



First Family

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

July/August 2010

The First Presbyterian Church of Evanston

Vol. 6, No. 18

Environmental Stewardship

The Moringa Tree Project

“And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations...”

— REVELATIONS 22:2

The maternal and childhood mortality rates are high in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in part due to poor nutrition. Seventy-one percent of the population fall below the minimum requirement for dietary energy consumption. One study in the village of Tshikaji, near the Presbyterian Good Shepherd Hospital, showed 60 percent of the children under age five were undernourished. Most of the Congolese, including the children, eat only one meal daily, mainly composed of cassava (a plant also known as manioc). It is an extremely poor source of protein and iron.

But, God has created a “miracle tree” to help the people of Congo.

The Moringa tree, *Moringa oleifera*, a native of India, is sustainable and effective in combating malnutrition, especially among infants and nursing mothers. The PC(USA) in partnership with Congolese Presbyterians have started a Moringa Tree Project to help

Tree, cont. on page 3

Communion

A time of remembering and sharing

Sometimes the activities of a church worship service are confusing and not well understood. We slip into our “church” language and talk about things as if everyone knew what we were talking about ... like “Communion” What does that really mean?

What exactly is Communion — sometimes called The Lord’s Supper? It is a time set apart for remembering that Jesus did the same thing with His disciples on the night before He was crucified. But why do we continue to do it today? It is intended to remind us of the tremendous price Jesus paid for our forgiveness; it is a sign and seal, as in Baptism, of our union with Christ and His church.

Obviously, communion is a sign or symbol of something else. Over a person’s lifetime, it can come to mean different things at different times. Here are just a few of the images different people have attributed to communion:

■ **Bread is a staple food** reminding us that God sustains us with all we need. Wine (or juice) is often bitter reminding us of the bitterness of Good Friday and Christ’s suffering, but also an element that gladdens the heart in the celebration of Christ’s redemption of our souls.

■ **The breaking of the bread** is a reminder that His body was broken for you — as in His body suffering and torn from His Father’s presence due to taking our sin on Himself. Wine as His blood — sprinkled as with the sacrifices of the Old Testament, and, yet, also blood is the source of life and hope for His Church.

■ **Eating and drinking of Christ’s body and blood** — as in “taste and see that the Lord is good;” or in anticipation of the joyful feast of the people of God.

Communion, cont. on page 5

Notes from Session

For the monthly Session stated meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston on May 25, 13 elders were present, three of the total 18 being excused. Others present were Moderator of Session Rev. Raymond Hylton, Clerk of Session Sonia Bodi, and staff ministry directors Connie Floyd, Children's Ministries, and Jason Burton, Youth Ministries.

Prayer, then Ministry Candidate

Opening with prayer and a Session discussion led by Elder Andy Bilhorn, the elders moved on directly to hear a presentation by a possible candidate for ordination, Ms Kim Fisher, under care of FPCE for the past year as an inquirer in the Presbyterian Church [USA]. She is studying at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and serving as an intern with First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette. Ms Fisher, a former university faculty member, told the elders of her sense of call to the Christian ministry. The elders questioned her, and after discussion they voted to recommend Kim Fisher to the Presbytery of Chicago as a candidate for ordination.

Adult Discipleship and Membership Development

Responding to a growing interest in a closer relationship for FPCE and our in-house neighbors, the Korean Fellowship, Session voted to create a task force to explore the matter. Pastor Ray explained that he has met recently with Trustee George Collins, Diversity Ministry Co-Chair Tom Sullivan, and Korean Fellowship Pastor Kwon to discuss a merger of our two bodies. Proposed as members of a task force to study a merger were Messrs Collins and Sullivan plus Dan Shiau, Pastor Kwon, and Elder Ken Wylie from Session. The elders voted to approve this task force to explore the merger.

As a second AD/MD consideration for this meeting, the FPCE Diversity Ministry asked that our elders go

beyond their annual practice of simply receiving and signing of the Presbyterian Church [USA] Multicultural Diversity Covenant. With our Diversity Ministry Team already having met our Multicultural Church financial commitments to the Chicago Presbytery, our Session is asked now to fulfill the Covenant's requirements to (1) support and develop multicultural congregations, (2) learn, practice, and model mutuality and inclusion in the total life of the congregation and presbytery, and (3) educate and advocate for diversity in our mission to the community. The Covenant will come back to Session in a future meeting for approval.

Leadership Task Force

To smooth the revitalization of FPCE lay leadership, the Task Force brought its proposed Guidelines for Implementation of the Session Plan on Council Leadership back to Session for a second reading. Task Force Chair, Terry Halliday, noted three action items: [A] To create a task force to develop discipleship in FPCE's congregation; [B] To create a small subcommittee to assure that leadership is changing smoothly; [C] To ask elders assigned to each Council to report on the transition plan their Council is adopting. In response to elders' questions about specific leadership changes, Mr. Halliday said that the Plan and Guidelines envisage that, in addition to elders and designated staff persons, the only members of Councils will be laity specifically invited to serve rotating 3-year terms. To act on these Leadership proposals, Session voted to accept the submitted document, Guidelines for Implementation of the Session Plan on Council Leadership. It voted also to ask the Leadership Task Force to consider whether Councils might appoint ad hoc members for specific purposes; and, if so, under what conditions.

Session further agreed that to serve on a Council it is necessary to be a mem-

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ber of FPCE.

Pastor's Report

Moderator Raymond Hylton told the elders that the new Visioning Group (formerly Strategic Planning) is working with the Planning Department of the City of Evanston to develop demographic information on population, age groups, location of residents, etc. that is needed for our planning. Visioning, says Pastor Ray, aims at having a com-

Session, cont. on next page

Joyful Christianity



This happy group of First Pres members attended the Multicultural Conference of the Presbyterian Church (USA), May 27-30. Look for upcoming *First Family* articles, as well as other creative ways the group will share what was learned regarding: innovative worship, relational evangelism, Christian education in a diverse world, cross-cultural relationship building, seminary education for multicultural church leadership, strategies to strengthen church outreach, positive communication styles, and becoming a dynamic witness for Christ. Ask these folks what they experienced at the Conference and watch this space for more exciting news! (Others who attended and were unavailable for the photo were Olga Ricketts-Peart, Glen and Nancy Wicklund, Lou and Marilyn Haase.)

Session, cont. from previous page
prehensive plan within the next few months.

Clerk of Session's Report

Two major items constituted Clerk Sonia Bodi's report. First, in preparation for Clerk Bodi's retirement as clerk, December 31, 2010, she nominated Elder Laurie Kaeser as deputy clerk of session. Acting on the enthusiastic backing of Pastor Hylton and Clerk Bodi plus commendations from Ms Kaeser's fellow elders, and after discussion, the Session voted to approve Elder Kaeser as FPCE Deputy Clerk of Session. Second in Clerk Bodi's report was presentation of information about her service to come as a commissioner to the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA), July 3-10, in Minneapolis. To the elders Ms Bodi distributed a copy of "Preview of Issues and Business of the 219th General Assembly: A Prayer Guide for Sessions." She encouraged our Session to pray for these issues and for the commissioners.

Milestones

Baptisms

■ Peter Michael White,
son of Laura & David
White

Deaths

■ Chuck Andrews died
May 26

Tree, cont. from front page

plant trees and to train families about using them as a natural food supplement.

The Moringa trees, which grow very quickly in the sandy soil and climate of the Congo, can be harvested in nine months. The leaves can be eaten fresh, cooked, or stored as dried powder for many months without refrigeration, and without loss of nutritional value. This powder can be added to many food items to provide concentrated sources of protein. (Its leaves are 40 percent protein, one of the highest of any plant). The Moringa tree is in full leaf at the end of the dry season when other foods are typically scarce.

Analyses of the leaf composition have revealed them to have significant quantities of vitamins A, B and C, calcium, iron and protein. According to one study in Tanzania, 25 grams daily of Moringa Leaf Powder was found to give a child the following recommended daily allowances: protein 42%, calcium 125%, magnesium 61%, potassium 41%, iron 71%, vitamin A 272%, and vitamin C 22%. A source of iron is critical to many children who have low iron levels due to repeated malaria infections. Gram for gram, Moringa leaves contain: seven times the vitamin C in oranges, four times the calcium in milk, four times the vitamin A in carrots, two times the protein in milk, and three times the potassium in bananas. Recently the University of Botswana discovered that the seed pods are effective in purifying water too.

Nancy Haninger, a PC(USA) missionary nurse, began the project in Tshikaji, working alongside a Congolese agronomist, a nurse nutritionist and volunteers. They have planted over 6,000 Moringa seedlings in Tshikaji and the surrounding villages. Amazingly each seedling costs only \$1.

The Environmental Stewardship Group of FPCE has recently made a donation to the Moringa Tree Project, and hopes to continue to give ongoing support to the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo through this effort because it shows the way in which God's amazing creation can sustain His people. The use of the Moringa tree is an exciting environmental project that brings health and healing to women and children suffering from malnutrition. It is part of God's amazing creation. As we care for one another, we see the miraculous ways in which God provides for us all.

Yet another tree, the tree of life, Christ Jesus, sustains, heals and saves us through the power of both His word and His creation.

— SOLI DEO GLORIA
JUDY CUMMINGS,

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GROUP

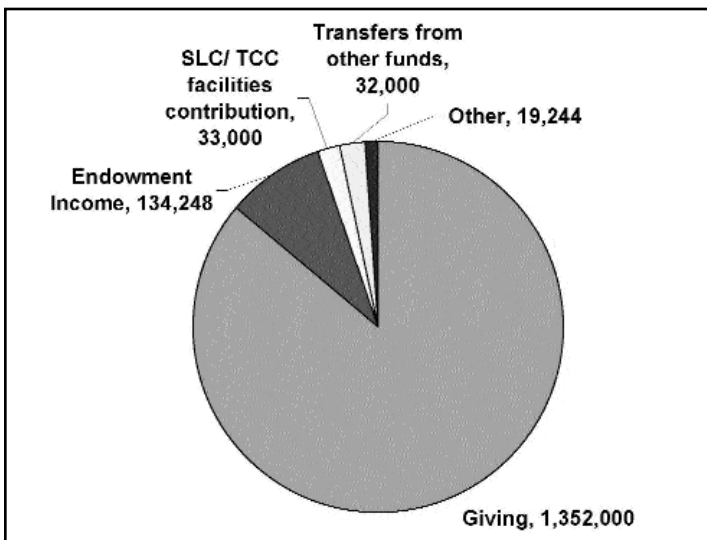
Stewardship

Understanding the FPCE budget

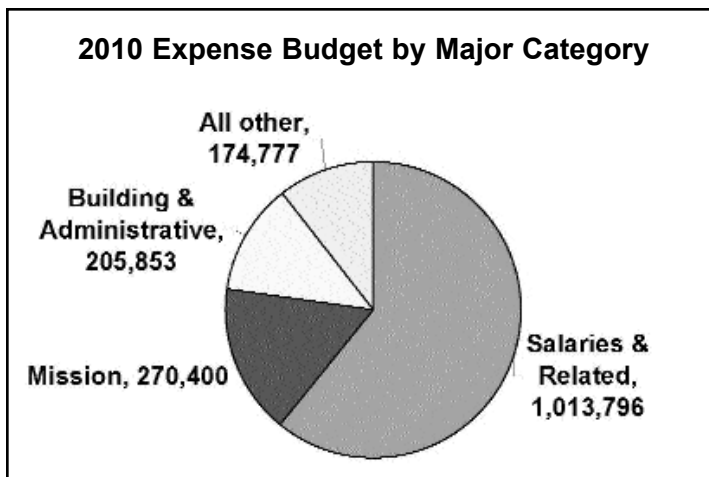
In Stewardship Ministry Team, we like to focus on the spiritual side of giving. We give because God has blessed us, because God leads us to give, because we are grateful, because we care about others, and for many other reasons. But there is also a practical side to our giving. Scripture recognizes both faith and practicality. We see the widow in faith giving all that she has (Mark 12:41-44), but we also see the direction to be good stewards, investing our resources wisely (Matthew 25:14-30). We see the little boy selflessly giving his lunch to Jesus (John 6:9), but we also see the direction to count the cost before building a tower (Luke 14:31-33).

As chair of this year's Budget Team, I asked to be part of Stewardship as well, because I understand the practical relationship between our congregation's giving and the church budget. We saw this relationship in a rather dramatic fashion this past year, as we were forced to institute significant cuts in ministry areas, as well as a 5% across-the-board pay cut for our hardworking staff. Worship Council took a particularly large cut during 2010, limiting our ability to put on special programs with choir and orchestra, and changing to a one page bulletin, among other adjustments. Mission giving suffered considerably in this year's budget, forcing us to reduce and/or eliminate support to many of our mission partners, including lowering salary support for a number of missionaries.

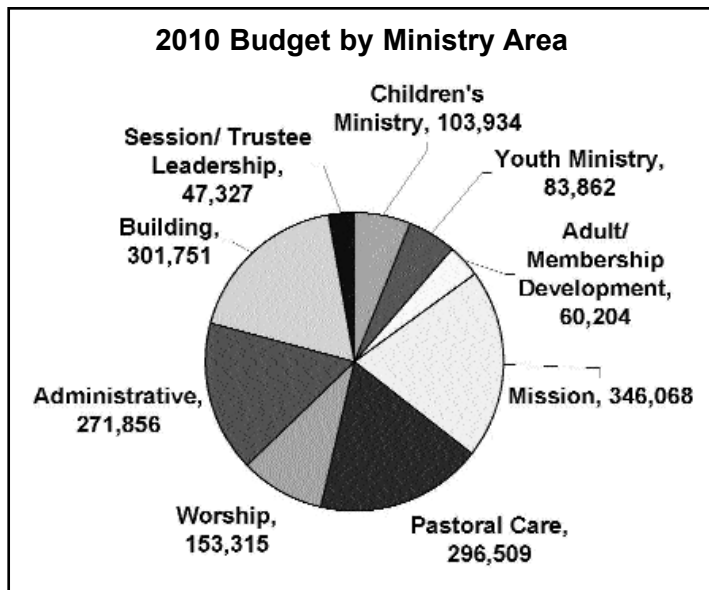
The church's budget may seem like a big mystery, but it is actually fairly simple to understand. Most of the revenue for the operating fund comes from the giving of church members, as shown in the chart below. While some of the Endowment Fund revenue is distributed to the Operating Fund, the largest part of the Endowment Fund supports ongoing maintenance and capital improvement of our building.



On the expense side, by far the largest single item is staff salaries and benefits, constituting over 60% of the budget. By mandate of the Session and Trustees, Mission spending is set at 20% of giving revenue. This works out to approximately 16% of the expenditure budget. The remaining expenditures consist of Building, Administrative and Program expenditures. This breakdown of expenses can be illustrated graphically as follows:



However, to get a better understanding of where the church's spending really goes, it is helpful to look at the budget holistically, allocating staff salaries to the various program areas, as follows:



We will soon begin working on the 2011 budget, and there is no doubt that we will face challenges again this **Budget, cont. on next page**

Budget, cont. from previous page

year. Now that the congregation has voted to call an associate pastor, we will need to make provision for him or her in the budget. We would hope to be able to restore funds to Mission, Worship and other areas that were cut back this year. Furthermore, we have budgeted deficits for the past several years, now, and are running out of the reserve funds that allow us to do that.

Budget Ministry Team plans to submit a proposed budget at the fall congregational meeting. Only if each member does his part, both through prayer and giving, will we be able to overcome the budget challenges and go where God wants us to go as a church in 2011. When Dedication Sunday arrives, we will then wait and see whether pledges support the proposed budget. If not, we have no choice but to make further cuts, and the above charts make it very clear that we cannot make significant cuts without impacting programs, staff and mission.

Budget and Stewardship Teams earnestly seek your assistance as we carry out our respective tasks. Please consider helping in one or more of the following ways:

1. Pray for the church, for its various programs, for staff and lay leaders, for the budget process, and for the 2011 Stewardship Pledge drive. Pray about your own level of involvement in supporting the work of the church.

2. Share your ideas about Stewardship, about our church's budget, priorities, or spending policies. From time to time we hear anecdotal evidence about people who do not give because they do not agree with some aspect of how the church allocates its resources. Probably no one would agree with every decision made regarding church finances, but nevertheless we should give to support its ministries. But, having said that, Budget Team would welcome your ideas as to ways we

might save money or run programs more efficiently.

3. Turn in a pledge card. While Budget Team's job is easiest if members pledge an actual amount, some members prefer to indicate "faith giving." Even this step helps in our planning, but potential gifts from members who do not turn in a card at all, although appreciated, have little impact on the budget process.

4. Turn in your pledge card early — on Dedication Sunday (October 31) or as soon thereafter as possible. Budget Team must start evaluating the proposed budget based on those pledges that come in during the first few weeks of the pledge drive. If pledges are received late, budget cuts may have already been made and it may be too late to adjust the budget again.

Once again, we welcome your comments and ideas. Please contact us:

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Session - Sonia Bodi
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Chicagoland Presbyterian Pilgrimage celebrates 10 years, 20 weekends!

Join us at the Summer Ultreya Gathering and Cookout!
Sunday, July 18, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Gillson Park Pavilion in Wilmette

Pilgrimage Council will provide meats, buns, fixins and drinks. Bring salad, munchies, or dessert to share. Please RSVP with how many will attend (all are welcome!) and what you're bringing to Sue Amtsen, (847) 486-8303, whasue@aol.com. Parking is limited, so invite a friend to share a ride.

Communion, cont. from front

So communion is important for us and the body of the church, and we should not neglect the sharing of this time with other believers, unless for a short time when we have not prepared ourselves in the right way. It is the memory of the God's only Son dying on the cross to pay the penalty for our own sin and putting on us His righteousness that we might be seen by God as justified and pure before Him. As we think about communion we should:

- Prepare our hearts beforehand.
- Confess sins and brokenness.
- Seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.
- Trust Jesus Christ alone for complete forgiveness, making us wholly righteous in God's eyes, cleansing us and renewing us.
- Bless God for sending His only Son to pay the price for our sin.
- Give thanks to God for salvation in our lives and the world around us
- Anticipate the joyous promise of eternity in perfect holiness and peace with God and His Church.
- Relish the renewal of oneness in Spirit with Him and go forth empowered to serve mankind and bring others nearer to God.
- Experience the unity of Christ's body, the Church as we commune together at the Table.

■ Let the knowledge of Christ's love for us sustain us as we return to our daily lives and strive to live faithfully.

As we take communion, we are doing so with our Family of Faith ... we share this with others who also believe that the death of Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sin and that, by believing that Jesus' death and resurrection were enough to make us Holy, we can anticipate an eternal life in God's presence ... from now on through eternity. Since we are sharing this "meal" together we can use it as a time to remind those around us of

Communion, cont. on page 7

Stephen Ministry

A sudden crisis

Last July my mother suffered a hemorrhage in the brain that nearly took her life. I remember the phone call that night and hearing my Dad say, "The neurosurgeon says we should wait, the blood mass in her brain is too large to operate. All we can do is watch and wait. When do you think you will be here?" The news was harsh and hard to correlate with earlier information of painful leg swelling that had led to the hospital trip to check for a blood clot (there was none); how did we get to a hemorrhage in the brain?

When life suddenly hands us these difficult times, the attack on our senses is so real physically, mentally and spiritually that we are overwhelmed. At that moment while I was on the phone with Dad, my system was racing forward with the news, but at the same time halted in disbelief (What's going on? How did this move from legs to head? Doing nothing seems right. It does?). My head was spinning (The drive to Midland, Mich., is six hours. How soon can we leave?). After putting the phone down, rising above the clatter of my nerves and brain I could still hear the concern in my Dad's quiet voice posing the question, "When do you think you will be here?" translating to me as, "Mom may not make it through the night." The sting of this new reality was so painful and my heart hurt for the whole family. Then I made a choice. I stopped doing and just knelt offering a simple prayer that asked, "Dear Lord, please send your Holy Spirit to hold my family close in this time of need. No matter the outcome, Lord, please let us accept what is given. Amen."

While at Mom's bedside in the ICU, I felt a calming peace as I sang hymns softly to her and gave reassuring words of love with the other special things daughters do for their

beloved mother in a time of deep need. As a family we prayed around Mom's bedside when the pastor from Memorial Presbyterian Church came to visit. Each time I asked privately for us to "accept whatever would be."

Then my mother started to recover. The paralysis of the right side of her body left. She began to speak, slowly and broken at first and then phrases. She went from the hospital, to a skilled facility, to walking through the front door of their home in a span of 4 months. Christmas this past year was especially memorable. All this without a reduction to the blood mass trapped in her brain. The medical community is baffled. The acceptance of this new reality of having Mom's health restored so fully is nothing less than joy, joy, joy! On May 22, we celebrated Mom and Dad's 50th wedding anniversary. Back in Midland, we gathered with friends and family all openly acknowledging God's hand through the past several months and where the mystery of life's answers lie as we joyfully gave thanks for a 50th anniversary no one ever thought would be. My prayers were answered and the Holy Spirit pushed beyond my hope for acceptance to make it much more.

Looking back I know my willingness to get on my knees and pray in the midst of this crisis and my trust in intercessory prayer is because of my involvement with the Stephen Ministry program here at First Pres. As the author Andrew Murray discusses in his book, *The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer*, "Our Lord gives us five essential elements of true prayer: (1) There must be the heart's desire; (2) there must be the expression of that desire in prayer; (3) there must be faith to carry the prayer to God; (4) there must be faith to accept God's answer; (5) the experience of

the desired blessing must follow." Being involved in Stephen Ministry has reinforced these elements and is centered on the power of prayer.

Is Stephen Ministry for you?

Be prepared to be stretched because we are developing our spiritual muscle; expect to grow in faith and love. When you think you can't do it, stop and remember that calls are not heard because of self-reliance. So I ask you: Is your faith growing? Is it your passion to know Christ?

Suffering is a call to intimacy. Caring for a person in need, the Stephen Minister joins the care receiver on Holy ground as God brings forth His healing power as only He, the Cure Giver, can do.

The upcoming training

Stephen Ministry training provides well-organized instruction to equip you in this ministry of caring. There is no obligation as you explore what being a Stephen Minister would mean to your life and journey of faith.

Saturday, Sept. 9, is the kick off session with a half-day retreat at First Pres. in Room 213. Classes continue every Monday night from 7-9 p.m. through Dec. 13.

Together we will sharpen our listening skills, learn process oriented caring, understand how to use prayer, scripture, and forgiveness in Christian care, and what to do in the various crises of life. Call and talk with a Stephen leader about the 2010 training class. I invite you to come, see and experience what God can do through you.

Or if you are facing a sudden crisis or are hurting and need someone to listen, please call and have a confidential conversation about what it would mean to have a Stephen Minister walk with you on the journey.

— RUTHANN V. OSTROWSKI

Everyone can serve

Martin Luther King Jr. is quoted as saying, "Everyone can be great because everyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree... You only need a heart full of grace... a soul gener-

ated by love." Despite economic downturns, we continue to volunteer our time to others. According to a recent Gallup Poll survey, more than one-third of all Americans reported volunteering some time each month. Last month there was recognition of International Volunteer's Week and we also celebrated the volunteers that work in the Friends in Christ Ministry here at First Pres. We encouraged their spiritual gifts and blessed their hands that are a source of healing and compassion.

The scriptures are full of stories of people who responded to a call and were sent on a mission for God. Likewise, our very own congregation is richly abundant with these same types of stories throughout all our ministries. People are continuously called to think about what talents they possess and where those gifts may be best utilized. Through volunteering, every person in the church

has the opportunity to serve and to live their lives more faithfully. Many times by reaching out and using what God has given us in the service of others, we have life transforming experiences. Blessings of sharing yourself with others include:



Julie Ruchniewicz

- Offering tangible help to others in need.
- Sharing your love for Jesus.
- Experiencing personal satisfaction that you are able to make a difference.
- Feeling more connected to other people.
- Offering a more positive role model to family and friends.

In today's society it is easy to serve because we are a global neighborhood. There is no place on this planet where we not called to go if there is a need. It brings to mind the story in the Book of Hebrews 13:2 that says: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to


strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." As we experience the reality of other people's culture or circumstances, we begin to live our lives with greater sensitivity, understanding and compassion. This kind of living energizes us

and the church.

If you are a volunteer, I would like to express grati-

tude for all you do and encourage you to continue "to be a blessing." For those of you who are interested in getting involved in service, I would invite you to start with prayer, and ask the Lord to enable you to be a blessing to others. Consider your knowledge, talents and abilities (these gifts could range from mowing the lawn, basic car care, writing letters, or simply being a friend). Is there anyone you know in need? Enjoy the benefits of sharing yourself and God's love with others!

— JULIE RUCHNIEWICZ, RN,
PARISH NURSE

 Advocate Health Care

Communion, cont. from page 5

what we are doing.

For instance, as we take the bread and pass it to our neighbor in the seat next to you, we can say "This is the Body of Christ broken for you." Also, as we take the juice and pass it to the one next to us, we can say, "This is the Blood of Christ shed for you."

So, communion can be a joyful

time in remembering that we've been forgiven. It can be a somber time repenting of our sin and struggles to live a life that is pleasing to God. It can be a serious time because God is serious about the cost for this salvation. It can be a hopeful time in looking forward to an eternity with God, the creator and sustainer of life. But

above all, it can be a time of communing with others who share these same beliefs.

— TIM MCAULEY,
WORSHIP MINISTRY COUNCIL

References: *The Presbyterian Book of Order*; *Presbyterian 101*; *Table Talk* devotional by Ligonier Ministries.

Deacon Speak

Visiting Jean: The simple communion of saints

One of the great duties/privileges/honors of serving as a Deacon is the periodic visitation required in the homes of church members to serve Homebound Communion to those who are too old or infirm to struggle into church to take the sacrament with us. Many Deacons truly savor this opportunity to visit and share the Lord with these old friends, and to partake of God's great communal feast with these fellow saints. For some of these elderly that we visit, this may be the only direct contact they've had with First Presbyterian church since the last time they took communion with us.

For some, the words of the sacrament and the utterance of the Lord's Prayer may be some of the only words that they can remember to say.

Myself, I'll have to confess that I find some of these Communion visits very difficult: If a person can't think or find the sentence to speak or even take a taste of paper thin eucharist wafer or a tiny sip of grape juice without choking on it, it can be hard to know what is being communicated or accomplished by our being there together. But that's the basic point, after all: *We are* there — together, in the name of Jesus Christ — and that's where we are called to be, whatever we may do or pretend to know is happening.

One woman I visited several times in my Communion rounds with the Deacons was **Jean Pettibone** — mother of our choir mainstay, Pam Pettibone — who lived in the Foster Pavilion of Westminster Place. Jean passed away this past week, early June, and I'd like to share a moment or two of true Communion that I experienced with her.

Jean lived in the dementia section of Foster when I first met her on one of my early, "rookie" Sunday visits a few years ago. It was then that I first encountered her mild, calming smile, and the sweet, lulling sound of the wordless melodies that she would sing when she was happy. My Deacon partner and I went along with our "official"

liturgical business of serving the elements, reading Scripture, and praying together, and Jean mostly sat propped up on her sunny bed beaming a soft smile at us, saying "Yes" every once in a while or pointing to her daughter's photograph on the windowsill, and then singing a soft, lovely improvised and inscrutable song to us as we bent down in prayer. The sweetness of the song itself convinced me that we had good reason for being there that time.

On a subsequent visit, though, maybe a year later, Jean was not so much "with" us, and it seemed clearly (to me) a danger to try to force feed the bread and juice to her, so as we went through the order of worship again with her, I passed the wafer over her lips and lightly held the little plastic thimble of grape juice under her nose to smell. Maybe a slight smile fluttered over her face in remembrance. But I don't remember. I was mostly unnerved with the earthly concern that she seemed nearly dead and that, had I tried to serve her the elements, I might well have killed her.

Go forward with me a year or so now to this past winter, when I was again called on to visit Jean Pettibone for Communion. I wasn't looking forward to it. What on earth could be left of her? I wondered.

What a surprise, then, to walk up to see her sitting up in the Foster lunchroom with her husband Richard sitting beside her, smiling to see us approaching, eager that he and his wife could take communion together with us

Deacons. What to expect from Jean — for once in my heady little life, I had *no* idea at all. It was all up to Jesus. As we set out the elements on the lunch table, Richard kept talking softly in Jean's ear, telling her what we were doing. It didn't seem to me that she was hearing much or responding, though there did look like more lively flutter going on behind her eyelids than I'd seen the time before.

As we began our service with prayer, I again was fearing what might happen when it was time to serve the bread and juice. But the

deeper we got into the service, the more Richard whispered to her, and hugged her, and then — as we were nearing the feast — he began kissing her on the cheek. Jean's eyes came open, smiling sweetly, seeing everything, it seemed. I was so glad to see her again.

When it was time to eat and drink, I handed the elements to Richard, and he served them to his wife with long-accustomed, loving patience and purpose. She took. She ate. She drank. She looked at her husband and beamed.

I'm so sorry that Jean's gone from us now — and sorry for the Pettibone family that they may never hear such sweet singing from her again in this life — but will be forever grateful for what she and her husband Richard taught to me of Love and its simple, elemental communion between the saints: God is always there — whether we see, know, and understand that presence or not — and we must be there, too. In love and in communion.

Thank you, Jean. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Deacons, for sending me there.

—DAVE JONES, BOARD OF DEACONS



Jean and Richard Pettibone

School for Little Children needs you

The School for Little Children (SLC) was begun as an outreach ministry of FPCE 75 years ago. Today it is a separate legal entity, but the church and the school still share some common values. In 2007 a new set of bylaws was adopted by the SLC Board of Directors which includes this statement:

The mission of SLC is to bear witness to the love and justice of Jesus Christ through educating the whole child to reach his or her full potential and support families of diverse racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds in that endeavor. SLC respects parents as their children's first teachers. SLC is committed to an inclusive approach, offering bias-free quality care and education in an environment characterized by Christ's love and acceptance in a Christian atmosphere. Its

curriculum is inclusive and welcoming to all families, emphasizing universal values of kindness and respect. Its programs are supplements, not substitutes, for home and church experience and show no sectarian bias.

In addition, the Bylaws state that, "A majority of members on SLC's Board of Directors shall be members of FPCE." Currently there is a board opening so if you have had children at SLC or just have a heart for kids and ministry and time to serve please contact Jenny Blickenstaff, the current board president at jlbeck@sbcglobal.net or (847) 733-7380. Expertise in Human Resources would be especially helpful at this time, but certainly not required.

For church members who don't have time to serve but would like to

support the school, you can participate in the escrip program at Dominick's. Register your Dominick's card and designate SLC, and 4 percent of your purchase will be donated to the school. To sign up:

1. Go to www.escrip.com
2. Click on "sign up" and enter SLC group number 500018580
3. Follow the instructions to register your grocery, credit or debit card.

Finally, remember to pray for the children, families and staff of School for Little Children. Jesus said, "Bring the little children to me for of such is the kingdom of heaven." What better way is there to bring them to Jesus than on our knees. Thanks for supporting School for Little Children.

— KIM KLAMM
TRUSTEE LIAISON TO SLC

Cape Town hosts Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization

This year Cape Town, South Africa, will host the third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, Oct. 16-25.

Over 4,000 Christian leaders from more than 200 countries will gather around the theme "God in Christ, Reconciling the World to Himself" to discuss the critical issues of our time — poverty, HIV/AIDS, persecution, and other world faiths — as they relate to the future of the Church and preaching the Good News to the ends of the earth.

On every continent Christians are preparing for Cape Town 2010. Many churches and small groups are praying for the planning process, finances, speakers, participants, and for spiritual fruitfulness. Rich and poor nations alike are sharing financial responsibility for the Congress. (One church in Nigeria gave over \$15,000 for scholarships.) Over 120 gifted and highly motivated people from all over the world form the Leadership team.

A unique feature of Cape Town 2010 is the seating arrangement.

Participants will sit at 700+ table groups of six led by trained leaders. Our own Dave and Sally Ivaska are heading up the table group ministry and will be responsible for the administration of the groups on a daily basis. Ron and Eleanor Ehresman will assist them in this task as volunteers.

Here's how you can get involved:

1. Pray! The Ivaskas need your prayers as they recruit and train table group leaders and coordinate the formation of groups. First Pres has formed an E-prayer Team. Conference updates and specific prayer requests are sent out regularly. If you would like to be a part of this prayer effort, please email Caryl Weinberg, cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org.

2. Join the Global Conversation. Help shape discussions on major issues to be addressed at the Congress by accessing the conversation on at www.capetown2010.com.

3. Study as individuals or in small groups. There is an introductory course to the Congress on the website, as well as a study guide for Ephesians. Or work through the Lausanne Covenant using John Stott's *For the Lord We Love*. Contact Ron Ehresman for copies.

4. Join the Congress. There will be Cape Town GlobalLink sites in many countries, allowing Christians to participate remotely through Internet downloads. More information on the website.

Past Lausanne conferences have birthed concepts such as "unreached people groups" and "the 10/40 window." Only the Lord knows what might emerge from this conference. But we pray that participants will leave with new courage to proclaim Christ and strategic partnerships that will shape the course of world evangelization for a generation.

Deacon Doings

Happiness is new tools for school

Back-to-School Backpacks are back – look for us at Fellowship Hour

Yes, it's *only July*, but the Deacons' Back-to-School Backpack project is well under way. As in past summers, we are partnering with Northminster Presbyterian Church and Evanston's Family Focus organization to provide backpacks loaded with school supplies for 91 well-deserving schoolchildren from kindergarten through 12th grade — more kids than ever before.

This year when your family goes shopping for school supplies, please consider buying for another, less fortunate child as well. If the price tag for the whole list of supplies seems too high — usually around \$60-\$70 — then join with another family and “adopt” one of the children from Family Focus. Or, if you are part



of a small group, let everyone chip in \$10 or so, and you will each be able to help fill a child's backpack with lovely new tools for the coming school year, and put a big smile on his or her face.

Please look for our table during Fellowship hours throughout July to sign up to sponsor a child. The backpacks to put the supplies in will be provided by the Board of Deacons. All shopping must be complete and supplies dropped off at the

church office by no later than July 31.

We thank you. The happy recipients thank you. God indeed blesses you and your generous heart.

— ADELA SEAL AND KAREN BREGMAN,
BOARD OF DEACONS

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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 (847) 864-4843, e-mail catherinepotts@sbcglobal.net.

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