



# The Grapevine

CONNECTING THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

October 2009

## The Lord of the Dance



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

This fall I was blessed by the opportunity to hear two dissertations "defended" at Ecumenical Theological Seminary.

The second dissertation was presented by Dr. Roxie Davis, Co-pastor of The Mt Clemens Church. Her theme was "The Music of Stewardship: The Dance of Giving." Her thesis was: "that non-financial and low-financial givers will move to higher giving levels and be more faithful disciples in their obedience to God, through the avenue of meeting together, to support, encourage and learn together."

What she discovered is that her thesis was correct. She invited low givers, who gave less than \$52 per year, to meet in a 12 week study called "Money Matters." During the time, the group learned to pray, committed to regular worship, studied the Bible, worked on money matters such as budgeting and credit, and finally were interviewed. And yes, giving went up. Participation in church life, worship, and outreach to the community increased. Class members saw increased blessings in their life, and miracles they never expected. One member gave her testimony to the church and two subsequent classes have formed at the initiative of the wider church members. One class member is helping to teach the class. As one scholar said,

"Ask, thank, and tell" the story of what Christ is doing in and through the congregation.

One dissertation advisor asked if all this happened because the pastor met with a small group, and one of the church members who came to support Dr. Davis said, "No, she was just part of the group."

The other dissertation also showed the benefits of small group life. Dr. Judy Shipman's dissertation is called "The Hybrid Pastoral Church: Patterns of Transformation." Judy is pastor of the Saline Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Shipman describes the hybrid pastoral church as a church that is in-between a congregation that is pastor centered, and one where members relate mostly to other members, and the pastor and session guide the ministry. As a pastor of a large church once said to each new member class, "In our church you can't be best friends with the pastors. In our congregation we encourage every new member to find a group with which to grow and serve; and there you will find your friends and see Christ work through you."

The dissertation on the hybrid church blends three current modes of church renewal and growth: family systems (Bowen, Friedman), transformation (finding a new mission, also called "missional church"), and church growth (growth through intentional programs, welcoming, faith commitment, and assimilation).

What did the Saline Church learn? Leadership is important. Through prayer, study and community interest, a session finds its purpose; then they are faithful and lead where God guides. Intentional learning groups help members grow in faith, commitment, relationships, and

service. Many different types of learning groups attract people of differing styles. Dr. Shipman learned that "for every time there is a season," meaning churches have cycles of ups and downs. A long term commitment to growth in discipleship is the most important growth to seek. Real Transformation of congregations happens when lives are changed. She also learned that it is important for the officers to take time to hear the concerns of members of the church.

So what for me, was the takeaway from these papers? Christ is the Lord of the Dance, who moves and guides faithful discipleship of congregations. Our first task as Dr. Gil Rendle says, is to be faithful. God knows our needs and our community and is at work ahead of us. Our task as officers and leaders is to ask God to make that call clear, and once we know who we are called to be, do our ministry faithfully. Both of these papers emphasized intentional small groups that grow, learn, pray and study together. And faithful disciples move through small and large anxieties around our congregations and show our neighborhoods that Christ is alive!

One other word. Both of these pastors have made themselves available to the presbytery. Dr. Davis has offered to share her learnings with congregations in the presbytery. Dr. Shipman leads the Promoting Healthy Congregations Workgroup and will send consultants to any congregation who would like to become more healthy, including the resolution of conflicts. Thanks be to God for ETS, for these leaders, and for each of our congregations who is trying to seek and follow God's leading in their neighborhood.

### Clergy Ordination Anniversaries

#### October

- 20 Barbara S. Anderson
- 20 Laura Sias-Lee
- 15 James Monnett
- 05 Lana Russell

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## Transforming Challenges into Opportunities for Reaching Out

By the Rev. Dr. Sharon Mook

When the race course for the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon was announced, it was clear that everything would change at Fort Street Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 18. With nearly 20,000 runners and a host of supporters on our doorstep, streets blocked off all around, and parking at a premium, attending regular worship would be an insurmountable obstacle.

Fort Streeters decided to reframe these difficulties as fantastic opportunities to reach out to the larger community in ways that would serve others and let people know of the wonderful things happening at Fort Street.

On Saturday evening, nearly 200 attended a pre-race pasta dinner which was a fund raiser for the Open Door, a program for our homeless neighbors. One large group from Pennsylvania made a significant contribution well beyond the cost of their tickets. When thanked for their generosity, they thanked us both for this crucial ministry for the homeless and for the opportunity to eat together in this peaceful space rather than a noisy restaurant.

With much to accomplish, Fort Streeters ranging in age from 9 to 82 had a lock-in/pajama party at the church on Saturday night. By 5:30 a.m., breakfast was ready for 70 teens and their sponsors from a program for at-risk youth, volunteer workers for the Marathon. Others were busily preparing for the pre-sunrise worship service during which race participants were blessed and sent on their way.



As soon as Dr. Sharon Mook, new pastor at Fort Street, had given the official invocation for the Marathon, Fort Streeters sprang into action again, welcoming visitors into the warmth of the sanctuary on this cold morning, preparing children's activities in the parking lot, and setting up an "outdoor café" where runners and fans could have a light breakfast, hot drinks, and snacks.



During these hours, Fort Streeters interacted with hundreds of people. When visitors entered the sanctuary, they were struck by its beauty and majesty and by the intercultural focus symbolized by the flags



of 100 different countries circling this worship space. As visitors were given tours of the church, they learned about the history of Fort Street as well as its current ministries. One runner, who had visited on marathon morning, drove some distance with two of her friends to join us for worship the following week, and has called Ben Ogden, Director of Open Door, to ask how she can volunteer. She will be at Open Door this Tuesday.

For members and friends of Fort Street, Marathon Weekend provided wonderful opportunities to have fun working together on a huge undertaking, offer Christian hospitality to over 20,000 neighbors-for-the-day, and let others know they are always welcome to join with us in ministry at Fort and Third in downtown Detroit.



### Presbytery of Detroit

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
17575 Hubbell Ave, Detroit, MI 48235  
313-345-6550  
866-345-6550 (toll free in Michigan)  
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  
*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 Barley, ext. 200  
*Office Assistant*  
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The Rev. Wm Gepford, 313-933-4086  
*Transformation*  
The Rev. Karen Carl, 734-213-5919  
*Youth Mission*  
Charon Barconey, 313-770-5822

## How to Form a Men's Group Ministry in your Church

1. Get two or more interested men together to set an initial meeting.
  - 1) Gain Head Pastor's support and input
  - 2) Recruit men in congregation to discuss idea and structure
  - 3) Invite speaker from Presbytery or other Men's group to share success stories
2. Initial meeting outline to form Men's Group
  - 1) Agree on purpose for group (Topics, activities, devotions, bible studies, etc.)
  - 2) Make list of possible men to recruit and assign contact method
  - 3) Determine Calendar (Set frequency of meetings, content & events)
  - 4) Set up leadership of group (Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, Technology Communications)
3. Ideas and programs for Men's Groups:
  - 1) Helping Hand Ministry – doing projects in local community to help people in need
  - 2) Fun Men's activities
    - i. Golf outing
    - ii. Fishing trip
    - iii. Visit to museum like the Yankee museum
    - iv. Visit to ballgame (Detroit Tigers)
    - v. Attend Whalers hockey game or Toledo Mud Hens game
    - vi. Dinner at restaurant
    - vii. Make your own list
  - 3) Weekly morning breakfast gathering
  - 4) Joseph Program – offer to help any member in congregation to do repairs and handyman type of work for Seniors or widow/widowers
  - 5) Annual Retreat – fun, fellowship and inspirational speaker
4. Attend Presbytery Men's Advent Breakfast in December each year.
5. Men's discussion topics:
  - 1) How to be a great Dad/husband
  - 2) How to handle finances when out of work
  - 3) Keeping physically fit
  - 4) What does Christ think of men and their role in life?
  - 5) Ask for ideas in your own congregation
  - 6) Select book for discussion like **The Man in the Mirror**
6. Develop email list so can communicate all Men's Group activities

7. Resources:

1) Websites:

- i. [greatdads.org](http://greatdads.org)
- ii. [pcusa.org/men](http://pcusa.org/men)
- iii. [pcusa.org/men/publications](http://pcusa.org/men/publications)
- iv. [midatlanticmen.org](http://midatlanticmen.org)

2) Books:

i. **The Dad Difference**

*Josh McDowell and Norm Wakefield, Here's life Publishers, 1989*

This book can help you instill moral values within your child and create a better environment for your child's sexual wholeness. Specifically, it will help you: find out when to loosen the reins and when to clamp down, know how to make up for "lost time" with your child, and explore new ways of communicating with a teen who seems to be in another world.

ii. **Fathers Who Made a Difference**

*Dietrich Gruen, Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1995*

If you think you've run into unique challenges as a father, take a look at what fathers faced in the Bible: defiant children, ungrateful relatives, dysfunctional blended families, sibling rivalry, and other family problems that haven't changed much over the past few thousand years. This book profiles 15 biblical fathers, one each chapter, with contemporary commentary and a detailed series of questions and Bible references that encourages individual reflection. All of them teach a lesson to today's fathers, particularly about the importance of looking to God for guidance in all things.

iii. **Fatherless America**

*David Blankenhorn, Basic Books, 1995*

This is the book that first spotlighted the serious problem of Father Absence in America. This explosive book goes beyond documenting the effects of fatherlessness on individual families to show how the very ideal of fatherhood is under siege--with devastating consequences for society at large. Challenging the basic assumptions of opinion leaders in academia and in the media, this book turns the prevailing wisdom about fathering on its head. After offering an analysis of five "almost-fathers," Blankenhorn explores the ideal of the Good Family Man and outlines a plan for rediscovering the goal of "a father for every child."

iv. **The Man in the Mirror: Solving the 24 Problems Men Face (Mass Market Paperback)**

*Patrick Morley, Zondervan, 2002*

**The Man in the Mirror: Solving the 24 Problems Men Face (Mass Market Paperback)**  
by Patrick Morley

This powerful book invites men to take a probing look at their identities, relationships, finances, time, temperament, and integrity, and then directs them to take the first time step toward lasting change.



# THE PARISH PAPER

## IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

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

October 2009 - Volume 17, Number 10

Cynthia Woolever

### Women Pastors: Are Our Assumptions Accurate?

Returning from the hospital's emergency room, Pastor Joan hurriedly parked her car. The church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner would begin in two minutes. She had planned to arrive early and greet people. But that was not possible.

The fellowship hall was packed with people, excitement, and the smell of baked casseroles. As Joan arrived at the head table, the governing board chairperson welcomed the crowd and asked her to give the invocation.

Before praying, Joan said, "I know that several of you are aware of Harry's heart attack. I'm happy to report that Harry is now stable and he is expected to live."

As she sat down, the board chairperson rose again. He called everyone's attention to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "placemat"—designed by the Anniversary Committee and delivered by the printer late that afternoon. The colorful sheet listed the names of all forty-seven pastors in the congregation's history, along with their dates of service. The last entry read: "Joan Kalder, 2008 to present."

The board chair said, "Joan, this placemat puts you on our official list of pastors. But more than that, after only one year with us, you are not merely on the list; you are *our pastor*."

The audience exploded with appreciative applause.

#### A New Trend in Some Denominations

A few denominations have been ordaining women as pastors for several centuries. However, the ordination of women into the pastoral ministry—in numerous denominations, in large numbers—is a major change. More denominations began ordaining women during the 1970s than in any other decade for the last 100 years.

What impact has this change had on the local church?

#### What Are Our Assumptions?

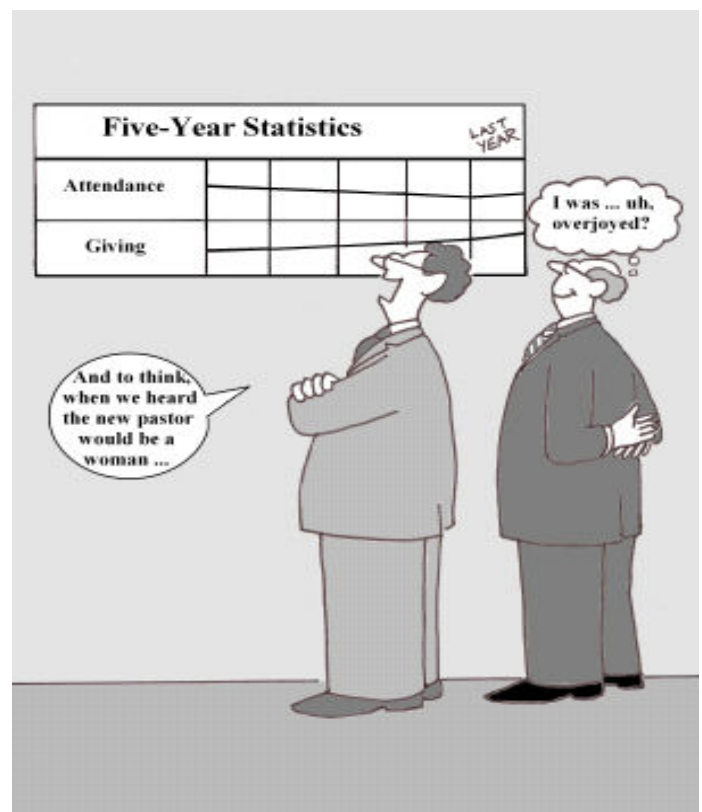
Every church member possesses unquestioned assumptions about the effectiveness of women pastors. Some of those assumptions are accurate; others are not. Now, research allows us to separate fact from fiction by reviewing thirty-year trends documented by six major studies.<sup>1</sup>

**The "Contact" Assumption:** *If church members have some direct experience with clergywomen, they are more receptive to women as parish ministers.*

Joan's experience is typical. After a clergywoman serves a church for a while, she is usually well accepted by the parishioners. *Substantive* contact with a clergywoman, as one's own pastor, co-pastor, associate pastor, or interim minister creates greater openness to female pastoral leadership. In other words, to warm up to female leadership, a church member can't just *meet* a clergywoman or hear her preach at another church.

Since 1980, the number of clergywomen has more than tripled. Currently, one in five pastors in several of the mainline Protestant denominations is female. A generation ago many of these women might have become teachers, social workers, or community volunteers. Today their personal faith leads them to serve the local church.

**The "Negative Outcome" Assumption:** *When a woman becomes pastor, the church loses members to other congregations, sees its financial contributions shrink, and attracts only women worshipers.*



Do these negative outcomes ever happen when a new pastor arrives? Yes. But these negative outcomes are *not* more likely to occur when the new pastor is a woman rather than a man. In fact, research indicates that, on average, when the new pastor is a woman the worship attendance increases slightly, giving rises slightly, and the worshipers' gender make-up remains the same.

But the persistence of stereotypes—what people *think* is reality—tends to foster a frosty reception for the *first* clergywoman in some congregations. Countless members still believe that male pastors make the best match between the church and the pastor. And countless members still believe that women clergy have more problems in ministry, such as high absenteeism, more job turnover, conflict with their family roles, weak leadership skills, and temperaments not suited for serving a local church.

Preferences—what people feel is right for them—also influence what people *think* is reality. The majority of members say that the pastor's gender makes no difference to them. But for those with a preference, more men than women prefer a male pastor. Nor do clergywomen get universal support from their male colleagues. Two out of ten male pastors prefer a male minister. Unfortunately, that small fraction of male clergy, and that one-third of members who prefer a male pastor, can be a noisy and resistant minority.

**The “Male Clergy Exodus” Assumption:** *Because women have become pastors, denominations have lost members and closed churches, and more clergymen have left the ministry.*

The numerical decline in members and congregations<sup>2</sup> among several mainline denominations is attributable to many factors but not to the ordination of women.

Male and female clergy leave the ministry in about equal percentages, with slightly more women exiting than men. Both genders leave for a variety of reasons: they can't find placement, or they need more income to support themselves or their family, or they desire new challenges.

During the 1970s, two trends—fueled by financial factors such as inflation and rising costs of energy and health-care—began reshaping male and female clergy careers:

◆ First, congregations averaging fewer than 125 in worship attendance find it increasingly difficult to afford a full-time pastor.

◆ Second, the number of those small churches that cannot afford a full-time pastor is increasing.

As a result of those two trends, most full-time clergy (a) spend the majority of their working years as assistant pastors, associate pastors, pastors of small churches, pastors of two small “yoke-parish” churches, and medium-sized churches; and (b) have limited opportunities to serve in senior pastor positions. Only about one percent of clergy in most denominations become a senior pastor (supervising other clergy or staff members). Men have about twice the chance of becoming a senior pastor as do women.

**The “Conflict” Assumption:** *Clergywomen experience more conflict with the lay leadership than do their male colleagues.*

The amount of church conflict reported by male and female pastors is essentially the same. And the types of church members that tend to be at odds with the pastor are also the same. Business executives, middle-aged men and women, and church leaders who hold secular-workplace positions of authority are accustomed to making decisions in their organization.

Some of these people are unaware that they expect their pastor (and their church) to defer to their preferences or suggestions. When their counsel is questioned, or if they do not get the expected response, these leaders may react in ways that create conflict with the pastor.

About 5 percent of parishioners in any size or type of church are chronically unhappy with what's happening. Personnel committees can deal with misbehaving paid staff—but few churches have a means of dealing with unruly volunteers. This makes the pastor's role—whether male or female—an exceedingly complex leadership task.

### The Bottom Line

A wise female church elder said, “We tolerate measles, we accept people. I don't want to be tolerated. I want to be accepted.” That preference is true with pastors of both genders.

Whether the current pastor is male or female, all parishioners (not just the personnel committee members) benefit from asking these six questions:

1. When we advertise an opening for a clergy position, do we do so in a way that welcomes female applicants?
2. When we review applications for a clergy position, do we consider female applicants to the same degree as male applicants?
3. How often do we make unreasonable demands on our pastor?
4. How often are we unreasonably critical of our pastor?
5. In what ways do we show acceptance for our pastor?
6. In what ways do we make our pastor feel loved and cared for?

<sup>1</sup> Edward C. Lehman, Jr., “Women's Path into Ministry: Six Major Studies,” Pulpit & Pew Research Reports (2002), Duke Divinity School ([www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu](http://www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu)).

<sup>2</sup> Patricia M. Y. Chang, “Factors Shaping Clergy Careers: A Wakeup Call for Protestant Denominations and Pastors,” Pulpit & Pew Research Reports (2005), Duke Divinity School ([www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu](http://www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu)).

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



[POD Web Site](#)

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

[Calendar of Events](#)

**What's NEW on**  
[www.PbyDetroit.org](http://www.PbyDetroit.org)

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**F.Y.I./Announcements/Clergy Info and Events**  
[Columbia Theological Seminary Journey of Faith-A Pilgrimage of Discernment for Ministry.doc](#)

**F.Y.I./Announcements/Misc**  
[Womens Retreat at Skyline Nov 20-22.pdf](#)

**F.Y.I./Announcements/Special Events of Our Churches**  
[Riverside NCD hosts a Singles Mingle Nov 14.jpg](#)

**F.Y.I./Job Opportunities/Clergy Positions**  
[Grosse Ile seeks Interim Associate Pastor.doc](#)

**F.Y.I./Job Opportunities/Music Positions**  
[Garden City Presbyterian Church seeks musician.doc](#)

**Presbyterian Men**  
[2009 Mens Advent Communion Breakfast.pdf](#)  
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**REFLECTIONS ON  
A  
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**  
LITTLEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
7560 Littlefield Blvd.  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009  
1:00 PM

[More information](#)

Called to PRAYER  
A Worship Series with emphasis on  
[Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Flyer](#)

Detroit, Westminster  
27th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner  
November 26, 2009  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

[More Information](#)

**The Presbytery of Detroit  
Weekly Update**

**October 23, 2009**

**Prayer of the Week:**

O Lord, give us more charity, more self-denial, more likeness to thee. Teach us to sacrifice our comforts to others, and our likings for the sake of doing good. Make us kindly in thought, gentle in word, generous in deed. Teach us that it is better to give than to receive, better to forget ourselves than to put ourselves forward, better to minister than to be ministered unto. And to thee, the God of love, be all glory and praise, now and forever. Amen.

– Henry Alford (1810 – 1871)

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



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

Advance Tickets \$10.00 / Door Tickets \$15.00

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

Please note: Cut-off date for advance ticket  
sales is 10 days prior to the Advent Breakfast.  
[Printable version](#)

**2 New Job Postings**

Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church seeks [Interim Associate Pastor](#)

Garden City Presbyterian Church seeks [musician](#)

WOMEN'S RETREAT:  
November 20 - 22, 2009  
NURTURING  
YOUR  
MIND, BODY & SPIRIT  
[Brochure](#)



[PCUSA Web Site](#)

October 2009 - MONTH OF MISSION	
24	<a href="#">Clerk of Session training</a> let by Mr. Koster 9:00-11:00 am at the Presbytery Office in room 223
24	Howell Conference & Nature Center holds <a href="#">Christian Spiritual Growth One-Day Retreat</a> , 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
25	Dearborn Littlefield presents <a href="#">Reflections on a Holy Land Pilgrimage</a> 1:00 pm
27	<b>Presbytery Meeting at Port Huron, First, Pre-Presbytery Event on stopping Domestic Violence and Pre-Presbytery Event on CE Resources and Support both start at 2:00 pm</b>
31	<a href="#">Month of Mission Breakfast</a> at Rochester University 9:00 am
November 2009	
1	<b>Daylight Savings Time ends</b> - set clocks back one hour
1	<a href="#">Excellence in Education Ministry Congregation Award</a> submission deadline
1-8	<a href="#">Katrina IX Mission Trip to Pearlinton, MS</a>
3	<a href="#">Taize Worship</a> at Dearborn, Littlefield
6-7	Synod Assembly
7	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series Community Celebration</a> 7:00 pm
8	Installation of the Rev Sharon Mook as Pastor at Fort Street in Detroit at 3:00 pm <a href="#">Copy of Invitation</a>
13	Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation 6th Annual <i>It's A Wonderful Life!</i> Gala at the Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit. Call 248.281.2040 for more information!
13-15	Youth Mix at Alma College <a href="#">Registration Forms</a>
17	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
18	Samaritan Counseling Center offers A Day for Congregational Professionals with Rev. Bob Williamson, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center offering the program: "God's Own Peace: Systems Theory and Spirituality" <a href="#">More information</a>
19	<a href="#">Taize Worship</a> at Troy, Northminster
24	<b>Presbytery Meeting at Waterford, Community</b>
26	Detroit Westminster <a href="#">27th Annual</a>

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

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

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

Second Annual Samaritan Counseling Center Benefit Concert  
Saturday, November 21, 2009

[More Information](#)

Lay Caregivers Workshop at Samaritan Counseling Center  
November 15: Men and Depression, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Nardin Park United Methodist Church  
Fee: Church subscription or \$10 per session  
Registration: Due Wednesday Nov. 11 by calling the Samaritan Counseling Center, 248-474-4701



**Come One Come All to the Leadership Training Forming A Future in Hope**

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, ...to give you a future with hope" -Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)

for New & Ongoing Officers, Leaders, and Pastors

**February 6, 2010**

Check-in begins 8:30 A.M.

The First Presbyterian Church  
608 N Brady  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
(313) 274-1313

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

**CLERGY SUPPORT GROUP**

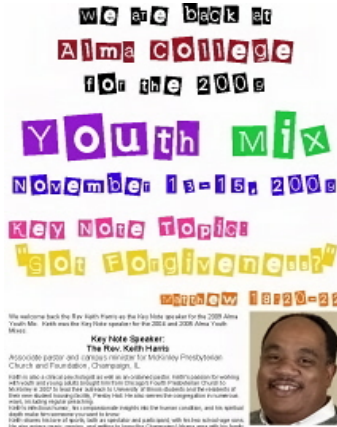
Is now forming for **October 2009 to June 2010**  
**ALL** clergy are invited to attend at the Samaritan Counseling Center  
Nardin Park United Methodist Church  
99887 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI

[More Information](#)

Columbia Theological Seminary's Center for Lifelong Learning, announces **Journey of Faith: A Pilgrimage of Discernment for Ministry**. This special program will allow pastors to make a unique pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Traveling to the roots of our faith, participants may deepen their spiritual journey, clarify their call to ministry, and gain valuable insights.

Please note that applications must be postmarked by **November 19, 2009**.  
[More Information](#)

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



**we are back at Alma College for the 2009 Youth Mix**

**November 13-15, 2009**

**KEY NOTE TOPICS:**  
**GO! FORGIVENESS!**

Monday 12:00-2:00

We welcome back the Rev. Keith Harris on the Day Side speaker for the 2009 Alma Youth Mix. Faith was the Day Side speaker for the 2008 and 2006 Alma Youth Mixes.

**Key Note Speaker:**  
**The Rev. Keith Harris**  
Associate pastor and campus minister for McKinstry Presbyterian Church and Foundation, Chicago, IL.

Keith is also a 1984 graduate of Alma College and has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the college since 2001. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2001. He has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees since 2001. He has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees since 2001.

He will be speaking on the topic of Forgiveness. He will be speaking on the topic of Forgiveness. He will be speaking on the topic of Forgiveness.

[Flyer](#)  
[Registration Forms](#)



**SDOP**

For Application Forms and General Information go online: [www.sdop.org/sdop](http://www.sdop.org/sdop)  
**Deadline to submit applications is December 12, 2009**

**Self Development Of People**

A Work Group of the Presbytery of Detroit is conducting

**COACHING SESSION FOR GRANT APPLICANTS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

AT WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
17567 Highland, Detroit, Michigan 48225-2798  
CALVIN HALL  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Applicants must bring to the session a written draft (original and copy) of their proposal. Coaching is limited to those who attended the Community Workshop on September 14th and their group decision makers. This session is not required of the applicants. It is an offer of assistance with grant writing.

New applicants may attend the OPEN session.

COACHING RESERVATIONS ARE SCHEDULED IN THE ORDER RECEIVED.

Reservations Required by Thursday, November 5, 2009

Call the Presbytery at (313) 345-6550  
Email: [info@detritypresbytery.org](mailto:info@detritypresbytery.org)

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

**CELEBRATE!!!!!!!**  
**MONTH OF MISSION IN OCTOBER 2009**  
[Mission Speaker Request Form.doc](#)  
[Breakfast Flyer](#)

	<a href="#">Thanksgiving Day Dinner</a> 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
26	ETS Thanksgiving Day Parade Breakfast and Benefit <a href="#">information</a>
26-27	Presbytery Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>December 2009</b>	
1	<a href="#">Taize Worship</a> at Dearborn, Littlefield
4-6	Birmingham, First hosting Dr. Walter Brueggeman, <a href="#">theologian-in-residence</a>
12	<a href="#">Men's Annual Advent Communion Breakfast</a> hosted at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Metro Detroit in Southfield
13	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series All Choirs Christmas Concert</a> 10:00 am
15	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
17	<a href="#">Taize Worship</a> at Troy, Northminster
24-25	Presbytery Office Closed - Christmas Holiday
31	Alma College <a href="#">John Calvin sermon contest</a> deadline
31	Presbytery Office Closed - New Year's Eve
<b>January 2010</b>	
1	Presbytery Office Closed - New Year's Day
18	Presbytery Office Closed - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday Observance
19	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
26	<b>Presbytery Meeting at Northville, First - Installation of Moderator &amp; Vice Moderator</b>
27-30	<a href="#">APCE Annual Meeting</a> is at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Nashville, TN. Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Michael Lindvall.
<b>February 2010</b>	
6	SAVE THE DATE for the <a href="#">2010 Leadership Training Day</a> with Dr. Alan Roxburgh at Dearborn, First
7	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series Festival of Hymns</a> 10:00 am
16	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
20	<a href="#">POAMN Winter Getaway Cruise</a>
15-17	Pastors in Transition with the Rev. Dr. John Stewart at St. Francis Conference Center, DeWitt, MI
23	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
<b>March 2010</b>	
6	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series Music Batteria meets the Harp?</a> 7:00 pm
14	<b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> - set clocks ahead one hour
16	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
28	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series All Choirs Palm Sunday Concert</a> 10:00 am
<b>April 2010</b>	
2	Presbytery Office Closed Good Friday
10	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series Banjos of Michigan</a> 7:00 pm



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

October 16, 2009

To: Members of the Presbytery of Detroit,  
The Presbytery of Detroit has traditionally held a convocation to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Until recently this method of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was very well supported by the presbytery. However, the past few convocations have not been well attended or supported by our member churches.

For 2010 the Presbytery of Detroit requests and encourages each member church to participate in the planning and or their community's King celebration. Many of our member churches are currently participating in their community celebrations. If the community does not have a King celebration, the member church is encouraged to develop one.

Suggestions include hosting a prayer breakfast, plan a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday worship service, sponsor a youth event at the local youth center. There are many possibilities and the presbytery encourages you to do what is best for you.

The presbytery will document each church's participation and publish a report capturing the presbytery's observance in January 2010.

Please support the presbytery's 2010 observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday by continuing his legacy of being a faithful witness to God's radical hope that we love one another as a community.

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

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

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

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

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

The winners will be acknowledged at the January 2010 meeting of the presbytery.

The guidelines for the essay contest will be published soon on the presbytery's website.

Your support of this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

Bearing Faithful Witness,

Elder Tom Priest, Jr.  
Moderator, Presbytery of Detroit

[Printable Copy](#)



The Presbytery of Detroit

**Self Development Of People  
Work Group  
Application**

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



The Presbytery of Detroit  
and  
The Officers and Members  
of  
Fort Street Presbyterian Church  
Invite you to the Installation  
of  
The Reverend Sharon L. Mook, Ph.D.  
on  
November 8, 2009  
at  
Three o'clock in the Afternoon  
  
Piano Concert in the Sanctuary at 2 p.m.  
Reception in the Great Hall  
to follow the Service of Installation  
  
Fort Street Presbyterian Church  
631 W. Fort Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

20	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
21	A Day with Diana Butler Bass will be hosted by SCC and others
27	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
<b>May 2010</b>	
15	Waterford, Community <a href="#">2009-2010 Music Series</a> Motor City Brass Band 7:00 pm
18	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
31	Presbytery Office Closed Memorial Day
<b>June 2010</b>	
15	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
22	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
<b>July 2010</b>	
3-10	<b>219th General Assembly at Minneapolis, MN</b>
5	Presbytery Office Closed for Independence Day
20	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
<b>August 2010</b>	
17	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
24	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
<b>September 2010</b>	
6	Presbytery Office Closed Labor Day
21	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
<b>October 2010</b>	
16	<a href="#">Pathways gathering</a> in Cleveland Heights, OH
19	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
26	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
<b>November 2010</b>	
16	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
23	<b>Presbytery Meeting</b>
25-26	Presbytery Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday
<b>December 2010</b>	
21	Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills
24-27	Presbytery Office Closed Christmas Holiday
30-31	Presbytery Office Closed New Year Holiday