dr. George Hunsberger



Friday, November 3, 2006
7:00 p.m.

How do you envision the global future in terms of the World Economy and Christianity?

Conversation and discussion will be based on Friedman's *New York Times* best selling book *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* and Jenkins' 2003 Winner of the *Christianity Today* Book Award for the best book in the category of "Christianity and Culture", *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*.

Dr. Hunsberger states and questions: "...a flattened earth and a tilted axis... What do they have to do with each other"? His exploration will examine **Thomas Friedman's thesis** that current global forces are 'flattening and shrinking' the world, along with **Philip Jenkins' assertion** that we are witnessing a cosmic shift in the 'center' of the world's Christian population. **How do these forces converge? Or do they collide?**

Tickets in advance are \$8 or \$10 at the door.

Call Kirk in the Hills at 248-626-2515, ext. 353 to make reservations!

~AN INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY~

1340 W. Long Lake Road. Bloomfield Hills, MI. 48302. www.kirkinthehills.org

Nine Questions About Your Worship Service

Dr. Marva Dawn, author of many books on worship posed these nine questions during a recent workshop at Ann Arbor, First:

1. Why do we come to worship? (We are created to worship!)
2. Who are we as a church? (Are we equipped to use our gifts and to face the world?)
3. Why does all this matter? (Is the world getting better?)
4. How do we pass on our faith to our children? (Are we equipping them to know who God is?)
5. How do we remember that we all belong to the company of saints? (How does our orderly service show God's order to creation?)
6. How do we love our neighbor during worship? (Do we help our guests to understand the service? Or invite them to sit with us?)
7. How do we love our neighbor after worship? (Do we invite our guests to have a meal with us or even to return again or attend coffee hour?)
8. What is the difference between public worship and private devotions? (How do we support each other during worship?)
9. What does it mean to be part of a missional community? (Does our service equip us to go into the world to serve Christ?)

(See her book, Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down)



Marshall Dicks, Dir. Of Music at Dearborn, First with Marva Dawn.

The Month of Mission Breakfast

is October 28, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at St. Timothy PC, 16700 Newburgh Road, Livonia. The late Rev. Dr. Janet Noble-Richardson had invited us to her church for this breakfast. St. Timothy members want to host us in her memory! These twelve wonderful missionaries will make mission come alive in our Presbytery when they speak to us after breakfast!

- Bruce Whearty – Vanuatu
- Rev. Durwood Busse – Tajikistan
- Ken Jones – S. Africa
- Suzanne Carlton – S. Africa
- Rev. Leith Fujii – Thailand
- Nancy Warlick – Zimbabwe
- Rev. Andrew Yoo – China
- Sunhee Yoo – China
- Dr. Martha Wehmeyer – Mexico
- Rev. Don Wehmeyer – Mexico
- Rev. Robert Butterfield – Brazil and
- Caroline Kurtz – Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship

A delicious breakfast for \$3.00 can be reserved by calling Fran Anderson – 248-673-7707 and pay at the door or make your check payable to the **PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT** and mail it to her at 2570 Silverside, Waterford, MI 48328.

Crafts from Brazil and E. Africa will be on sale.

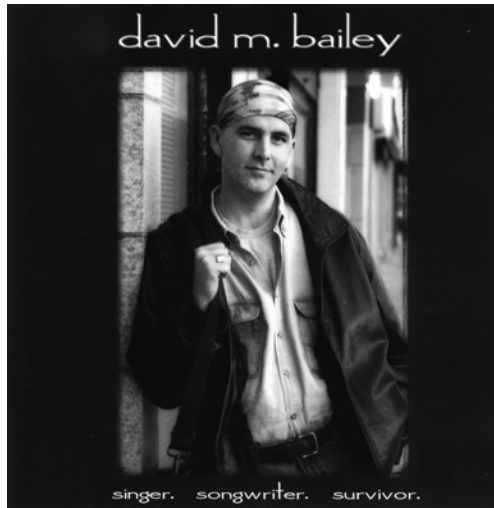


24th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner

November 23, 2006
11:00 am until 4:00 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church of Detroit
17567 Hubbell at W. Outer Drive

For more information contact:
Artheillia Thompson
at 313-341-2697 ext. 210
or 866-345-6550 ext. 207
Fax: 313-341-1514 or 313-345-7250



Where Are You Going?

Alma Youth Mix
November 10—12, 2006

The Alma Youth Mix Design Team is excited to present David M. Bailey.

THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

26th Annual
MEN'S ADVENT COMMUNION
BREAKFAST CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 9, 2006
8:00 A.M. Communion
8:45 A.M. Breakfast
9:30 A.M. Keynote Speaker

Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church
8625 Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48214

COST: \$10.00



SPEAKER:
The Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes
Robert Menelly Professor of Pastoral Ministry
at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Pastor and Head of Staff at The Shadyside Presbyterian Church

For tickets contact the Presbytery Office 866-345-6550

A Reunion on the Road Ahead: Honoring the Work of Rabbi Ed Friedman

November 29 – 30, 2006
National Cathedral, Washington DC

During his lifetime, Rabbi Edwin Friedman drew on the work of Dr. Murray Bowen to offer a way of thinking about life. For many in helping professions and leadership positions, this thinking about life became almost 'life-saving.' Ten years after his death, you are invited to participate in a conference that honors the work of the Rabbi by remembering him and his work, describing how that work is being used currently, and offering several visions of ways in which this thinking may continue into the future. The conference is a 'reunion' - not just of those who studied with Ed, but for all who have been impacted by his family systems applications.

Registration Information

Early Bird, by Oct. 31 \$190.00
Nov. 1 – Nov. 15 \$220.00

Registration:

www.HonorEdFriedman.org

Presbytery Meeting Dates and Locations for the remainder of 2006:

Oct. 24, Roseville, Erin, 30000
Gratiot, Roseville 48066

Nov. 28, Royal Oak, First, 529
Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak 48067

Presbytery of Detroit

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313-345-7250 (fax)
Info@detroitpresbytery.org
<http://www.detroitpresbytery.org>
<http://www.PbyDetroit.org> (for documents)
<http://www.synodofthecovenant.org>
<http://www.pcusa.org>

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Interim Editor the Rev. Dr. David Robertson, Pastor, Orchard Lake During a leave of absence for Editor Jeanne Gerritsen for pressing Church responsibilities, David Robertson has agreed to serve as Interim Editor of the Grapevine. Information can be shared with him at david@olccp.com or info@detroitpresbytery.org