

NETWORK NEWS

Issue Number 81

Fall 2008

Equipping Laypeople to Give Pastoral Care

Dear Friends,

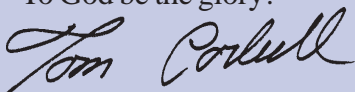
As I write this the first of three presidential debates is being aired. The economy today is at best very tenuous and people are very concerned. Many have lost the homes, their jobs and that list can go on and on.

Today I was with a person who had more wealth than I will ever see or understand. I held his hand and prayed with and for him at his Hospice bed. When I got back into my car, I breathed a gentle prayer that was based on Psalm 46:1-3, 10 (NRSV) *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

In the end, the only thing that will matter will be our relationship with God who made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. Lay people and clergy are God’s instruments to bring the Good News of Jesus through their prayers, their consistent contacts and their being available in times of need and in times of plenty.

In the pages of this issue of Network News, you will find useable ideas to aid in your ministry. You will read about people whose lives have been changed because others cared for them. Together we serve an awesome and caring Lord! Please pray for LPMI as we partner with you to do His holy work.

To God be the glory!



President, LPMI



The Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference was held on Saturday, September 20, at the Faith Baptist Church in Blowing Rock, NC

Workshop Leaders: Tom Corbell, Marianne Wiegman, Marie Parma, Sandy Sisson, Mike Walker and Rhonda Gailes (Minister of Education and Families at the First Baptist Church/BR).

We had the President, Vice President and two Board Members of LPMI presenting ... along with Rhonda who did a beautiful job in leading a workshop on *Ministering to Difficult People*.

Music was provided by Ted Henry of Faithbridge United Methodist Church, Blowing Rock.

We were small in number but full of the spirit of God and able to share on many one-to-one needs with the participants and their church desires and issues.

In This Issue:

<i>Those who Care</i>	Page 2
<i>What more can I do?</i>	Page 4
<i>LPMI Training Resources</i>	Page 6
<i>Cultivating a Relationship Earnestly</i>	Page 7

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care.” - I Peter 5:2

Supporting LPMI

Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. is a not for profit organization that relies fully upon the Lord to meet the needs of the ministry. Our purpose is to come along side of local church congregations and offer tools and resources for equipping laity in pastoral care ministry. All contributions to Lay Pastors Ministry are tax deductible in the United States. These are a few ways you can support this ministry:

1. **Cash/check donation** sent to LPMI
PO Box 368
Lumberton NJ 08048-0368
2. **The giving of stock.** As you evaluate your giving options, you may consider contacting the individual that manages your financial portfolio to donate stock. This allows you to deduct fully from your taxes the value of the stock upon giving, regardless of your original cost basis. You will not be required to pay capital gains upon that stock if the value has increased.
3. **Remember LPMI in your will.** A person may specify in their will to have a portion of their assets given to LPMI.
4. **Gifts may be given in memory of or in honor of an individual.**

God has raised up Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. to carry on the following mission:

Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. (LPMI) serves churches by partnering with them in mobilizing and equipping laypeople to provide competent, consistent and loving care for their members.

Your support of LPMI with your gift will be a blessing to you and to those who will benefit from our services.

The Lord Jesus himself said: *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*
Acts 20:35



by Pastor Ric Wright
Central United Methodist Church
Radford VA

There is no better picture of the role of a shepherd than the one provided by David, the shepherd-king, in Psalm 23. From his boyhood he knew the life of a shepherd. He lived out in the fields with his sheep so he came to know his sheep well. Even in the beginning of his service for Saul he still went back and forth to his flock.

David had the heart of a shepherd both for his sheep and later for his people as their shepherd-king. He risked his life when he faced a lion and later a bear to defend the flock (1 Sam. 17:34- 36). He repeatedly risked his life fighting for his people.

There are certain characteristics outlined in Psalm 23 that we need to take notice of:

- **The shepherd provides abundant Spiritual nourishment**
“He makes us lie down in green pastures.” Adequate spiritual food is the primary reason for needing a shepherd. Lying down suggests eating to satisfaction then resting and being blessed. The sheep that lie down in green pastures have all they need
- **The shepherd leads constantly to Spiritual refreshment**
Every Christian needs special times of Spiritual refreshment. “He leads me beside quiet waters . . .” speaks of Gods provision of constant opportunities of spiritual thirst to be quenched. It is normal for a Christian to long for more and more of God
- **The shepherd aids Spiritual restoration**
It is a fact of church life that from time to time that we all need Spiritual restoration. Satan is ever present to tempt us to spiritual negligence, to cool off and relax spiritually, or to yield to the temptations of the world. The shepherd watches for the enemies attack, signs of discouragement, weakness, or temptation and gently restores by love and forgiveness

Continued on p.3

CARING FOR OUR FLOCK

Continued from p.2

- **The shepherd must give guidance to the flock**

Just as counseling is the primary role of the Holy Spirit, so counseling is an important aspect of the shepherd's role in ministry. The Greek work parakletos, which Jesus used as a name for the Holy Spirit is translated as Comforter, Helper, or Counselor. In fact, some Bible translations prefer "Counselor." The Holy Spirit is given to us to guide us into all truth (John 16:13) and in many others ways. The Holy Spirit loves to lead each Christian (Romans 8:14)

- **The shepherd must be with their people in times of need**

Just as David knew that God his Shepherd was near him ("you are with me"-Ps. 23: 4), people need to know that their shepherd is available and ready to share in their hour of need

Pastor Tammy and I count it a blessing to be in ministry with the "Chief Shepherd" Jesus, at Central. We desire to be a constant blessing to you and simply want to show you the Love of God. But we are not the only shepherds at Central. We have an ongoing ministry of "Care Shepherds" that have flocks to watch over as they care for others. This group has been in existence since Pastor Joe Green was here several years ago. Kathy Hall and Gayle Miller have been a great inspiration and leaders for this group for many years now. Inspired by the book, "Can The Pastor Do It Alone?" by Melvin J. Steinbron this ministry is of great support to Central and we are so thankful for all the care shepherds that faithfully commit to this ministry.

This coming Sunday we will have an installation service at the 11:00am worship hour. The care shepherds who have recently completed their training as well as those who are currently serving as care shepherds will be commissioned for service. You will see them ushering, greeting, and serving among you. Be in prayer for them. If you would like more information about this ministry please contact Kathy Hall or Gayle Miller.

Again, Pastor Tammy and I would like to say thank you to all the Care Shepherds at Central. We are appreciative for all the contacts they make each year, for helping with meals when a member "graduates" to heaven, and just being the hands of Jesus at Central. Thank you for doing as Jesus mandated to Peter, "Peter do you love me? Feed my sheep—care for my sheep!" When you and I care for others it means we love Jesus! Do you love him? ♥

*Reprinted from the September 2, 2008 Newsletter.
Central United Methodist Church, Radford VA*

Here, There and Everywhere

EQUIPPING LAITY FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE

2-day workshop
Friday, February 6, 2009
6:45-9pm
Saturday, February 7
8:30am-4:00pm

First United Methodist Church
318 National Road West
Richmond, Indiana 47374
(765) 962-4357

FOR REGISTRATION INFO OR QUESTIONS:

Contact: Nancy LaFuze (765) 966-3444
or email: cgarbe@firstumcrichmond.org

NOTE: These events provide an opportunity for churches inquiring into the Lay Pastors Ministry.

- Do you want more information about the ministry?
- Are you ready to start a ministry in your church?
- Does your current ministry need a boost?

LPMI Consultants and Seminar Leaders are ready to help you. You may arrange for an Initial Training Seminar in your church or group of churches, or have one of our speakers come to your church for ongoing equipping, motivation and encouragement. Contact Else Rodland at the LPMI office.

Phone: 609-261-0904
Fax: 609-261-0976
e-mail: lpmi@net-gate.com
Website: laypastors.com

Are You on the List?

The Network News is produced quarterly to inform, encourage, motivate and equip its readers in Creating a Culture of Care.

Who are our readers?

Check out this list of groups and individuals who would benefit greatly from reading our newsletter.

Pastors

Lay Leaders

Lay Pastors

Shepherds

Small Group Leaders

Telecare Ministers

Hospital visitors

Deacons

Elders

Sunday School Teachers

Church Boards

Membership Committees

Did we miss you? To add to this list contact Else Rodland or Carolyn Sullivan.
Email: lpmi@net-gate.com

The Network News is a resource you wouldn't want to miss if you're in the Christian caring business.

Subscription prices for hard copies are listed in the back. If you would like the newsletter sent to you free as a PDF file send an email to lpmi@net-gate.com. You may also download the newsletter free of charge from our website www.laypastors.com ♥



What more can I do?

by Joan Dubberke

Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO
LPMI Board Member and Mighty Rivers Regional Director

We live in a world where so many people are hurting. Unemployed, children out of control, people dying of cancer, people losing their homes to fire or floods, husbands and wives living with abuse, children with no parents to care for them, elderly folks spending their days in nursing homes with nothing but loneliness, people living on the streets with no money for even a hamburger. Yes, the list is endless.

As concerned caregivers, we constantly need to ask the question, "Are we doing all that we can for our flock?" Are we doing all that we can for our neighbors, our fellow church members? Are we doing all that we can to help our city? But especially, are we doing all that we can for our Shepherd flock? What more could we be doing?

Dr. Steinbron presented an article entitled WHAT MORE CAN I DO? at a conference sometime ago. It would serve as an excellent presentation at one of your monthly meetings. He states, "Good athletes, scholars, parents and lay pastors seriously ask themselves, What more can I do?" So much rides on the answer to that question.

Dr. Steinbron suggests that we go through the list of our people one by one and ponder and pray as we do it. For Flo Conner ... What have I done for her this past month? I have called her on the phone when her sister died and offered her my condolences. Was that enough? Remember that she lives alone, and her sister was all she had. What more could I do for her? I could call and make an appointment to go and see her. Perhaps she would enjoy going out for a quick lunch I could make a point of waiting for her in church on Sunday and sit with her.

What have I done for Mary and Tom. I know longer see them in church. Have I inquired as to the reason for that? Is one of them ill? Have they had a problem with someone at our church? What can I do for them? How can I help? I could give them a call and tell them about our Walking through the Bible Seminar and invite them to attend it with us. I could invite them to our small group home Bible study.

Continued on p.5

WHAT MORE CAN I DO?

Continued from p.4

What have I done for Suzie Moss? She has three young children and her husband left her last spring. She is working for very low wages and can barely make ends meet. What have I done for her? Is it enough that I wave as I see her walk into church with her three little ones? Is that all that I can do for her? Have they had any fun in their lives this summer? Perhaps I could offer to baby sit one day so their Mom could have one day to do something she enjoys. I could offer to take them to our pool so they could spend an afternoon just playing in the water. I could give her a gift card from the local store to help with her bills. Wouldn't it be great to give them one day to have fun, to celebrate life?

As you work through your list of people, write down the action that you intend to do. Don't make it so difficult that you can't carry it through. Perhaps it would be better to take just one person each week so that you won't be too overwhelmed with the task. Most important of all, know that you are in the presence of the God who called you to this ministry while you are pondering and praying. Always include a focus on their spiritual state. Ask the question, "Where are they with the Lord?" Then spend time in prayer for them, both for their physical and relational concerns, but especially for their spiritual growth.

Dr. Steinbron closes his presentation with "If you find that you are already doing the 'What more can I do' then give yourself a pat on the back and thank God for his many blessings."♥

Seven Specific Prayers for a National Election

by Gregory Frizzell

Scripture urges Christians to lives of godly influence, and links our prayers for earthly rulers to their salvation and the godly exercise of authority. The following prayer points are based on *1 Tim. 2:1-4*. They can be used individually or in a corporate setting to pray for elections—without getting into politics.

1. Pray that people seriously will seek God in how to vote.
2. Pray that people will not put economics or politics above the godly and biblical foundations upon which the United States is founded.
3. Pray for God's Spirit to fill the voting booths and to guide people as they vote.
4. Pray that huge numbers of godly people will turn out to vote.
5. Pray for people to follow God's guidance—not just political parties.
6. Pray that God will give us godly leaders of integrity who will govern in wisdom and righteousness.
7. Pray for God to have mercy on America and to stay His hand of judgment.

Used by permission. Originally published in **How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life** (106 pages) by Dr. Gregory Frizzell, Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Specialist for the Oklahoma Baptist General Convention. This book and a companion volume, **Returning to Holiness: A Personal and Churchwide Journey to Revival** (128 pages) are available for \$1.50 each (regular price is \$10) by contacting gfrizzell@earthlink.net, pjones@bgco.org, or by calling 405-942-3000, ext. 451.



Pumpkin

A woman was asked by a coworker,

'What is it like to be a Christian?'

The coworker replied, 'It is like being a pumpkin.'

God picks you from the patch, brings you in,

and washes all the dirt off of you.

Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed.

Then He carves you a new smiling face and

puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.'

adapted from the internet
10/08

Basic Training Track # 1

(The DVD does the teaching)



DVD-01

Lay Pastors Equipping Seminar \$75.00

A 2-disc seminar on DVD (3-hours), covering 13 separate units for equipping Lay Pastors.

Designed for:

- * one 10–15-hour training session
- * 13 one-hour training sessions, or
- * 6 two-hour training sessions when used with the enclosed guide.

VTLM-01a

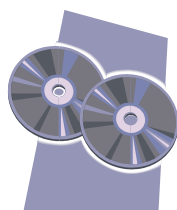
Leader's Notes for the Lay Pastors Equipping Seminar DVD (optional) \$12.50

Follows the script of the DVD; useful for facilitating discussion of the main points. 18 pages.

VTPM-01b

Participant's Notes for the Lay Pastors Equipping Seminar DVD (optional) \$12.50

Identical to the leader's notes except key words are left blank to be filled by the participants. Purchase includes permission to photocopy one set of notes for each participant. 18 pages.



Basic Training Track # 2

(The Leader does the teaching)



EM-02

A Complete Equipping Seminar

Leader's Manual \$30.00

An alternative to the Lay Pastors Equipping Seminar Video, this ready-to-use teaching manual helps to train Lay Pastors in 10 to 15 hours. It includes teaching helps (called LABS) for enabling participants to grasp, absorb, internalize and apply the training. 83 pages.

PM-04

A Complete Equipping Seminar

Participant's Manual \$15.00

This manual follows the Leader's Manual word for word except that key words and thoughts are left blank for the participants to fill in as the leader teaches. Churches may choose either to order copies for each participant or request permission to photocopy. 43 pages

To order contact Else Rodland at the LPMI office
or order from the Web

Phone: 609-261-0904 Fax: 609-261-0976

email: lpmi@net-gate.com Website: laypastors.com
or

Marianne Wiegman, 425 Baymount Dr.
Statesville, NC 28625-9549

Home phone: 704-876-4988 Home fax: 704-876-2509
email: mwiegman@bellsouth.net

Cultivating A Relationship Earnestly

by Marie Parma
LPMI Board Member and Southeast Regional Director

The heart of caring involves building a relationship ... a trusting and caring relationship. That doesn't happen quickly. It takes time for someone to get to know another ... to establish credibility ... to prove their integrity. A relationship is strengthened in many ways. Listed below are a few behaviors that let people know you care about them.

Take some quiet minutes and make a list of the people you care about. Beside each one, write a few notes about them. What is their greatest need? What is important to them? What can you do in the next week to let them know how much you care about them? Make a commitment to "just do it!"

C

Show **compassion**, Be **considerate**, **Contact** frequently, Infuse **courage**, Sincerely **compliment**, Be **cheerful**, Extend **comfort**, Offer **congratulations**, Display **courteousness**

A

Always **appreciate**, **Accentuate** the positive, Be **accepting**, Highlight **achievements**, Be **affirming**, Be **alert** to needs, **Apologize** for wrongdoing, Give **assurance** of God's love

R

Radiate God's love, Use **refreshing** words, **Rejoice**, **Relate** with calmness, Be **reliable**, **Renew** hope, **Repeat** words of scripture, **Respect** differences

E

Show **empathy**, **Encourage**, **Encompass** with care, **Engage** in conversation, **Enjoy** fellowship, **Enlighten**, **Enthuse**, **Establish** a friendship, **Esteem**, Be an **example** of God's love

EVENT



**Shepherd Ministry
First Presbyterian Church
Mount Holly, NJ**



**25th Anniversary Dinner
October 19, 2008**

Where have we been? - *Celebrating the Past*
Where are we now? - *Rejoicing in the Present*
Where are we going? - *Getting excited about the Future*

To be added or deleted from the mailing list, to offer suggestions for content, to submit writings, or to inquire about the Lay Pastors Ministry, the Network News, conferences or resources for your lay pastoral care ministry, contact:

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One Year (4 issues) - \$ 15
Two Years (8 issues) - \$ 28
Three Years (12 issues) - \$ 40
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Purpose:

To share lay pastoral care ministry information and resources with churches, individuals, denominational leaders and seminaries.

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“Equipping Laypeople To Give Pastoral Care”

Fall 2008

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