



The Pulse

The Newsletter of Presbyterian Outreach to Patients

Vol. 10, No. 2

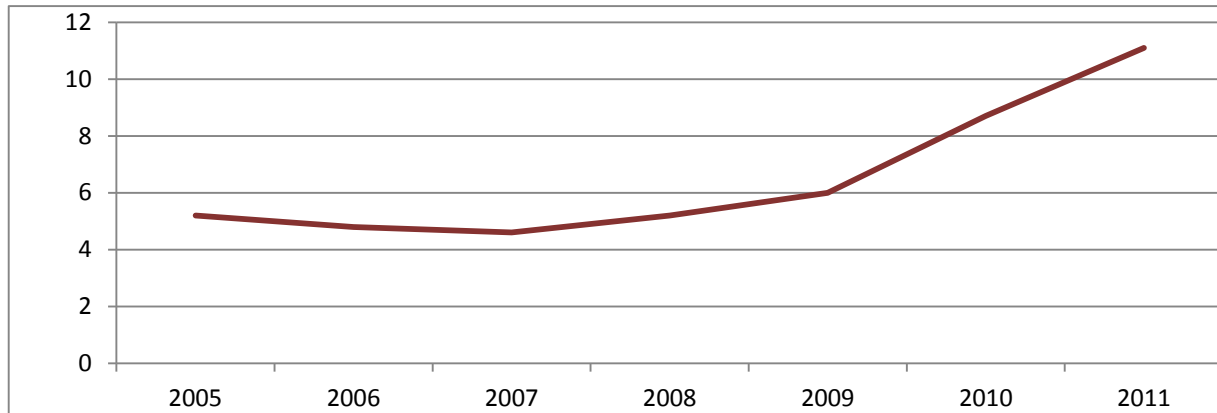
www.popministry.org


December, 2011

Being there really counts with POP

Can you imagine being in the hospital and no one who cares about your spiritual life comes to visit? Can you picture the need that the ill and their families have to be reminded that they are truly not alone? What could be more important than witnessing to the loving Presence of Christ to those who need healing?

Presbyterian Outreach to Patients is part of your answer to those questions: real people in desperate times; real people visiting them in the spirit of Christ; real situations being impacted by the love of God. Take a look at what POP has been up to over the last few years.




[The numbers on the left represent x1000 visits.] This graph illustrates that thousands of lives are touched each year by POP's Lay Chaplains. *Each life is unique; the numbers can't tell the stories.* But one can imagine the spiritual impact as your POP envoys go from room to room as witnesses of God's love as well as representatives of your interest and concern. 

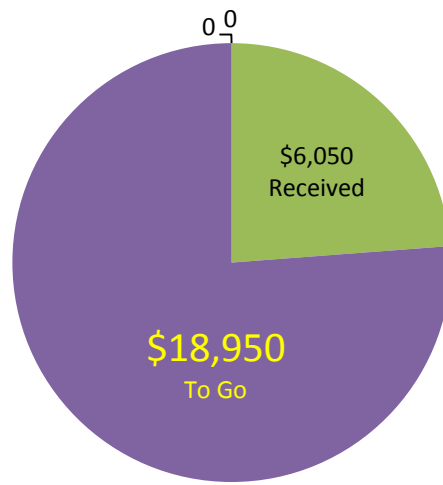


Phil Wetz was honored at the annual Asa Hunt Lecture as **"POP Lay Minister of the Year."**

He is a lay chaplain who visits weekly at The Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center and also serves on the POP Board of Directors. Phil is a Ruling Elder at Pines Presbyterian Church.

"Phil embodies the finest gifts of the servant who cares for others in the true spirit of love," said Steven Spidell, POP Executive Director. 

\$25,000 Challenge Grant Progress



Please make a tax-deductible donation today to support POP by mailing your check to Presbyterian Outreach to Patients, P.O. Box 667118, Houston, TX 77266-7118. It will go twice as far.




Dr. Dave Peterson, Teaching Elder at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, addresses an audience of 60 as he presents the 2nd annual Asa Hunt Lecture. The evening activities included dinner, continuing education for POP Lay Chaplains, and announcement of the POP Lay Minister of the Year. Next year's event will be held November 1, 2012.

MINISTRY IN ACTION: **ADVENTUROUSLY EXPECTANT**

by Phil Wetz, POP Lay Chaplain and Board Member

I have been learning to think of life more as an adventure than just the usual and the repetitive. A conference I attended recently encouraged us to live our Christian life as one who is “adventurously expectant.” I realized that the unexpected relates to an aspect of our visiting in the hospital – especially when we encounter someone not on our “official” list.

- Stopping to talk to a former co-worker and learning that he had just admitted his mother for a bone marrow transplant which gave me the opportunity to ask if I could pray with her and her husband in her room, which I did.
- Catching the eyes of the roommate of a patient I had visited as I was exiting the room and sensing that she was in need. As we talked I learned that her world had just been turned upside down by a conversation with a doctor who told her she had suffered a stroke. She had left her with the impression that her ability to live independently again was in doubt. I listened. We prayed.
- As I was leaving the hospital room, the roommate of the patient I had visited thanked me for letting her listen to our prayer. She shared that she had no family and wanted the chance to share and be reminded of God’s love for her.
- On another visit, I noticed a man with a forlorn look on his face who appeared very lonely. As we talked I learned his son had been in a serious automobile accident and had lost most of his cognitive abilities - including the ability to recognize his father and that led to a shared prayer.

I will likely never know if these visits and prayers were impactful. I do know I was supposed to reach out. Coming to **expect** God to provide such **adventures** when I least expect them has also opened my eyes and provided gifts beyond my imagination. As scripture says, “Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.” (Phil. 2:4) 

Want to become involved in the POP ministry?

- Become a Lay Chaplain.
- Use your skills in networking and development by joining our Board.
- Make a personal contribution to sustain this ministry.
- Lift up our patients, families, lay chaplains, and board in your prayers.
- Contact POP Director Steve Spidell to learn more at stevespidell@popministry.org