



The Grapevine

CONNECTING THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

April 2008

Looking Down from the Big House

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



Last Fall Willow Creek Association published a study that reported on a hard look the leadership took at the church. That study spoke to me.

I have followed Willow Creek's story since I served as Pastor at a Church three miles away in Palatine Illinois. When I then went to First Presbyterian of Arlington Heights, a group of us pioneered a ministry for single adults, and we were competing for single adults with Willow Creek. That was 1976. When I left in 1980 to accept a new call, their worship services had surpassed our membership.

I found that some of our members were attending both churches. So I was interested when a member took me to their fund raising banquet when they rolled out their plans to buy Barrington property and build a huge auditorium. One of their founding members told me he and his wife took out a second mortgage on their property to be able to give a large gift for the building, and many others did as well.

I have followed Willow Creek because the church I served in Evanston, Il, one hour's drive from Willow Creek, sent many leaders for training, which they and I found valuable. Our church had their teaching

pastor, Dr. John Ortberg speak for a faith renewal weekend, and he gave the lectures which later became the book many of our POD churches have used, [If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get out of the Boat](#). Ortberg now is Teaching Pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, CA, a few blocks from Stanford U. He is one of my favorite speakers and preachers.

I have also followed the Willow Creek story, as depicted in [Reveal: Where Are You?](#) (Greg L. Hawkins and Cally Parkinson, because this huge monolithic cathedral of contemporary worship admitted publicly that they missed the mark. Not only did they ask the hard questions. They admitted that they blew it.

To use a local illustration, they realized their worship services were very much like a UM football game. 107,501 in the stands, buying hot dogs and soda, and reading the program, but after the game, just back to their normal routines.

Yes, Willow had 20k in the stands between Friday evening and Thursday evening worship services, but few were going any deeper on Monday morning. Few were going out of the stadium and into the trenches to share the good news of Christ "in word or in deed, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Yes, some were growing in small groups, and others were serving in downtown Chicago. Others were starting Satellite congregations. But few indicated they took their faith seriously. Yes, they were still in the stands, and not down

on the field.

This book would make a fine session study. They decided that to grow in depth, they had to make three changes. First, they would not ask how many attended, but rather, how many lives were changed by what part of a worship service. Now they offer a devotional for the week that will prepare worshipers for next week. They will push seekers to believe, not just to observe. Their second change was to stop asking how are you, and now they are asking how are you growing spiritually? Thirdly, they are evaluating every program, not on how many attended, but how did the program help someone go deeper into a walk with Christ?

Here is one more observation. They studied secular organizations like Starbucks and the Weather Channel. People who watch their show are looking for information about their lives, and how they can plan their week, and their travel and leisure and gardening, not just a weather report.

Folks, are we helping our parishioners plan for the catastrophes of their lives that will interrupt them? Like illness, tornado, or death? Or the loss of a child? Are we preparing our members for the hard work of leaving the sanctuary and demonstrating the gospel in our lives? Are our members demonstrating the love and justice of Jesus Christ as they change neighborhoods. Friends what does our church reveal about the nature and level of our commitments to Christ and our ministry for him?

PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGES OF MICHIGAN PEACE MANOR IN CLINTON TOWNSHIP GARNERS POSITIVE IMAGE

Even after the ballgame ended, Katherine Russo was complaining about a play. She'd hit the ball beautifully, then rounded first base in hopes of a double -- but had been robbed, she said, by an overzealous competitor. "The guy laid right out in front of me!" Russo said. "Twenty years ago, I would've jumped over him!"

Twenty years ago, Russo would have been 73. Today, she's 93. And leapfrogging into second base isn't really an option. Normally, neither is playing baseball. But with a few modifications, senior residents at the Peace Manor in Clinton Township managed to fit in a three-inning game

Monday morning -- complete with second-inning stretch -- to kick off the Detroit Tigers' Opening Day.

Barb Heikkila, the site supervisor, organized the indoor game as a way to get the seniors excited about the big day and to entice extra visitors to lunch. Most days, about 15-20 people stop in as the seniors' lunch guests. Monday, more than 40 did. "I didn't think they'd want to do it," Heikkila said. "I thought maybe it'd be too physical, but they got really excited."

The seniors played against volunteers such as Frank Alessi, 88, who called themselves the Tigers. The residents were the Peace Manors. The Tigers won 14-7.

Overall, it still looked like a baseball game, said Elizabeth Engeland, 90, who got decked out in an oversized Tigers shirt and baseball cap to cheer from the sidelines.

"I have to hightail it upstairs to see the pregame stuff on TV," Engeland said about 11 a.m., two hours before the Tigers' game began.

"I couldn't wait till today," said Mary Delgato, 74, Engeland's friend and fellow Tigers buff. She planned to watch the game on the big-screen TV in the manor's commons room, which was decorated in blue and orange.

Pictures of Brenda Jarvis' Ordination on March 29, 2008 at Garden City Presbyterian Church.



The Anointing



The Symbols



The Questions



The Ordained



The Table

ATTENTION WORSHIP LEADERS Listed below are the delegates to the 218th General Assembly to be held in San Jose, CA this June. Please invite one of them to your church to share their experience with your congregation.

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This paper is a copy of the Weekly Update email sent to all that request it. If you are not currently receiving the Weekly Update please email Sandy@detroitpresbytery.org to be placed on the list.



[POD Web Site](#)

SPECIAL NOTICES

What's NEW on
www.PbyDetroit.org

Presbytery Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 4:00 PM note
time change
First Presbyterian Church
300 E. Grand River
Brighton, MI 48116
810-227-7411

Papers:

Introduction To Meeting
[Call to The April 22 2008 Meeting at Brighton First.doc](#)
[Introduction to Documents for April 22 2008 Meeting.doc](#)
[Tips for downloading papers.doc](#)

Pre-Presbytery Events
[Pre Presbytery on Children and Youth Safety Policy in Old Sanctuary Hall 2 PM.doc](#)

ACTION PAPERS - Vote Required
[Paper A-1 Presbytery Docket 080422.doc](#)
[Paper B-2 Presbytery Minutes of February 26 2008.pdf](#)
[Paper D-1 Coordinating Cabinet Report 080422.doc](#)
[Paper G-1 CPM Report 080422.pdf](#)
[Paper S-1 Motion to Rescind Overture on Military Aid to Israel.doc](#)

INFORMATION PAPERS - No Vote Required
[Paper C Treasurers Report 080422.pdf](#)
[Paper K Trustees Report 080422.doc](#)

F.Y.I/Announcements/Ecumenical News and Interfaith
[News from Ecumenical Theological Seminary.htm](#)

F.Y.I/Announcements/Educational Scholarships
[Ford Motor and NAACP offer Career Day and Youth Summit April 26.doc](#)

F.Y.I/Announcements/Mission and Service Opportunities
[Camp Westminster Spring Work Weekends.pdf](#)

The Presbytery of Detroit Weekly Update

April 11, 2008

Prayer of the Week:

An Everyday Morning Prayer of the Optina Elders

Grant unto me, O Lord, that with peace of mind, I may face all that this new day is to bring!

Grant unto me to dedicate myself completely to Thy Holy Will!

Guide and support me in all things every hour of this day!

Whatever tidings I may receive during the day, teach me to accept tranquility in the firm belief that all eventualities fulfill Thy Holy Will!

Govern Thou my thoughts and feelings in all I do and say!

When things unforeseen occur, let me not forget that all cometh down from Thee!

Teach me to behave sincerely and sensibly toward every member of my family, that I may bring confusion and sorrow to none!

Bestow upon me, my Lord, strength to endure the weariness of the day, and to bear my part in all its passing events!

Guide Thou my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to be patient, to forgive, and to love!

Amen!

for more information on the Optina Elders, see http://www.pravmir.com/article_159.html

REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April Pre-Presbytery Workshop
on
Children and Youth Safety Policies
for
Elders, Ministers, Christian Educators

April 22, 2008, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church, Brighton
In Old Sanctuary Hall

- Do you have a Children and Youth Safety Policy that defines how your congregation intends to be attentive to the care of children in your programs, but you're wondering if it's necessary to maintain its provisions?
- Do you think you should have a policy but haven't gotten around to implementing one?
- Are you wondering if all the talk of sexual misconduct related to children and youth has been blown out of proportion?
- Do you believe that safety policies are



[PCUSA Web Site](#)

2008 CALENDAR

April

12	Reading of Church minutes for all clerks to read each others books at Detroit Westminster 9:00 am - Noon
12	Troy First is holding a Rummage and Bake Sale from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with proceeds going to the Youth Group's Summer Mission Trip to Colorado
12 - 13	Plymouth First presents Lift Up Your Faith with John Bell
16	St. John Health System invites Clergy to a lunch program on Extending the Dignity of Life 11:00 am - 2:30 pm
17	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
17	Sterling Heights, Utica presents the Alpha Course 6:00 PM at the church
18 - 20	Birmingham, First presents Many Voices... One Song church music workshop
19	The women at St. James PC in Redford invite you to their "Sisters In Christ" Women's Conference
19	Samaritan Counseling Center Preparation for Marriage Workshop at Nardin Park United Methodist
20	Samaritan Counseling Center Lay Caregivers 2008 Series What's Behind the Anger
20	ETS invites you to Celebrate Earth Day 2008 with them 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm
20	Troy, First offering a 3 part community conference on Managing Aging 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm Part 1 "Elder Law, finance, and housing"
20 - 21	Ecumenical Sabbath Retreat at Skyline on Contemplation and Healing Energies
22	Presbytery Meeting at Brighton, First start time 4:00 pm Pre Presbytery on Children & Youth Safety Policies at 2:00 pm
22	Samaritan Counseling Center Clergy Day Northville First United Methodist Church
22-25	Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) Conference Leaving a Living Legacy St. Louis, MO
24	Retired Clergy Luncheon and Fellowship at Ann Arbor First 12:00 pm
24	An open invitation to share and to learn about the 2008 APCE Conference 4:00 pm at Rochester, University with dinner and fellowship at 5:30 pm
24	Sterling Heights, Utica presents the Alpha Course 6:00 PM at the church
25 - 27	A Fast That Lasts at Skyline Camp & Conference Center
26	Presbytery of Detroit Women's Retreat at Birmingham, First 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
26	Ford Motor & NAACP offer Career Day & Youth Summit 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

F.Y.I./Announcements/Older Adult Info
[Troy First on Managing Aging.doc](#)

F.Y.I./Announcements/Special Events of Our Churches
[Farmington First hosts Alma College Percussion Ensemble May 4 2008.doc](#)

F.Y.I./Job Opportunities/Church Education and Youth Ministry Positions
[Ann Arbor First seeks Director of Youth Ministry.pdf](#)

Samaritan Counseling Center
 announces the opening of another office in the downriver area at the Allen Park Presbyterian Church, 1701 Park Ave., Allen Park on Tuesday, April 15, 2008.

Staff member Mark Phelps, M.A., LLMFT, is the clinician who will work there. Mark's specialty is marriage and family but he works with individuals and adolescents as well.

To schedule an appointment at the Allen Park office please call the Farmington Hills office at 248-474-4701.

To: All Clerks

From: Ed Koster, Stated Clerk

The Presbytery has a responsibility to read the minutes and registers of every church in the Presbytery annually. We have done this traditionally by a committee that read them all. For a variety of reasons, this historic model has not worked well in recent years. Most presbyteries and synods do this by having clerks read the minutes of other churches/synods. We will begin working on that model starting this year. Here are the arrangements:

What: Three-hour meeting to read minutes and registers.

When and Where:

Saturday, April 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Detroit Westminster Church.

Wednesday, May 7, 2008, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Plymouth First

You need go to only one. **PLEASE call the Presbytery 313-345-6550 with your choice.**

only for big churches where strangers might interact with children and youth, not for your congregation where "everybody knows everybody?"

- Are you struggling to get somebody, anybody to work in children's ministries and don't want to possibly increase the difficulty of getting workers?
- Are you thinking about updating or evaluating your current policy and want some help?

Here's an opportunity for you!

Bob Pringle, Church Mutual Insurance representative, will inform us about their current standards for such policies and though there are some variations in insurance carriers, most have similar standards.

The Pastoral Response Team of Detroit Presbytery will help you develop, maintain, assess or adjust a Children and Youth Safety Policy for your congregation. The Team will be available for individual consultations and can assist you in connecting with other churches who have established policies that may serve as useful models.

For more information contact Linda French at 734-994-6599 of the Pastoral Response Team, LMFrench@comcast.net

**Who is my neighbor?
 Can I reach out across racial lines?
 Do you want to be a competent leader in a changing world?**

The Presbytery of Detroit is sponsoring another **Multicultural Training** Event with Eric Law.

Eric Law is teaching 3 full days of the Kaleidoscope Course.

Cost:
 \$50 payable to the Presbytery of Detroit covers materials, snacks, and lunch everyday plus dinner on 5/16/06.

Where:
 Southfield Presbyterian Church
 21575 W. Ten Mile Rd.
 Southfield, MI 48075

When:
 May 15 - 17, 2008
 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

RSVP by May 1, 2008

27	Troy, First Part 2 of Managing Aging "Health, Socialization, and Public Services"
May	
3	Workshops on Worship at Birmingham, First 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
3	Grosse Ile is hosting a National Stephen Ministry Workshop on <i>Dealing with Grief</i> 9:00 am to 1:00 pm \$15/person or \$50/group of 4
3	ETS Founders Day celebration visiting 5 of the city's oldest churches 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
4	Farmington, First hosting the Alma College Percussion Ensemble 4:00 pm
4	Troy, First Part 3 of Managing Aging is a workshop led by the Rev. Dr. David Abbott to discuss any personal areas of concern
6	Taize Worship at Dearborn Littlefield
7	Reading of Church minutes for all clerks to read each others books at Plymouth First 6:30-9:30 pm (for those who did NOT attend the April 12 session)
8	Acts 16:5 Gathering Three with Stan Ott at Dearborn, First 1:00 pm until 9:00 pm
9 - 11	Camp Westminster 1st Spring Clean-up Weekend
14	Presbytery Budget Planning 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
15 - 17	Multicultural Training with Eric Law 8:30 am - 5:00 pm at Southfield
15	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
17 - 18	Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Covenant Michigan Gathering Empowering Presbyterian Women in 24 Hours
18	Multicultural Session workshop with Eric Law for Sessions and Pastors 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Birmingham, First
18 - 19	Ecumenical Sabbath Retreat at Skyline on Back to Basics...Connecting with God's Creation
19	Coordinating Cabinet meets with Eric Law 10:00 am
20	Samaritan Counseling Center <i>Certification as a Prepare/Enrich Counselor</i> at Nardin Park United Methodist Church
21	Samaritan Counseling Center <i>Alcohol Awareness Training</i> at Nardin Park United Methodist Church
23 - 26	Camp Westminster 2nd Spring Clean-up Weekend
26	Presbytery Office Closed - Memorial Day
31 - June 1	Crossroads Presbyterian Church, Walled Lake 50th Anniversary celebration
June	
3	Taize Worship at Dearborn, Littlefield
7	Samaritan Counseling Center <i>Preparation for Marriage Workshop</i> at Northville United Methodist Church
17	Presbytery Meeting at St. Clair Shores, Lakeshore
19	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
20	Samaritan Counseling Center's 7th Annual Charity Golf Outing at the Links of Novi
21 - 28	General Assembly in San Jose, CA
25 - July 3	"Leading Worship in the Small Church" , the Summer Collegium, a project in support of small congregations will take place at Virginia



ALMA COLLEGE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

Unforgettable sights and sounds will reverberate through the air when the acclaimed Alma College Percussion Ensemble performs in concert at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington as part of the church's performing arts series, *Great Performances in a Sacred Space*, on Sunday, May 4, at 4:00 pm.

Hi –
Would you be willing, or do you know someone willing, to share the gift of leadership with others in the Presbytery? At this point, the Presbytery still has needs in the following Ministry Teams:

Congregational life – helps congregations with mission studies and develops training events to help churches improve their effectiveness in outreach – such as worship seminars, preaching seminars, etc.

Nurture and Support of Clergy and Lay Leadership – this group helps clergy and laity in their ministry – they host the new clergy seminars, leadership training day, clergy care. Has very effective work groups focusing on these areas.

Mission interpretation – interprets mission, but also does mission, and want to enlist churches to have a college intern, based on the model AA First uses. Especially needed is someone with a vision for campus ministry. Also Barnabas workgroup and Howell workgroup organizing mission trips. This group organizes our hands on mission efforts, and now over 400 have gone to New Orleans through the presbytery.

NCD/RD – this group has revamped how we support congregations who want transformation, and this is an exciting time. We need members who will work with churches and hold them accountable to their plans. Also, this is an exciting time for NCD. I am amazed at the progress Brenda Jarvis has made in her first three weeks of contact work in the Woodward Corridor. By the way, we could use gifts from your mission committee for this work.

THE MULTICULTURAL CHURCH TASK FORCE OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

INVITES

SESSIONS AND PASTORS

To work with **ERIC LAW** to become more open, welcoming and intentional about being a multicultural church.

This will be a great opportunity to gather with others from the Presbytery who are responding to God's call to be multicultural and be coached by **Eric** in how to be about this process.

You are encouraged to attend this workshop with others from your session who also want to be on this journey.

Sunday
May 18, 2008
3:00 PM-8:00 PM
INCLUDING DINNER

First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham
1669 W. Maple Rd.
Birmingham, 48009

Multicultural session workshop is \$15 per person for dinner and materials.



Your Invitation to Founder's Day

Dear Friends:
On Saturday May 3rd, ETS is having their Annual Founder's Day celebration. This year we will be hosting a bus tour of five historic churches in Midtown that all have ETS connections and have a guest lunch speaker, Dr. Grace Lee Boggs. This will be a wonderful day of history and vision for the future. Tickets are available from Jonathan Roach, your tour guide for the day, at 313-831-5200 ext. 222 for \$30.00, which includes bus transportation and lunch. The day will begin at 9 am and last until 4 pm. Invite you friends, families, and congregations. Tickets will sell out fast. [Read about the five churches to be visited.](#)

	Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA
29 - July 4	Synod of the Covenant Gathering 2008
July	
4	Presbytery Office Closed - Fourth of July
17	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
20 - 26	Farmington First invites all adults to join them in their 2008 Summer Adult Mission Project at Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake
August	
21	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
26	Presbytery Meeting at Howell Nature and Conference Center
September	
1	Presbytery Office Closed - Labor Day
18	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
October MONTH OF MISSION	
16	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
25	Month of Mission Breakfast
28	Presbytery Meeting at Rochester, University
November	
2	Daylight Savings Time Ends - Set clocks back 1 hour
7 - 9	Alma Youth Mix
20	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
25	Presbytery Meeting at Detroit, Westminster
27	26th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Detroit, Westminster
27 - 28	Presbytery Office Closed - Thanksgiving Break
December	
13	Men's Advent Communion Breakfast with Lem Barney, '67-'77 Detroit Lions Cornerback
18	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
24 - 25	Presbytery Office Closed - Christmas Holiday
31	Presbytery Office Closed - New Year's Eve

Howell/Outdoor Ministries – we need folks committed to Christian camping, and the difference that makes in kids' lives, and the lives of those whose groups use the camp. Since I have been here, the program has been revamped and now the summer program emphasizes faith in Christ. Ask Peter Henry about their God in creation presentation with live animals, emphasizing stewardship of the earth. Well, would you please give this thought and prayer? We need called and gifted leaders, not uncommitted random participation.

Blessings, Allen D. Timm
[Click here for a Nominations Form.](#)

April 20-21, 2008 Ecumenical Sabbath Retreat on Contemplation and Healing Energies led by the Rev. Dr. John Biersdorf, widely known throughout the United States for his pioneering work in contemplation, prayer and spiritual practices. As the founding president of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, John has laid the groundwork for new understandings of the integration of spirituality and daily life. Come enjoy some Sabbath rest and rejuvenation as we explore scripture and the spiritual practice of contemplation which often releases healing energies. Contact the Skyline office at office@CampSkyline.org or 248-644-2043 for more information and to register for either the full 24 hour retreat which runs from 4:00 PM Sunday afternoon to 4:00 Monday or the Monday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM daytime retreat.