

# First Family

“... in this community, Christ lovingly transforms us into His image ...”

April 2010

The First Presbyterian Church of Evanston

Vol. 6, No. 15

## Rebuilding Together

### Day of home repairs for needy April 24

Rebuilding Together is a national organization that organizes volunteers on the last Saturday in April to work on houses in communities across the country. First Pres has been involved with Rebuilding Together for over ten years. This year First Pres will again be sponsoring a house along with Sojourner Covenant Church and we will go to work on **Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.** We would love to have you join us as we do **painting, carpentry, cleaning** and other work to help care for the homes of **elderly/low-income/disabled homeowners**. Our work assists families that are unable to maintain their own homes and allows them to continue living in their home. This is a great way to get to know some other people in the church or to encourage fellowship within your small group, while doing some important work together.

Last year, First Pres co-sponsored a house with Sojourner

**Rebuild, cont. on page 9**

## Total giving

Some wise person noted that there are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, "I have to." Duty giving says, "I ought to." Thanksgiving says, "I want to."

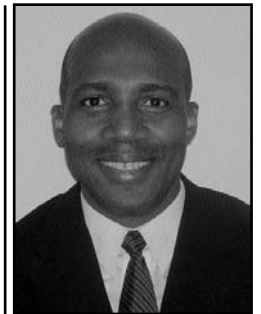
The first comes from constraint, the second from a sense of obligation, the third from a full heart. Nothing much is conveyed in grudge giving since the gift without the giver is bare. Something more happens in duty giving, but there is no song in it. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God. What is the attitude behind your giving?

In my mind, the most basic stewardship principle that influences how to give is Psalm 24. Most people have memorized the first few verses and can whip them off without a hitch: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and all who dwell therein (Psalm 24:1).

If this principle is true, then it means everything belongs to God. If everything belongs to God, then the only kind of giving that makes sense is thanks-giving. God is the owner; we are the stewards or the managers of God's property.

Somewhere along the way from birth to our productive adult years, something happened to us and we became possessive, thinking that everything belongs to us. We became fearful, thinking that we have to hold on to everything in order to survive.

However, at the time of our birth we came into the world without clothes, or even a single material asset! For we brought nothing into the world, says Paul, and we cannot take anything out of the world (I Timothy 6:7). Have you ever seen a U-Haul truck behind a hearse on the way to the cemetery? I know it sounds ridiculous but we forget that we take nothing



**Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor**

**Hylton, cont. on page 10**

**Inside: Make a Mom's Day**

**Notes from Session**

**Remembering Helen Paynter**

## Notes from Session

At the February 23 Meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, those attending, in addition to the elders and Moderator Dr. Raymond Hylton, were guests Susan Powell, moderator, Board of Deacons; Richard Bell, secretary, Board of Trustees; and Jason Burton, Natalie Richards, and Caryl Weinberg, directors, respectively, of Youth, Worship, and Mission Ministries.

### Trustee Report

Board of Trustees Secretary Richard Bell reported the Trustees' decision that group meetings at the church, running past 10 p.m. will now be subject to a charge for overtime costs.

### Deacon Report

Moderator Susan Powell said that The Rev. Bud Ogle, director of Good News North of Howard, thanked us for our donation, saying that FPCE knows how to be the church. For a three-month trial, beginning Palm Sunday, we will conduct a visitors' reception in Room 102, staffed by deacons, Pastor Ray (as available), and others. Ms. Powell urged elders to be on the lookout for visitors.

### Ministry Councils & Discipleship

The elders heard about growing discipleship in our Councils' work:

■ *Children and Youth:* The Children's Ministry wants to bring not only the young into discipleship but their parents as well, and is taking a survey of parent preferences for topics and venues. Youth Ministry Director Jason Burton asked that parents of youth be included in the study.

■ *Adult Discipleship-Membership Development:* Changes to focus on new-member spiritual development include expansion from four to six or more classes plus linking of present to new members in a supportive role. And while more small-group development continues as a great FPCE priority, we now need a program develop-

er, either staff or volunteer.

■ *Mission:* In its future planning our Mission Council is now seeking to discern the congregation's wishes and readiness for mission in light of our sense of God's call for mission.

■ *Youth:* A main goal of this ministry is growing young men and women in their Christian discipleship and helping parents in the process. Also, discipleship is part of confirmation.

■ *Pastoral Care:* Such care, by nature, is a form of discipleship, and the P.C. Council is asking that all of our ministries offer prayer as they meet the needs of those they serve.

■ *Worship:* "Faith in Action" testimonies are powerful models for discipleship as is a filled sanctuary hearing God's word and music.

### Leadership Task Force

Elder Marcia Smith, reporting for the task force, presented a draft proposal for leadership development, representation, and renewal in FPCE ministry councils. Session responded by suggesting ways to continue benefitting from the wisdom and experience of present leaders while nurturing new leaders. The task force will make revisions for Session action in March.

### Strategic Planning

The Rev. Hylton explained the need for strategic planning now in FPCE, saying that we need to ask what we are doing and why. The answers will lead to our FPCE vision and mission. An initial group of six elders and a director volunteered to help identify possible planners in our church community.

### Clerk of Session Report

In Chicago Presbytery-related business, Clerk Sonia Bodi explained that Verna Todd was ready to continue as a commissioner, and Norman Rubash would step down from that position. Session elected Ms. Todd and received Mr. Rubash's decision.

— KEN WYLIE

## Read *First Family* early

*First Family* is posted on the Web site the last week of the month, just before the print copies go into the mail. If you would like to help save printing and postal cost, and read the newsletter early, please notify Nancy Wicklund at [nwicklund@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:nwicklund@firstpresevanston.org) and she will remove you from the "snail mail" list.

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## Youth Ministry

# Looking forward to Youth Sunday, car wash, summer trips

For the youth ministry at First Pres, winter always means winter retreats! This year our junior high students enjoyed a weekend of Winter Camp at Phantom Ranch in Mukwanago, Wis., and our high schoolers spent a great weekend at Timber-Lee in East Troy, Wis. Both weekends involved great worship bands and challenging speakers provided by the camps, as well as tons of fun in the snow with broom-ball tournaments, sledding, tubing, tobogganing, and lots of other great activities!



FPCE's youth have fun at winter retreats.

While we only just wrapped up winter camps, summer is coming soon, and that means great trips for both junior and senior high school students:

■ **Current 7th and 8th graders** will be heading to Green Lake, Wis., for **The Great Escape, July 12-17** — a weeklong conference featuring great recreation and activities, and dynamic speakers and musicians.

■ Our annual mission trip for **high school students** will be to **Tijuana, Mexico, Aug. 1-6**, to serve with Amor Ministries building homes for needy families.

Registration forms and information for both trips can be found on the Youth Ministry bulletin board on the first floor, or through the youth group Web sites: [www.epygs.com](http://www.epygs.com) and [www.enubs.com](http://www.enubs.com).

Other Youth Ministry dates to remember:

■ **Saturday, May 8 — Car Wash** fundraiser for summer trips in the church parking lot

■ **Sunday, May 23 — Youth Sunday Service & All Church Brunch** (one service at 10 a.m., followed by brunch in Roy Hall).

— JASON BURTON

## Household chemicals, electronics recycling collection May 1

Do you have computer parts, batteries, medications, and common household chemicals you want to get rid of? Now's your chance!

The Parish Nurse Ministry and Environmental Stewardship Focus Group will co-sponsor a recycling collection event in the church parking lot on Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. It's easy, free, and you'll be doing the environment and your health quite a favor.

**Take your spring cleaning to a whole new level!**

Acceptable items are listed below. Please do not drop off latex paint or appliances. Make sure your items are safe to transport — they should be in a container that will not break or spill. Remember that items will only be accepted on May 1, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., no exceptions.

Please direct any questions to the Parish Nurse Ministry Intern, Moriah Henrie, at ext. 227, or e-mail [mhenrie@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:mhenrie@firstpresevanston.org).

### Acceptable items for chemical/electronics recycling:

- Antifreeze
- Used motor oil
- Oil-based paints
- Paint thinners
- Aerosol paints
- Herbicides, insecticides, pesticides
- Lawn chemicals
- Batteries — single use, rechargeable, NiCad
- Drain cleaners
- Solvents
- Cleaning products
- Pool chemicals
- Hobby chemicals
- Compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) and light bulbs
- Computers and computer parts
- Old, expired or unused prescription and over the counter medications
- Cell phones

## Women's Ministry

# Daytime retreat: A beauty treatment for the soul

Virginia Lefler, author of *A Gentle and Quiet Spirit* and *Pursuing Purity and Spiritual Beauty*, has spoken on the topic of Pure Beauty at Christian women's events around the world. Her workshops address the challenges women face in a world of declining standards. Virginia explains the incredible benefits of spiritual beauty, how we can make ourselves beautiful to God and the obstacles we face to reach inner beauty.



Virginia Lefler

Since beauty and purity is a topic of interest for most women of all ages and all walks of life, this is an ideal outreach for friends, family and neighbors. Come and join us for a beauty treatment for the soul of all women, no matter her age, background or marital status.

The Women's Ministry Team invites you to this wonderful daytime retreat, Saturday, May 1, at the Sunset Ridge Club in Northfield, IL. We will begin the program at 10 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m. A lovely luncheon and other fun surprises are included. Cost \$20.

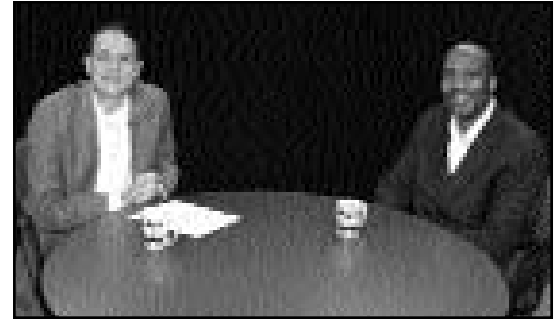
How about making this an early Mother's Day gift for that special woman in your life? Sign-up will begin on Palm Sunday after church services. Look for us at fellowship hour and in the narthex.

*"And so, as those [women] who have been chosen by God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." — Colossians 3:12*

— DEBBIE DEYHLE

## See Rev. Hylton on "Meet the Pastor"

The Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton was recently a guest on a television program called "Meet the Pastor." During the 30-minute program Rev. Hylton talked about growing up in Jamaica, his early interest in Christ, his family, and his journey to and vision for First Pres. The program was produced by First Pres member Brian Cox and was hosted by Nathan Hedman, who also attends First Pres.



Pastor Ray was interviewed by Nathan Hedman for the program "Meet the Pastor."

The program is airing on Comcast Ch. 6 in Evanston at 2 p.m. on Sundays and 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays through March and April. You have to subscribe to Comcast cable in order to receive Ch. 6, which is Evanston's public access chan-

nel. For those who do not have cable, the program has also been posted on YouTube in three 10 minute segments: Part One - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUop34jgai0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUop34jgai0), Part Two - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2bJ8fcfEGo&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2bJ8fcfEGo&feature=related), Part Three - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=haCd9lcWiXw&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haCd9lcWiXw&feature=related).

## Stephen Ministry

### Plan ahead!

About this time of year, my work associates begin finalizing plans for summer vacations and yes, even next Christmas! While some of us may work on the "short-term" schedule, our lives have a particular rhythm and to break out of that often requires some extra planning.

Stephen Ministry training begins Sept. 11 and runs through Dec. 13 — providing almost 50 hours of training to learn how to care for someone who is hurting. How to be a good listener, how to provide Christian care, how to care for someone without an agenda to "fix" his/her problem, boundary

setting, and issues in particular areas of loss/grief are included.

Now's the time to plan ahead and to consider taking this class. After the class, you'll be paired with someone to provide care. You'll be encouraged through twice a month supervision and continued.

For more details, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: Marge Stromberg, Alice Rubash, RuthAnn Ostrowski and Mike Denesha. Pastor Ray Hylton, a Stephen leader, can also help you determine if this ministry is right for you.

— MARGE STROMBERG

## Steve Todd remembers Helen Paynter

I'm a friend of Helen's, and I'm writing because Helen wants me to. I want to tell you about some good that she got to do in the world — Souper Saturday. Souper is what I know and is the “some good” that Helen and I shared. There are facts and figures about Souper, but I want to tell you about Helen's effect on me. I want to share this effect using three words: queen, yucky, and LePeep.

This church has supported the soup kitchen from its beginning in 1983. One major support has been letting us use the dining room on the second floor. It is large and comfortable. But being on the second floor makes for problems. Our guests have free access to the first floor, which worries people. Helen's solution was to ask me to become the host for our guests.

Clearly, she had not been very observant. I had volunteered for kitchen duty. I had expected that I would not have to talk unless I felt like talking. I'm a programmer — my head down, thinking about bits and bytes, my desk in the far corner, and my thoughts on actuarial factors and average salaries.

But Helen asked me to become Souper's host, to be welcoming and chatty. She was asking me to act against a lifetime of caution and apprehension in public. For me, Helen was a queen. I knew that the queen wanted to do “some good.” So I couldn't weigh the pros and cons of a “yes” or a “no” answer. The answer was “yes.” Much has changed since Helen asked me to be the host, including my understanding of why I'm doing it, but I know that Helen, the queen, pushed me into a responsible life that is doing “some good” in the world, as she did.

This queen did not sit on a throne. When wanting to do “some good”

required her hands to be in the task, she was there, too. I know this. I was there with her. One morning we each had our hands in large pans of beef, cold water and fat. Not attractive! But Helen and I were working along extracting the beef from its vile environment. In silence, with our heads down, we worked our way through the slime, picking out bits of beef. I broke the silence with, “This is pretty yucky!” To this Helen said, “Yes,” and we worked on until the last bit of beef was out, and it was on to the next step to becoming a meal for our guests.

Let me end with a last story that shows Helen's effect on me. It isn't all kudos when you're doing “some good” in the world. Among many supports for me, and for Helen, was our every-other-Monday “meeting” at LePeep. Over Belgian waffles we shared our wonder at how interesting and caring our guests are. We marveled that we got to do this “good.” We were thankful for volunteers who gathered around Souper. And we were amazed that our guests cared about us and for us. The stories that we shared encouraged our effort to do “some good” in the world.

Helen said thank you a lot. And because of this I find myself saying thank you much more than before Helen. To each of you who joined Helen in the task of doing “some good” in the world, and to each of you who allowed Helen and me to be a part of your lives, and to each of you who loved Helen — “Thank you.”

— STEVE TODD

*Steve Todd has served as the host and coordinator of the Saturday work of Souper Saturday from its beginning days until the present.*

## Is there hope for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo?

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been embroiled in a 10-year war that has taken 5.4 million lives and caused the rape of over 600,000 women and children. Despite this crisis, Presbyterians in the Congo continue to run churches, 705 schools, women's programs, orphans programs and many health centers. How is this possible and what is our government doing to help stop the Congo's war? Come to be inspired by the courageous Congolese Christians and learn what we can do to support them.

### ■ April 28, 7 p.m.

*Can Violence Be Stopped in the Congo?*

### ■ May 16, 11 a.m.

*Can the Congo's Doctors Conquer the Three 'Ms' (Malaria, Malnutrition, Micro-organisms)?*

Sign up for the Congo Film Series during Fellowship Hour. For information, contact Caryl Weinberg: 847-864-1472 or Janet Sullivan: 847-475-4052 or [sull1300@comcast.net](mailto:sull1300@comcast.net).

## New Member Fellowship Hour May 16

On Sunday, May 16, the Fellowship Hour between the services will be a special welcome for FPCE's new members. Please come upstairs to welcome in our new members and celebrate their new beginning!

# Dance concert benefits Emmaus Ministries

## See Mercy in Motion at FPCE April 18

"I was blown away by the sheer quality of the dance."

"It was so beautiful. I couldn't help myself from crying."

"I couldn't believe how beautiful and well done their performance was."

These are just a few of the reactions to the ballet

performance by Störling Dance Theater at FPCE last spring. On Sunday, April 18, the Störling dancers are coming to FPCE again, this time in an event called Mercy in Motion, which will benefit the work of Emmaus Ministries.

The Störling dancers are excited about returning to FPCE. "It was wonderful last year," says Mona Störling-Enna, Störling Dance Theater's founder, who has created a new piece just for Mercy in Motion. "The sanctuary is beautiful, and the people are fabulous. We can't wait to return."

The people who saw Störling perform last year clearly agree.

"Störling was just amazing," says FPCE staff member Caryl Weinberg about the Kansas City-based dance company. "I couldn't believe how beautiful and well done their performance was last year. I'm really looking forward to seeing them again."

"I went into the concert last year wondering what the quality would be," said Rogers Park resident Julene Barder. "I was blown away by the sheer quality of the dance. It was beautiful. I'm inviting ten of my friends this year, because I want them to see it."

Beyond the quality of their performance, Julene really appreciated that for Störling "the art isn't an end in itself, and that's obvious in their dancing. There's obviously something else motivating them besides the art."

That "something else" is the strong Christian faith shared by the dancers, including Mona Störling-Enna. Mona created Störling Dance Theater to use her innovative and dramatic concepts of movement and storytelling to speak powerfully to our contemporary culture and stir the hearts of people to reflection

and, hopefully, faith in God. Through the dance pieces she choreographs — like "Parables & Prayers," "In Simon's House," "Sower," and "The Prodigal Daughter" (a twist on the story of the Prodigal Son) — Mona seeks to shed new light on well known biblical stories.

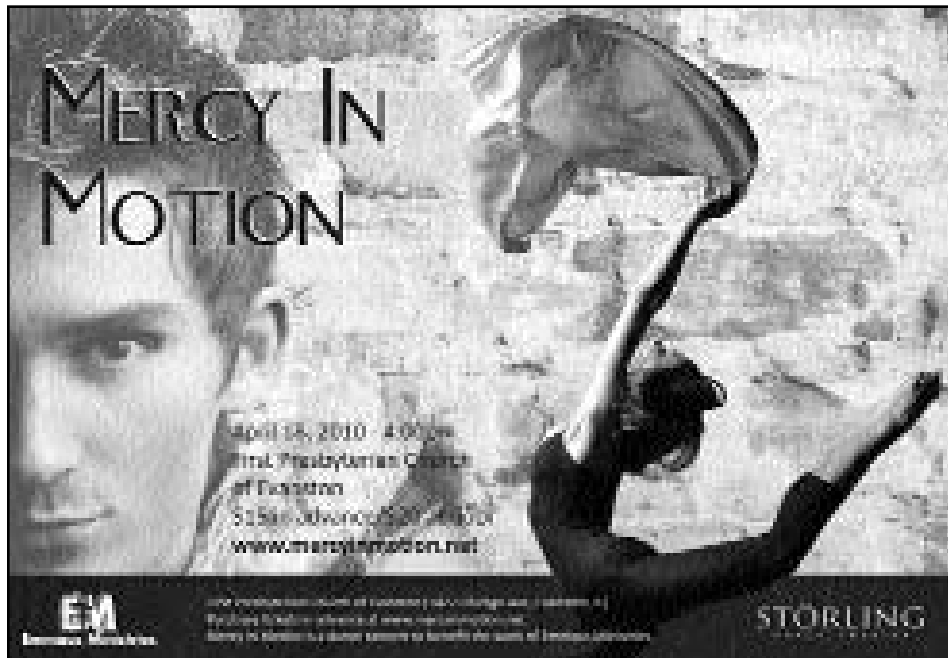
Dance aficionados in the

city have taken notice. "Störling just brings a deeper meaning to dance," says Kelly Sullivan, a longtime classical dancer and dance teacher on the North Side of Chicago. "The integrity of the choreography, energy of the dancing, and spirit of the program left all of us in the audience with a deep sense of fulfillment last year. It was truly inspiring and uplifting. I am so looking forward to Mercy in Motion this year!"

On Sunday, April 18, come see the dancing that the Kansas City Star called "without a doubt one of the most vivid, heartfelt, and theatrically astute ... ever to grace a Kansas City stage."

Proceeds from Mercy in Motion will go toward the work of Emmaus Ministries, a longtime FPCE mission partner and one of the only organizations in the world to exclusively reach out to men involved in prostitution.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit [www.mercyinemotion.net](http://www.mercyinemotion.net) or call (773) 334-6063.



## Deacon Speak

# Sharing God's own mother love

Happy Mother's Day! As May 9 approaches — the date for this year's national celebration of our mothers — would you like to help us extend that loving greeting to other mothers in our wider community who may be facing difficult or lonely times?

Every year at this time, First Pres members have the opportunity to share God's love — and extend the appreciation they feel for their own mothers — with other mothers in our community. Through the Deacons' Make-a-Mom's Day project, gift baskets are filled with several items and distributed to mothers at two local shelters: Mary Lou's Place at the YWCA, and the New Life Interim Shelter of Good News Partners. An inspirational booklet, a greeting card created by children at First Pres, and a message from our church are among the special things included in each basket.

During the month of April, the Deacons are inviting you to support this project by donating one or more items for the gift baskets. The process we follow is similar to the Angel Tree routine at Christmastime; but instead of an Angel ornament, you will be asked to choose one or more paper Mom's Hearts during Fellowship Hour at the Deacons' table. A specific gift item is written on each

Heart, which you can purchase and drop off at the First Pres office reception desk by April 30. The baskets will then be assembled in early May, and delivered to the shelters in time for Mother's Day.

Since we would like each of the 50 baskets to include similar items, we ask your help in purchasing only the specific items requested. At the Deacons' table, we will have a display of samples available to help guide you in choosing your gifts.

As Deacons, we are charged with the special responsibility of sharing

love and fellowship with people in our church and local community. To accomplish this mission, we count on the support and prayers of our fellow First Pres members, and we continue to be deeply thankful for the warm and generous responses we know we will receive for our various projects.

As we anticipate sharing God's love through these gift baskets, we look forward to helping you choose your Make-a-Mom's Day Hearts at the Deacons' table in April, and ask for your deepest, most heart-felt prayers for the mothers who will receive them.

— JENNIFER JOSEPH, LORNA GAYLE, AND ANDREA YOUNG



Deacons Jennifer Joseph, Lorna Gayle, Andrea Young

## Deacon Doings

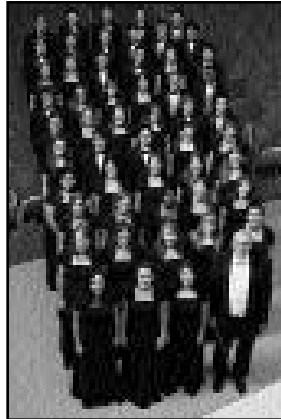
■ Believe it or not, it's time to start rummaging through the warmer weather clothes again, and hopefully for bringing bundles of "last year's" spring and summer duds over to the Deacons' Closet. Men's belts and shoes are all-season needs in the Closet, as are jeans and khakis, but this is a great time to be bringing in spring-weight jackets, wind-breakers, cotton sweaters and sweatshirts. Thanks for your many thoughtful contributions of "gently used" clothing and accessories, in every season.

■ High-school students are encouraged to help out in the Closet and other Deacons' activities to help collect the community service credit hours you'll need to graduate. Check with Youth Director Jason Burton or our youthful Deacon John McAuley for details on how you can get involved in this great service — to God, to your fellow human beings, to your church, and to your own spiritual growth... and high-school transcript.

— DAVE JONES, BOARD OF DEACONS

## Moody Chorale sings at FPCE on May 2

If you've ever had a chance to venture into the city and attend a Candlelight Carols event, or a Founder's Week session at Moody Bible Institute, you will be excited to hear that the Moody Chorale is coming to First Pres on Sunday, May 2, for an evening concert. Moody Bible Institute exists to train young men and women for Christian service, offering fully accredited undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including a conservatory-quality music program, which includes both sacred and classical music. Moody's three choirs and symphonic band are in great demand across the country, and even internationally. The group that we will hear is the mixed choir, and this group will tour the British Isles this coming summer.



Moody Chorale

The Chorale has been directed by Gerald Edmonds since 1978, and this performance holds special meaning, as it will be his last concert in the Chicago area with this group. He will retire after the summer overseas tour. Mr. Edmonds is a resident of the North Shore, and for many years also was minister of music at The Moody Church. He is well known as a conductor, as well as a writer and arranger.

The Chorale will present a varied program, from sacred classics to spirituals to lighter works, all with the aim of bringing glory and honor to God. The program begins at 7 p.m., and there will be a dessert reception afterwards. Please put this date on your calendar, and plan to be there ready to welcome these young people, as well as friends and colleagues of Mr. Edmonds who are likely to join us to celebrate his career.

If you would like to help with this event, we will need cookies for the reception, and also a few people to help with dinner for the students before the program. Please contact Elizabeth Brown (ebrown@ameritech.net or 847-864-5057.)

## PC(USA)

### 11th National Multicultural Church Conference May 27-30

We invite you to register for the newly redesigned and restructured 11th National Multicultural Church Conference under the theme **H20: Deepening our Faith, Widening our Culture**, which focuses on the biblical vision of Ezekiel 47:1-12. The conference seeks to explore "growing the church deep and wide" in an increasingly diverse world.

Conference participants will experience "innovation at the Verge," "a place ... where something and something different meet" as defined by Joel Barker. The 2010 National Multicultural Church Conference is a place of differences where people with vary-

ing languages, cultures, ethnicities, theologies, genders, and from differing generations and backgrounds come together to recognize the amazing potential of differences and, through affirming and celebrating those differences, create something new. You are invited to allow the "H20" of this conference to lead you to a deeper and wider place. We invite you to the Verge, the 2010 National Multicultural Church Conference.

Join other members of FPCE in attending this conference at the Marriott O'Hare! To register: Contact Tom Sullivan 847-475-4052 or [sull1300@comcast.net](mailto:sull1300@comcast.net).

### Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are needed to make the multicultural church conference run like calming waters from May 26-29 at the Marriott O'Hare. If you can help in any of the following roles, please contact Tom Sullivan at 847-475-4052 or [sull1300@comcast.net](mailto:sull1300@comcast.net).

- Preparing Bags for Conference - 6 people
- Pre Conference Registration - 4 people
- Pre Conference Greeters at Airport - 4 people
- Pre Conference Greeters at Hotel - 4 people
- Conference Registration - 4 people
- Greeters at the Airport - 4 people on May 25-26
- Greeters at the Hotel - 4 people on May 25-26
- Assistant for Guest Speakers - 2 per guest
- Stream Facilitators - 2 per facilitator
- Stream Time Keepers - 2 volunteers per stream
- Worship - Usher/Greeters
  1. Direct Seating
  2. Collect Offering
  3. Assist with Sacraments
- Volunteers to help with Celebration
  1. Getting performers on and off on time
  2. Help with line up
  3. Help with seating

**New Life**, cont. from back

the boys but to provide more extended contact with men, which is often not available to them. While we have had the minimum number of volunteers most (but not all) Saturdays, we would very much like to have other men join us in this important endeavor.

■ Some women do the same thing with the girls at the shelter (they have done cooking and knitting classes, play at Roy Hall, trips downtown, and more) - this is **Girls' Club**. Currently, we're only doing this once or twice a month because of a lack of volunteers. We would greatly like to expand this activity, since there are more girls than boys and the girls definitely feel left out when the boys leave for Boys' Club.

■ Amy McAuley and Moriah Henrie have been addressing the women at the shelter (in their Monday meetings) on **issues of health** — stopping smoking, nutrition, domestic violence, and more. These talks have been very well received and are very important for the women.

■ We have taken the whole group of shelter residents on several Saturday trips — to Brookfield Zoo, Chicago Botanic Garden, and the Shedd Aquarium. We plan to do more of these outings.

We would love to have you help us in any of these activities, even if you can only come once a month. You'll find you are the biggest beneficiary! Call Tom Alrich at 847-567-0988 or e-mail him at talrich@hotmail.com.

**Milestones**

**Deaths**

■ David Nelsen died Feb. 20

**Rebuild**, cont. from front page

Covenant Church and we worked on the home of a woman in her sixties who lives in Evanston near the high school. She works full-time but has a low-paying job and was unable to afford the many repairs that her home required. She lives on the first floor of the two-flat that she grew up in and where her elderly father lived upstairs until he passed away earlier that year. She wanted to paint and repair the upstairs unit

so that she would be able to rent it out, otherwise she would be unable to afford to keep the two-flat and would have to sell it. We had over 30 people working to clean, paint, remove carpeting, do electrical repairs, fix broken screens and throw out years of accumulated "stuff". The people from First Pres included Mark Wiley, Ralph Brooks, John Powell, Jon Phillips, Kon Savoy, John, Stephanie, and Conor Phelan, Dave Urban, Chris, CJ, and Grant Smith, Tim McAuley, Jack Stewart and Tom Desmond. Many of these people have been faithfully working every April for Rebuilding Together for several years now and have enthusiastically invited friends and co-workers to join our efforts. Conor Phelan invited friends from her school (Regina

Dominican) to work with her, and Chris Smith brought a group of realtors from his office to volunteer as well.

There is always a great sense of accomplishment at the end of our work day when we can see the very tangible things that we have done to greatly improve the living situation for someone from our own community who otherwise would be unable to afford it. The



Scenes from Rebuilding Together in 2009.

homeowner was overwhelmed with all of the work we did in her home and in a thank you note that she sent after work day said, "I am so grateful to you two and all the volunteers. I wish I could tell each and everyone who volunteered thank you. Our family realizes our blessing and Rebuilding Together was it. Our family has not seen such kindness for a really long time." — JC, homeowner. "I'm grateful to everyone that stepped up to help out..."

We welcome people with all skill levels and either full-day or half-day workers. We also welcome people who would like to help by providing lunch or snacks for the workers.

For questions or to sign up, contact Cheryl Scherer at (847) 328-2424 or cls752@aol.com.

# A healthy Earth for healthy people

On April 22 Earth Day is celebrated around the world. This day was created to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. On March 21, 1971, the UN Secretary General signed a proclamation establishing Earth Day as an official international holiday. Now people all over the world are constantly learning how to better take care of their environment. We should be grateful for this improved awareness and the impact it has had on our environment.

Earth Day can be a great educational tool and exciting time to celebrate for children. However, as adults we must feel challenged by the things we have so easily taken for granted. As Mahatma Ghandi once noted, "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed." There are animals that have been used for food by people forever that are now being seriously depleted. It doesn't matter what animal we are talking about, there is a very real danger that we may kill off part of our food supply. Pollution is present in cities all around the world. There is acid rain, greenhouse gases, agricultural run-off, lead in the paint, asbestos in the air and all kinds of other things that are affecting our health and well being every day.

As summarized from the book, *Blue Planet Run: The Race to Provide Safe Drinking Water to the World*, the earth is just responding to our continuous abuse and misuse of its finite resources. In the last decade, the children who have died from drinking polluted water outnumber the combined casualties from all armed conflicts since World War II. However, as long as we can afford to feed our children, be guaran-



Julie Ruchniewicz

*God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.*

— GENESIS 1:31


teed clean water, and fill our gas tanks, it is so easy to look the other way.

This begs the question, what can we do? There all kinds of wonderfully practical suggestions out there. Reuse, recycle, consume less (water, electricity, gas) plant a tree, turn off lights, do not litter, restore that which has been lost, compost, car pool, ride a bike, go paperless, buy foods locally and put that food in our own bags.

We are told by experts to take this seriously now! It is difficult to conceptualize that a 2 degree Celsius difference in temperature can affect our health. However, the extreme temperatures we are seeing are causing an increase in mortality rates. The increased pollution is causing a rise in the occurrences of asthma, bronchitis and other such lung diseases. These environmental hazards may seem incidental, but they do pose a risk to the health of our families and friends.

We can speak out, support, and subsidize many ecological causes. But, we must also remember to safeguard our earth. In Genesis 2:15 the Bible says, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." We are allowed to use the earth for our benefit, but it is our responsibility to care for it also. "Being Green" cannot be seen as a fad or something we "will try" out and "see how it goes." It seems that the time has come to realize what we have and cherish it. God has known all along.

— JULIE RUCHNIEWICZ, RN,  
PARISH NURSE

 Advocate Health Care

**Hylton, cont.** from front page with us.

During this season of Lent, reflect on your giving. How much of God's time, talents and money do you give to God's work through our church? May God fill us with gratitude and thanks-giving for all we are allowed to richly enjoy.

REV. DR. RAYMOND HYLTON,  
SENIOR PASTOR

## Member Contact Information Update

Thank you for completing the online form to update your contact information for FPCE. You can continue to update your family records via the Web site: Go to [www.firstpresevanston.org](http://www.firstpresevanston.org), click on the button "About Us" and scroll down to "Contact Us" to complete the Personal Information Form. Please contact Nancy Wicklund in the church office, (847) 864-1472 or [nwicklund@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:nwicklund@firstpresevanston.org), with questions.

**The Updated Member Directory** will be printed or e-mailed to you by request to [Receptionist@firstpresevanston.org](mailto:Receptionist@firstpresevanston.org) or 847-864-1472 ext. 200.

# What is Presbyterian Pilgrimage?

At a gathering of the Chicagoland Presbyterian Pilgrimage community, the persons at each table were asked to write down and share with one another their definition of Pilgrimage; how it changed their life or how it deepened their faith. The statements at the tables were so profound, so varied (and so much better than my usual reference to a "three day, lay-led spiritual renewal retreat") that I asked that everyone leave their statements at the door as they departed, for my use in inviting others to experience Pilgrimage. Here are comments, taken from some of the first papers in the pile. The other 60 are equally quotable, but these really do describe Pilgrimage (and Cursillo).

- It was a three day experience with Jesus Christ that increased my faith in Christ and fellow Christians;
- It was a changing point in my life, and I felt a "peace" inside of me that I hadn't felt in 20 years;
- It prepared me for a rougher road ahead and taught me to give some of my load to God and others who I can trust;
- It is a time to let scripture take you in unexpected ways. There is now more expectancy in my Christian life;
- It rescued me from a spiral of depression brought on by

personal problems; I left, renewed with the conviction that God still has great plans for me;

- Because I was able to leave my daily life with all its stresses, I could focus on a deeper relationship with Jesus through the loving embrace of a community of believers;
- After 31 years as a Christian it still impacted me and refreshed my faith, showing me how wonderful God is;
- It makes you feel you are 10 years old again and everybody likes you;
- It renewed my desire to do Christian service;
- It's like a retreat, but it's not a retreat. It was a short course on basic Christianity. And we had fun!
- It allowed me to integrate all of my experiences of faith to expand my spiritual horizon.

Why not open yourself to a call from the Holy Spirit and experience the Pilgrimage yourself? To register for the next weekend, April 15-18, at the DeKoven Center on Lake Michigan in Racine, Wisconsin, use the registration form below. For more information see [www.chpilgrimage.org](http://www.chpilgrimage.org).

— NORM RUBASH,  
CHICAGOLAND PRESBYTERIAN PILGRIMAGE COUNCIL

## APPLICATION FOR CHICAGOLAND PRESBYTERIAN PILGRIMAGE (CURSILLO)

*(Generally applicants will be received on a first come, first served basis.)*

DATE/LOCATION: **April 15-18 at the DeKoven Center, Racine, Wis.** TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MR. MRS. MS. \_\_\_\_\_ NICKNAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONES; HOME # \_\_\_\_\_ WORK # \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_\_  
Mo/Day only

MARITAL STATUS \_\_\_\_\_ IS SPOUSE ATTENDING? \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AT \_\_\_\_\_ PASTOR \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have any special requirements (allergy, diet, physical limitations, snoring) please identify:*

*Costs: The total cost of the weekend is \$250 per person, which includes lodging and meals. You will not need additional money for the weekend. A registration fee of \$50 should be sent with application to Eleanor Ehresman, 645 Arbor Lane, Glenview, IL 60025, (847) 724-6205, [eleanor.ehresman@moody.edu](mailto:eleanor.ehresman@moody.edu). Please call with questions. You will be asked to pay the balance upon arrival at the retreat center. Please make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, Memo: Pilgrimage weekend. Weekends begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday and end on/or about 5 p.m. on Sunday.*

## What's going on at New Life Interim Housing?

We're busy at the New Life shelter for women and children! This month marks the one-year anniversary of FPCE's regular involvement at the shelter. We are doing a significant amount of work there, involving around 15-20 adult and teen volunteers on a regular basis. But much more can be done! Here is our current lineup of activities:

■ **Monday nights bring Creative Hanging Out** with the kids, while their Moms have their important weekly motivational meeting. We meet between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the shelter (which is five minutes from the church, at Paulina and Howard) and are always out before 8 p.m. During the colder months, we play with the kids, do crafts and puzzles, help with homework, read books — and generally show God's love and caring. In the warmer months, we are normally outside in the nice (secure) play



Claire Alrich and a child from New Life shelter during Creative Hanging Out.

area behind the shelter. On a few Mondays in the summer, we have a barbeque for all of the residents.

■ **On Wednesday evenings**, we alternate two activities weekly. First is Chess Club, in which we come and play chess and checkers with the older kids (and some of the Moms), and do puzzles/games/books with the younger ones. The other is Music Club, in which Leslie Pruitt leads fun and instructive music classes for kids and Moms.

■ **On almost all Saturday mornings** we have **Boys' Club** for the boys between ages 3 and 13 (both current shelter residents and some 'alumni' whose families have moved to nearby apartments). This is normally in the morning from 9 a.m. to noon. We have gone to parks to play, played in Roy Hall, gone downtown, gone to the zoo, etc. We do this not just to amuse

**New Life**, cont. on page 9

## The First Presbyterian Church

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**Editor:** Catherine Potts  
**Distribution:** Nancy Wicklund

*First Family* is a publication of The First Presbyterian Church in Evanston, Ill. We hope it will inform members and friends and encourage a community of fellowship in our church family.

*First Family* wants to publish news from all parts of the church family. The deadline for each issue is the 5th of the preceding month. Contact Catherine Potts with story ideas, submissions and photos: Work phone (312) 464-5517, home (773) 381-9901, e-mail [catherinepotts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catherinepotts@sbcglobal.net).

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