

# Our Common Ministry



Presbytery of Chicago

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## The Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Big Tent a Big Success More than 1750 gather to be inspired and equipped for ministry

Call it a "denominational gathering" or "a big, Presbyterian family reunion." Whatever you call it, the Big Tent was that – and more. The second biennial Big Tent took place June 30 – July 3, 2011 in Indianapolis. Billed as a celebration of ministry and mission, the event was diverse and intergenerational, and offered participants the opportunity to worship together, learn together and experience the rich fellowship of the broader church. Kerry Rice, manager of the General Assembly meeting service remarked, "You won't get a chance to see as many parts of the church in one place as you will at Big Tent."

This year nine church-related groups that typically hold annual or biennial conferences chose to meet during the event.

- Clergywomen's Leadership Institute/Young Women's Leadership Development
- Evangelism and Church Growth Conference
- Healthy Ministry Conference
- National Elders Conference
- National Multicultural Church Conference
- Peacemaking Conference
- Presbyterian Communicators Network National Conference
- Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation
- World Mission Matters

The Big Tent drew many participants from Chicago Presbytery. Dawn Koyzis, member of **Glen Ellyn First** was a first-timer. She was there to network with the

Louisville Communications and Funds Development staff, with whom she's worked on a number of contract projects. When asked what the best part of Big Tent was, Dawn had some difficulty pinning one thing down. "It

was all good! Getting to know new people, sharing insights and ideas is always exciting. It was great to experience the exhibit hall, to be able to take workshops I can use back home in my church. And it was heartening to see all the youth programs filled with the next generation of Presbyterians! But I suppose the worship was a highlight for me. At a time when the church is praying for direction and guidance, the messages were hopeful and very meaningful."

The Rev. J. Herbert Nelson II, director of public witness for the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Washington Office preached at the closing worship on Saturday evening. His message was entitled "Moving from success to sig-

nificance" at the Big Tent's closing worship on Saturday evening.

"Truly, this has been a blessed event," he said. "A time when we can declare the Presbyterian Church is alive and well. And now we are being moved to return to our places and to do greater things."

"Let's consider moving from success to significance," Nelson said. "We are at an in-between time," he said.

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*The Multicultural Conference at Big Tent featured Korean dancers. Photo by Danny Bolin.*

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## A Global Mission Field

BY REV. ROBERT C. REYNOLDS, EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

For the last four years, in mid-July, I have attended a conference on the subject of "religion and foreign policy." The conference sponsor connects religious and congregational leaders, scholars, and thinkers with resources on U.S. foreign policy and provides a forum to discuss a broad range of pressing international issues. Each year religious leaders from many faiths throughout the U.S. interact with panels of experts on a variety of issues. You will probably recognize this summer's topics as timely and relevant to foreign policy and religious leaders. By way of sharing this informative experience, here are some excerpts from my notes.



Robert C. Reynolds

### **TOPIC: Mapping Religious Demographic Trends in America and Abroad**

In 1990, 63% of Americans identified themselves as Protestant. In 2011 this has declined to 50% and projections are that it will be 40% by 2020. The percentage of American Roman Catholics has remained stable, with a decline in Whites offset by an increase in Hispanics.

For the first time in history there are no Protestants on the U.S. Supreme Court. Currently there are three Jews and six Roman Catholics.

People who say they know most about Islam watch Fox News or Public Television—different slants, of course!

### **TOPIC: Political Revolutions in the Middle East and Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy**

One panelist made foreign policy suggestions, including the following:

Let people in the region own their successes and failures. The U.S. brand of church-state separation is a model to be exported. Perhaps this is best done by "Track-2 Diplomats," rather than by the State Department. Islamists will continue playing a role in these regions. However, there is diversity within the broader Islamist community, and it is most fruitful to deal with separate groups independently.

There are tough times ahead for minorities, women, and the U.S. in the Middle East.

Prominent Coptic Christians in Egypt are playing constructive roles amidst current political and cultural realities.

**TOPIC: Electoral and Economic Challenges in Africa** Tanzania, when compared with other African nations, has been moderately successful because the gulf is least between the government and the governed.

Africa's arable land could feed the world! However, much of the land is being bought by the Japanese, Chinese, Indians, Brazilians, and the U.S.

Africa is the continent hardest hit by climate change. For example, each year the Niger Delta endures the equivalent environmental impact of Alaska's Exxon Valdez disaster of the early '90's. Emissions are affecting global warming, which impacts agriculture. As a result, Nigeria is now importing food, whereas formerly it was an exporter.

### **TOPIC: Border Security and Immigration**

A strong bipartisan center is needed to promote new legislation. (Of course, it's hard to find a bipartisan center on anything these days!)

- Several points might guide legislation development.
- Create pathways for legal worker entry
  - Provide workers' eligibility information for employers' access
  - Enforce border control
  - Establish procedures to legalize those without legal status

A role of religious communities is to build relationships between congregations and immigrants, then advocate together for justice.

U.S. foreign policy concerns are also our church's concerns, because they are about the welfare of God's creation and people everywhere. The topics noted above illustrate the wide scope of mission challenging every community of faith within the Presbyterian family. The church's witness is always a response to God's call to care for the Earth and its inhabitants. At every level, from congregations to the General Assembly, the PC (USA) is responding in faith and commitment. But, together we can do more! Increasingly, I hope we will find renewed unity in a common calling to the global mission field, as well as the one just outside our doors.

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OCM invites comments, questions and stories from our readers. Please direct your letters to the Editor, Ms. Grayson Van Camp at [vancamps@earthlink.net](mailto:vancamps@earthlink.net). Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Big Tent - Continued from page 1

"We have a choice. We can live into the mystery of God's desire for us and what we ought to become. . . . We used to have numbers. We used to have clout. We used to have collection baskets overflowing. . . . We used to be successful, but like the exilic people in the text today (Isaiah 43:14-21), God is calling ourselves back."

"We must understand that identity and imagination must lead our transformation," he said. "At the core of our challenge is making a new identity . . . our identity is discovering who we are, not who we used to be."

### Welcome Jan Edmiston

On August 9, the Presbytery Coordinating Commission acted on a recommendation from the Interim Associate Executive Presbyter for Ministry Nominating Committee and elected the Rev. Dr. Janice L. Edmiston to become the IAEPM beginning August 29, 2011. She will serve a one year renewable term. Jan will be formally introduced at the September presbytery assembly.

Jan brings to us 27 years of relevant pastoral experience and a great deal of enthusiasm. She says, "Several people have asked me why serving a Presbytery . . . would strike me as an interesting and satisfying ministry. Actually, I believe that this is an excellent time to serve the church on the Presbytery level. We are in the throes of major cultural shifts that move us to rethink the way we are called to do and be the church in the 21st Century. I love this challenge because amazing things are happening. Yes, some of the shifts are painful. But they are forcing us to connect with God and each other in new ways.

Jan is married to the Rev. Fred Lyon, a member of Chicago Presbytery, who was installed as Head of Staff of Flossmoor Community Church in January.

After finishing her service to Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA, in May, Jan was able to move to Flossmoor. She was received from National Capital Presbytery into Chicago Presbytery by the Committee on Ministry on July 26, 2011.

Fred and Jan are the parents of three young adult children: Ben, Jay and Libby. Originally from Chapel Hill, NC, Jan, Fred and the children still vacation every summer with her siblings and their spouses and children at the NC coast.



Jan Edmiston, Interim  
Associate Executive  
Presbyter for Ministry

Asked what she likes to do with her free time, Jan said, "I like to write, drink coffee, and talk about — what else — church."

We welcome Jan to this important ministry among us and with us and we wish her success.

### Alban Institute offers free online resources

Did you know that there's an abundance of free resources available for congregations and their leaders through the Alban Institute? The Congregational Resource Guide (CRG) is a project of the Alban Institute that is fully funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc. as a free gift to America's congregations. The CRG is produced each Tuesday.

Recently articles have included:

- *Small Congregations Rule*
- *Gearing Up for Capital Campaigns*
- *Clinical Significance*
- *A New Song unto the Lord: Music & Liturgy Recommendations*
- *Living Beyond Survival: Moving Past Maintenance and Realizing Mission*

One helpful resource for congregations is *Leadership... Appreciatively Practiced*. It's an introduction to Appreciative Inquiry (AI), a way of leading people to discern what works well for an organization and how to move forward, focusing on successes instead of problems. CRG offers an in-depth podcast about AI, practical tips and a lengthy bibliography for those who want to delve deeper into this hope-filled process.

Some special resources for reaching out to those with special needs include:

*Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, by Barbara Newman. For those with questions about autism, its associated behaviors, and how to foster inclusion of those who live with this disorder.

*Let All the Children Come to Me: A Practical Guide to Including Children with Disabilities in Your Church Ministries*, by MaLesia Breeding, Dana Hood, and Jerry Whitworth. Essential reading for those who teach or otherwise work with special needs children.

*Same Lake, Different Boat: Coming Alongside People Touched by Disability*, by Stephanie O. Hubach. Written reflections from a mother of a child with Down's syndrome.

To subscribe to the free Congregational Resource Guide, just go to [www.congregationalresources.org](http://www.congregationalresources.org).

## Lake View service a fitting end to a year of gun violence

BY MARTHA SPALDING, ELDER, LAKE VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

At the start of the 2010-2011 school year, the Lake View Presbyterian Church Social Justice Committee braced for another year of gun violence in Chicago. Far too many of the city's youth were being lost each year, and the church wanted to recognize the names of those who were being killed. A candle was lit in worship for every youth lost. Each week the names were read, and the numbers grew. There were just too many.



But there was another story to tell, too, although it was one the media would never report. Every year for the last 40 years, Lake View Academy, a program of Lake View Presbyterian Church, had been educating some of the city's most at-risk high school students. By the time the 2010-11 school year ended, more than 140 of them had graduated from the alternative high school housed in the church – and they were very much alive.

It was important, the church reasoned, not only to remember those who had been lost but also to recommit to those who were being saved. On June 29, about 75 people attended a special service to do just that. They were greeted by rows of t-shirts – one for each of the 77 young people who had been killed by guns during the school year – hanging emptily from steel bars in the church lawn.

Inside, the names of those killed by guns were read as members of the congregation carried lighted candles to the altar. It was a solemn procession that underscored the tragedy of lives lost too soon and taken too lightly.

As the candles burned lower, attention turned to the Lake View Academy students who remained. This time, a procession of members brought flowers forward as Lake View Academy teachers read the names of the 144 graduates. When they were through, the blossoms overflowed their vases and lay in fragrant disarray around the now-extinguished candles.

Building on the growing optimism, LVPC Pastor Joy Douglas

Strome announced that a mentoring program for Lake View Academy students would begin in the fall, offering an additional source of encouragement and support. And, she added, the offering from the service would be dedicated to the Academy.

The service closed with the congregation singing “Here I Am, Lord,” a hymn of dedication, commitment and caring. When it ended, those lost had been remembered. Those who were full of life and possibility were remembered too. It was, in short, a powerful way to finish one year and prepare for another.

## Choir Robes Available

Niles Community Church has 15 choir robes in excellent condition that we would love to see used by another church. The robes are of varying sizes. They are royal blue with gold in the front folds. The yokes have the PC USA symbol on them. We will accept a reasonable donation for the robes. Please contact the church office at (847) 967-6921 on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays from 9:00 to 3:00 pm for more information.

## First hygiene kit harvest reaps 2,336 kits

A light is shining in the lives of hundreds of families because of the tremendous effort put forth by 52 congregations within the Presbytery of Chicago! As disasters occur, in the U.S. and beyond, individuals and families in need will be receiving the 2336 Church World Service Hygiene Kits assembled by POC congregations.

The Kits Harvest invitation, issued by the Advance Justice Mission Priority Leadership Team (AJMPLT) and the Church World Service (CWS) Mission Team, asked that each congregation make at least 20 CWS Hygiene Kits and bring them to the Kits Harvest at the June 21 Presbytery Assembly.

The effort was tremendously successful! Some congregations created just a few Hygiene Kits, while others created hundreds. **Arlington Heights First** topped the list with 296 donations. But each kit will be a prized possession for someone in a desperate situation. In addition to creating kits, many congregations also brought funds, \$2 per kit, to cover the costs of shipping the kits from the warehouse to their final destinations.

The kits were dedicated on the floor of the Presbytery Assembly by Juanita Holley, Consultant for Justice Ministries and Julia Jones, Associate Director of the Church World Service Illinois office. They brought forward a large basket of kits as a representation of the thousands that had arrived throughout the day. Rev. Dean Lindsay (Moderator, AJMPLT) led the assembly in a blessing liturgy, including reminders of who would receive these kits, adding they carried a message of hope, packed with love.

Julia Jones thanked the assembly on behalf of the recipients of the kits, and on behalf of CWS. She noted that PC (USA) is one of the most important of the 37 member denominations that make up Church World Service. She also asked the assembly, “Does anyone have a truck?” as the outpouring of response necessitated renting a 10’ U-Haul truck!

For anyone who would like to “follow the kits” to their next step, there is a Learn and Serve Bus Trip from Joliet, IL being offered for the first time this year. October 30 – November 3rd, individuals age 14 and up are invited to travel to the CWS Warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland for several days of volunteering with the kits, with fair trade items, and of learning about the relief and development work of Church World Service. A visit to Gettysburg is also included. More details can be found at: [cwslearnandserve.blogspot.com](http://cwslearnandserve.blogspot.com).

The Advance Justice Mission Priority Leadership Team noted that the harvest proves the congregations of the Presbytery of Chicago are indeed driven by mission and social justice and invites congregations to uncover more creative and exciting ways to covenant with them as they continue to work toward a generous, just and peaceful world.



*Hygiene kits were offered and dedicated at the June Presbytery assembly.*

*God of compassion, hear our prayer.*

*May the kits we bring this day contribute to this sacred work,  
And may those who receive these kits sense your loving kindness  
and find their hope renewed.*

*God of compassion, may you renew us in hope and in service  
as we offer our gifts and our lives to you. Amen.*

### Hygiene Kits – Participating Congregations

Addison	Elmhurst Presbyterian
Arlington Heights First	Evanston Northminster
Barrington	Evergreen Park
Berwyn	Hanover Park Christ
Broadview Community	Homewood First
Carol Stream Heritage	Itasca First
Chicago Crerar Memorial	LaGrange First
Chicago Edgewater	Lansing
Chicago Faith Community	Libertyville First
Chicago First	Naperville River Glen
Chicago Fourth	Naperville Knox
Chicago Friendship	Morton Grove Community
Chicago Good Shepherd	Mount Prospect Community
Chicago Heights First	Naperville Knox
Chicago Lake View	North Riverside Christ
Chicago Morgan Park	Northbrook Village
Chicago Pine Avenue	Orland Park
Chicago Ravenswood	Palatine
Chicago Rogers Park	Park Forest, Calvary United Protestant
Chicago Second	Riverside
Chicago Sixth Grace	Skokie, Evanshire
Cicero Warren Park	Tinley Park Faith United
Clarendon Hills Community	Western Springs
Deerfield First	Wheaton First
Downers Grove First	Wilmette First
Elk Grove	Winnetka

## Three congregations praise God with song on Multicultural Sunday

BY MERIKAY HUSZAGH, ELDER AND CHAIRPERSON, RELATING BEYOND HOPE COMMITTEE, WHEATON HOPE

To celebrate Multicultural Sunday on May 15, 2011, the Rev. Leslie Sanders pastor of **Chicago Hope**, hosted **Wheaton Hope** and **Libertyville First** in a musical extravaganza. The musical ministries of the three churches joined in song and spirit to present a joyous concert.

**Libertyville First:** The Chancel Choir, directed by David Edelfelt, sang choruses from Handel's *Messiah*. Bob Orth sang several solos including an African-American spiritual. The praise music team kept the spirit moving under the direction of Rev. Luke Hyder, Associate Pastor. Jane Orth is the Director of Music Ministries at Libertyville First and Gloria Horton is accompanist.

**Chicago Hope:** Led by Michael Taylor, Director of Music and Amy Huff, Director of Praise and Mime Teams, Hope's Mime Team, Praise Dancers and the Hope Chicago Choir led in worship, along with organist Rob Horton and percussionist Michael Anderson. Members of the Praise Dancers, Mariah Johnson, Cassandra Jordan, Na'Staria Fulton, Kamaria Owens, and Gilbriel Winters danced with a grace beyond their years.



Cassandra Jordan, a member of Chicago Hope's Praise Team, dances in worship on Multicultural Sunday.

The Mime Team composed of Marcell Calhoun, Kareem Calhoun, Tre Graham, Jamari Hawkins, Jonathan Pritchett and Marshaun Kendall gave a moving depiction of the life of Christ.

**Wheaton Hope:** The choir, under the direction of Music Director Yuliya Hedroyts, and with Helena Gera and Bill Borst as accompanists, sang an African Working Song and "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child." Thom Lewis and Jeff Edwards of Benediction sang original Christian folk music; Juanita Holley sang "Love Lifted Me," and well-known soprano Felicia Coleman-Evans sang spontaneously when asked by Rev. Sanders.

Liturgists included Kurt Parent from **Wheaton Hope** and Dr. Mary Sanders of **Chicago Hope**. The Rev. Roberta Ingersoll, associate pastor, Libertyville First; the Rev. Dr. Brian

Paulson, pastor of **Libertyville First**; and Rev. Leslie Sanders each led the congregation in prayer.

Special guest Michael Cleavenger, of La Rabida Children's Hospital, described the 114-year history of chronic care given to children. A free will offering was collected for La Rabida.

In the spirit of Christian and multicultural unity, all choirs and three congregations sang together "I Need You to Survive."

I need you, you need me. We're all a part of God's body.  
Stand with me, agree with me. We're all a part of God's body.  
It is His will that every need be supplied.  
You are important to me. I need you to survive.

## Summer Sunday school goes intergenerational

For the third year, **Naperville River Glen** offered a different experience for summer Sunday school – an intergenerational class. The idea is the brainchild of the Rev. Barbara Carmichael, parish associate and youth teacher Ross Bentsen, who were exploring ways to enliven Sunday school during the summer months.



River Glen's intergenerational summer Sunday school team

Each year a team of youth, adults and children form to develop and teach each Sunday on a rotating basis in June and July. A different topic is studied each summer. Rev. Carmichael said, "We've studied Philippians, the Sermon on the Mount and this summer studied and ate our way through the 'Fruit of the Spirit!'"

A "greet, meet and eat" session is offered at the beginning of each class, followed by a brief, whole-class worship. During this time, the Christ candle is lit, followed by prayer and an introduction of the topic for the day. There is also a skit, song or quick game to play. Then the children go to their classroom for a special time to learn together through stories and crafts.

While the children study, adults and youth also learn and share together. Rev. Carmichael said, "As we study Scripture and discuss how we can apply these lessons in our lives today, we develop strong relationships with one another. We

close each class by giving our children a memory verse for the next week and having them share what they did in class. A comment often heard from adults is how much they gain from our children and youth. Adults always seem to leave with a new respect and appreciation for the depth of the faith of our younger generation.”

### Inviting others to the community of faith

“Research that shows the most effective ways for churches to reach out to new people is through the personal invitation of members”, notes Pastor Paul Kirbas at Wheaton First. “When you tell someone else about your church, and invite that person to join you, that makes the big difference.

Based on this information, the congregation has created helpful tools to help members and friends invite others to worship. “Bright yellow Guest Bags with brochures and information about our church and its ministries have been placed in visible locations”, explains Rev. Kirbas. Members and friends are encouraged to take as many bags as they wish to share with friends and neighbors they’d like to invite to church. In addition, the church has placed a video called “Is Church for Me?” on its website. This offers a light-hearted response to various reasons why people may be hesitant to come to church, and includes an invitation to attend. Finally, under “Church is for us!” is a note from Pastor Kyle Roggenbuck that is directed towards children; it provides ten reasons for kids to go to church. “We hope that these simple tools will help members and friends to go out into the world sharing the good news!” says Rev. Kirbas.

For more information, visit the church’s website at [www.firstpreswheaton.org](http://www.firstpreswheaton.org)

### Orland Park celebrates 35th anniversary

Orland Park celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary with celebratory events this spring. On April 30, a special Saturday night dinner at Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont featured a church history slide show, musical entertainment, and silent auction. Proceeds from the auction will help create a photo history wall that also will highlight the church’s many mission initiatives. On May 1, the special Sunday service included a brass quintet and the debut of the church’s timpani.

### Two congregations join together for ‘simple suppers’

South Holland United continued its annual series of “simple suppers” each Wednesday during Lent this year. The long-standing tradition included an hour-long program/worship service after each meal. The variety of programs included liturgical dance, small group discussions about facing adversity, personal perspectives on the value of a Riverdale food

pantry supported by the church, and more. The congregation of nearby Lansing was invited to share the first and last events, including the Ash Wednesday service (in turn, the South Holland congregation went to Lansing for Maundy Thursday).

### Church lawn is setting for diverse arts showcase

Chicago First on May 28 hosted the sixth annual Southside Solidarity Network’s Art in Action (AiA). The event brings together a diverse group of students and local residents to plan a day-long free celebration of art, music, and community. Approximately 400 people attended this year’s event, which was held on the church lawn. The founding ideal of AiA is that art can be a form of activism to break down barriers, build relationships, and raise consciousness. A variety of musical acts, art projects, political discussions, and children’s activities were presented.

### Evanston Northminster awarded certificate of appreciation for fair trade

**Evanston Northminster** was one of 25 Presbyterian congregations out of nearly 1,400 across the country that purchased the highest volume of Equal Exchange fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, and snacks through the Presbyterian Coffee Project in 2010. During the Big Tent event in June, they were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation recognizing their congregational commitment to Fair Trade.

This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Presbyterian Coffee project and the awarding of certificates is part of the year-long celebration.

In 2010 the total of all Equal Exchange fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate and snacks purchased by Presbyterians was 73 tons. Over the past decade, Presbyterian congregations have purchased 577 tons of fairly traded products. Melanie Hardison of the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Susa Sklar of Equal Exchange stress that these figures are a “tremendous accomplishment.” By supporting Fair Trade congregations can help small farmers stay on their land, care for the environment and plan for the future.

If your congregation is interested in serving fair trade coffee, you can learn more about the Presbyterian Coffee Project at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) or by calling Equal Exchange at (774) 776-7366.

Together Presbyterians can make a significant difference in alleviating hunger, eliminating its causes and creating a greener and more just food system.

Congratulations, Northminster!



### Gye Nyame, Chicago Presbytery in Ghana

By Phyllis Green, Elder, Arlington Heights First

The Presbytery of Chicago 2011 mission trip to Ghana headed out on July 27, 2011. Eleven Presbyterians from four congregations spent eleven days studying, learning and forging bonds in the West African nation. It was a time for revelation, celebration, and mission in the twenty-first century manner. We spent the first days at Akrofi-Christaller Institute of theology, Mission and Culture, studying African Christianity. Dianne and Jerry Shields stayed on at ACI teaching and will stay until December. The group moved on to Accra as guests of the Kaneshie Presbyterian Church.



*Chicago Presbytery's Ghana Mission partnership arrives in West Africa.*

A Ghanaian saying and symbol says "except God" implying that except for God there is chaos. It points to the "in your face" Christianity in Ghana. Biblical citations, Christian references, and common Christian sayings are everywhere. The pervasive and ever-present taxicabs have Christian monikers on the rear windows. Many of the shops have Christian names. It is a Christian place and the joy in the Lord is one of the very special things about this West African country.

Ghana is located on the prime meridian near to the equator so it is central in our navigation system. The country of three million is located between Ivory Coast and Togo on the east-west edge of the African continent on the Atlantic Ocean.

Ghanians are proud that they were the first former African colony to choose a republican form of government. In 1956 Kwame Nkruma declared independence. The British had been planning for independence of its African colonies but this was a bit earlier than the British commission had anticipated. KN, whose museum, statue and park in central Accra we visited, was the first president. He was a highly literate leader who studied in the US; various quotations from his extensive writings are carved into stone placards in the park. The museum, a bit like a US presidential library, displayed various pictures of Kwame with world leaders: Dag Hammarskjöld, John F. Kennedy, Queen Elizabeth and others.

The largest church in the Ga Presbytery is the Kaneshie Presbyterian Church. A district pastor heads the staff; 34 other congregations planted by the Kaneshie Church are under its care. We interacted with the lovely people of this congregation. Presbytery of Chicago has a mission partnership with the Kaneshie church for the Oduntia Presbyterian Congregation. Oduntia is a newer tribal evangelism effort. The Kaneshie Oduntia committee have been shepherding the new congregation for about five years. Each Sunday the committee members travel to Oduntia to assist with worship. (Travelling to Oduntia takes about two hours and involves travel on paved and dirt tracks though heavy traffic and spring-challenging paths with giant pot holes. It is definitely a faith challenge!)

Kaneshie and Presbytery of Chicago have shared the effort to build a worship and school structure for Oduntia. In an earlier mission trip, bricks were set and the walls were put in place as well as cement floors and timbers for a roof. When we arrived to celebrate with Kaneshie and the Oduntia congregation, we found the roof mostly in place and a space for worship was ready. Oduntia folks had carried plastic chairs from their villages at least a mile or two away for us to sit on. The chief of the village as well as his delegation of about ten welcomed us. Pastor Charles from Kaneshie preached, Rev. Dianne Shields brought words of scripture and with Rev. Rose Taul celebrated communion. It was a wonderful time of Christian witness. The children who sat outside the building on rows of small chairs were very quiet and behaved during the 90 minutes of the service. Afterwards, they performed with drumming and dancing for us—even inviting some of us to join in. It was fun.

### Naperville Knox receives VocationCARE grant

The Fund for Theological Education (FTE), a national ecumenical organization dedicated to supporting a new generation of talented, diverse Christian leaders, has awarded \$60,000 in new grants to support six congregations and church-related organizations in their creation of innovative ways to cultivate future leaders and the communities that support them. This new initiative, a part of FTE's Calling Congregations initiative, is called VocationCARE, and seeks to shape transformative leaders for church and society.

**Naperville Knox** received a grant for *Mentors for God's Team*, which coordinated clergy and lay leadership in a project aiming to affect the formation of those "at a critical point in their continued commitment to Christ: college students." It included a mentoring system with a research/advisory presence from the Princeton Youth Forum.

"VocationCARE is a conversation-based model that helps individuals and communities discern their call by rekindling that urgent longing to actively participate in Christ's redeeming purpose in the world," said Courtney Cowart,

FTE's Director of Congregational Learning.

Unique to each church, tradition and context, the practices of VocationCARE name four distinct ways by which all Christians grow together into a life "worthy of the calling to which we have been called together with one another" (Ephesians 4:2).

Under the acronym of CARE, FTE has named these practices as:

- Create space to explore Christian vocation together;
- Ask self-awakening questions together;
- Reflect theologically on self and community;
- Enact ministry opportunities.

Projects commit to an 18 month period of nurturing vocation and leadership in young people and call older adults in these communities to commit to supporting youth and young adults in exploring their call.

For more information about the Fund for Theological Education, including information about grants to congregations, visit [www.fteleaders.org](http://www.fteleaders.org).

## Summer Mission Trips – They're not just for kids!

Do you have a hard time getting to those household maintenance chores at home? Does your "honey-do" list get longer all the time? Or are you a renter frustrated by the inability to implement your home improvement ideas? Whichever applies to you, perhaps you'd like to consider applying your energies outside your home, as some friends did this summer. While we're familiar with summer being the season of youth mission trips, at least two congregations have undertaken adult mission trips this summer.

Five adults from **Western Springs** participated in the Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build Week in Milwaukee, WI, June 13 – 17. Elder Craig Harris reported the whole mission trip was excellent.

"Part of our team worked on building a house. My team worked in Habitat for Humanity's ReStore. We measured and took the hardware off about 300 linear feet of doors for resale. ReStores accept donated goods and sell them to the public at a fraction of the retail price. Then the proceeds help local Habitat affiliates fund the building of Habitat homes within their communities. It was quite impressive."

**Elmhurst Yorkfield's** adults ventured to New Orleans, LA, for their mission trip. Seventeen adults spent the first week of May putting the finishing touches on a "double shotgun" house in one of the old neighborhoods in the heart of the city. Their work included laying hardwood flooring, installing windows and doors, and painting. Five of the group were on their first such trip. Some reported with great joy, "I learned how to run a power saw today!" Others were filled with a sense of accomplishment at leveling a door and

completing a room of flooring. For all, it was a sacrifice of a week's vacation, time away from families and friends. Yet they were happy to live out their belief that our calling in Christ is to care for those in need, to be present offering love and hope of a bright new future. Rev. Michael Toburen, pastor of **Elmhurst Yorkfield** said, "We worked hard and we played hard. We had a diverse and enthusiastic group. It was a delight and for many it was life-changing. Our whole group can't wait to plan next year's mission trip."

## Pastoral accompaniers, a ministry of presence

BY CLAUDETTE ZOBEL, ELDER, OAK PARK FIRST UNITED

At the request of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC) the Rev. Mamie Broadhurst and the Rev. Richard Williams serve as pastoral accompaniers. Based in the city of Baranquilla, Mamie and Richard with the aid and advice of the IPC, support a program in which Presbyterians from the United States volunteer to accompany church workers and those supported by church workers who are threatened by violence.



*Mamie Broadhurst and daughter Nora greet Elder Herb Smyers and Joyce Smyers at Western Springs*

Colombia has more than three million inhabitants who have been threatened, displaced or killed by the violence that pervades their country. The Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities within Colombia have been particularly touched by the country's lawlessness, losing their land to corporations who covet the opportunity to take advantage of the rich soil and economic opportunities it presents. Frequently small landholders are unable to withstand the well financed private armies who seize their holdings expelling the owners and leaving them with no possibility of farming the land that is legally theirs. Journalists, reporters, teachers, church workers and the farmers themselves who protest against these injustices are frequently subject to attack, death threats and murder. All too often once a small farmer's land is taken he and his family are faced with one of two alternatives: to eke out an existence growing small bits of cocoa in the jungle (thus feeding the already virulent drug trade) or to flee to cities where they congregate in squalid, hopeless *barrios*. In this difficult atmosphere the Presbyterian Church of Colombia, the oldest Presbyterian

Church in Latin America, struggles to serve and support a bereft and desperate population. One of their many tools is the fielding of accompaniment teams who support individuals under threat of violence. Often the mere presence of a U.S. citizen is enough to cool the situation and discourage action on the part of the paramilitary.

Richard and Mamie spent a few days in Chicago Presbytery recently sharing their experiences and their insights. On July 10, the family filled pulpits in two different locations. Richard preached at **Elmhurst**, Mamie at **Western Springs**. Prior to their mission appointment Mamie served as an associate pastor at **Oak Park First United** and Richard led the campus ministry at Agape House of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Their ten month-old daughter, Nora, is with them in Colombia.

## Advancing Justice, Developing Congregations and Empowering Ministry through Communication

For the past 12 years, Gerry Parker (elder at Chicago Lincoln Park) has faithfully and expertly served as Managing Editor of *Our Common Ministry*, the official newsletter of the Presbytery of Chicago. In June, Gerry officially retired as the Presbytery's Managing Editor of OCM. She will continue to support the Presbytery through other mission interpretation and communication efforts.

The mission of the Presbytery's newsletter is to share the work of the member churches with stories of their activities that inspire the ministry of other churches. Also important is to communicate the work of the Presbytery through

reports from the Advance Justice, Develop Congregations and Empower Ministry Mission Priority Leadership Teams. As distinct from the Presbytery's Preview, the newsletter publishes "news" (i.e. events that have already happened), while the Preview promotes coming events.

Gerry has been committed to these goals in her work with the newsletter and with the Stewardship and Financial Development Work Group.

"Together we can do more" sums up her understanding of how the Presbytery can empower churches by working together.

What will she do with all her free time? With five grown, married children and thirteen grandchildren, there is always some event to celebrate, so lots of travel is in her future. She also wears several "hats" in service to her church.

Blessings in your retirement, Gerry, and thanks from all of us in the POC!

September 2011

## Chicago Fourth's summer youth mission team finds hope prospers in Detroit

By KIMBERLEE M. FROST, YOUTH MINISTRY ASSOCIATE, CHICAGO FOURTH

In July, eighteen youth and seven adults from **Chicago Fourth** traveled to Michigan to participate in the Presbytery of Detroit's Summer Youth Mission Blast. Some of us set out to help rebuild Detroit, to bring hope and healing to a place that has seen its share of hardships. Some of us set out to learn about the ups and downs in Detroit's history as a way to prevent those same ups and downs happening in Chicago. Some of us just set out for a week away from our parents. But all of us came back from the week having seen the ways the Spirit is moving in Detroit, and with a feeling of hope for both Detroit

and our own city. Through serving lunches, working with Habitat for Humanity, and weeding a community garden, we learned about urban mission in a place that ended up being not all that different from our



own city.

One day we worked building wall frames with Habitat for Humanity, and we were tempted to congratulate ourselves for accomplishing so much in such a short amount of time. But junior Mac Sinclair realized the true reason for our work. He writes, "After completing the frames we were allowed to sign them. I wrote, "Built with joy so that hope may prosper." The first part of the statement came from the joy of the group I worked with. The second part was added because after finishing the project I realized what we were working towards. I realized we were working to build houses for people who have not lost hope. So we worked for them, and for their inspiring hope."

What better mission can we have than to restore hope, to shine a light on hope in dark places, and to feel hope rising in our own hearts once again? To have your hope revitalized is a great outcome of a mission trip!



Gerry Parker retires as managing editor of *Our Common Ministry*

## Excitement abounds at June Presbytery assemblies

In June, the Presbytery was treated to two assembly meetings, a special meeting called to approve the sale of the Presbytery offices, and our regular stated June meeting. **Western Springs** graciously hosted the special meeting. **Chicago Heights** rolled out the red carpet for the regular June meeting.

The June regular meeting turned into quite an adventure, not only because of some wild weather which included a tornado touchdown in nearby South Holland, but also because the Presbytery welcomed a special guest, ruling elder Cynthia Bolbach, the moderator of the PCUSA. Cindy led a pre-presbytery, speaking at length about her vision for the day when ruling elders and teaching elders (clergy) are genuinely equal in the Presbyterian Church. She preached at worship, and answered questions later in the evening.

The Advance Justice Mission Priority Leadership Team, in conjunction with Church World Service, sponsored a special collection of hygiene kits. Well over 2000 kits were collected that evening. Many more were sent in to the Presbytery offices in the days that followed.

In May, enough votes had been received to pass the new *Form of Government* (new FOG). Consequently, one of the more important motions considered that evening began the Presbytery's process of transitioning to the new *Book of Order*. The Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry were reestablished as commissions – i.e. the *Commission on Ministry* (still "COM") and the *Commission on Preparation for Ministry* (still "CPM"). The Presbytery Council, too, was officially reestablished as a commission along with a name change: the Council is now the Presbytery Coordinating Commission ("PCC"). Under the new FOG, what used to be called "governing bodies" are now called "councils," so changing the former "council" to PCC helps avoid confusion. The motion finally continued the Committee on Nominations, the Committee on Representation and the Permanent Judicial Commission as before. (No action was required for the Mission Priority Leadership Teams.) The Stated Clerk and the PCC will be updating Presbytery policies to adapt to the new lingo.

Other significant actions included celebrating the retirements of Rev. Ginny Smith and Rev. Swailem Hennein; approving an administrative commission to help close the **Presbyterian Church of Berwyn**; approving a new program in the Presbytery for Commissioned Lay Pastors (now "Commissioned Ruling Elders"); and voting to add the *Belhar Confession* to the *Book of Confessions*. The vote on the *Belhar Confession* was the last of the three major proposals that were sent to presbyteries by the 2010 General Assembly. By the time Chicago Presbytery voted, enough negative votes had been received to prevent its adoption. However, the assembly appreciated hearing from the Rev. Dr. Robert Cathey of

McCormick Seminary about our confessional heritage, our *Book of Confessions* and how and when confessions are added to that resource. A copy of Dr. Cathey's remarks is available on the Presbytery website.

The Presbytery approved Dr. James McAuley of **Evanston First** for ordination as a teaching elder (the new term for "minister of the Word and Sacrament"). Dr. McAuley will be serving as a teacher at the Justo Mwale Theological University College in Lusaka, Zambia, and also as a medical missionary at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention with the Zambia Ministry of Health.

Finally, the presbytery heard from Rev. John McFayden, of the Board of Pensions, and about upcoming mission trips to Cuba and Ghana.

## Coming Events

- **Oct. 16**, Chicago Crop Walk. Contact Joseph Fong: jfid-cms@earthlink.net
- **Oct. 24-25**, McCormick Days at McCormick Seminary, "The Common English Bible."\*
- **Oct. 28**, "Hope for Mainline Churches," with Gil Rendle. Urbana, IL. See Synod website for details: www.lincol-ntrails.org
- **Nov. 4-6**, Senior High Fall Retreat with Rev. Keith Harris. Lake Geneva, WI\*\*
- **Nov. 14**, Brawley Lecture at McCormick Seminary: Dr. Raymond Pickett, professor of New Testament, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.\*
- **Nov. 19**, Presbytery Assembly, 11am, Wheaton First
- **Jan. 2-5, 2012**, College Urban Plunge, Chicago, IL. Retreat and hands-on mission\*\*
- **Jan. 27-29, 2012**, Middle School Winter Retreat. East Bay Camp, Bloomington, IL\*\*
- **Feb. 18**, Presbytery Assembly, 11am, Chicago Rogers Park
- **Feb. 21, 2012**, Allen Lectures at McCormick Seminary: Professor Emilie M. Townes, Professor of African-American Religion and Theology, Yale Divinity School.
- **Mar. 2-4, 2012**, Confirmation Retreat, Saugatuck, MI\*\*
- **Mar. 3, 2012**, LEAD 2012, with McCormick President Dr. Frank Yamada, La Grange First, La Grange IL. For information call 630.471.4643.
- **Apr. 20-21, 2012**, AWOL Mission Project, Chicago, IL\*\*
- **Apr. 24**, Presbytery Assembly, 4pm, Winnetka
- **June 19**, Presbytery Assembly, 4pm, Chicago Pullman
- **Jul. 29 – Aug. 3, 2012**, Montreat Youth Conference – Sr. High Youth, Montreat, NC. Chicago & Blackhawk groups will share transportation. Register at [www.montreat.org](http://www.montreat.org) \*\*

\*For McCormick events, go to [www.mccormick.edu](http://www.mccormick.edu).

\*\*For youth events contact Millason Dailey at (847) 362-2174 or Tom Brown at (708) 246-5220.

For more information on other events, call (312) 243-8300 (press 0 for operator) unless otherwise noted.

## A fond “farewell” to Ginny Smith

At the June 21<sup>st</sup> Presbytery Assembly, the Rev. Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Smith was honorably retired from her service as Associate Executive Presbyter for Ministry for the Presbytery of Chicago. Ginny officially ended her five years of service to the presbytery on August 1 and on August 3 she was the guest of honor at a presbytery sponsored retirement party held at



*Ginny Smith laughs in delight as a photo of her grandchildren is shown at her retirement party.*

**Elmhurst.** Rev. Cliff Lyda, pastor at **Elmhurst**, welcomed everyone warmly and then Elder Paul Vogel and Rev. Beth Dammers, serving as emcees for the evening, treated those present to a rousing multi-media journey through Ginny’s 29 years of ministry. Executive Presbyter Bob Reynolds made a special presentation of a book of appreciation, written by members of the presbytery and a farewell gift. Many people were moved to give their individual thanks to Ginny as well. Particularly memorable was Nadine McBeth’s tribute in song, “How to Describe a Person like Virginia” composed to the tune of “How Do You Solve a Problem like Maria” from “The Sound of Music.”

At the close of the celebration, Ginny had the opportunity to share some of her experiences throughout her ministry. It was not surprising to those of us who have gotten to know her these past five years to hear her gracious words of thanks to the presbytery for the “pleasure of serving with such wonderful people.” Finally Ginny reiterated her pledge to remain active in the presbytery, a promise for which we are all very thankful.

May God bless you, Ginny, as you begin this new phase in your life and ministry!

## Transitions

### COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

#### New Inquirers

- **Mr. Eric Forsyth**, a member of the Mundelein Kirk of the Lakes
- **Ms. Jeannine Oakes**, a member of Chicago Fourth.

#### Certified Ready to Receive a Call

- **Mr. Nathan Jérémie-Brink**;
- **Ms. Shannon Christopher**.

### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

#### New to Presbytery

- **Rev. Suzan K. Hawkinson**, from Philadelphia Presbytery, to serve as the pastor of the Deerfield First;
- **Mr. James McAuley**, to be ordained July 31, 2011, to serve as a teacher at the Justo Mwale Theological University College in Lusaka, Zambia and as a medical missionary at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

#### Changes in Presbytery

- **Rev. Bob Anderle**, restored to active status and placed on the roll as a member-at-large;

- **Rev. Jeremy Deck**, from pastor, Carol Stream Heritage, to serve as the Interim Director of the Presbyterian Global Fellowship;
- **Rev. Beth Freese Dammers**, to serve as an interim associate pastor, Arlington Heights First;
- **Rev. Fred Holper**, from staff, McCormick Theological Seminary to member-at-large;
- **Rev. Kent Organ**, from interim pastor, Deerfield First, to honorably retired;
- **Rev. Ann Rosewall**, from Northwestern University to pastor, First Congregational Church of Evanston;
- **Rev. Laura Taylor de Palomino**, from stated supply at Tinley Park to member-at-large.

#### Laboring out of Bounds

- **Rev. David Ezekiel**, from interim pastor, St. Paul United Church of Christ, Elgin, to Interim Synod Executive, Synod of the Rocky Mountains.

#### Honorable Retirement

- **Rev. Jeffrey Doane**, from pastor, Chicago Lincoln Park;
- **Rev. Swailem Hennein**, restored to active status and granted honorable retirement;

**Rev. Virginia “Ginny” Smith**, from Associate Executive Presbyter for Ministry, Presbytery of Chicago.

#### Leaving Presbytery

- **Rev. Randall Boone**, transferred to Presbytery of Western North Carolina;
- **Rev. Ryan Brakemeyer**, transferred to Presbytery of Western North Carolina;
- **Rev. Sarah Johnson**, transferred to Presbytery of the Grand Canyon (AZ);
- **Rev. Sean Miller**, from associate pastor, Arlington Heights First to Presbytery of the National Capital;
- **Rev. Derek Morrison**, transferred to Presbytery of Wabash Valley;
- **Rev. Jim Roghair**, transferred to Presbytery of Santa Fe;
- **Rev. Terry Swicegood**, transferred to Presbytery of the Grand Canyon.

#### Deaths

- **Rev. David Dodds**, died July 13, 2011;
- **Rev. Verne Fletcher**, died February 16, 2009 in Paris, France;
- **Rev. Robert Howell**, died May 8, 2011.

#### Removed from Roll

- **Rev. Steven King**, renounced jurisdiction due to Amendment 10-A.

# Compartiendo Nuestro Ministerio

## Presbytery of Chicago

www.chicagopresbytery.org

September 2011 • Volume 28 Number 4

### La Gran Carpa de la Iglesia Presbiteriana (EUA) un Gran Éxito Más de 1750 se reúnen para inspirarse y equiparse para el ministerio

Llámelo "encuentro denominacional" o "una gran reunión familiar presbiteriana." Como quieran llamarle, la Gran Carpa fue eso – y más. La segunda Gran Carpa bienal tuvo lugar del 30 de junio al 3 de julio del 2011 en Indianápolis. Anunciado como una celebración de ministerio y misión, el evento fue diverso e intergeneracional y ofreció a los participantes la oportunidad de adorar juntos, aprender juntos y experimentar la rica camaradería de la iglesia más amplia. Kerry Rice, administrador del servicio de reunión de la Asamblea General comentó, "No tendrás la oportunidad de ver tantas partes de la iglesia en un mismo lugar como va en la Gran Carpa."

Este año nueve grupos relacionados con la iglesia que suelen celebrar conferencias anuales o bienales decidieron reunirse durante el evento.

- Instituto de Liderazgo de Mujeres Pastorales/Desarrollo de Liderato de Mujeres Jovenes
- Conferencia de Evangelismo y Crecimiento de Iglesia
- Conferencia de Ministerio Saludable
- Conferencia Nacional de Ancianos/as
- Conferencia Nacional de Iglesia Multicultural
- Conferencia de Hacedores de Paz
- Conferencia Nacional de Red de Comunicadores/as Presbiterianos/as
- Convocación Étnico Racial e Inmigrantes
- Asuntos de Misión Mundial

La Gran Carpa atrajo a muchos participantes del Presbiterio de Chicago. Dawn Koyzis, miembro de **Glen Ellyn First** fue "primeriza." Ella estuvo allí para conectarse con el personal de comunicaciones y desarrollo de fondos de Louisville, con quien ella ha trabajado en una serie de proyectos de contrato. Cuando se le preguntó cuál era la mejor parte de la Gran

Carpa, Dawn tuvo alguna dificultad en mencionar una sola cosa. "¡Fue todo bueno! Conocer a nuevas personas, compartir ideas y conocimientos es siempre emocionante. Fue tremendo experimentar la sala de exposición, poder tomar talleres que puedo usar en mi

iglesia local. ¡Y es alentador ver todos los programas de juventud llenos con la próxima generación de presbiterianos! Pero supongo que el culto fue resaltado para mí. En un momento cuando la Iglesia ora por dirección y orientación, los mensajes eran esperanzadores y muy significativos."

El reverendo J Herbert Nelson II, director de testimonio público de la Oficina de Washington de la Iglesia Presbiteriana (EUA) predicó en el culto de clausura el sábado por la noche. Su mensaje fue titulado "Moviéndonos éxito a significado" en el culto de clausura en la Gran Carpa el sábado por la noche.

"Verdaderamente, este ha sido un evento bendecido," dijo. "Cuando podemos declarar que la Iglesia Presbiteriana está viva y

bien. Y ahora nos movemos a regresar a nuestros lugares y hacer grandes cosas."

"Vamos a considerar pasar de éxito a significado," dijo Nelson. "Estamos en un momento intermedio," dijo. "Tenemos una elección. Podemos vivir en el misterio de la voluntad de Dios para nosotros y lo que deberíamos ser... Teníamos números. Teníamos influencia. Teníamos cestas de colección desbordantes... Estamos acostumbrados a tener éxito, pero como la gente en exilio en el texto hoy (Isaías 43:14-21), Dios nos llama de vuelta."

"Debemos entender que identidad e imaginación deben dirigir nuestra transformación," dijo. "En el núcleo de nuestro desafío está el hacer una nueva identidad ... nuestra identidad es descubrir quiénes somos, no que solíamos ser."



"Conferencia Multicultural en la Gran Carpa destacando bailarines coreanos." Foto por Danny Bolin.

## Bienvenida Jan Edmiston

El 9 de agosto, la Comisión Coordinadora del Presbiterio actuó en una recomendación del Comité Nominador Presbitero/a Ejecutivo/a Asociado/a para Ministerio y eligió a la Rda. Dra. Janice L. Edmiston para ser la IAEPM comenzando el 29 de agosto de 2011. Ella servirá un término reanudable de un año. Jan será presentada formalmente en la Asamblea de Presbiterio de septiembre.



Jan Edmiston, Presbitera  
Ejecutiva Asociada  
Interina para Ministerio

Jan nos trae 27 años de experiencia pastoral relevante y mucho entusiasmo. Ella dice, "Varias personas me han preguntado porqué servir un presbiterio ... me suena como ministerio interesante y satisfactorio. Realmente, creo que este es un momento excelente para servir a la iglesia en el nivel de presbiterio. Estamos en el punto de cambios culturales importantes que nos mueven a reevaluar la manera que somos llamados a hacer y ser iglesia en el siglo XXI. Amo este desafío porque están sucediendo cosas asombrosas. Sí, algunos de los cambios son dolorosos. Pero nos están forzando a conectarnos con Dios y unos con otros en nuevas formas.

Jan está casada con el Rdo. Fred Lyon, miembro del Presbiterio de Chicago, que fue instalado como jefe de Flossmoor Community en enero. Luego de finalizar su servicio a la Iglesia Presbiteriana de Fairlington, Arlington, VA, en mayo, Jan podía mudarse a Flossmoor. Ella fue recibida del Presbiterio Capital Nacional en el Presbiterio de Chicago el 26 de julio del 2011.

Fred y Jan son padres de tres jóvenes adultos: Ben, Jay y Libby. Originalmente de Chapel Hill, Carolina del Norte, Jan, Fred y sus hijos todavía vacacionan cada verano con sus familias e hijos en la costa de Carolina del Norte.

Cuando le preguntaron lo que le gusta hacer en su tiempo libre, Jan dijo, "me gusta escribir, tomar café, y hablar de qué más - la iglesia."

Damos la bienvenida a Jan a este ministerio importante entre nosotros y con nosotros y le deseamos éxito.

## Comité Directivo Solicita Información En El Proceso De Visión

Previamente este año el concilio coordinador del Presbiterio de Chicago autorizó a la Moderadora Judy Watt, Moderadora-electa Debbie Paton y Pasado moderador Cliff Lyda a llevar a cabo una serie de conversaciones en el presbiterio para discernir una visión de nuestro futuro junto. Estas conversaciones de grupos pequeños comenzaron el 24 de

julio en **Morgan Park** y continuaron el 30 de julio en **Elmhurst** y el 4 de agosto en **Lake View**. Las reuniones iniciales fueron "reuniones de prueba" y los participantes fueron personas que se apuntaron o indicaron interés en un proceso de visión. Los resultados fueron emocionantes e indican gran potencial para la renovación de nuestro presbiterio.

El modelo de conversación de grupos pequeños se basa en conceptos tomados de organización comunitaria. Reunir a partes interesadas para discutir preocupaciones, valores y esperanzas produce una poderosa sinergia de discernimiento, crecimiento y cambio. El Comité Directivo escucha y graba las ideas que se expresan, esperando que una clara dirección para nuestro cuerpo surgirá de los intercambios que tienen lugar en estas reuniones.

El objetivo es que cualquier persona interesada en el Presbiterio de Chicago tendrá la oportunidad de participar. El Comité está comenzando el proceso de llegar a nuestra gente, y ahora se programan conversaciones a través de todo el presbiterio. Si desea participar en una conversación, o ser voluntario/a para ayudar con el proceso, comuníquese con Cliff Lyda (630) 862-8686 o cliff@elmhurstchurch.org.

## Bolígrafo del Presbítero

### Un campo de Misión Global

POR RDO. ROBERT C. REYNOLDS, PRESBITERO EJECUTIVO

Durante los últimos cuatro años, a mediados de julio, he asistido a una conferencia sobre el tema de "religión y política exterior." El patrocinador de la conferencia conecta líderes religiosos y congregacionales, académicos y pBolígrafo del Presbítero **Un campo de Misión Global** Por Rdo. Robert C. Reynolds, Presbítero Ejecutivo



Robert C. Reynolds

Durante los últimos cuatro años, a mediados de julio, he asistido a una conferencia sobre el tema de "religión y política exterior." El patrocinador de la conferencia conecta líderes religiosos y congregacionales, académicos y pensadores con recursos sobre política exterior norteamericana y proporciona un foro para discutir una amplia gama de cuestiones internacionales urgentes. Cada año líderes de muchas religiones en los Estados Unidos interactúan con grupos de expertos en una variedad de temas. Los temas de este verano probablemente se reconocerán como oportunos y pertinentes a política exterior y líderes religiosos. A modo de compartir esta experiencia informativa, aquí presento algunas de mis notas.



## **TEMA: Asignación de tendencias demográficas religiosas en América y el extranjero**

En 1990, 63% de los estadounidenses se identificaron como protestante. En 2011, esto ha disminuido al 50% y las proyecciones son que será 40% en 2020. El porcentaje de católicos estadounidenses se ha mantenido estable, con una disminución de desplazamiento de los blancos por un aumento de los hispanos.

Por primera vez en la historia no hay protestantes en la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos. Actualmente hay tres judíos y seis católicos.

¡Personas que dicen saber más sobre el Islam ven Fox News o televisión pública: diferentes enfoques, por supuesto!

## **TEMA: Revoluciones políticas en Oriente Medio y las consecuencias para la política exterior de EU**

Un panelista hizo sugerencias de política exterior, incluyendo las siguientes:

- Permitir que la gente de la región se adueña de sus éxitos y fracasos.
- El sistema de separación de iglesia y estado de los EU es un modelo que debe ser exportado. Tal vez esto se hace mejor por "diplomáticos informales," en lugar del Departamento de Estado.
- Los islamistas continuarán desempeñando un papel en estas regiones. Sin embargo, hay diversidad dentro de la amplia comunidad islamista, y es más fructífero hacerle frente a grupos separados de forma independiente.

Hay tiempos difíciles por delante para las minorías, las mujeres y EU en el Medio Oriente.

Cristianos Coptos prominentes en Egipto están desempeñando funciones constructivas en medio de la actual realidad política y cultural.

## **TEMA: Problemas electorales y económicos en África**

Tanzanía, en comparación con otras naciones africanas, ha sido un éxito moderado, debido a que la distancia es menos entre el Gobierno y los gobernados.

¡La tierra arable de África podría alimentar al mundo! Sin embargo, gran parte de la tierra está siendo comprada por japoneses, chinos, indios, brasileños y EU.

África es el continente más golpeado por el cambio climático. Por ejemplo, cada año el Delta Níger enfrenta el impacto ambiental equivalente al desastre Exxon Valdez en Alaska de principios de los '90. Las emisiones están afectando el calentamiento global, que a su vez afecta la agricultura. Como resultado, Nigeria ahora importa alimentos, cuando anteriormente era un exportador.

## **TEMA: Seguridad fronteriza e inmigración**

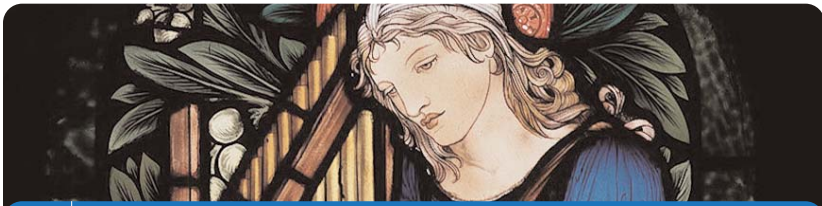
Es necesario un centro fuerte bipartidista para promover la nueva legislación. (¡Por supuesto, es difícil encontrar un centro bipartidista en cualquier cosa estos días!)

Varios puntos podrían guiar el desarrollo de la legislación.

- Crear vías para la entrada legal de trabajo
- Proporcionar información de elegibilidad de los trabajadores que empresarios/as puedan acceder
- Reforzar el control de la frontera
- Establecer procedimientos para legalizar a quienes no tengan estatus legal

Un papel de las comunidades religiosas es construir relaciones entre congregaciones e inmigrantes, entonces trabajar juntos por la justicia.

Las preocupaciones de política exterior de EU son también preocupaciones de nuestra iglesia, porque son sobre el bienestar de la creación y la gente de Dios en todas partes. Los temas mencionados ilustran la amplitud de la misión desafiando a todas las comunidades de fe en la familia presbiteriana. El testimonio de la iglesia es siempre una respuesta al llamado de Dios para el cuidado de la tierra y sus habitantes. En todos los niveles, desde congregaciones a la Asamblea General, la IP (EUA) responde en fe y compromiso. ¡Pero juntos podemos hacer más! Cada vez más, espero que encontremos unidad renovada en el llamado común al campo de misión global, así como uno a las afueras de nuestras puertas.



## VISION STATEMENT

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

Presbytery of Chicago 100 South Morgan Street Chicago, IL 60607

## A holy and special place to enjoy the fall season

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

**Romans 15:13** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NIV)*

The Camp Oversight and Development Work Group (CODWG) has reason to celebrate. We have just finished our third summer since the announcement that the camp would be sold. It has been with great joy and a few struggles to plan year to year in these uncertain times, but season after season we are blessed with successful camps and retreats. This summer brought a record number of family campers. Our week long family campers overflowed the dining hall as staff members graciously moved to the lower level of the dining hall for their meals. What a great problem to have! Children and Youth camps enjoyed *Finding God in the Everyday*. In addition to summer camps, we celebrated weddings, reunions and engagements this summer. Presbyterian Camps is a holy and special place indeed!

The last three years have brought many changes to Presbyterian Camps, but the changes of fall remain the same. Summer staff members have returned to their homes and their post-camp lives, many returning to college, taking with them the memories and experiences of a wonderful summer. We see God's work in the change of the season. Trees are beginning to change color and some of the leaves have already fallen from their



branches. We welcome the delightfully warm days and cool evenings that fall brings. Meanwhile full time staff begins to welcome another season of fall retreats. Presbyterian Camps is a wonderful place to enjoy the fall season with friends and family. Consider joining us in the beauty of God's creation this fall by scheduling a retreat with us. There are still openings, call the camp office today at (269) 857-3751 for availability.

CODWG is currently planning our Fall Work Weekend, an open registration retreat giving anyone who wishes, the opportunity to help the full time staff close the summer cabins and prepare camp for the winter months. Look for details and the opportunity to spend another weekend at camp in the weeks to come.

As we move from season to season, and continue to live and serve in this time of change, we have faith that God will provide and be with us. We know God's hand is at work through the vital ministry at Presbyterian Camps, which remains constant in the midst of uncertainty.