

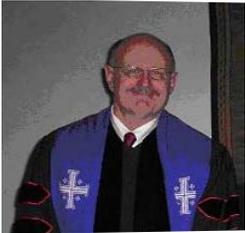


# The Grapevine

CONNECTING THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

November 2009

## Becoming a Thriving Church



by the Rev. Dr.  
Allen D. Timm,  
Executive  
Presbyter

David T. Olson, Director of the American Church Research Project, and Evangelical Covenant pastor, writes about the decline of the American Church, and how to turn around that decline. He wrote [The American Church in Crisis](#) (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008).

Olson employs the image of the three legged stool to describe how to become a thriving church. The seat of the stool is leadership. It takes leadership working on all three legs, to thrive. The legs are Spirituality, Chemistry, and Strategy.

People long to have a transformational experience in church, he says, so the congregation needs to take seriously grow in discipleship or spiritual formation, as well as relying on the Holy Spirit. And then comes the leg of Chemistry. Relationships are very important in a church. There needs to be a healthy system of leadership and the group needs to have an attractive personality. Finally, there needs to be a core strategy that makes the church reflect on what God is doing and find a way to serve in the community. There needs to be a solid vision, a clear division of ministry so every one can serve, and work at ministry

development, so that the church moves towards its goals. In this section he describes the essentials of ministry, transformational worship, discipleship, outreach in mission and evangelism, ministry to children and youth, and care for facilities and finance.

Leadership who continue to grow, and lead others to grow becomes the seat that provides stability and strength for the three legs. Olson says the order he presented the legs is important too. Spirituality is essential for the church to thrive, followed by the chemistry of the congregation, and even after that comes strategy. (Olson. 136-140)

Olson uses another analogy to describe a thriving congregation. He says that church decline and aging is much like human aging. "Reduced energy and progressive deterioration are two natural results of aging. In humans, five habits ward off decline and debilitation as a person advances in age. These healthy habits are proper diet, exercise, relational connections, mental stimulation, and spiritual vitality" (135). In the church, writes Olson, a healthy diet is regular input from the word, through Bible study, teaching and preaching. Olson draws on the body as an analogy to a healthy congregation. He says we exercise our faith through regular outreach. The healthy church provides many ways for relationships to form and support each other, inside and outside the

congregation. Mental stimulation comes through stretching our attitude to accept and support others in the world. When Christ rules our faith and life, we find spiritual vitality and health.

Church revitalization comes when believers listen to God through worship, prayer, study, and ministry. Finding the mission of the church begins with listening to the voice of God, finding where God is at work, and joining the work of the Spirit. I believe the hope of the church comes in demonstration of the change that comes to us in Christ, as we serve and work in the world. The leadership of one of our congregations went door to door, and asked, "How could we serve you?" The answers came and as a result the church opened its doors to 50 youth for tutoring, and invited neighbors to a weekly community dinner. Later they added Bible study. The church found its voice, and neighbors joined them in Sunday worship.

What makes a thriving and healthy church? One is that the leadership promotes spirituality, chemistry, and a strategy to reach its community. In the other analogy the church grows like a healthy body, emphasizing diet and exercise, growth in faith and outreach to neighbors to serve them, in whatever they do, demonstrating and speaking the hope of Christ. A thriving church is incarnational in its demonstration of the gospel, and it is a servant in the name of Christ.

# Missionary Connection

Has your church ever thought about partnering with a PCUSA Missionary?

The reasons why should your church partner with a PCUSA Missionary:

- Praying for your Missionary strengthens them.
  - Corresponding with your missionary is rewarding.
    - A missionary will enrich the life of your congregation.
  - Learning about the country in which your Missionary serves is educational.
- Sharing your Missionaries mission letters is illuminating.
  - Understanding the work of your missionary is invaluable.

Would you like a PCUSA Missionary Partner for your church?

Just fill in the form below and return it to the Presbytery office.



## PCUSA Missionary Partners

Please fill out and return to the Presbytery Office, 17575 Hubbell, Detroit, MI 48235

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We already have a Missionary whom we support. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Missionary)

\_\_\_\_\_ We would like a Missionary Partner from \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Country)

## Presbytery of Detroit's 29th Annual Men's Advent Communion and Breakfast



**Saturday, December 12, 2009**

**Korean Presbyterian Church of Metro Detroit**  
27075 West 9 Mile Road - Southfield, Michigan 48033

8:00am : Communion celebration with Rev. Woo and Rev. Laswell

8:30am : Breakfast presented by Korean Presbyterian Church of Metro Detroit and the New Hope Church

9:30am : Keynote speaker, Jeff Totten, chaplain of Detroit Tigers

**Advance Tickets \$10.00 / Door Tickets \$15.00**



**PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT**

To receive your \$10.00 Advance Tickets, please send your check or money order addressed to:

**Presbytery of Detroit**  
17575 Hubbell - Detroit, Michigan 48235

Attention: Sandy

Please note: Cut-off date for advance ticket sales is 10 days prior to the Advent Breakfast.

## Clergy Ordination Anniversaries

### November

30th MICKEY BLAIR

25th CHARLOTTE SOMMERS

### December

35th LOUIS J. PRUES

25th CLOVER BAILEY

## The Parish Paper

Our organization's purchase of photocopy rights for The Parish Paper INCLUDES

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Info@detroitpresbytery.org  
<http://www.detroitpresbytery.org>  
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<http://www.synodofthecovenant.org>  
<http://www.pcusa.org>

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*Youth Hands-on Mission*  
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*Interfaith Ministries*  
The Rev. Wm Gepford, 313-933-4086

# THE PARISH PAPER

## IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller, Lyle Schaller, Cynthia Woolever - [www.TheParishPaper.com](http://www.TheParishPaper.com)

November 2009 - Volume 17, Number 11

Lyle E. Schaller

### Seven Roads to a Multicultural Congregation

“We believe we should become a multicultural congregation,” the pastor said. “But how can we move beyond ‘hope is our only strategy’ to a plan that achieves results?”

**Start by recognizing eight realities that any effective multicultural-congregation plan must take into account:**

1. Assume that the United States will continue to receive each year close to one-half of all the adults on this planet who choose to leave the country of their birth to live in another nation.

2. A relatively tiny proportion of those newcomers will migrate here from Western Europe.

3. For the vast majority of new residents, English is *not* their first language.

4. With modest exceptions, when it comes to a desire to become fully assimilated into the American culture, economy, and institutional scene, those immigrants represent three distinctive subgroups: (a) those who were born in another country and come here as adults, (b) those who were born elsewhere but come as children, accompanying a parent to the United States, and (c) those who were born here and continue to live here. The older the age of the new immigrants, the more likely they will be “separatists,” not “integrationists.” They want to retain a tie with Korea or the Philippines or China, etc., and they want to help their children retain a respect for their culture, diet, language, and customs.

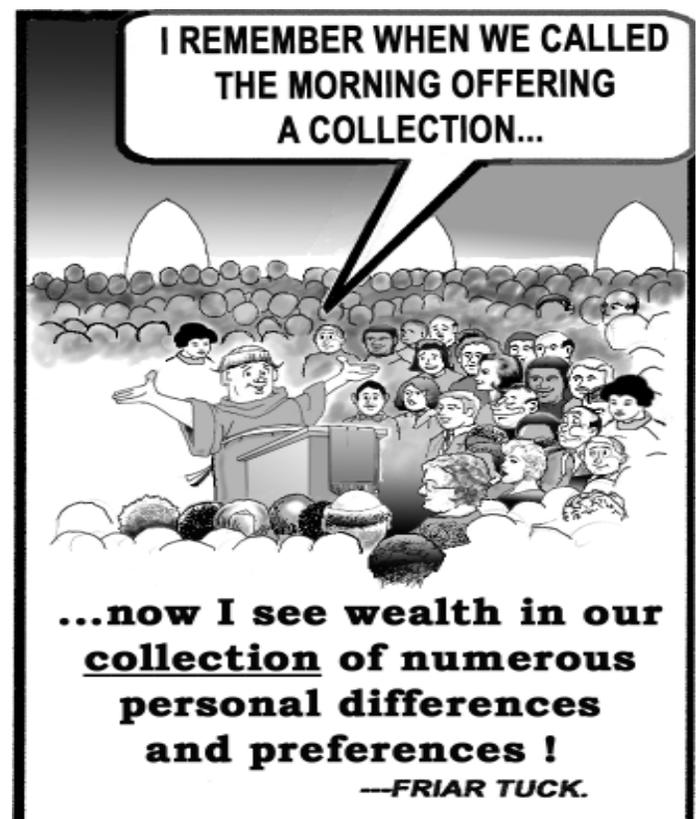
5. Participation in the American labor force is usually the number-one road to assimilation. By contrast, worshiping in an already established Christian community in which the religious culture traces its origins back to Western Europe usually ranks far behind their desire for formal education, recreation, transportation, retail purchases, health care, and a half dozen other points of assimilation. Like most third- and fourth-generation Americans, recent immigrants usually prefer to help create the new rather than to join long-established voluntary associations.

6. The categories of “Hispanic” and “Latino” are widely used in contemporary America. But the overwhelming majority of Christian congregations that serve Spanish-speaking recent immigrants identify themselves *in terms of the country of birth of their leaders*, such as Mexico, Peru,

Cuba, Honduras, or Haiti.

7. American-born white Christians desiring to reach, attract, serve, nurture, assimilate, disciple, challenge, and equip for ministry adults who are (a) American-born blacks, (b) Caribbean-born blacks, and (c) African-born blacks must recognize the great difficulty in organizing one congregation that is able to attract and assimilate adults from all three of those demographic cohorts. The two highly visible exceptions tend to be (a) very large congregations with a long-tenured senior pastor and (b) the small church served by a long-tenured pastor who excels as a loving shepherd. With American-born blacks, ethnic identity has replaced the call of the early 1960s for racial integration: that is why black “separationists” outnumber black “integrationists” by at least ten to one.

8. One highly visible line of demarcation within America’s ethnic minority population is between the “integrationists” and the “separationists” in marriage. The number of bicultural married couples has been increasing in recent years.



Church leaders whose congregations move beyond “hope is our only strategy” to an effective multicultural ministry recognize that those eight contemporary realities provide the context for planning in the American Protestant congregation, or denomination, in which the vast majority of today’s members trace their ancestry back to Western Europe.

**We see the relevance of those assumptions when we observe seven effective multicultural-congregation models in contemporary America:**

1. The congregation served by a pastor in a bicultural marriage that focuses on reaching other couples in a bicultural marriage. The white wife married to a black husband explained that the primary reason they chose this congregation was, “Our children were being teased at school about their parents. We want them to experience a social setting in which bicultural marriage is the norm, not the exception.”

2. The multisite missionary church in which the predominantly Anglo congregation launches a second site served by an associate pastor born and reared in Guatemala and a third site served by an associate pastor born and reared in Nigeria. The organizational structure declares, “This is a multicultural congregation with one name, one membership roster, one governing board, one budget, one staff, one budget, and three sites.”

3. Perhaps the most common model in American Christian congregations has been the Anglo congregation with a Christian Day School (kindergarten through eighth grade) that implements an aggressive effort to enroll a larger proportion of immigrant and ethnic minority children. The operational assumption is, “The parents will follow their children.” This model is most effective in reaching and assimilating parents with upward mobility ambitions for their children.

4. A relatively new, but growing, model implemented by the predominantly Anglo congregation meeting in a building that includes three different rooms for the corporate worship of God. In one church’s expression of this model, the first hour of the Sunday morning schedule is *three different worship experiences*: one in English, one in Arabic, and one in Korean. Following those three simultaneous worship services, the second hour is integrated Sunday school classes for all ages. The third hour provides one worship service in Spanish, one in English, and one in Mandarin.

5. Another growing model originated more than a century ago in American church history. Rather than rely on *geographical boundaries* for defining the regional denominational structure, this model places the top priority on *affinity*. For example, several of the regional judicatories within the denomination’s national structure *overlap geographically*: one regional judicatory is for congregations composed of recent immigrants from Korea; a second regional denominational structure is for congregations of American-born members who trace their ancestry back to Western Europe; a third structure is for self-identified theologically

“liberal” congregations; a fourth structure is for self-identified theologically “evangelical” churches; a fifth regional judicatory was organized for recent immigrants from China; a sixth is for American-born blacks who place a high value on self-governance; and a seventh is for persons born and reared in Mexico.

6. A growing recent trend is when the immigrant congregation, now composed largely of American-born adults who are the children of earlier immigrants, decides to unite with an Anglo congregation. Both have recognized that their current facilities, often on an inadequate site, have placed a low ceiling on future growth. One way to mobilize the resources required to provide better physical facilities at a larger site is to merge and together write a new chapter in their history.

7. The model most difficult to implement is an attempt to launch a new mission designed to reflect a high degree of demographic diversity accompanied by an affirmation of theological pluralism.

**How can we transform a collection of people—*individuals who differ from one another in several respects*—into a closely knit, cohesive, and unified congregation?** One or both of two strategies are most likely to be effective:

1. Identify a common enemy and rally the people together to defeat that common enemy.

2. Minimize the differences among people by conceptualizing this congregation as a collection—not of individuals, but of several relatively homogeneous small groups of seven-to-thirty-five persons per group—in which each group shares several points of commonality. Examples of these points of commonality include (a) loyalty to a Christian Day School, (b) bicultural marriages, (c) widespread admiration of and strong support for the long-tenured pastor, (d) the same first language, (e) similar age and marital status, (f) the same stage in their personal faith journey, (g) the same gender and/or marital status, (h) a shared preference for the same type of worship experience, (i) spending ten days every year in a volunteer team engaged in doing ministry with fellow Christians in a sister church on another continent, and (j) regular active participation as members of a missional team engaged in helping to alleviate world hunger or sheltering the homeless or some other non-divisive social justice ministry.

**Summary:** The larger number of (a) “points of commonality” and/or (b) “choices” a congregation offers, the better its chances of becoming multicultural.

The "Weekly Update" is available by e-mail when you send your address to [sandy@detroitpresbytery.org](mailto:sandy@detroitpresbytery.org) or you can see it on the [www.pbydetroit.org](http://www.pbydetroit.org) web site under Weekly Update.



[POD Web Site](#)

**NEW** Presbytery of Detroit office hours  
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

[Calendar of Events](#)

**What's NEW on**

[www.PbyDetroit.org](http://www.PbyDetroit.org)

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**F.Y.I./Announcements/Synod of the Covenant Communications**

[Covenant Gathering July 4-10 2010.doc](#)

**F.Y.I./Church Newsletters**

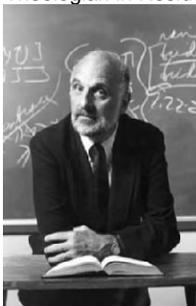
[Canton Geneva November 2009.pdf](#)

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Detroit, Westminster  
**27th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner**

November 26, 2009  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm  
[More Information](#)

First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham  
presents  
their Theologian in Residence.



**Dr. Walter Brueggemann,**

December 4-6, 2009  
[Information](#)

## The Presbytery of Detroit Weekly Update

**November 20, 2009**

**Prayer of the Week:**

A Different Thanksgiving Prayer

Generous God of love, today I am especially grateful

For family reunions, get-togethers with old friends, introductions to new acquaintances; For picnics, popcorn, and caramel-covered apples; For squawking seagulls at the beach and soaring eagles in the mountains; For a field of bluebonnets in the spring and a grove of trees that looks like a bouquet of flowers in their autumn splendor.

God, I know these blessings differ substantially from the gift of Your Spirit, the testimony of the Bible, and the power of Your redemption.

But I am sincerely thankful for all Your gifts and blessings - everyone, large and small.

– C. Weldon Gaddy

Presbytery of Detroit's 29th Annual  
Men's Advent Communion and Breakfast



Saturday, December 12, 2009  
Korean Presbyterian Church of Metro Detroit - Southfield  
27075 West 9 Mile Road - Southfield, Michigan 48033

Advance Tickets \$10.00 / Door Tickets \$15.00

Speaker: Mr. Jeff Totten, Chaplain of the Detroit Tigers

To receive your \$10.00 Advance Tickets, please send your check or money order addressed to:  
Presbytery of Detroit  
17575 Hubbell  
Detroit, Michigan 48235  
Attention: Sandy

Please note: Cut-off date for advance ticket sales is Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

[Printable version](#)



[PCUSA Web Site](#)

Please Note:

Deadline change for submission of items for the *Weekly Update* is now 12:00 PM (Noon) on Monday's or it will go the following week.

Thank you.

November 2009	
24	<b>Presbytery Meeting at Waterford, Community</b>
26	Detroit Westminster <a href="#">27th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner</a> 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
26	ETS Thanksgiving Day Parade Breakfast and Benefit <a href="#">information</a>
25-27	Presbytery Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
December 2009	
1	<a href="#">Taize Worship</a> at Dearborn, Littlefield
4-6	Birmingham, First hosting Dr. Walter Brueggemann, <a href="#">theologian-in-residence</a>
12	<a href="#">Men's Annual Advent Communion Breakfast</a> hosted at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Metro Detroit in Southfield
13	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series All Choirs Christmas Concert</a> 10:00 am
15	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
17	<a href="#">Taize Worship</a> at Troy, Northminster
24-25	Presbytery Office Closed - Christmas Holiday
31	Alma College <a href="#">John Calvin sermon contest</a> deadline
31	Presbytery Office Closed - New Year's Eve
January 2010	
1	Presbytery Office Closed - New Year's Day
9	Clerk's Training 9:00 am at the Presbytery Office the topic will be the Statistical Reports
18	Presbytery Office Closed - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday Observance
19	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
26	<b>Presbytery Meeting at Northville, First - Installation of Moderator &amp; Vice Moderator</b>
27-	Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield



Hello!

Thank you for your continued support of Covenant Gathering!

If you haven't already marked your calendars for **July 4-9, 2010**, please do so!

We will be gathering again at [Michindoh Conference Center](#).

Check out our new website at [www.covenantgathering.com](http://www.covenantgathering.com) - information is being posted daily on all the opportunities as they are confirmed.

**Covenant Gathering** is a little bit *conference*, a little bit *vacation*, a little bit *church camp* with facilities for all abilities!!!

**Presbytery of Detroit  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
2010 Convocation**

From the letter to the Presbytery from Moderator Tom Priest, Jr.

...the presbytery will sponsor an essay contest, awarding monetary rewards for the best overall essay. A cross-cultural committee of the presbytery will select the best overall essays by age group. Age groups will consist of:

1. Fifth and Sixth Grade
2. Seventh and Eighth Grade
3. Ninth - Twelfth Grade

The cross-cultural committee will develop the essay guidelines and determine the amount of the monetary prizes.

Essays will be evaluated based on the essayist's ability to describe:

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s concept of the Beloved Community.
- Why I believe in God's requirement that we live in a beloved community.
- Describe how I will live in a beloved community?

The winners will be acknowledged at the January 2010 meeting of the presbytery. Printable [Copy of the letter](#)



Scotland's Tenors **Caledon**  
In concert Friday, November 27, 2009 7:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
529 Hendrie Blvd.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tickets call 248-541-0108 [Full Flyer](#)



The Presbytery of Detroit

**Self Development Of People  
Work Group  
Application**

Deadline to apply for a grant is December 15, 2009.



*Listening to your Community*  
by Dr. Alan Roxburgh  
[click here for Dr Roxburgh's video](#)

Special message and invitation from the Spiritual Formation & Faith Development Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Detroit on *Empowering Parish Ministry through the Practice of Centering Prayer*  
[More information](#)

The Social Justice & Peacemaking Ministry Team wishes to start a **Latin/American Mission Work Group** and they are looking for potential members for this new work group.  
[More Information](#)

29	Hills will be serving as a regional partner site for the Trinity Institute Conference on Building an Ethical Economy: Theology and the Marketplace. For more information about the conference, visit: <a href="http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/institute">www.trinitywallstreet.org/institute</a>
27-30	<a href="#">APCE Annual Meeting</a> is at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Nashville, TN. Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Michael Lindvall.
<b>February 2010</b>	
6	SAVE THE DATE for the <a href="#">2010 Leadership Training Day</a> with Dr. Alan Roxburgh at Dearborn, First
7	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series Festival of Hymns</a> 10:00 am
16	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
20	<a href="#">POAMN Winter Getaway Cruise</a>
15-17	Pastors in Transition with the Rev. Dr. John Stewart at St. Francis Conference Center, DeWitt, MI
23	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
<b>March 2010</b>	
6	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series Music Batteria meets the Harp?</a> 7:00 pm
14	<b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> - set clocks ahead one hour
16	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
28	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series All Choirs Palm Sunday Concert</a> 10:00 am
<b>April 2010</b>	
2	Presbytery Office Closed Good Friday
10	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series Banjos of Michigan</a> 7:00 pm
20	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
21	A Day with Diana Butler Bass will be hosted by SCC and others
27	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
<b>May 2010</b>	
15	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series Motor City Brass Band</a> 7:00 pm
18	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
31	Presbytery Office Closed Memorial Day
<b>June 2010</b>	
15	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
18	"HOPE FLOATS II" <a href="#">ALASKAN CRUISETOUR!</a> Embarking from Vancouver June 18, 2010
22	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
25-27	Synod of the Covenant Presbyterian Women invite you to experience "The Many Faces of Mission" at Dearborn, First 600 Brady Road, Dearborn, MI 48124
<b>July 2010</b>	
3-10	<b>219th General Assembly at Minneapolis, MN</b>

sermon contest in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. The contest is open to Presbyterian Church (USA) clergy, commissioned lay pastors and seminarians, either employed or retired, who live within the bounds of the Synod of the Covenant. The entry deadline is December 31, 2009, so there is still plenty of time to participate in this contest. Sermons may touch on any aspect of Calvin's thought. For complete details, see [http://www.alma.edu/student\\_life/chaplain/calv\\_inser](http://www.alma.edu/student_life/chaplain/calv_inser).

## Missionary Connection

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    - Corresponding with your missionary is rewarding.
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Just fill in the form below and return it to the Presbytery office.

 **PCUSA Missionary Partners**

Please fill out and return to the Presbytery Office, 17575 Hubbell, Detroit, MI 48235

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We already have a Missionary whom we support. (Name of Missionary)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ We would like a Missionary Partner from \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Country)

XXX

**Thanksgiving Day Game** on Thursday, November 26 at Ford Field against the Green Bay. Tickets are available for only \$20.00 each (regularly \$50.00 seats) for charitable and youth groups. Churches fit into both groups. Basically, anyone can come. Game time is 12:30 PM.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact **Greg Lynch** at the contact information below. You must order at least 10 tickets to qualify for this discount. There may be a group order handling fee for each order. You will want to act as quickly as possible.

Greg Lynch, (313) 262-2264 or [GLynch@DetroitLions.com](mailto:GLynch@DetroitLions.com)

XXX

4-9	<a href="#">Covenant Gathering</a> at Michindoh Camp & Conference Center
5	Presbytery Office Closed for Independence Day
20	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
<b>August 2010</b>	
17	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
24	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
<b>September 2010</b>	
6	Presbytery Office Closed Labor Day
21	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
<b>October 2010</b>	
16	<a href="#">Pathways gathering</a> in Cleveland Heights, OH
19	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
26	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
<b>November 2010</b>	
16	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
23	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
25-26	Presbytery Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>December 2010</b>	
21	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
24-27	Presbytery Office Closed Christmas Holiday
30-31	Presbytery Office Closed New Year Holiday

XXX