



The Grapevine

CONNECTING THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

June 2007



The Rev. Mr. Peter Smith Honored for 25th Year as Jefferson Avenue Pastor

Executive Presbyter Allen D. Timm Affirms Remarkable Ministry*

Peter,

I want to acknowledge your faithfulness to the Presbytery of Detroit. You have served in the most vital roles in Presbytery, including Moderator, Chair of COM's TPR, two Executive Presbyter Search Committees, including Chair of the committee that called me. Currently you serve in the role of Chair of the Personnel Team, and as a member of the Coordinating Cabinet. In addition, you represented the Presbytery at General Assembly.

You could not have done these ministries nor served so faithfully as pastor of this church without your helpmate, Linda. All of us know how much love and effort Linda has put into this city through her work with the

Junior League. And so honoring Peter would not be complete without honoring Linda. Thank you, Linda, for your faithful 25 years of service.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young church in Thessalonica, (1:3 RSV), and with Timothy and Sylvanus, said, "We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith, your labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Peter, this verse came to my mind when I was thinking of your ministry.

You have been sincere in your **work of faith**, teaching and preaching faithfully as a pastor. Week after week you have provided inspiring messages and guided your elders and staff to establish a strong education ministry....

You have conducted a **labor of love**.

By opening the doors to the neighbors, working hard to support the elementary school, revitalizing housing, revitalizing businesses on the East Side, offering inspiring worship Sunday after Sunday, that people may see and worship God....

Peter, you have had a **steadfastness of hope** that has prevailed against the forces of darkness that want this city to fail. God has given you steadfastness of hope....

Peter, I give thanks to God for you, and I will continue to pray for your ministry, in the words of the Apostles, we give thanks for your work of faith, your labor of love, and your steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

*edited from remarks made at JAPC

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant! ~ Celebrating Milestone Anniversary's of Ordained Ministry

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

William S. Harp, 20
Barbara McRae, 10
Arthur Oberg, 5

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Eldon Beery, 50
William Yeager, 45
R. John Harris, 35

MAY CELEBRATIONS

Roy F. Lambert, 60

Henry Borchart, 45
Richard Brownlee, 35
Anthony DeOrio, 25

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

Raymond W. Lumley, 55
John D. MacInnes, 55
Philip R. Magee, 55
Vern Campbell, 50
James W. Kesler, 50
Donald Wright, 50

Ronald Byars, 45
Neil D. Cowling, 40
Thomas Duncan, 35
Edward H. Koster, 30
Howard Soehl, 25
Anna Marie Austin, 20
Kellie Whitlock, 15
Douglas Campbell, 10
Emily Campbell, 10
Terri Gast, 10

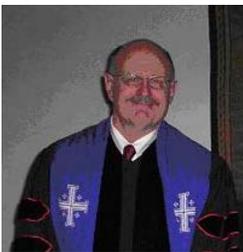
Teresa Peterson, 10

JULY CELEBRATIONS

George W. Ramsey, 55
David W. Robertson, 40
Richard. Henderson, 35
Craig, Aue, 25

Leading Congregations in Anxious Times

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



Detroit
Presbyterians:
Alban has
published another
great book about
congregations,
this one,

Congregational Leadership During Anxious Times.

The Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke has spent many hours studying congregations as “family systems,” and has often consulted with anxious congregations about issues, including pastoral leadership, a death or trauma, conflict, misconduct, style of worship, limited resources.

The key for church leaders to remember is not the fact that they face anxiety, but how they respond to it. Do they flee or face it?

If the leader is working on self-differentiation, he or she is monitoring reactivity and ability to function by : thinking clearly, acting on principle, defining self by taking a position,

learning about one’s own reactivity, learning how to regulate one’s own reactivity, staying in contact with others, and choosing a responsible course of action.

Steinke points to numerous Biblical passages which articulate this non-reactive stance in the face of anxiety. “Be angry but do not sin.” Eph 4:26, RSV “Grieve, but do not grieve as one who has no hope.” I Thess. 4:13, “In thinking be mature.” I Cor. 14:20, RSV “Have no anxiety about anything.” Phil., 4:6 RSV (passages paraphrased)

He also points out that sometimes Jesus raised anxiety so that people would get his point. Effective leaders know when to turn up the heat. Once a discussion is out in the open, solutions can be found which reduce anxiety.

Peter Steinke reminds us that congregations that do not focus on their mission, drift, as the early Israelite community did. A mission helps us keep focused on our purpose, our reason for being. That alone helps to reduce anxiety.

Steinke reminds us that the early church faced conflict, but dealt with the conflict by holding a council, and facing it head on (Acts 15). The church of today needs to apply adaptive solutions when often leaders only look for a quick fix with a technical solution. A leader is one who is like Jesus, laying down every sin and weight that clings ever so closely (Heb 12:1-2). A leader takes up whatever cross needs bearing, and follows after Jesus.

In this article I do not have time to go into depth with all that is in this book. I have tried to interest you further. I highly recommend purchasing this book, and pastors, I invite you to discuss the book with me at the two luncheon seminars listed above.

Faithfully,
Allen D. Timm

Other Pastoral Milestones:

On June 8 and July 9 two Detroit Pastors, golfing partners and theological debaters, both graduates of Yale Divinity School, Neil Cowling, Pastor at the Kirk in Westland, and David Robertson, Pastor at Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian, will have marked and will mark 40 years in the active ministry of Word and Sacrament. The two are the second longest ordained Pastors still serving in full time Pastorates in our Presbytery, and will be recognized for their milestone anniversary at the June Presbytery meeting. Ray Knudsen, III Associate Pastor at Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills with 41 years is the longest ordained Pastor still serving in a full time Pastorate. Neil was ordained by Connecticut Valley Presbytery, and David at Peoples’ Church in East Lansing, where his father, Dr. G. Wallace Robertson was Pastor.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

Slow Me Down Lord

We have been and are being offered, lay and clergy alike, a number of opportunities to engage more deeply in the observance of Sabbath in our lives. To slow the pace of our pastoring, our living, down. To leave time and space, room for rest and rumination and renewal. Pray that more of us take advantage of these opportunities.

And while we are struggling to find time to find time, per chance these few, now old, lines might help us along in this vital to our spiritual health quest for pace in our living. Enjoy the summer. Be renewed in it.

Slow me down, Lord! Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills. Slow me down, Lord! Amen.

218th General Assembly Commissioner Nominations Sought

Nominations for General Assembly Commissioners to the 218th General Assembly in June of 2008 in San Jose California are now eagerly being sought. Nomination forms for Elder, Minister and Youth Commissioners have been handed out and mailed to Churches. Forms may also be obtained from the Presbytery Web Site www.pbydetroit.org under Committees/ Nominations. Self – nominations are not only possible, but are welcomed.

THE MODERATOR'S CORNER

I LOVE KUDZU! Many people will tell you to love it – or run.

The kudzu plant is native to China and Japan where it is used for medicinal teas, animal feed and a folk remedy for alcoholism. In 1876 it came to the United States for an exhibition of flowering Japanese plants. It was then used as a ground covering and during the Depression to prevent soil erosion. With the heat of the Deep South the vine began to grow at a phenomenal rate. The uncontrolled growth of kudzu has led to thousands of acres of forests and farmland becoming essentially worthless. It can grow as much as a foot in one day. By 1953 kudzu was declared an official weed by the US government. The US Forest Service has spent eighteen years trying to find a way to destroy kudzu. During the research one herbicide made it grow faster and it was discovered that farm animals can feed on it. It has been dried and woven into baskets. Even jelly is made of the green luscious vine.

However, my love for kudzu comes from my childhood. Kudzu means family, home, a safe place and people who love me. I was raised in the inner city of Detroit. My family moved from Mississippi when I was very young in order for my father to work in an automobile factory. My childhood was very difficult – however – I spent most of my summers on my grandparent's farm in the small town of Ripley, Mississippi. As we traveled south each year when I could see kudzu that meant we were close to Mama and Papa's. I always felt happy and safe on that red soil farm – and I still do.

This year on my travels, seeing kudzu brought a new revelation to me. What if our faith in Jesus Christ was like kudzu? Does our faith bring us peace and love? Can our faith grow as quickly as this green vine? Can we find new ways of using our faith? Is our faith strong enough to withstand eighteen years of trying to be destroyed? We should never declare anything worthless that can be made strong and useful.

I hope you have something from your childhood that can help you relive a beautiful thought or memory. Maybe it will bring a new revelation to you, as well.

Peace,
Dixie Elam
Moderator

Kirk in the Hills receives highest national recognition for Crop Walk

Below is the text that appears on the glass box that holds the CROP Walk "bell" award that the Kirk received from Church World Service.

[Statement on top of the glass box]

**Church World Service
Recognizes the National Achievement of
Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church
Our Partner in Alleviating Global Poverty and Hunger
As the CROP Hunger Walk Highest Fundraising
Church in the USA
2006**

[Statement on the back of the box]

Shells into Bells...

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge seized power in Cambodia, beginning a four-year reign of terror which killed one million Cambodians. The nation's infrastructure, agriculture base, and its spirit were broken.

Cambodia now lives with the plague of eight million landmines—roughly one for every person in the country. These landmines are planted throughout the countryside in fields where families tend their crops and beasts of burden. Because land is scarce, they have no choice but to work in these mine-filled fields. Often there are fatal and crippling accidents. As Cambodian people go about their daily activities in the fields, many gather scrap metal to add to their family income (estimated at less than \$400 per person per year). For years these scraps of war—spent shell casings, old artillery shells, electrical wire, and soda cans—have been sold to village foundries where they are melted and recast into bells. The bells are used to adorn the harnesses of cows, oxen, and water buffalo, an indispensable cornerstone of Cambodia's agriculture.

Today the Cambodian people are beginning to reconstruct their lives and their villages—there are new roads, new schools, a return of cultural traditions, and a growing confidence that the people can solve their own problems at a community level with the help of partners like Church World Service.

Shells into bells...a moving witness to the transformation underway in Cambodia, where the courage and resilience of the people have triumphed over days of darkness and horror.



The Rev. Kate Thoresen is now the **Rev. Dr. Kate Thoresen** as of May when she graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary.



The Rev. Christine Tiller, Pastor, Ann Arbor, Calvary and Mr. Philip Bohn were married on June 2, 2007

The Rev. David Noble, Interim Associate Pastor, Grosse Pointe Memorial and Ms. Karen Wolff-Kozub were married on June 3, 2007.



Below is the Synod Mobile Health Fair Schedule in Detroit:

<p>Tuesday June 26, 2007 10 am - 2 pm St. James 25350 W. Six Mile Rd. Redford, 48240</p>	<p>Sunday July 15, 2007 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Park United 14 Cortland Highland Park, 48203</p>	<p>Wednesday July 25, 2007 12 pm Calvin East 6125 Cadieux Detroit, 48224</p>	<p>Thursday August 2, 2007 12 pm Second Mile Center 18391 Morang Detroit 48205</p>
<p>Contact: Maureen Bianchi (313) 534 4999</p>	<p>Contact:</p>	<p>Contact: Clara Hall (586) 427-1743 or (586) 778-0513</p>	<p>Contact: Ruth Azar (313) 881-6129 or (313) 245-5252</p>

***REFLECTIONS ON A HALF-CENTURY AS A MEMBER OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT (1957-2007)**

Editor's Note: In the April Issue of the Grapevine a paper, **REFLECTIONS ON A HALF-CENTURY AS A MEMBER OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT. (1957-2007)**, by the Rev. Mr. L. J. Peterson (Retired), was printed in an extensively edited form due to space limitations and concerns with certain comments of a personal nature within the paper. The Rev. Mr. Peterson had shared his paper with the Executive who shared it with the editor who assumed, incorrectly, that the paper was in the public domain. The Rev. Mr. Peterson has asked that the paper in full be available to members of the Presbytery. With our apology to the Rev. Mr. Peterson, and with the required approval of the Stated Clerk, the Grapevine will provide copies on the table provided for such materials at the June meeting of the Presbytery. While recovering from cancer treatment, the Rev. Mr. Peterson still hopes to be present at the June meeting and would welcome conversations about his paper.

Presbytery Meeting Dates and Locations for the remainder of 2007:
 Aug 28—Northville, First
 Oct 23—Redford, St. James
 Nov 27—Detroit, Hope

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