



The Grapevine

CONNECTING THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

April 2010

The Magnetic Church



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

So, on a recent Sunday I attended a congregation in the Presbytery of Detroit. I was incognito because the pastor did not introduce me to the congregation. Now the shocking thing: I was 15 minutes early, and I hung around in the main vestibule. Not one person – no not one – greeted me. When I finally decided to enter worship, the greeter at the door said hello, but did not even look at me. After church, a few people who knew me came up to me and thanked me. Now if you have read this far, I want to tell you, some members of the congregation have told me their pastor is not helping the church to grow.

Those members of 30 some congregations who attended “The Magnetic Church” with Alban Institute Andrew Weeks heard that the church office and staff and pastor do have a certain part to play in attracting visitors, but the ones who really make a difference are the members. They are the ones who welcome and engage visitors.

Now, another story. Recently I attended another congregation in the presbytery, and while I was hanging my coat, a member of the church came up to me and said, “I don’t remember if I have seen you before. My name is

Harrison ----- . Might you tell me your name, and have you been here before?” I said I was visiting. He said, “I hope we will see you again, and that you will find this church your home. I have been attending here since 1937. I love this church and what we are doing in our community.” Then I had to come clean and tell him I was the Executive Presbyter and that I was just visiting to enjoy their new pastor.

At the Magnetic Church Seminar, Andrew Weeks had us practice in groups of four, so that we would get used to introducing our selves to newcomers. He gave us a script, and we each tried it, each observed, and each was a visitor, so hopefully by the time we finished, we had it down. Here are the questions, which I hope will be helpful to you:

- Hi my name is _____. Forgive me for not remembering if we’ve met before. You are _____? It’s good to meet you.
- Thank you for coming to my/our/this church. I’m not always here; have you been here before?
- Have you been to a Presbyterian Church before?
- Our members come from many religious backgrounds; do you have a family church history?
- Our members come from all over; do you live nearby?

- Are you visiting or shopping for a church?
- May I make a nametag for you?
- May I escort you and your children to....?
- Where would you like to sit?
- Please take this card; I’ll look forward to speaking with you after worship.

But of course you have to attract members to your congregation. The seminar reminded us that young people use websites and email blasts to communicate. Congregations that want to grow need to have visibility in their neighborhood, so that folks have name recognition. “Oh, that’s the church that tutors young people.” Or “That is the church that takes in the homeless to give them shelter.”

Perhaps the Congregational Life Team will run this seminar again. The congregation that had the most people was the host church, The First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn. They actually had an additional assignment, to review their signage and how welcoming it was to visitors. If your congregation would like to host one of these workshops, let me know.

May you and I be the welcoming presence folks will feel as we greet one another with the love of Christ on Sunday morning. May we extend the right hand of fellowship and offer hospitality as we meet people, whether in our neighborhood or in the church.

Howell Conference & Nature Center

Event Calendar

Flower Sales

Begins May 8–9:00 to 5:00 daily
Annuals, Perennials and Hanging Baskets

THE EVENTS BELOW REQUIRE ADVANCE REGISTRATION!

CALL 517-546-0249

Summer Resident Camp Open House

Saturday, May 15 – 5:00 to 7:00pm

Day Camp Sampler

Saturday, May 15 – noon to 5:00

Hootenanny

Sunday, May 16 – 7:30pm

Hayrides, Campfire with S'mores & Entertainment
Free Fellowship Event for all ages!

Tower & Zip Line Days

May 1, 2, and 16

June 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 29, 26, and 27

July 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, and 31

High Ropes Adventure Days

Saturdays, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25

Bat Encounter Night

Monday, June 21 – 7:00 to 9:00 pm

SUMMER CAMP NOW REGISTERING!

Howell Conference & Nature Center

1005 Triangle Lake Road

Howell, MI 48843

For more information, call 517-546-0249!

www.howellnaturecenter.org

Clergy Ordination Anniversaries

April

RATCLIFFE, ALBERT H. 65

May

LANGWIG, JANICE 10

LONGWOOD, MARJORIE 25

McCLOSKEY, CHARLES 55

CHAMBERS, JAMES C. 60

World Labyrinth Day

Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 1 pm

“Walk as One at 1”

There will be an introduction to the
Interfaith Labyrinth at 12:30 in the lounge
Refreshments served

In front of Northminster Presbyterian Church
3633 West Big Beaver Rd., Troy, 48084

For more information call: 248-644-5920
www.troynorthminster.com

The Parish Paper

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THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller, Lyle E. Schaller, Cynthia Woolever - www.TheParishPaper.com

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Generous Givers: A Product of Motivation and Methods

What do the surprising facts listed below, taken from IRS data during a recent year, tell us about what causes and does not cause donor generosity?

- Households with an average adjusted gross income of \$12,685 gave an average of \$1,469 in cash contributions to charity (11.6 percent of their income).

- Households with an average adjusted gross income of \$52,503 gave an average of \$2,094 in cash contributions to charity (4 percent of their income).

- Households with an average adjusted gross income of \$100,000 to \$10 million or more gave an average of 2.5 percent of income to charity.

Conclusion: The affluent are less charitable than people at the bottom of the income scale. Having the means to give does NOT mean people will give!

What, then, does produce generous givers? Research indicates that high giving levels in congregations come from (a) the motivation to give and (b) the methods of asking people to give. Low levels of giving come from poor motivation and methods.

Poor ways to motivate givers. Does our congregation use these *ineffective* motivators?

1. The church needs your help.
2. Do your Christian duty.
3. Giving adds meaning to your life.
4. Give out of habit.
5. You'll feel guilty if you don't give.
6. You'll feel God's judgment if you don't give.
7. Give because your friends and acquaintances are giving.
8. The finance committee spends your donations very wisely.

Powerful ways to motivate givers. Does our congregation use these *effective* motivators?

1. Stewardship centers in giving yourself to Christ.
2. Feel grateful to God.
3. Giving is a part of your spiritual relationship with God.
4. Feel privileged to serve God's causes.
5. God asks you to give an appropriate amount of your income.
6. You will enjoy helping other people.

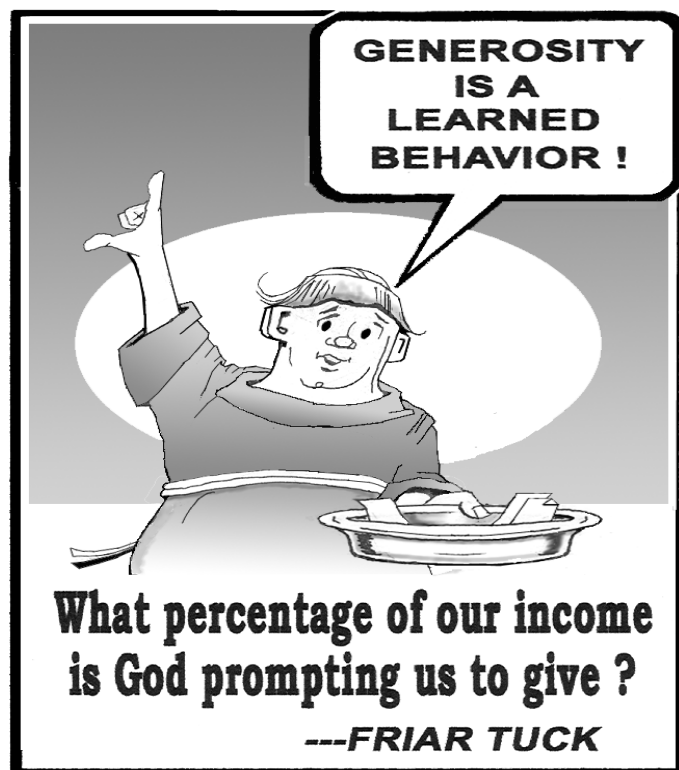
Poor methods for asking people to give. Does our congregation use these *ineffective* methods?

1. Taking offerings each Sunday is the *only* method of asking. In churches that use this method, people give an average of 1.5 percent of their income.

2. Asking members to visit the homes of other members and ask them to sign pledge cards for the operating budget. This method—popularized by many denominations during the 1950s and 1960s—is the primary reason why many churches in small towns disdain *every type* of stewardship campaign and rely solely on offerings, church dinners, and crisis appeals.

3. Using the faith-promise method, in which people place pledge cards in sealed envelopes so that only they and God know their giving intentions. With this method, parishioners give, on average, about 50 percent less than when they give the financial secretary a signed card, indicating the amount they expect to give.

4. Permitting the stewardship committee to create a “home-made” stewardship program. Do-it-ourselves usually translates into do-it-poorly.



5. Insisting that the pastor never talk about money in sermons or help plan the annual stewardship campaign. This blocks opportunities to develop skill in communicating theological and biblical stewardship concepts.

6. Saying, “Anything you can give will be appreciated.” That gives people permission to think they have responded adequately by putting a one-dollar bill in the offering plate.

7. Apologizing for the need to conduct an annual stewardship campaign. Saying “I wish we didn’t have to talk about money” is the opposite of the Bible’s teachings about the connection between generous giving and becoming rich toward God.

8. Asking for time and talent commitments as part of the annual financial campaign. This encourages some people to view stewardship as a multiple-choice question: “I can’t give much money, but I can give some time.”

9. Using dinners, raffles, and rummage sales to raise funds for the annual operating budget. While sometimes useful for special projects, these methods reduce rather than increase Christian stewardship.

10. Conforming to the opinion of that 5 percent of people in every church who say we should NOT conduct annual stewardship campaigns. This allows the least generous people to teach everyone their convictions.

Powerful methods for asking people to give. Does our church use these *effective* methods?

1. Conducting an annual stewardship campaign *every year* that asks, “What percentage of your income do you feel God is calling you to give?” Parishioners translate their answers into dollar amounts, write the figure on a card, and return the card during the campaign. People in churches that use this method give an average of 4.6 percent of their income (three times as many dollars per year as churches that only take offerings).*

2. Always asking the core question of all effective stewardship programs (regardless of their methodological variations): “*What percentage of your income do you feel God is calling you to give?*” Generosity is a learned behavior. People tend to give or not give, according to what their congregations and denominations ask them to give.

3. Concentrating on “the need of the giver to give” rather than on “the need of the church to receive.” The former is a stewardship education method; the latter is a “dues-paying” or “bill-paying” method that holds down giving rather than lifting it up.

4. Setting the operating budget *after* rather than *before* completing the stewardship campaign. Contrary to the conviction of many people on finance committees, a proposed budget gives people no good reasons for generous giving and countless excuses for not giving.

5. Basing financial stewardship appeals on a biblical rather than an institutional foundation. A biblical appeal urges us to give in proportion to what God has given to us. An institutional appeal urges us to help pay the bills and stay “in the black.”

6. Expecting the pastor’s teaching and preaching to stress percentage-giving of income. Most laypersons know that this is a biblical stewardship principle.

7. Expecting the church’s lay leadership to give generously. Challenge these leaders to lead, not just listen as the pastor leads.

8. Involving numerous laypersons in executing the annual stewardship campaign. The more people involved (even in a very small way), the greater the increase in giving.

9. Providing year-around opportunities for laypersons to share their percentage-of-income giving convictions with the worshipping congregation. When pastors teach stewardship, people listen. When laypersons share their beliefs, they have the audience’s full attention.

10. Permitting numerous special offerings, outside of the operating budget. Two-thirds of laity favor these opportunities, which can add an additional 15 percent annually, beyond the operating budget.

Why do so many churches use *ineffective* stewardship motivations and methods? People can know something, yet not believe it. Hypnotized by the status quo, they disregard reality. This behavior is called “denial.”

Denying that effective motivation and methods can increase financial giving stems from several causes:

- The thought of discontinuing long-practiced traditions injects some leaders with anxiety that produces strong resistance to change.

- Standing committees tend to calcify habits, even those that do not foster the congregation’s well-being. Thus, ineffective stewardship motivations and methods often carry forward for many years—even for several generations.

- The older lay leaders are and the longer they serve on a committee or board, the stronger their orientation to the past. If several people have been in those roles for a decade or more, changes are a tough sell.

The bottom line. The hero in the movie, *The Punisher*, says to the heroine, “Don’t let your memories kill you.”

Later in the movie the heroine says to him, “You can make new memories—good ones. Good memories can save your life.”

Churches can recover from poor motivation and methods and make new memories.

* For an overview of six effective annual stewardship programs and the settings in which they work best, download free of charge *Church Effectiveness Nuggets, Volume 5*, (www.TheParishPaper.com).



[POD Web Site](#)

NEW Presbytery of Detroit office hours
beginning **January 1, 2010**
Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday Closed

[Calendar of Events](#)

We pray for Haiti

Contributions may be directed to:
[PDA account number DR000064](#)

What's NEW on
www.PbyDetroit.org

F.Y.I./Announcements/Special Events of Our Churches

- [Clarkston Sashabaw Oklahoma poster May 6-8.pdf](#)
- [GCPC Presents SNL w Chuck Tocco May 22.JPG](#)
- [Troy Northminster Invite postcard World Labyrinth Day May 1.doc](#)
- [Troy Northminster LABYRINTH KEEPER May 1.pdf](#)
- [Troy Northminster News Release - World Labyrinth Day May 1.doc](#)

Missionary Connection

At the February 23, 2010 meeting of Presbytery it was approved that the Presbytery of Detroit would become a 100% supporter of the [Missionary Connection](#).

RATIONALE:

Years ago the PCUSA had a Personal Interest Program (PIP) which assigned a missionary or couple or family to each congregation. This program generated a great amount of information about our PCUSA missionaries across the denomination. We've been asked by the World Mission Division in Louisville to connect again with someone on the mission field. That is the purpose of this Missionary.

If you already have such a connection, please indicate this on the flyer. If you would like a personal missionary, just let us know and Louisville will connect you with someone.

The Presbytery of Detroit Weekly Update

April 27, 2010

Prayer of the Week:

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection, may, through the renewing power of your spirit, arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, now and forever. Amen.

Book of Common Worship: Westminster/John Knox Press

Sashabaw Presbyterian Youth Ministry Theater (aka 6 Stools & a Folding Chair) presents... Rodger's and Hammerstein's

OKLAHOMA!

Thursday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 8 at 2:00 p.m.

On the stage at Grace Church in Waterford, Williams Lake Road (formerly Shepherd Church)

Advance sale tickets are sold at a reduced rate. Contact 248-520-3691 or go to www.sashabawpresbyterian.org for more information.

Please note that tickets are already going fast and last year's show, "Fiddler on the Roof" sold out 4 performances.

The show features the talents of over 50 youth from Sashabaw Presbyterian and the surrounding area. This is our 9th year and 7th Broadway musical.
[More Information](#)

World Labyrinth Day
Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 1 pm
"Walk as One at 1."

There will be an introduction to the Interfaith Labyrinth at 12:30 in the lounge and refreshments will be served.

In front of Northminster Presbyterian Church 3633 West Big Beaver Rd., Troy, 48084
For more information call: 248-644-5920 or visit: www.troynorthminster.com

New Hope Church of MI announces its new web site:
www.thenewhopechurch.com

Application now available for the Mission Trip to Georgia
May 16-22, 2010
[Application](#)



[PCUSA Web Site](#)

| May 2010 | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | Sterling Heights, Utica hosting 2010 Womens Conference Prayer—One Size Doesn't Fit All 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm |
| 1 | Troy, Northminster invites everyone to join them in World Labyrinth Day at 1:00 pm More Information |
| 1 | Ohio, Findlay, First hosting Dr. Roberta Gilbert of the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family at a Family System Leadership Event Herding Cats |
| 1 | Detroit Tigers 24th annual HOME PLATE outreach event at Comerica Park Here is the web site: HomePlateOutreaches.com |
| 4 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Dearborn, Littlefield |
| 6-8 | Clarkston, Sashabaw youth present the musical Oklahoma! More Information |
| 8 | Ann Arbor Campus Ministry 7th Annual Golf Outing at Stone bridge Golf Club, Ann Arbor with Shotgun start at 1:00 PM For more information visit www.firstpresbyterian.org/content/golf-outing |
| 8 | Detroit, Jefferson Avenue invites you to PRAYING with the BODY YOGA Retreat |
| 14-16 | Novi, Faith Community FESTIVAL OF FAITH AND THE ARTS. For further details, call the church at 248-349-2345. Participating Artists Application |
| 14-16 | Camp Westminster Spring Clean Up Weekend More Information |
| 15 | Greening of Detroit West Grand Blvd Tree Planting 9:00 am - 1:00 pm |
| 15 | Waterford, Community 2009-2010 Music Series <i>Motor City Brass Band</i> 7:00 pm |
| 15 | Annual reading of Session Records 9:00 am at Detroit, Westminster |
| 18 | Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills |
| 19 | Annual reading of Session Records 6:00 pm at Dearborn, First |
| 20 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Troy, Northminster |
| 22 | Garden City presents their Saturday Night Light concert series with Chuck Tocco More information |
| 26-27 | CCAM gathering in Chicago, IL as a pre-conference of the PCUSA Multicultural Conference |
| 31 | Presbytery Office Closed Memorial Day |
| June 2010 | |
| 1 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Dearborn, Littlefield |
| 3 | Retired Clergy luncheon with BOP representative Ernesto Badillo at PVM Westland Please make your reservations by e-mail or phone with Eldon Beery, |

We can all pray for our missionaries! Herein lies the power of our [Missionary Connection](#).



[Heaven on Earth](#)
[An Agrarian Road Trip to the U.S. Social Forum](#)
 June 13-26, 2010

You're invited to the Presbyterian Hunger Program's [Heaven on Earth](#) Agrarian Road Trip to the US Social Forum from **June 13-26**. Join this delegation of college students, farmers, musicians, bloggers and other adventurous souls. Starting in Louisville, Kentucky, we will make stops in six other states along the way to Detroit, Michigan to visit with congregations and community groups who are participating in the grassroots sustainable and just food revolution that is sprouting up everywhere.

Ellen Davis, professor at Duke Divinity, and author of *Scripture, Culture and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*, will ground the trip in the Bible.



Jud Hendrix – a young pastor at PC(USA)'s Covenant Community Church – will help the journeyers process the experience and facilitate conversation cafes with congregations and folks along the way. We will attempt to develop a living theology as we experience the growing local agrarian renaissance.

[Download the application.](#)
[Get all the details.](#)
[See the route.](#)

THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
 Needs the help of all the churches in the Presbytery of Detroit.

We have vacancies on the following Ministry Teams:

- Committee on Ministry**
One in the class of 2011 elder
- Committee on Representation**
One in the class of 2012 elder or minister
- Mission Interpretation**
One in the class of 2011 minister
- New Church Development / RD**
One in the class of 2011 elder (Non - Caucasian)

We are also in need of nominations for all 15 committees and Synod of the Covenant for the class of 2013.

PLEASE E-mail Jim Elam, Chair
 at jelam@twmi.rr.com

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FESTIVAL OF FAITH AND THE ARTS
Faith Community Presbyterian Church
44400 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI

Featuring renowned sculpture: "The Beloved" by Kayb Carpenter
MAY 14-16, 2010
 Special music program at 4:00PM on Saturday, May 15

We are currently inviting artists to be part of this exciting exhibit. Applications are currently being accepted for works of art in any material form: oils, watercolor, sculpture, textiles, photography, quilting, etc. Artwork may be an expression of the everyday living out of our faith.

If you are interested in presenting your art for exhibit/sale, please Email a picture of the work with a brief explanation on what inspired your work to Rev. Dick Henderson rijh@faithcommunity-novi.org. Please include contact information. For further details, call the church at 248-349-2345.

[Click here for the application.](#)

All are welcome to come by and visit this show May 14-16.

Presbytery of Detroit's
Howell Conference & Nature Center



Summer Camps Now Registering!

For more information - 517-546-0249
hncn@howellnaturecenter.org
www.howellnaturecenter.org

General Assembly Grants Available
[Please click on this link for more information.](#)



WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE PART OF A COVENANT TO PRAY FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD?

[Read More](#)

The 2010 Directory is available on line to download and the password is the same as in the past 040-172.

You may purchase a copy of the directory for \$5.
 If you want the directory mailed it is an extra \$2.50.

[Please click here for an order form.](#)

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|-----------------------|---|
| | 734-997-9678 or ebeery@juno.com |
| 2-4 | Trinity Presbytery's LINKING FOR MINISTRY is an event for smaller membership congregations interested in learning about cooperative ministry (clustering) for the purpose of ministry and mission |
| 5 | Greening of Detroit Ferdinand Street Tree Planting 9:00 am - 1:00 pm |
| 15 | Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills |
| 18 | "HOPE FLOATS II" ALASKAN CRUISETOUR! Embarking from Vancouver June 18, 2010 |
| 22 | Presbytery Meeting at Orchard Lake, Community Pre Presbytery A Confession from Africa - Belhar.doc sponsored by SJP |
| 25-27 | Synod of the Covenant Presbyterian Women invite you to experience "The Many Faces of Mission" at Dearborn, First 600 Brady Road, Dearborn, MI 48124 |
| July 2010 | |
| 3-10 | 219th General Assembly at Minneapolis, MN |
| 4-9 | Covenant Gathering at Michindoh Camp & Conference Center |
| 5 | Presbytery Office Closed for Independence Day |
| 6 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Dearborn, Littlefield |
| 18-23 | Interim Pastor Education "The Art of Transitional Ministry" at Zephyr Pointe Presbyterian Conference Center on Lake Tahoe, Nevada July 18-23, 2010 Online registration |
| 20 | Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills |
| 20-22 | Dearborn, Littlefield Peace Camp |
| 20-24 | Triennium at Purdue University |
| August 2010 | |
| 3 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Dearborn, Littlefield |
| 15-21 | Pittsburgh Theological Seminar offering Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Leaders' Intensive Version. Information |
| 17 | Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills |
| 24 | Presbytery Meeting at Ferndale, Drayton Avenue |
| September 2010 | |
| 6 | Presbytery Office Closed Labor Day |
| 7 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Dearborn, Littlefield |
| 16 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Troy, Northminster |
| 18 | Worship Workshop (details to follow) |
| 21 | Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills |
| October 2010 | |
| 5 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Dearborn, Littlefield |
| 5-7 | North Central Wee Kirk Conference near Angola, Indiana (Pokagon State Park Lodge) This is for churches with 200 |

| | | | |
|--|--|-------|--|
| | | | members or less |
| | | 16 | Pathways gathering in Cleveland Heights, OH |
| | | 19 | Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills |
| | | 21 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Troy, Northminster |
| | | 26 | Presbytery Meeting at Wyandotte, First |
| | | | November 2010 |
| | | 2 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Dearborn, Littlefield |
| | | 16 | Taizé Worship 6:30 pm at Bloomfield Hills, Kirk in the Hills |
| | | 18 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Troy, Northminster |
| | | 23 | Presbytery Meeting Grosse Pointe Memorial |
| | | 25-26 | Presbytery Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday |
| | | | December 2010 |
| | | 7 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Dearborn, Littlefield |
| | | 11 | Men's Advent Communion Breakfast |
| | | 16 | Taizé Worship 7:00 pm at Troy, Northminster |
| | | 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 |
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