



The Grapevine

CONNECTING THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

February 2008

The Crucifixion of Ministry

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



Last fall the Kirk in the Hills shared their Keyes lecturer, Dr. Andrew Purves, of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, with the clergy of the presbytery. Dr.

Purves' most recent book is *The Crucifixion of Ministry* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007). I knew the book through my membership in the PCUSA Company of Pastors and realized that the timing for reading in Lent was probably not accidental.

In the sacrificial spirit of Lent I hope we allow our ministry to be "crucified." How often have we clergy or elders thought of the ministry in which we are engaged as "our ministry?" We are disappointed when people let us down, are tired of trying to make our point heard, and become frustrated and feel rejected. Rather, writes Purves, our ministry should be considered as "sharing of the continuing ministry of

Jesus Christ, for wherever Christ is, there is the Church and her ministry" (11). We get it backwards, thinking wherever the church is, there is Christ.

We forget that "by grace we are saved," not by works of righteousness. We think if we just have enough meetings, make enough phone calls, visit enough shut-ins, read enough books, and attend enough conferences, we will succeed in ministry. Purves is not saying that those activities are not important. What he states is that if we think such activities will bring in the kingdom, we think we are in charge of the universe.

Purves emphasizes that it is Christ at work in us, as we take his yoke upon us, not us at work for Christ. How does this happen? God sent Jesus Christ into the world, God-with-us, God incarnate. This Jesus lived and taught, and then was crucified. The death he died he died for sin, once and for all. God raised this Jesus from the dead in order to join this acting reigning Jesus Christ to us. So God raised him into heaven, where Jesus Christ reigns in glory. From heaven, God sends the Holy Spirit, Christ present with us, that he might take

our ministry upon him.

So Christ invites us to give our ministry to him and go where he has taken ministry, to the cross. As high priest, Christ, takes our prayers to the Father, making them his prayers. God sends the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 8). "First, it is the Lord's chosen way of being present. Second, it is in order to join us to this present, acting and reigning Jesus Christ and thereby in who he is and in what he does, thus enabling the church's ministry" (63).

So, when we enter a hospital or board room, says Purves, know that Christ is already there. Our task is to listen to what Christ is saying, and to be his spokesperson. Our job is to enter our preparation for worship, listening for what Christ is saying through the Scriptures. And in so doing we die to our ministry, and allow Christ to work through us. We crucify our ministry so that Christ's ministry might be carried out through us. Will we allow him to take our ministry to the cross and then let him work his ministry through us? I pray it for myself and for us all.

Presbytery Cabinet Approves Plan for new Presbytery Time Schedule

After study and reflection over a number of months, and in response to a number of people stressed by the current Presbytery meeting times that often leave commissioners going unfed until well after 9 p.m., and desiring to increase fellowship and sharing among commissioners, a recommendation for a new time frame for

Presbytery meetings was approved and will first be used at the April 22 meeting in Brighton.

The new schedule calls for Presbytery meetings to begin at 4 p.m., with pre-Presbytery events and orientation taking place before 4, and a dinner break between 6 and 7 p.m. It is anticipated that this could cut up to 45 minutes from the length of the meetings.

Concerns were raised as to the number of people seriously inconvenienced by the current time frame, or food issues, about the possible interruptive nature of the meal, and the possible negative impact on persons whose work schedules made possible a 5:30 Presbytery start time, but might be pressed by the 4 p.m. time. The vote acknowledged these concerns and will monitor closely responses.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING— MAJOR FUNDING SOURCE FOR DISASTER RELIEF RESPONSES - AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

For fifty-nine years Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through **One Great Hour of Sharing** to bring God's love to people experiencing need in every part of the world through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Our brothers and sisters around the world find hope and comfort in knowing that as we work together new communities can be built, clean water can spring forth, medicine for HIV/AIDS can be distributed, and food can ease the starving of the children and babies.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receives the greatest portion of our Sharing gifts.

From the Tsunami in Asia to war torn

refugees in Africa, to Katrina recovery and West Coast Fire and Tornado relief efforts, you are there in Christ's name through the OGHs Offering.

And you are there helping people build new and better lives through the Self-development of People grants. Lent is a time to make a sacrificial One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. The faith we have in Christ can be lived out in our love for one another as we help find a brighter future around the world.

DETROIT PRESBYTERY GULF COAST MISSION REBUILDING EFFORTS CONTINUE

The Presbytery of Detroit has been heavily involved in the various recovery efforts since soon after the Katrina Hurricane Disaster. Housing the homeless victims of the storm here in Detroit. Sending substantial contributions to the relief efforts carried out with One Great Hour of Sharing funds and through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Agency. And sending recovery and rebuilding teams both by individual churches across the Presbytery, and by the Presbytery itself. In March Presbytery Team #6 Currently all places have been filled – but please contact Karen Carl for information about the waiting list and other possible ways you can be involved with this trip or future recovery efforts.

(Please note - The Presbyterian Layman revealed its yellow journalism tendency with a major biased and inaccurate report on the PDA Program. PDA has committed effort and funds to a 6 year plan of ongoing recovery, and every indication is that it will take at least that long to complete a so far wonderfully effective plan for helping residents rebuild and restore their communities without the waste and corruption that has been reported in government programs.)

Editor's note – Being part of a church that has sent five teams to the Gulf, and having seen the devastation and experienced the profoundly moving faith of the people on the Gulf Coast, and the powerful positive impact of the presence of the volunteers from across the country, I encourage your interest and support for this ongoing witness of Christian care and compassion that will not give in to fatigue. More power to you Detroit Presbytery.

AND THE OSCAR THIS YEAR FOR BEST PRESBYTERY GATHERING GOES TO.... LEADERSHIP EVENT

Graciously hosted by the folk of First Pres Dearborn, and with over 350 in attendance for all or part of the event, this year's Leadership Training Event provided wonderful fellowship among the leaders of the Churches from across the Presbytery, and, as importantly, excellence in the leadership of the various Seminars. Ranging from very practical 'how to' type seminars, to the overall issues of Worship styles and a deeper understanding of the elements involved in church growth, and ministries in our Urban environment, attendees were engaged, entertained and informed by the leadership and by the interaction that was engendered by the topics and cross Presbytery attendance.. And the overall response was, YES, let's keep on doing it, again, and again

Presbytery authorizes General Assembly Overture asking that the new proposed Form of Government be received and that a two year trial be authorized in three Presbyteries with reports of their experiences to be made prior to adoption at the General Assembly in 2010. If you have not, you should - READ THE PROPOSED NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

Presbytery-Wide Men's Retreat

April 11-12, 2008

Friday evening through Saturday afternoon
RSVP to Presbytery by March 15, 2008

St. John's Retreat Center
44011 Five Mile Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Space is **limited to 100 participants** so register early to guarantee a spot for this rewarding experience. The cost for the weekend is only **\$125** payable to the Presbytery of Detroit. For more info go to [www.pbydetroit.org/F.Y.I/Announcements/Events for Men](http://www.pbydetroit.org/F.Y.I/Announcements/Events%20for%20Men)

Want to Do Something about the Current Foster Care Problems in Michigan?

Do you know any foster parents? Would you be interested in supporting a foster parent or becoming one yourself? Would your church help to recruit foster parents?

If so, contact Tom or Kate Thoresen at 248-643-8373 or thoresen@aol.com to connect with the newly forming **Ecumenical Coalition on Foster Care**. Join others to explore the problems and what we on the grass roots level can do.

Thus far the new Ecumenical Coalition on Foster Care is composed of interested members of various churches, parents, educators, lawyers, social workers, as well as Chris Gannon, the director of Skyline Camp and Conference Center. 20% of their camperships go for foster children already.

When you read the newspapers about the plight of foster kids, are you asking, "What can I or my church do to make a difference in the life of a vulnerable child?" The next meeting of the Ecumenical Coalition on Foster Care is Monday, March 31 from 7:30 to 9:15 P.M.

Heads up for 2009 Budget Planning

Process - Face to Face Budget Consultation planned for May 14 – All entities funded with any Presbytery monies need to be plan to be present and to present a clear evaluation of their work in 2007, their plans completed and to be completed in 2008, and their proposals for funding in 2009, based on need for programs and their fulfillment of the new Presbytery Mission Statement, by 4/1.

In 2007 - for the Presbytery Programs and operations - Income was \$1,265,068.99 Expense was \$1,232,395.18

For the total of all dollars passing through Presbytery, without Howell Income \$3,094,549.15 and Expense \$3,082,710.00 and with Howell Income \$4,810,557.15 and Expense \$4,763,003.00.

Presbytery of Detroit

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313-345-7250 (fax)
Info@detroitpresbytery.org
<http://www.detroitpresbytery.org>
<http://www.PbyDetroit.org> (for documents)
<http://www.synodofthecovenant.org>
<http://www.pcusa.org>

Staff

Executive Presbyter
The Rev. Dr. Allen D. Timm, ext. 203
Assoc. Exec. Presbyter for Outreach & Nurture
Elder Brenda Jarvis, ext. 213
Stated Clerk
The Rev. Edward H. Koster, ext. 201
Director of Outdoor Ministries
Richard Grant, 517-546-0249
Resource Center Director
Joanne Higgins, ext. 215
Hunger Action Coordinator
Artheillia Thompson, ext. 207
Executive Assistant
Beverly Knox, ext. 204

Office Manager

Sandra K. Jensen, ext. 220
Accounting Manager
Bev Auger, ext. 209
Office & Bookkeeping Clerk
Rhonda Roberts, ext. 200
Office Assistant
Sharon Pacioni, ext. 206
Consultants
Hands-on Mission
Mary Lloyd, 313-247-0792
Transformation
The Rev. Karen Carl, 734-213-5919
Interfaith Ministries
The Rev. Wm Gepford, 313-933-4086

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



[POD Web Site](#)

The **Deadline** has **passed** to submit the **Annual Statistical Report**.

If you missed the deadline **please contact** Sandy at the Presbytery office 313-345-6550 x220.

SPECIAL NOTICES

What's NEW on
www.PbyDetroit.org

Presbytery Meeting
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
Fort Street Presbyterian Church
631 W. Fort Street
Detroit, MI 48226
313-961-4533

Papers:

Introduction To Meeting
[Call to the February 26 2008 Meeting at Detroit Fort Street.doc](#)
[Introduction to Documents for February 26 2008 Meeting.doc](#)
[Tips for downloading papers.doc](#)

Pre-Presbytery Events
[Pre Presbytery by Hands on Mission in the Donlin Center.pdf](#)
[Pre Presbytery by Middle East Work Group in the McMillan Room.doc](#)
[Pre Presbytery by Multicultural Task Force in the Sancutary.pdf](#)

ACTION PAPERS - Vote Required
[Paper A-1 Docket 080226.doc](#)
[Paper B-2 Presbytery Minutes of 080122.doc](#)
[Paper D-1 Coordinating Cabinet Report 080226.doc](#)
[Paper D-1 Coordinating Cabinet Report 080226.pdf](#)
[Paper G-1 CPM Report 080226.pdf](#)
[Paper O-1 NCD-RD Relocation of Dearborn Woods 080226.doc](#)
[Paper O-2a NCD-RD Policy-Grant Motion 080226.doc](#)
[Paper O-2b NCD-RD Grant App - Far West 080226.doc](#)
[Paper O-2c NCD-RD Grant App - Woodward Cor 080226.doc](#)
[Paper Sd-1 Overture to Temporary Suspend Military Aid.doc](#)

The Presbytery of Detroit Weekly Update

February 15, 2008

Prayer of the Week:

When the way seems dark before me,
give me grace to walk trustingly;

When much is obscure to me,
let me be all the more faithful
to the little that I can clearly see;

When the distant scene is clouded,
let me rejoice that at least the next step is plain;

When what Thou art is most hidden from my
eyes,
let me still hold fast to what Thou dost command;

When insight falters,
let obedience stand firm;

What I lack in faith
let me repay in love.

— John Baillie (1886 – 1960)

REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Each church is asked to return their [commitment form](#) by the **February 26, 2008 Presbytery Meeting**.

At the February meeting we will have a special commitment service to dedicate Presbytery's mission for 2008.

Feb 2008 Pre Presbytery



Save the Date!

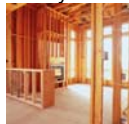
**Pre-Presbytery February 26th
Fort Street PC, Detroit**

What: The Middle East Work Group invites you to attend a Pre-Presbytery session to learn more about the issues behind the Overture on Temporary Suspension of U.S. Military Aid to State of Israel

Time: 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (you'll be out in time to network and talk about it at dinner!)

Blitzbuild - A Collaborative Initiative: Habitat for Humanity, Hands On Mission & Faith Relations Community

[A Pre-Presbytery Workshop](#)
to Inform and Invite Participation
February 26 from 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM at Fort Street Presbyterian Church



For More Information: Mary Lloyd, HOM
Consultant for the Presbytery of Detroit @ 313-247-0792



[PCUSA Web Site](#)

2008 CALENDAR

February	
23	Samaritan Counseling Center Preparation for Marriage Workshop at Birmingham First United Methodist Church
26	Presbytery Meeting at Detroit, Fort Street Pre Presbytery by the Middle East Work Group Pre Presbytery by the Hands On Mission Work Group Pre Presbytery by the Multicultural Task Force Churches will present their 2008 Mission Commitment forms .
27	Troy First weekly Wednesday Lenten discussion on <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren through March 19
28	Lunch and book discussion on <i>The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief</i> by Dr. Francis Collins at Livonia, St. Timothy led by the Rev. Dick Henderson
March	
1 - 2	Grosse Ile presents a Middle East weekend with keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel, 214th Moderator of General Assembly (2002-2003)
1 - 9	Katrina Relief Mission Trip 6 to Houma, Louisiana
5	Troy First weekly Wednesday Lenten discussion on <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren through March 19
8	Special Clerk's Training 9:00 am to 11:00 am at Detroit Westminster in the Lounge in preparation of clerk's reading each others Session Minutes
8	Birmingham, First Inclusion Conference Building Bridges with People of All Abilities 8:00 am to 3:30 pm
8	Allen Park PC presents the House of Mojo and <i>A Shared Future</i> 5:30 pm
9	Faith & Family Day at Joe Louis Arena
12	Troy First weekly Wednesday Lenten discussion on <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren through March 19
14	Bread for the World 30th soup supper 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
16	Special Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
16	Samaritan Counseling Center Lay Caregivers 2008 Series <i>Boundaries in Pastoral Care</i>
16 - 17	Ecumenical Sabbath Retreat at Skyline on Dying a Good Death (from Practicing our Faith)
19	Troy First weekly Wednesday Lenten discussion on <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren through March 19
21	Presbytery Office Closed - Good Friday
April	
5	COM triennial visit at Pontiac, First

INFORMATION PAPERS - No Vote Required

[Paper C Treasurers Report 080226.pdf](#)
[Paper K Trustee Report 080226.doc](#)
[Paper O NCD-RD Strategic Plan -First Reading 080226.doc](#)

F.Y.I./Announcements/Church Leadership Development
[MCTF Flyer May 15-17 2008.pdf](#)

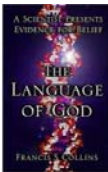
F.Y.I./Announcements/Clergy Retired
[Retired Clergy Luncheon at Ann Arbor First April 24.doc](#)

F.Y.I./Announcements/Do You Have - Do You Need
[Organ Available.doc](#)

F.Y.I./Announcements/Educational Events
[Diploma in Lay Pastoral Ministry.doc](#)

F.Y.I./Announcements/Hunger Ministries
[Bread For The World Gathering March 14.pdf](#)

F.Y.I./Job Opportunities/General Positions
[Webmaster needed by Dearborn Heights St Andrews.doc](#)



The Language of God
Book discussion and lunch for Clergy
Thursday, February 28, 2008
12:00 PM
St Timothy Presbyterian Church
16700 Newburgh Road
Livonia, MI 48154

We will meet to discuss Dr. Collins book at noon on Thursday, February 28 at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church in Livonia. Dick Henderson, pastor at Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi, will moderate our discussion. We encourage you to get the book and join us for a lively discussion.
 \$5 Lunch

Please RSVP to the Presbytery Office 313-345-6550 by February 22, 2008

From: Ed Koster
 To: All church pastors, clerks of session, and church administrators/secretaries
 Date: February 13, 2008
 Re: Minutes Reading

The Presbytery has a responsibility to read the minutes and registers of every church in the Presbytery annually. We have done this traditionally by a

Multicultural Pre Presbytery Meeting
 February 26, 2008
 3:00 PM—4:30 PM
 In the Sanctuary

- ◆ What is a Multicultural Church?
 - ◆ Why a Multicultural Church?
 - ◆ How to become a Multicultural Church.
 - ◆ Overview of the May 15-21, 2008, Multicultural Church Conference with Eric Law
- Come and dialogue with one another about your call to become a

Katrina Relief Mission Trip 6
 Houma, Louisiana
 March 1-9, 2008
 Presbytery of Detroit
 Hands on Mission Work Group

Cost/Reservations:
 Cost is \$225 per person per week. A \$100 deposit per week is due with application to secure a reservation (non-refundable after 2/1/07).
 Dates of Trips:

Number of available spots 90
 Leave from Detroit (~8:00 a.m.): March 1
 Arrive PDA camp (~5:00 p.m.): March 2
 Workdays: March 3-7
 Daily work schedule: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Leave PDA camp: March 8
 Arrive Detroit (~6:00 p.m.): March 9
[Information Sheet](#)
[Application](#)



Presbytery-Wide Men's Retreat Registration

April 11-12, 2008
 Friday evening through Saturday afternoon
 St. John's Retreat Center
 44011 Five Mile Road
 Plymouth, MI 48170

"Quiet Strength: Men who Cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit"

Speaker:
 The Rev. Robert L Hunter, Th.M.
 Marriage and Family Counselor,
 Director of Stewardship at Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, Systems Consultant for Business, Churches, and Presbyteries
 Cost \$125 and limited to 100 participants

Retired Clergy and Spouses Gathering

April 24, 2008
 12:00 Luncheon
 First Presbyterian, Ann Arbor
 1432 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor 48103
 Guest Speaker: Rev. Ed Koster
 RSVP, Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, (734) 662-4466, ext. 12
mr Rogers@firstpresbyterian.org

5	Troy First weekly Wednesday Lenten discussion on <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> by Rick Warren through March 19
5	Hands On Mission workday at the Howell Nature & Conference Center 8:45 am - 4:00 pm RSVP by April 2
8 - 9	Healthy Congregations Clergy Coaching Part II in DeWitt
11-12	Presbytery-wide Men's Retreat " Quiet Strength: Men who Cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit " NOTE: This is a change of date from March 7-8
11-12	Birmingham, First Reaching Out in 2008: Peace, Mission, & Justice in Africa with Doug Welch, General Assembly Council
11-13	Anti-Racism Phase I Basic Training at Gratiot Ave., Detroit RSVP by April 1
12	Reading of Church minutes for all clerks to read each others books at Detroit Westminster 9:00 am - Noon
12 - 13	Plymouth First presents Lift Up Your Faith with John Bell
17	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
18 - 20	Birmingham, First presents Many Voices...One Song church music workshop
19	The women at St. James PC in Redford invite you to their " Sisters In Christ " Women's Conference
19	Samaritan Counseling Center <i>Preparation for Marriage Workshop</i> at Nardin Park United Methodist
20	Samaritan Counseling Center Lay Caregivers 2008 Series <i>What's Behind the Anger</i>
20 - 21	Ecumenical Sabbath Retreat at Skyline on Contemplation and Healing Energies
22	Presbytery Meeting at Brighton, First PrePresbytery on Children & Youth Safety Policies
22	Samaritan Counseling Center <i>Clergy Day</i> Northville First United Methodist Church
22-25	Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) Conference Leaving a Living Legacy St. Louis, MO
24	Retired Clergy Luncheon and Fellowship at Ann Arbor First 12:00 pm
26	Presbytery of Detroit Women's Retreat at Birmingham, First 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
May	
7	Reading of Church minutes for all clerks to read each others books at Plymouth First 6:30-9:30 pm (for those who did NOT attend the April 12 session)
8	Acts 16:5 Gathering Three with Stan Ott at Dearborn, First 1:00 pm until 9:00 pm
15 - 17	Multicultural Training with Eric Law 8:30 am - 5:00 pm at Southfield
15	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
17 - 18	Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Covenant Michigan Gathering Empowering Presbyterian Women in 24 Hours
18 - 19	Ecumenical Sabbath Retreat at Skyline on Back to Basics...Connecting with God's Creation
20	Samaritan Counseling Center <i>Certification as a Prepare/Enrich Counselor</i> at Nardin Park United Methodist Church
21	Samaritan Counseling Center <i>Alcohol Awareness Training</i> at Nardin Park United Methodist Church
26	Presbytery Office Closed - Memorial Day
31 -	Crossroads Presbyterian Church, Walled Lake

committee that read them all. For a variety of reasons, this historic model has not worked well in recent years. Most presbyteries and synods do this by having clerks read the minutes of other churches/synods. We will begin working on that model starting this year. Here are the arrangements:
What: Three-hour meeting to read minutes and registers.
When and Where:

- **Saturday, April 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Detroit Westminster Church.**
- **Wednesday, May 7, 2008, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Plymouth First**

You need go to only one.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Dearborn Heights is looking for a person who is able to create a web site for the church. They may also need someone to act as webmaster. Those interested please contact Reverend Larry Hoxey at 313.274.3820 (office) or 734.646.5766 (cell).

June 1	50th Anniversary celebration
June	
7	Samaritan Counseling Center <i>Preparation for Marriage Workshop</i> at Northville United Methodist Church
17	Presbytery Meeting at St. Clair Shores, Lakeshore
19	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
21 - 28	General Assembly in San Jose, CA
25 - July 3	" Leading Worship in the Small Church ", the Summer Collegium, a project in support of small congregations will take place at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA
July	
4	Presbytery Office Closed - Fourth of July
17	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
August	
21	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
26	Presbytery Meeting at Howell Nature and Conference Center
September	
1	Presbytery Office Closed - Labor Day
18	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
October MONTH OF MISSION	
16	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
25	Month of Mission Breakfast
28	Presbytery Meeting at Rochester, University
November	
7 - 9	Alma Youth Mix
20	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
25	Presbytery Meeting at Detroit, Westminster
27	26th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Detroit, Westminster
27 - 28	Presbytery Office Closed - Thanksgiving Break
December	
13	Men's Advent Communion Breakfast with Lem Barney, '67-'77 Detroit Lions Cornerback
18	Taize Worship at Troy, Northminster
24 - 25	Presbytery Office Closed - Christmas Holiday
31	Presbytery Office Closed - New Year's Eve