

Our Common Ministry



Presbytery of Chicago

www.chicagopresbytery.org

April 2011 • Volume 28 Number 2



Sharing resources, changing lives

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through **One Great Hour of Sharing** to share God's love with people experiencing need. In the decades since its creation, the OGHS offering is supported by nearly 30 denominations - a truly ecumenical effort.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering (OGHS) is received during Lent, usually either on Palm Sunday or Easter. It is divided among three programs: Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%) (PHP), Self-Development of People (32%) (SDOP) and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%) (PDA).

Through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. For example, PDA funds have helped victims of flooding in Pakistan and earthquakes in Haiti. These stories have been told in previous issues of OCM. PDA is currently responding to the tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Locally, PDA has assisted the Brookfield church with flood damage and the Wilmette congregation with grief issues after the murder of their church secretary.

"Sharing Brings Joy. To Others, to God, and to Us." One example of a Self Development of People project is a community garden in Detroit, MI. Few cities have been as devastated with the recent economic recession as Detroit. There are no large markets when fresh vegetables can be purchased. Now, thanks to a grant from SDOP, Central Detroit Community Development Corporation utilizes many of the city's vacant lots to

cooperatively grow and produce food. Food items that are not consumed by the members are sold to area mom-and-pop stores and to community restaurants.

Everybody benefits. Locally, in addition to the six projects funded by Chicago Presbytery's SDOP committee (reported in the February issue of OCM), two other local projects were funded by the National SDOP Committee: Winning Circle (\$15,000) and Team Builders on Point Crew (\$18,700).

"Heaven on Earth"

The Presbyterian Hunger Program also sees community gardens as an effective way to address hunger in places with little or no access to healthy foods. A PHP grant to a church in Youngstown, OH enabled the church to buy an abandoned nursery building to use for worship. The greenhouses became the Goodness Grows project, bringing a bit of "heaven on earth." The congregation cultivated the land, educated people about sustainable agriculture and fed those in need. By forming partnerships with organizations and businesses in Youngstown,

the project has expanded by transforming vacant lots into safe havens where families grow fresh food, feed people and restore dignity to communities, helping to alleviate hunger and bring hope to a depressed city.

Gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering are making a difference. As we share our resources, we are changing lives.

Congregations are receiving a packet of interpretation materials for the OGHS offering, including Minutes for Mission, worship bulletin inserts, and coin boxes. Extra materials can be ordered, free of charge, from Presbyterian Distribution Service, 1-800-324-2612.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Presbyter's Pen	2
Counseling Ministries	3
Advance Justice	4-5
Develop Congregations	6



Chicago Youth
Travel to Cuba
pg. 4

Empower Ministry	7-8
Presbytery News	9-11
Jesus Is Difficult	12
Páginas en Español	13-15
Presbyterian Camps	16



A Firm Foundation in the Midst of Chaos - pg. 7

Glory Days!

By REV. ROBERT C. REYNOLDS, EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

"Show me how you work, God; school me in your ways. Take me by the hand; lead me down the path of truth. You are my Savior, aren't you? Mark the milestones of your mercy and love, God; rebuild the ancient landmarks!" Psalm 25: 4-6 (*The Message, the Bible in Contemporary Language* by Eugene H. Peterson)



Robert C. Reynolds

A former colleague used to speak with a wry smile about "the glory days" when referring to the prosperous mainline churches of the 50's and 60's. Too many of us today, he thought, were wringing our hands, anxiously waiting for the return of that brief "glorious" period of Presbyterian history. He was all too certain that waiting and/or working for the return to that time was futile. The church's future, he said, lay in its people's openness to the brand new ways in which God was calling them. For him, God's new

ways were not the same as the old glory days!

Although many have shaken-off "glory days" thinking in today's hopes for the church, a residue continues that wants a return to what is remembered as more fruitful times. In defense of this hope, there are gifts of those years that are as important to the church now as ever—like inspiring worship, creative Christian nurture, expansive new church development, and courageous witness for social justice. My colleague's caution about clinging to old ways pertained more to an unexamined inclination to self-preservation for its own sake, not to these lasting prized gifts of our life together.

Caught in the grips of World War II Nazi Germany, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote from his prison cell: *"Our church has been fighting in these years only for its self-preservation, as though that were an end in itself. [Now it is] incapable of taking the word of reconciliation and redemption to humankind and the world."* Although our context is very different from Bonhoeffer's, we should resist becoming trapped in an institutional survival mindset. As in Bonhoeffer's era, this would risk compromising the church's capacity to "Go into all the world. . ."

In itself, clinging to partial memories of a bygone era rarely leads to the realization of institutional renewal. The business

principle of continuous improvement seems fitting. We believe the Presbyterian Church (USA) is *reformed and always being reformed*, not stuck in yesteryear's glory days.

The Psalmist wrote, *"Mark the milestones of your mercy and love, God; rebuild the ancient landmarks!"* Perhaps renewing the church first calls Reformed Christians to locate where and when God's love engages our contexts, both inside and outside the church. Then, asking God to rebuild ancient landmarks requires faithful searching for contemporary pathways to God's justice and righteousness. This is very different than clinging to fond memories of earlier times.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is suffering, but this is not yet a suffering onto death. During Holy Week we remember Christ's suffering and Crucifixion while reflecting on his crushing experiences of most frightening human realities. They were real for him as they are for all humans. But, they are a prelude to Resurrection in which God graciously schools us in God's ways, takes us by the hand, and leads us down the path of truth. In this, the Easter message, God reveals profound hope for life beyond what we have known or what we can imagine. For a church in search of renewal this is assurance of what cannot yet be seen with human eyes—future days of glory.

New management team

A new management team has been formed that will succeed the Network Empowerment Work Group (NEWG). The communication, coordination and administrative functions of NEWG will be re-assigned to this team. NEWG was instrumental in initiating and sustaining the Presbytery's innovative mission design begun in 2002. In addition to the functions of the former NEWG, the management team is charged with working with the Mission Priority Leadership Teams to strengthen the accountability to the Presbytery Council and identify needs for inter-MPLT communication.

The team is made up of Bob Reynolds, Executive Presbyter, Bonita Gilchrist, Executive Assistant and Operations Manager, Earnestine Norwood, Mission Network/Personnel Administrator, and the MPLT consultants: Juanita Holley (Advance Justice), Loretta Gratias-Bremer and David Boumgarden (Develop Congregations) and Garnett Foster (Empower Ministry).

OUR COMMON MINISTRY is published five times a year by the Presbytery Council's Communications Work Group of the Presbytery of Chicago, the regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church in Lake, Cook, and DuPage Counties.

Robert C. Reynolds	Executive Editor
Geraldine Parker	Managing Editor
Simeon D. Carson	Graphic Design
Noris Caban	Spanish Translator
Contributors	Joe Pixler

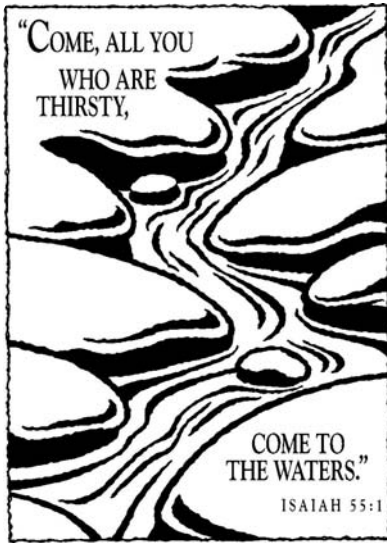
OUR COMMON MINISTRY

100 S. Morgan
Chicago, IL 60607
Ph. (312) 243-8300
Fax. (312) 243-8409
E-mail: breynolds@chicagopresbytery.org
Web: www.chicagopresbytery.org
Next Issue: June 2011 Deadline for copy: May 2, 2011

OCM invites comments, questions and stories from our readers. Please direct your letters to the Editor, Ms. Gerry Parker at gerryparker5@comcast.net. Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.



What's the difference?



Several clergy members of Chicago Presbytery are professional Pastoral Counselors. Most of these are members of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and also are licensed by the state to practice psychotherapy. The most common license is that of Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC).

Some of these pastoral counselors work for

agencies, such as the Samaritan Counseling Centers. Others are in private practice, doing counseling in churches and offices. All have degrees from some form of counseling program or specialized clinical training beyond the Master of Divinity degree required of ordained pastors.

The question often arises – “What’s the difference between a pastoral counselor and any other kind of counselor?”

Joellen Hosler, who has a private practice based in two churches including Chicago St. James, says “As pastoral counselors, we have both the psychological and the theological aspects in our educational backgrounds which allows for the spiritual dimension to be acknowledged in our work together. For some of my clients, the spiritual dimension is very important, for others only minimally if at all.”

Howard Milkman, formerly pastor of Downers Grove St. Luke, now working for Samaritan Interfaith Center in Naperville, says “I’d have hated being a pastoral counselor and never a pastor—or vice-versa. I can look at the whole person—including the spiritual aspect. For religious people, the use of religious terminology is very important.”

Ann Ohlrogge Johnson, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, is the former director of the Samaritan Counseling Center, with offices in Presbyterian, Methodist and Lutheran congregations. She says “Pastoral counselors are wonderful resources for pastors, as colleagues to whom pastors can refer their parishioners, and as consultants with whom to talk about complex pastoral care situations.” As Moderator of the Presbytery’s True North Response Team, she is particularly interested in the role of pastoral psychotherapists as resources for pastors. The True North Team’s training emphasizes the importance of pastor’s referring and consulting around pastoral care situations as a way to prevent pastoral misconduct.

Doug Cater, stated supply at South Holland, does counseling there and at Berkeley-Hillside. He specializes in marriage therapy but also does other forms of counseling. He says “Since I’m also a pastor, I feel comfortable using prayer or mentioning faith issues if the client is comfortable having me do so. If a troubled couple are committed Christians, they may welcome Biblical references or a mention of dedicating a marriage to Christ. This distinguishes pastoral counseling from secular counseling.

John Curphey, associate pastor at Glen Ellyn First, has a masters degree in marriage and family therapy and is a part-time counselor at the Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center (which was founded and directed for many years by Charles Alcorn, a member of Presbytery). John says “We often bring God into the conversation—for instance, in my model using the Biblical metaphor of prophet, priest, and king to describe one’s personality, I say God is trying to redeem each of those three aspects of ourselves, and counseling can help the process.”

Carol Allen, volunteer staff coordinator of Presbytery’s Pastoral Care Ministry Team, points out the difference between pastoral counselors and spiritual directors. Spiritual direction may overlap with other forms of care, but is not primarily focused on character change, problem resolution or achieving job goals. It is centered on the self-in-relation-to-God. The aim of the spiritual director is not to be prescriptive but to serve as a resource for persons and groups who are seeking education and support for engaging in spiritual practices that are rooted in their faith traditions and communities.

Chicago Presbytery is privileged to number among its clergy these specially trained and dedicated pastoral counselors.

Supporting Shared Mission

Sixteen churches brought their pledges to Shared Mission Giving to the February Presbytery where they were received and celebrated. Since then, more churches have sent in their pledges. As of press time, the number has grown to 33 churches. They are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Arlington Heights First | Elk Grove |
| Arlington Heights Southminster | Elmhurst |
| Barrington | Elmhurst Yorkfield |
| Chicago Crerar Memorial | Evanston First |
| Chicago Edgewater | Glen Ellyn Southminster |
| Chicago Faith Community | Grayslake Wildwood |
| Chicago Friendship | Hoffman Estates |
| Chicago Good Shepherd | Homewood First |
| Chicago Hope | Lansing |
| Chicago Lake View | Libertyville First |
| Chicago Saint James | Naperville Knox |
| Chicago Sixth Grace | Niles Community |
| Chicago Heights First | Oak Park First United |
| Cicero Warren Park | Riverside |
| Deerfield First | Western Springs |
| Des Plaines First | Wheaton Hope |
| Downers Grove St. Luke | |

The Stewardship and Financial Development Work Group is grateful to these faithful churches for their commitment to the mission and ministry of the Presbytery.

Chicago Youth travel to Cuba

Nine young people, ages 14-17 from the Presbytery of Chicago will have the extraordinary opportunity this summer to participate in the International Youth Gathering in Cuba. The event will be held July 10-18 in Havana.



Cuban youth host Chicago youth

This gathering will provide a unique international and cross-cultural experience with peers from Cuba as well as Presbyterian churches in Long Island and Scotland that have partnerships with churches in Cuba. Activities will center on leadership, mission, fellowship, music, diversity and community outreach. Participants will be based at Presbyterian churches. Two adult chaperones will accompany the Chicago travelers.

This program is part of the partnership established in 1999 between the presbyteries of Chicago and Havana. Chicago last sent representatives to a youth gathering in Havana in 2006. For more information, contact the Rev. Muriel Miller, MurielM366@aol.com.

Cuban Pastor Visits Chicago

Rev. Dora Arce Valentin, pastor of the Luyano Presbyterian Reformed Church in Havana, Cuba was in Chicago recently and spent time visiting with several people, churches and agencies. Rev. Arce was in Chicago delivering the Hein-Fry lecture at Lutheran School of Theology in the Hyde Park neighborhood. While here she was a guest in the home of Elder Gordon Zerkel.



Gordon Zerkel hosts the Rev. Dora Arce

Dora preached and led Adult Education on March 6th at **Evanston Northminster**. She also met with the Cuba Task Force of the Presbytery, the Chicago Religious Leadership

Network on Latin America, and the University Christian Ministry of Northwestern University. Northminster is in the process of beginning a sister relationship with the Luyano congregation through the covenant process established by the Presbytery's Cuba Task Force. The Presbytery of Chicago has enjoyed a 12-year sister relationship with the Presbytery of Havana.

In solidarity against hate

An initiative from the Ecumenical/Interreligious Work Group (EIRWG), The Interfaith Solidarity Network was voted into existence in 2008. Its purpose is to respond to incidents where hate is expressed to members of a religious community. Incidents warranting response would be vandalism, injurious written remarks or threats, symbols, mockery intended to harm a religious community. Responses might be an in-person protest or counter-protest, a supportive letter to religious groups, or press releases or other public communication.

Leadership is at the Presbytery level, with the Rev. Jay Moses, Moderator of the EIRWG, the Rev. Bob Reynolds, Executive Presbyter, and Elder Peg Griffiths, the Network's Volunteer Coordinator determining what will be an appropriate response to the malicious act.

Peg Griffiths has recruited ten lead churches, spread strategically around Chicagoland. Each church volunteered two individuals willing to be contacted by email and cell phone and to respond in a timely manner and recruit participants in a demonstration. In addition, if an incident happened in the lead church's area, the contact persons would reach other proximal churches to add numbers. Individual churches may elect not to join an effort it deems inappropriate for its membership. The lead churches are:

Chicago: Edgewater, Fourth, Lincoln Park, Pullman and United Hyde Park. Suburbs: Chicago Heights First, Deerfield First, Evanston Northminster, Naperville River Glen and Oak Park First United.

The Network has responded to several incidents of hate since 2009: In summer 2009, the rabbi of Edgewater's Congregation Emmanuel requested help with a counter protest by the Phelps group from Westboro Baptist Church, Topeka. This anti-Jewish, anti-gay group has recently gained notoriety for its picketing of funerals of United States servicemen killed in action. Recently the Supreme Court supported its efforts through the First Amendment. Approximately 25 members of Presbyterian churches joined others to make a group of 200. Placards representing Chicago Presbytery were held, saying: "Presbyterians Stand in Solidarity with all Religions," "Love not Hate is a Family Value," and "Edgewater has too much Heart for Hate."

Since then there have been no incidents warranting demonstrations; however the Network has responded by letters of support in three instances: June 2009—to Chicago Jewish

organizations regarding the murder of a guard at the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC; May 2010—to Muslim organizations and the artist herself affected by a hate-filled defacing of a Muslim-oriented art exhibit; and November 2010—to Jewish organizations regarding the discovery of bomb packages addressed to Chicago synagogues in planes from Yemen.

Combating interreligious hatred is a tall order. Haters of religions exist—for example in Nazi-like groups in the Chicago Metropolitan area. Of all the approximately 8,300 hate crimes reported to the US Department of Justice in 2009, 20% were against a religious belief. Of that 20%, 71% were based on anti-Jewish bias, and 8% on anti-Islamic bias.

The participating lead churches have agreed to head up efforts in this vigilance. However, all Presbyterian churches could be involved, as well as individuals. The Ecumenical and Interreligious Work Group supports dialogues that create friendships and build bridges between Presbyterians and other religious groups. The Interfaith Solidarity Network further communicates our support by saying to those of other religions, “We’ve got your back.”

Partnership with Colombian Christians



Part of the delegation from the United States: Bob Leslie (Atlanta Presbytery), Carol Weaver (Tres Rios Presbytery), Jane and David Boxell (Chicago Presbytery) and Tom Milligan (Miami Valley Presbytery)

The Colombia Mission Network met in February in Bogota, Barranquilla and Uraba. The Network is made up of people who are concerned about the human rights issues in Colombia. Chicago Presbytery has a partnership with the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia (IPC) through Congregations in Solidarity with Latin America (CSLA).

The purpose of the Network is to show solidarity with our Colombian brothers and sisters. The purpose of the meeting in February was to define the mission priorities between the two churches, Presbyterian Church (USA) and IPC.

David and Jane Boxell, **Western Springs Presbyterian Church**, represented Chicago Presbytery in the meetings. The group included representatives from Tres Rios, Miami Valley, Atlanta, and Winnebago Presbyteries, McCormick Seminary, and national leaders Sarah Henken, Coordinator of the Andean Region and Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission.

The group from the United States, along with Colombian Presbyterians, dialogued with government representatives at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, discussing issues such as the Free Trade Agreement, human rights, visas, land restitution, impunity and military bases and humanitarian aid. They visited projects of the IPC, including colleges and universities, a day care center, a tomato farm, and Camelot, an urban area for displaced people. They also participated in church services.

The Boxells noted that advocacy is very important, citing the example that when Colombian human rights organizations seek meetings with their government officials, it often doesn’t happen until U.S. citizens call their congressional representatives and they in turn call Colombian government officials.

The Boxells brought greetings from Milton Mejia and Adelaida Jimenez and Alice Winters, who have visited in Chicago, and Richard Williams and Mamie Broadhurst of Chicago Presbytery, who are Pastoral Accompaniers with the Presbyterian World Mission.

Let’s Move Initiative

“The Presbyterian Church (USA) is excited to work with First Lady Michelle Obama’s **Let’s Move Initiative** because of our commitment to ending childhood poverty, hunger and obesity,” said Elder Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator of the 210th General Assembly. “We believe that poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God’s good creation, and hunger and obesity are symptoms of such poverty. It is our responsibility as individuals, as the church and as a nation to eliminate the root causes of hunger.”

Therefore, the PC(USA) is issuing a challenge for 1,000 congregations to participate this year in activities that will reduce the root causes of hunger and obesity in our communities. Participation may involve, but is not limited to; hosting a farmers’ market or starting a community garden; helping families in the congregation and the community connect to services for which they are eligible, such as WIC and SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program)’ becoming a Summer Food Service Program site; talking to convenience and retail stores about stocking healthier and local food options; and much more.

Chicago Presbytery’s End Hunger and Homelessness Mission Team is supporting this initiative of our denomination. Visit the PC(USA).Let’s Move site. www.pcusa.org.

News from the DCMPLT

The Develop Congregation Mission Priority Leadership Team (DCMPLT) met for a ‘mini-retreat’ at **Berkeley Hillside** in February to discern priorities for 2011. The mission statement says “The DCMPLT’s mission is to empower the Presbytery of Chicago to share in God’s mission to the world by maintaining a comprehensive strategy for the planting, developing, strengthening and repositioning the diverse congregations of the Presbytery for vital celebration and witness to Jesus Christ”

The team made decisions about goals and they are as follows:

2011 - 2012 DCMPLT Goals

- Initiate conversation with other leadership entities of the presbytery about how to create a comprehensive strategy for the planting, developing, strengthening, and repositioning of our diverse congregations.
- Determine how we fit together our existing congregational development programs /strategies (like the Acts 16:5 Initiative, the congregations to be targeted by the Pro-Active Transformation grant, new church explorations, worshipping fellowships, and our covenant grants) into a coordinated overall strategy.
- Nurture to maturity our newest church development initiatives:
 - The formation of a worshipping fellowship policy and the formation of a worshipping fellowship sub-team, in cooperation with the Committee on Ministry.
 - The formation of the new church development vision team
 - The Pro-Active Transformation Initiative

DCMPLT reports that twenty Chicago Presbytery churches continue in the ACTS 16:5 Initiative as the second year begins.

The New Church Development team has been formed and the members are:

Rev. David Boumgarden, POC consultant,
Rev. Clint Roberts, Naperville Knox,
Rev. Eric Heinekamp, Naperville Knox,
Rev. John Vest, Chicago Fourth,
Elder Paul Vogel, Chicago Fourth,
Rev. Nanette Sawyer, Wicker Park Grace,
Rev. Samuel Akhtar, South Asian Fellowship NCD,
Rev. Murphy Ashley, DCMPLT moderator,
Rev. Jan Edminston, (clergy new to Chicago Presbytery)
Rev. Sarah Butter, Wilmette First.

Members of the team attended the New Church Development conference March 16 – 18.

Celebration at Des Plaines Hahna Korean Church

Sunday, January 9th was a day of jubilation at **Des Plaines Hahna Korean** Presbyterian Church as elders and deacons were ordained and installed with warmth and enthusiasm from the congregation. The first session meeting of the new leaders was held the same day. Working with the Administrative Commission for Hahna, a budget for 2011 was approved and a clerk of session and commissioner to Presbytery were elected. The meeting was both practical and educational, and included officer training as part of the

meeting. Officer training continued through February, culminating in an Officer’s Retreat. A second session meeting was held in February. Session minutes will be kept in both Korean and English.

The Administrative Commission that has been working with the Hahna congregation is pleased with the continued growth of the new officers and the harmony within the congregation.

Updating Child Protection

Updating Child Protection was the name of the workshop offered at “Mission Council 8” Leadership Workshop held in January at the Lansing Presbyterian Church. The workshop was led by Elder Julio Peña and Elder Loretta Gratiias-Bremer. All of the churches that participated had child protection policies in place.

Topics included:

How do you do background checks?

What do you do with the background checks after they are done?

What kind of training is offered?

Who is a mandated reporter?

Participants included: **Chicago Pullman, Park Forest Calvary, Tinley Park Faith United, Hickory Hills,** and the Jones Memorial Community Center, Chicago Heights

Coming Events

- **Apr. 12**, pre-Presbytery meeting, 10:30 am, New Commissioner Training, Coordinating Work Group.
 - **Apr. 12**, pre-Presbytery, Challenges and Opportunities of Immigration, Advance Justice MPLT
 - **Apr. 12**, Reading of session minutes, Constitutional Procedures Committee
 - **Apr. 12**, Presbytery Assembly meeting, 1 pm, Chicago First. Vote on proposed new Form of Government
 - **Apr. 24**, 7:30am, Robert Ray’s “Gospel Mass,” Chicago Sixth Grace Sunrise Service, breakfast following.
 - **May 7**, 9am – 4pm, True North Boundary Training, Riverside Presbyterian Church
 - **May 11**, 11:30am – 3pm, Ministry Mentors Seminar, “Confidentiality: Legal Aspects for Clergy.” The Glen Club, Glenview
 - **Jun. 11-14**, Bread for the World National Gathering, Washington, D.C.
 - **Jun. 21**, 2:00 pm, pre-Presbytery meeting, Conversation with Elder Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator, PC(USA).
 - **Jun. 21**, Presbytery Assembly meeting, 4 pm, Chicago Heights First. Vote on Belhar Declaration. Greetings from PC(USA) moderator Cynthia Bolbach.
 - **Jun. 21**, Collection of Church World Service Hygiene kits, Advance Justice MPLT.
 - **Jun. 30-Jul.2**, Big Tent, “Growing Christ’s Church Deep and Wide, Indianapolis, IN
 - **Sept. 20**, 10:30 am, pre-Presbytery meeting, End Hunger and Homelessness Mission Team
 - **Sept. 20**, 10:30 am, pre-Presbytery, Doug Kelly, Board of Pensions
 - **Sept. 20**, Presbytery Assembly meeting, 1 pm, Evanston First.
 - **Oct. 14**, True North Boundary Training, location TBA
- For more information on these events, call (312) 243-8300 (press 0 for operator) unless otherwise noted.*

A Firm Foundation in the Midst of Chaos

BY THE REV. JODY NOBLE

Would you ever describe your ministry as always calm? We might wish that to be true, but the reality is that ministry is chaotic and we are called by God to function in the midst of chaotic situations.



The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, former GA Moderator and Elder Loretta Gratiias-Bremer, leaders at LEAD event

Recognizing this, Chicago Presbytery and McCormick Theological Seminary partnered to present this year's Leadership Education and Development event (LEAD), a one-day training on Saturday, March 5th to help equip church leaders to better handle the contemporary church issues that feel chaotic.

Following is Jody's first-hand reflections on her experience at L.E.A.D.

"I made the commitment to come to L.E.A.D. because I am a new part-time solo Stated Supply Pastor and I wanted help in thinking through several church situations that feel chaotic. In my church, there are two church web sites developed by caring members of my congregation targeting very different audiences, church officers who have not received training in the past two years, a budget that relies on capital reserves to cover a portion of expenses this year, and a congregation who has a vision of serving children and their families and now is having to figure out what that actually looks like in terms of processes and programs.

Throughout the day I was challenged to ask myself why our church could not have two web sites: one for adults and one for youth, to think through my church's processes and whose needs they meet, how to add opportunities for short term church service and include more younger people in our decision making groups. And I was challenged to increase my capacity to be comfortable doing ministry in the midst of what feels like chaos.

After six months of serving as a pastor, I have not yet met a church leader who feels equipped "enough" to deal with every situation in their ministries. We each cling to the truth that God provides the "enough" in us and in the chaotic places where God calls us to journey together. The conversations in

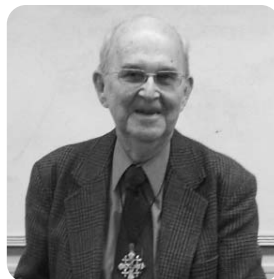
which I participated at L.E.A.D. with the more than 400 participants provided me an opportunity to recommit myself to fearlessly walking with God in the places that feel chaotic and looking for new ways to serve God's people with imagination, creativity and love."

Rev. Jody Noble graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary in 2010. She and her husband are residents of Chicago and parents of two high school age daughters, who are completing their fourth years of school in Shanghai, China. Jody serves Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Schererville, IN and is part of the New Pastors 21 Group in the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

Clergy/Christian Educators Retreat

BY BOB CRALL, PASTOR, KIRK OF THE LAKES

A fresh and palpable vitality marked the annual



Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey, leader at Clergy Retreat

Clergy/Christian Educators Retreat, January 30-February 1, 2011. Renowned Bible scholar and theologian Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey engaged heart, mind and spirit with his depth of insight into the Middle East and with his remarkable ability to articulate meanings that lie below the surface. The Holy Spirit breathed through the community as ministers, educators and a

few spouses and Inquirers in the Preparation for Ministry process enthusiastically drank in Dr. Bailey's lectures. A few members of the clergy group faithfully led us in prayer and worship. They helped to make the retreat everything a retreat ought to be.

What was it like to be with Jesus? Ken Bailey brings to that question his lifetime in the Middle East as scholar and teacher and his keen sense of the continuity of Christian community from the earliest days of the Church in that part of the world. Through his reading of the ancient texts of Scripture in Syriac and Arabic he gets at meanings that have long been lost to the West.

A couple of things stand out from his presentations. One is Jesus' redefinition of repentance for his Jewish audience in the Prodigal Son/Prodigal Father story. The son had to realize the need to repent not only of broken Law and bank account. It was his breaking his father's heart and the broken relationship from which he needed to repent. The son finally repented when he saw his father's public suffering and self-humiliating love. This father was no typical Oriental patriarch. He was prodigal in his love.

Another insight that stands out is the peril of Paul's proclaiming the "folly of the Cross" to the West, the Greco-Roman world, a peril not just to Paul, but also to the message itself. It was a message that seemed to be neither power nor wisdom to his audience. Paul was competing with Pericles'

*Continues on page 8
April 2011*



Continued from page 7

mode of speech, which praised mighty and triumphant men of valor. “So, what’s **your** speech, Paul?” Does any contemporary preacher ever feel the weight of that predicament and question?

Dr. Bailey also held an informal Q and A session on the current situation in the Middle East. With today’s state of Israel in mind he said that when we think of ancient Israel we praise the prophets and condemn the establishment, whereas we have too often forgotten today’s prophets and accepted or supported the establishment. He offered a reading list, including books by Gary M. Burge and Marc H. Ellis.

Dr. Bailey has many books and videos that enrich ministry and can serve as the basis of education programs for adults. An Internet search of his name, Kenneth E. Bailey, takes you to his website.

Next winter’s Clergy/Christian Educators Retreat is scheduled for January 27-29. Dr. Walter Bruggemann has been invited to be the leader. This year’s retreat demonstrated that this event can be exactly what we need.

Hispanic Churches Host Child Protection Workshop

BY MAGDALENA I. GARCÍA, PASTOR, CHICAGO RAVENSWOOD

“Let the Children Come to me...” We all know the words, because Jesus said them and we hear them often as part of the baptismal liturgy. And so we strive to welcome children and youth, and in today’s ministry context this means taking steps to provide a safe space where children can be affirmed and nurtured in God’s name.

With a desire to explore this theme, 25 leaders from Hispanic churches in our Presbytery—**Cicero Canto de Esperanza, Chicago Ravenswood** and **Chicago Vida Nueva**—gathered in January for a workshop on Child Protection. Under the leadership of Julio C. Peña, Social Worker and Youth Minister from **Chicago Pullman**, the group explored topics like the rights of children, signs and symptoms of child abuse, prevention techniques, and stereotypes regarding abusers.

“Culturally, we have been conditioned to think that homosexuals are a threat to our children, but statistics indicate this is not true. Heterosexual men are the worst sexual offenders when it comes to child abuse, and women are second,” said Peña as part of the introduction. “Sexual predators are typically close members or friends of the family, who are respected members of society, and have the child’s full trust,” he added.

Shocking revelations like these kept the group engaged all morning in a dialogue that included learning about the four general types of abuse—physical, sexual, negligence, and emotional—, and familiarizing themselves with provisions of the law. The lively conversation also lifted up the need to explore other related topics in future workshops, such as the difference between punishment and discipline (in the home and in the classroom), and the relationship between cultural tradition, gender norms, and child abuse in light of Scripture and the United States context.

“Sunday School teachers, youth workers, and other church leaders can play a key role in recognizing the signs and symptoms of abuse—be it at home or in school—, in reporting the abuse to the authorities, and in referring both victims and perpetrators to social services,” added Peña. “And the church needs to share a Gospel of love and acceptance for everyone, bearing in mind that words of condemnation against any particular group can be devastating, especially for children and youth,” he concluded.

The morning concluded with the sharing of resources and words of advice for participants about handling incidents of abuse and avoiding burnout. Self-care includes cultivating habits such as setting boundaries, resting, having a support network, and praying. The goal is to develop emotionally healthier leaders who can indeed say, from the heart and without reservations, “Let the children come.”

RESOURCES

For the Presbytery’s Child Protection Policy

Download from: www.chicagopresbytery.org
Or contact: Presbytery of Chicago,
100 S. Morgan, Chicago, IL 60607-2619
312-243-8300

For Child Abuse Services

Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-422-4453 / 1-800-4-A-CHILD

Childhelp USA

15757 N. 78th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85260
www.childhelpusa.org

Prevent Child Abuse America

200 S. Michigan Ave., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604
312-663-3520
1-800-CHILDREN
www.preventchildabuse.org

Faith Trust Institute

2400 North 45th St., Suite 10 Seattle, WA 98103
www.faithtrustinstitute.org
1-800-252-2873

Leadership transition

The February meeting of the Presbytery Assembly saw a passing of the gavel as the leadership of its moderator transitioned from the Rev. Cliff Lyda to the Rev. Judith Watt. Each year at this time, Chicago Presbytery celebrates the gifts of those who lead us: our presbytery assembly moderators. Following a sermon by the Rev. Sean Miller and rousing music by the choir of the Palatine Presbyterian Church, the presbytery installed the Rev. Judith Watt as its 2011 moderator. It also thanked the Rev. Cliff Lyda for his service in 2010. We are grateful for the gifts and wisdom our moderators share so freely.



Cliff Lyda, 2010 Moderator, presents Moderator's Cross to Judith Watt, at her installation as 2011 Moderator of Chicago Presbytery

Cliff Lyda announced that the moderators – himself, Judy Watt, Deborah Paton (moderator-elect), and former moderator Rita Fossell – would be leading a series of informal conversations centering on the Presbytery's future. The first conversation which took place at the recent Leadership Education and Development event (L.E.A.D.), was led by Cliff and Linda Valentine, the Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council. More opportunities are planned to allow people to participate in creating a vision for the future.

The Presbytery Assembly reviewed the joys and concerns of the Presbytery's finances. Develop Congregations announced the receipt of a Proactive Transformation Grant, a pilot project sponsored by the General Assembly, with funds from the GA, Synod and the Presbytery. The grant, which goes for two years, provides \$115,000 for congregational transformation. We also celebrated the generosity of our churches, who pledged over \$187,000 towards Shared Mission Giving. Pledges were received during the Assembly. Additional pledges continue to be received. (See report on p. 3)

At the same time, the Presbytery's debt remains outstanding, as there are yet no written offers for the Camps or the Presbytery's office building, though interest has been expressed by four parties, including the Lakeside Christian Camping. The Presbytery Reformation Task Force reported that the bank loan has been extended through August 31, 2011. While the interest on the debt is funded through December 2011 from the sale of the Elmwood Park church

building, questions were raised about contingency plans should the depressed real estate market continue to hamper the Presbytery's efforts to sell beyond that date.

The Presbyterian Camps are gearing up for summer. A curriculum has been chosen and registrations are already pouring in. Because the Camps are on the market, no reservations are guaranteed beyond 90 days. However, in the event reservations have to be cancelled, deposits will be refunded. Also the salary of summer workers will be guaranteed if alternate work cannot be found. A Team will be appointed to develop a plan for future camping ministry without Presbyterian Camps. Their work is to be completed by the end of July.

The Presbytery meeting ended by reviewing and voting on all of the proposed amendments to the Book of Order except the proposed new Form of Government. All proposed amendments were approved. The amendment to replace the "Fidelity and Chastity" language in Book of Order G6.0106b received 75% approval. The proposed new Form of Government, which was the subject of this meeting's pre-Presbytery event, will be voted on at the April assembly meeting.

The Presbytery Council reported that corporation officers had been elected by the Board of Trustees: President, Judith Watt, Vice President Deborah Paton, Secretary Thomas Brown, Assistant Secretary Barbara Bundick, Treasurer Ralph Intagliata and Assistant Treasurer, Eric Heinekamp.

The future of the church

In a letter addressed to the church by General Assembly Moderator Cynthia Bolbach, Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons, and G.A. Council Executive Director Linda Valentine, there is a call for the whole church to join in conversation, prayer, and vision for the church in this time.

At the request of the Presbytery Council, Chicago Presbytery's past, present and future moderators are echoing this call. (The Revs. Cliff Lyda, Judith Watt and Deborah Paton). Moderated by Cliff Lyda, the moderators are calling the Presbytery into conversation about the future of the church. This will be an undertaking like no other we have had. It is not a task force, committee, or commission, and it has no mandated outcome. It is literally a conversation, or series of conversations, to which all who have a stake in this Presbytery are invited.

The first "conversation" took place at the LEAD event in March, led by Cliff Lyda and Linda Valentine. Linda said, "There is great change underway in the whole church, (not just Presbyterians). There is a shift in the culture." Technology is an example of this culture shift. Phyllis Tickle in her book, *The Great Emergence*, notes that every 500 years culture has a "rummage sale," when old stuff is thrown out. During these times, Christianity has historically expanded and grown. Valentine feels that we are on the edge of such an expansion. Cliff's "mantra" is: "It's not about what's wrong; it's about what's changing."

This visioning call comes at a providential time for the Presbytery of Chicago. For several years the Presbytery has been dealing with overall membership decline, reallocation of scarce resources, changes in the broader culture, and the effects of a tragic lawsuit, the full resolution of which is still unknown. In the midst of this uncertainty, now is the time for us to join together to vision a new future to which we are being called.

These conversations will be centered around the questions, "What is God doing in the world?" and "How should we be responding?" Lyda says a leadership team is being formed who will plot out how to proceed. It will be a continuing process. A number of events will be held, involving ministers, elders, and educators; large and small churches; men and women; younger and older; conservative and liberal; all our races and ethnicities, economic and social conditions, urban as well as suburban. The entire constituency of the Presbytery of Chicago is invited. An effort will be made to reach out to people – one-on-one, and to identify new leadership from among people not now involved in Presbytery leadership.

These conversations are meant to be open ended, with sharing of dreams, visions, and hopes the primary focus. This will not be a time for technical adjustments to current structures, but a time to be prophetic! Rather than look at where we are, we will paint a picture of where we want to be. Conversations will take place at a variety of places and times; some in large groups but most in small groups. These conversations will be blogged, tweeted, posted, and YouTubed. The more we talk and the more we listen, the more we will know about what God is doing among us.

Where will all this go? No one has any idea. What we are undertaking requires faith, persistence, and patience. For Presbyterians, who have a history of developing and relying

on structural solutions for everything, it will be a big challenge to wait for discernment to emerge.

The first step is for individuals to make themselves known. The LEAD event drew a number of people who came forward to join in this conversation. The invitation is extended to all who have dreams and aspirations for the church of Jesus Christ in Chicago. Have you had ideas you haven't told anyone about because they are just too idealistic or even radical? Have you stopped talking because you thought no one was listening? Make yourself known. We are looking for you.

The second step is to start praying, listening, and talking. From there, the conversation will widen and grow. We will watch it with anticipation and hope, not knowing where it will take us. For now, we pray, share, and listen.

PMT Offers Hands-On Assistance

Since its inception in 2003, the Property Ministries Team (PMT) has responded to requests from 47 churches in our Presbytery about problems or work needed on their properties. The PMT has provided direct consultation with on-site visits and inspections or has provided referrals for projects ranging from masonry repairs, structural problems and repairs, electrical issues, heating and plumbing work, roof repairs, to other site and landscaping concerns. The churches served have been in the City as well as many different suburban areas and the PMT has been able to offer each of them free hands-on assistance.

Recent projects have included **Chicago Ravenswood**, where PMT site visits, education and encouragement of the session, and assistance with contractor referrals and bidding, helped the congregation move forward quickly on much needed stone repairs and restoration work. At **Broadview Community** similar level of involvement by PMT, over several

Transitions

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

New Inquirers

- Mr. Eric Vinsel, member of Naperville River Glen.
- Ms. Doreen Sterba-Dezur, member of La Grange First.

Certified Ready to Receive a Call and approved for Ordination

- Ms. Lesley Weir, member of Tinley Park Faith United. Called to serve as chaplain, VITAS Innovative Hospice Care

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Arrivals:

- Rev. Fred Lyon, from National Capital, to serve as pastor of Flossmoor Community Church.

Changes in Presbytery

- Rev. Mark Tabbut, to CPE Supervisor and Chaplain, Rush University Hospital
- Rev. Rose Taul, from interim associate supply pastor at Arlington Heights First to interim pastor, Downer's Grove St. Luke.
- Rev. Frank Wyatt, to interim pastor at Round Lake Calvary.

Departures:

- Rev. Ed Dykstra, transferred to Whitewater Valley Presbytery (IN);
- Rev. Daewang Kim, restored to active status and transferred to Cherokee Presbytery (GA).

Honorable Retirement

- Dianne Shields, from associate pastor, Arlington Heights First.

years, lead to the ultimate repair of persistent leaks and deteriorating brick work with the rebuilding of parapets and replacement of the roof membrane on the classroom wing in 2010.

The Property Ministries Team is available to offer any church professional assistance to whatever level is desired. If your church has a property related issue, the PMT might be able to provide some assistance, so please contact bhutchins@chicagopresbytery.org.

You may also access other PMT related information and links at www.chicagopresbytery.org/resources-for/leaders/property-ministries-team.

“One in the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer”

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was established in 1908 and is jointly sponsored by the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity of the Catholic Church. It is celebrated in the United States each year in January, near Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, as a reminder to promote reconciliation among races, as well as among churches.



The Rev. Judith Watt participates in the Ecumenical Prayer Service

Each year the theme is chosen in a different part of the world. This year’s theme is “One in the apostle’s teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.” An Ecumenical Prayer Service was held on January 23 to begin the week’s celebration, planned by Ecumenism Metro Chicago (EMC), formerly Ecumenical Millennium Committee, was formed in 1999 to promote and to pray for a more ecumenical millennium.

Participating churches were: American Baptist, Armenian Orthodox, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Church of the Brethren, Church of God in Christ, Episcopal Church USA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Greek Orthodox, Orthodox Church in America, **Presbyterian Church (USA)**, Roman Catholic Church, Salvation Army, Serbian Orthodox,

Syriac Orthodox, Ukrainian Catholic, Ukrainian Orthodox, United Church of Christ, United Methodist and the Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministries.

The Rev. Judith Watt, Chicago Presbytery Moderator, represented PCUSA in the service. Also attending from Chicago Presbytery were Grayson Van Camp, James Van Camp and Gordon Zerkel.

At the service, prayers were said for Christian unity, songs and responses from various traditions were sung, and the scriptures were read and proclaimed. After the Sending/Blessing, the Armenian priest offered bread, as part of an ancient Armenian tradition of sharing gifted bread with the poor. At every EMC meeting and worship service, the Ecumenical Millennium Prayer is used. This prayer was written by the participants of the first EMC gathering in 1999. It concluded the Ecumenical Prayer Service on January 23, 2011.

Almighty God, we lift our hearts to You
in praise and thanksgiving.

Out of love You created the heavens and the earth
and breathed life into this world.
Inspire us to treasure this gift in all our relationships:
With You, with each other, and with all of creation.

Out of love You gave us your Son,
Our Savior Jesus Christ, as Light for the world.
Ignite in us the passion of disciples
And the courage to strive for justice and peace
among the rich diversity of race and culture.

Out of love You sent us the Spirit
your own first gift for those who believe.
Instill in us a right spirit
that we may bear your light and love.

Often we have strayed from You.
In your mercy, grant us your forgiveness.
By your power, strengthen us to do your will.

Gracious God, in this millennium
Enkindle the fire of love in this and every place.
Fill us with hope, wisdom, joy, and peace,
That we may be faithful unto the ages of ages.

Jesus Is Difficult

BY EMILY KARSTENS

In January, 138 youth and 48 adults from 16 churches in the Chicago and Blackhawk Presbyteries gathered at East Bay Camp in Hudson, IL for the Middle School Winter Retreat offered by the Presbytery's Youth Ministry Team. The attendance at this year's retreat marks the highest attendance in recent retreat history.



Youth work together on project

The retreat's leader, Rev. Julie Mercer-Kidd and musical leader Rev. John Lee shared powerful and inspiring messages with the youth about the difficult ways that

Jesus tells us to live as Christians; using the theme "Jesus is Difficult." The youth learned about some of the hardest things Jesus calls us to do, including forgiveness, loving our enemies, and using our anger and emotions to bring about positive and beautiful action and change in the world. We talked about how we can do all these things and also prayed for strength from God to do what is not always easy.

In addition to all of the learning and discussion, we had plenty of free time to enjoy the indoor pool and the gym; time to play music, enjoy the snowy outdoors with fun and games and even participate in a talent show.

The weekend concluded with a worship service, primarily led by youth, providing an opportunity to affirm what we had learned and a time to ask God to continue to guide us in our lives to do the hard stuff he asks us to do.

We give thanks again for another successful retreat, for the keynote and musical leadership that made it possible, for the youth leaders, and, of course for the youth who came to be a part of this weekend.

Healthy pastor-parishioner relationships

The True North Response Team was founded in 2005 as a subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry and a program of the Presbytery of Chicago. Its mission is to provide training for pastors to promote healthy pastor-parishioner relationships, raise awareness of sexual boundaries and prevent sexual misconduct, and to provide pastoral care. When a complaint of sexual misconduct is filed, the team provides pastoral care through response teams: one for the accuser, one for the accused and one for the congregation.

In response to requests throughout the Presbytery, starting in 2011, the True North team will also provide on-site boundary training and sexual ethics training for elders, dea-

cons, youth leaders, Stephen Ministers and other lay leaders. The issues that can be addressed include:

- *Understanding Power Dynamics* (both in the pastor-lay leader relationship and in lay leader relationships with parishioners and youth)
- *What is sexual harassment? And how can it be prevented?*
- *Dating, Friendships and Dual Relationships*
- *Hugging and Touch*
- *Internet Boundary Challenges and Safety*
- *Soul-Tending for Caregivers*

Most programs can be presented as a half-day workshop or series of Sunday morning or weekday evening sessions – at your church. The training also works well as a Session Retreat or Church Leader Day Apart.

True North welcomes requests for information about consultation, additional topics to be addressed in training, and how to customize a program and timing. The team will also provide information about their trainers and speakers, their availability and honoraria for different programs. (While members of the True North Response Team provide training for the Presbytery as volunteers, an honorarium is required for congregational training.)

For more information or to schedule a consultation, contact:

Elder Loretta Gratiias-Bremer
Rev. Ann Ohlrogge Johnson
Coordinator of Misconduct Prevention
Moderator, True North Response Team
847-446-6955, ext. 13
Loretta@chicagopresbytery.org
aojohnson@northshoresamaritan.org

TRAINING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FROM THE TRUE NORTH RESPONSE TEAM

These training topics can be presented in one, two or three hour formats, depending on the topic.

Understanding Power Dynamics (both in the pastor-lay leader relationship and in lay leader relationships with parishioners and youth)

What is sexual harassment? And how can it be prevented?

Dating, Friendships and Dual Relationships

Hugging and Touch

Internet Boundary Challenges and Safety

Soul-Tending for Caregivers

Caring for Survivors of Clergy Misconduct

Compartiendo Nuestro Ministerio

Presbytery of Chicago

www.chicagopresbytery.org

Abril 2011 • Volume 28 Number 2

Compartiendo recursos, cambiando vidas

Desde 1949, presbiterianos se han unido con millones de otros cristianos a través de **Una Gran Hora de Compartir** para compartir el amor de Dios con personas pasando por necesidad. En las décadas desde su creación, la ofrenda de UGHC es apoyada por casi 30 denominaciones - un esfuerzo verdaderamente ecuménico. Reconociendo que la esperanza que tenemos en Cristo es vivida en nuestra esperanza los unos por los otros, respondemos con regalos que ayudan a nuestros hermanos y hermanas alrededor del mundo a encontrar una esperanza de un futuro más brillante.

La ofrenda de Una Gran Hora de Compartir (UGHC) se recibe durante la cuaresma, generalmente el Domingo de Ramos o Domingo de Resurrección. Se divide en tres programas: Programa Presbiteriano contra el Hambre (36%) (PHP), Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos (32%) (SDOP) y Asistencia contra Desastres Presbiteriano (32%) (PDA).

A través de Asistencia contra Desastre Presbiterianos (PDA), nuestros regalos apoyan ministerios de respuesta a desastres, asistencia a refugiados y reasentamiento y desarrollo de comunidad que ayudan a personas a buscar refugio, iniciar nuevas vidas y trabajar conjuntamente para fortalecer a sus familias y comunidades. Por ejemplo, los fondos de PDA han ayudado a las víctimas de las inundaciones en Pakistán y terremotos en Haití. Estas historias se han compartido en ediciones anteriores de OCM.

“Compartir trae alegría. A otros, a Dios y a nosotros.” Un ejemplo de un proyecto de Autodesarrollo de los pueblos es un jardín comunitario en Detroit, MI. Pocas ciudades han sido devastadas por con la reciente recesión económica como Detroit. No hay grandes mercados donde se puedan comprar verduras frescas. Ahora, gracias a una subvención de SDOP, Central Detroit Community Development Corporation utiliza muchos de los lotes vacíos en la ciudad para crecer y producir alimentos de forma cooperativa. Alimentos

que no son consumidos por los miembros se venden a tiendas pequeñas y a restaurantes de la comunidad. Todo el mundo se beneficia. Localmente, además de los seis proyectos financiados por el Comité SDOP del Presbiterio de Chicago (informado en la edición de febrero de OCM), otros dos proyectos locales fueron financiados por la Comisión Nacional de SDOP: Winning Circle (\$15,000) y Team Builders on Point Crew (\$18,700).

“Cielo en la tierra”

El Programa Presbiteriano Contra el Hambre (PHP) también ve jardines comunitarios como una forma efectiva para satisfacer el hambre en lugares con poco o ningún acceso a alimentos sanos. Una subvención PHP a una iglesia en Youngstown, Ohio permitió a una iglesia comprar una guardería de niños abandonada para utilizarla para el cultivo. Los invernaderos se convirtieron en el proyecto Bondad Crece, trayendo un poco de “cielo en la tierra.” La congregación cultiva la tierra, educa a la población sobre la agricultura sostenible y alimenta a los necesitados. Formando alianzas con organizaciones y empresas en Youngstown, el proyecto se ha

ampliado al transformar sitios vacíos en refugios donde familias cultivan alimentos frescos, alimentan a gente y restauran la dignidad de las comunidades, ayudando a aliviar el hambre y llevar esperanza a una ciudad deprimida.

Donaciones a la ofrenda de Una Gran Hora de Compartir están haciendo una diferencia. Mientras compartimos nuestros recursos, estamos cambiando vidas.

Congregaciones reciben un paquete de materiales de interpretación para la ofrenda de UGHC, incluyendo minutos de la misión, insertos de boletín de culto y los cajas de ofrenda. Materiales adicionales pueden ser ordenados, sin cargo, del Servicio de Distribución Presbiteriano, 1-800-324-2612.



Juventud de Chicago Viaja a Cuba

Nueve jóvenes, edades 14-17 años del Presbiterio de Chicago tendrán la tremenda oportunidad este verano de participar en la Confraternización de Juventud Internacional en Cuba. El evento se llevará a cabo en La Habana del 10 al 18 de julio.



Juventud cubana junto a juventud de Chicago

Esta confraternización proveera una experiencia internacional y multi-cultural con compañeros de Cuba, así como iglesias presbiterianas de Long Island y Escocia que tienen alianzas con iglesias en Cuba. Las actividades se centrará en liderazgo, misión, compañerismo, música, diversidad y divulgación comunitaria. Los participantes se alojarán en iglesias presbiterianas. Dos adultos acompañarán a los viajeros de Chicago.

Este programa es parte de la alianza establecida en 1999 entre los presbiterios de Chicago y La Habana. La última vez que Chicago envió representantes a una confraternización juvenil en La Habana fue en el 2006. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la Rda. Muriel Miller, MurielM366@aol.com.

Transición de liderazgo

La reunión de la Asamblea de Presbiterio de febrero vio la transición del martillo de liderazgo moderador de el Rdo. Cliff Lyda a la Rda. Judith Watt. Cada año en ese momento, el Presbiterio de Chicago celebra los regalos de quienes nos dirigen: nuestros moderadores de la asamblea de presbiterio. Tras un sermón por el Rdo. Sean Miller y música animada por el coro de la Iglesia Presbiteriana de Palatine, el presbiterio instaló a la Rda. Judith Watt como su moderadora para el 2011. También agradeció al Rdo. Cliff Lyda por su servicio en 2010. Estamos agradecidos por los dones y la sabiduría que nuestros moderadores comparten tan libremente.



Cliff Lyda, Moderador 2010, presenta la cruz de Moderador a Judith Watt en su instalación como Moderadora del Presbiterio de Chicago en el 2011.

Cliff Lyda anunció que los moderadores: él mismo, Judy Watt, Deborah Paton (moderadora electa) y pasada moderadora Rita Fossell - dirigirían una serie de conversaciones informales, centradas en el futuro del presbiterio. La primera conversación, que tendrá lugar en el próximo evento de Educación y Desarrollo de Liderazgo (L.E.A.D. por sus siglas en inglés), estará encabezado por Cliff y Linda Valentine, Directora Ejecutiva del Concilio de Misión de la Asamblea General. Más oportunidades son planificadas para permitir a la gente el participar en la creación de una visión para el futuro.

La asamblea de presbiterio examinó las alegrías y preocupaciones de las finanzas del presbiterio. Desarrollo de Congregaciones anunció la recepción de Beca de Transformación Proactiva, un proyecto piloto auspiciado por la Asamblea General, con fondos de la Asamblea General y el Sínodo. La beca, que dura dos años, proporciona \$50,000 al año para transformación congregacional. También celebramos la generosidad de nuestras iglesias, que prometieron sobre \$187,000 a Misión Compartida. Las promesas se recibieron durante la Asamblea. Promesas adicionales siguen recibándose. (Véase el informe en p.)

Al mismo tiempo, la deuda del presbiterio continúa pendiente, ya que hay todavía no hay ofertas escritas para los campamentos o el edificio de las oficinas del presbiterio, aunque han expresado interés cuatro grupos, incluyendo Lakeside Christian Camping. El grupo de trabajo de la Reforma de Presbiterio informó que el préstamo al banco se extendió hasta el 31 de agosto de 2011. Mientras que los intereses de la deuda es pagado hasta diciembre de 2011 por la venta de la Iglesia Elmwood Park, se plantearon preguntas sobre los planes de contingencia de seguir la depresión en el mercado inmobiliario que continúe entorpeciendo los esfuerzos del presbiterio de vender más allá de esa fecha.

Los Campamentos Presbiterianos se preparan para el verano. Hay una búsqueda para un Director de Campamento Provisional y Líder Espiritual. Se ha elegido un plan de estudios y las matrículas ya están llegando. Pues los campamentos están en el mercado, no hay garantías de reservaciones más allá de 90 días. Sin embargo, en caso de

que las reservaciones tengan que ser canceladas, se devolverán los depósitos. También el salario de los trabajadores de verano será garantizado si no encuentran trabajo alternativo. Se nombrará un equipo para desarrollar un plan para el futuro del ministerio de campamentos sin Campamentos Presbiterianos. Su trabajo debe ser completado el 22 de marzo de 2011.

La reunión del presbiterio terminó con examen y votación de las enmiendas propuestas al Libro de Orden excepto la propuesta nueva forma de Gobierno. Todas las enmiendas propuestas fueron aprobadas. La enmienda para sustituir el lenguaje "Fidelidad y Castidad" en el Libro de Orden G-6.0106b recibió la aprobación del 75%. La propuesta nueva Forma de Gobierno, que fue objeto del evento pre-Presbiterio de esta reunión, se votará en la reunión de la Asamblea de abril.

El Concilio de Presbiterio informó que funcionarios de la Corporación habían sido electos por la Junta de Síndicos: Presidenta, Judith Watt, Vice-Presidenta Deborah Paton, Secretario Thomas Brown, Secretaria Asistente Barbara Bundick y Tesorero Asistente, Eric Heinekamp.

Bolígrafo del Presbítero

¡Días de Gloria!

Por Rdo. Robert C. Reynolds,
Presbítero Ejecutivo

"Muéstrame, Jehová, tus caminos; enséñame tus sendas. Encamíname en tu verdad y enséñame, porque tú eres el Dios de mi salvación; en ti he esperado todo el día. Acuérdate, Jehová, de tus piedades y de tus misericordias, que son perpetuas." Salmo 25:4-6 (Reina Valera 1995)

Un pasado colega hablaba con una sonrisa irónica sobre "los días de gloria" al referirse a las iglesias prósperas de los años 50 y 60. Demasiados de nosotros hoy, pensaba él, apretamos nuestras manos, esperando ansiosamente el regreso de ese breve período "glorioso" de la historia presbiteriana. Él estaba muy cierto que esperando y/o trabajando por el regreso a ese tiempo es inútil. El futuro de la iglesia, dijo, está en la apertura de su pueblo a las nuevas formas en que Dios les estaba llamando. ¡Para él, las nuevas formas de Dios no es lo mismo que los viejos tiempos de gloria!



Robert C. Reynolds

Aunque muchos han sacudido el pensamiento de "días de gloria" en las esperanzas para el hoy de la iglesia, continúa un remanente que quiere volver a lo que es recordado como tiempos más fructíferos. En defensa de esta esperanza, hay dones de aquellos años que son tan importantes para la iglesia ahora como siempre — como culto inspirador, educación cristiana creativa, creciente desarrollo de nuevas iglesias y valiente testimonio por la justicia social. Una precaución de mi colega sobre aferrarse a las viejas costumbres pertenecía más a una inclinación no examinada a la autopreservación por sí misma, no para a los dones preciados duraderos de nuestra vida conjunta.

Atrapados en las garras de la Alemania Nazi de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, Dietrich Bonhoeffer escribió desde su celda en la prisión: *"nuestra iglesia ha estado luchando en estos años sólo para su autoprotección, como si fuera un fin en sí mismo. [Ahora es] incapaz de tomar la palabra de reconciliación y redención a la humanidad y el mundo."* Aunque nuestro contexto es muy diferente al de Bonhoeffer, debemos evitar ser atrapados en una mentalidad de supervivencia institucional. Como en la época de Bonhoeffer, se correría el riesgo de comprometer la capacidad de la iglesia de "Ir por todo el mundo..."

En sí mismo, aferrarse a recuerdos parciales de una época pasada rara vez lleva a la realización de renovación institucional. El principio de negocio de mejora continua parece apropiado. Creemos que la Iglesia Presbiteriana (EUA) es *reformada y siempre está reformándose*, no congelada en días de gloria del ayer.

El salmista escribió, *"Acuérdate, Jehová, de tus piedades y de tus misericordias, que son perpetuas."* Primero tal vez renovar la iglesia llama a cristianos/as reformados/as a localizar dónde y cuándo el amor de Dios envuelve nuestros contextos, tanto dentro como fuera de la iglesia. Luego, pidiendo a Dios que reconstruya monumentos antiguos requiere búsqueda fiel en vías contemporáneas a la justicia y la rectitud de Dios. Esto es muy diferente de aferrarse a recuerdos de épocas anteriores.

La Iglesia Presbiteriana (EUA) está sufriendo, pero este no es un sufrimiento a muerte. Durante la Semana Santa recordamos el sufrimiento y crucifixión de Cristo y mientras reflexionamos sobre su aplastantes experiencias de la mayoría de las aterrantemente realidades humanas. Fueron reales para él, como lo son para todos los seres humanos. Pero, son un preludio a la resurrección, en la que Dios gentilmente nos enseña en la manera de Dios, nos lleva de la mano y nos conduce por el camino de la verdad. En este, el mensaje de Resurrección, Dios revela esperanza profunda de vida más allá de lo que hemos conocido o lo que podamos imaginar. Para una iglesia en busca de renovación es garantía de lo que aún no puede ser visto con ojos humanos: futuros días de gloria.



VISION STATEMENT

“Chicago Presbytery – A Beacon of Hope, guiding Leaders, Congregations and Communities.”

Presbytery of Chicago 100 South Morgan Street Chicago, IL 60607

Enjoy Presbyterian Camps at Saugatuck

BY CINDI KARSTENS, MODERATOR, CAMP OVERSIGHT AND DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

If you are like me, you are anxiously waiting for the change to warm weather and longer days. I long for green grass, budding trees and the first sign of flowers. It is the also time of year my family and I begin to think about spending a week in July at Presbyterian Camps. We have registered 10 of us which includes, the 6 Karstens, grandma and grandpa, and of course a couple of friends. Our love of Presbyterian Camps always inspires us to share our experience with others. Each year we manage to fill a cabin and make memories which we carry with us throughout the year.

Camp Oversight and Development Work Group (CODWG) and the camp staff continue to joyfully prepare for the 2011 summer program at the Presbyterian Camps. The summer program brochures have been mailed and distributed to churches, camp store items have been ordered, summer camp and retreat reservations are being taken and we have started hiring summer staff.

We are excited to announce that a search for an Interim Camp Director and Spiritual Leader has resulted in the hiring of the Reverend Katherine Culpepper. We look forward to her sharing her gifts with the full-time staff, summer staff and campers.

The summer program will kick off with an exciting new format for our annual Memorial Day Work Weekend. This year we are trying something different and are planning an inter-generational weekend for family and friends. We will work side by side, young and old helping prepare the camp for summer. There will be something for everyone to do in opening

cabins, chopping wood; construction repair; ground cleaning and so much more. Of course there will also be opportunities to relax and rejuvenate your spirit in the beauty of God’s creation. Plan on arriving Friday evening, May 27th and stay through lunch on Monday, May 30th. Register online or by calling the camp office at (269) 857-3751.

We are thankful for another summer of opportunities in 2011. Visit the camp website at www.prescamps.org to see what is available for you and your family and friends. Great experiences and memories are waiting for you at Presbyterian Camps. Hope to see you there!

Introducing Cully

The Presbytery council has approved a contract with the Rev. Katherine Culpepper, “Cully” to serve as Interim Camp Director and Spiritual Leader of Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck. She will work half-time from March 16- May 15, and then full-time for the summer program through August 31, 2011.

Cully is a Presbyterian minister and an active member of the Lake Michigan Presbytery, serving on a variety of committees and ministry teams. Her service to the church includes prior experience at Presbyterian Camps as well as several interim pastor positions in Lake Michigan and Chicago Presbyteries. She has special training in youth ministry, mental health, church transformation and interim ministry.

Cully says camping has always been a part of her ministry experience. She has a “heart” for camping. “Camping ministry reaches people in different ways when they are away from their routines,” she says. “In the camp environment, people are more open to God and more able to hear and understand what God is saying.”