



SHARING
CHRIST'S LOVE
AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF WISCONSIN-
MADISON
SINCE 1907

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Summer 2007

FROM THE CAMPUS
CO-PASTOR

Rev. Mark Elsdon

Praise God for 100 years! Praise God for 100 years of ministry through Pres House and its spiritual parents on the UW-Madison Campus! On May 12th, more than 250 alumni

and friends celebrated our centennial anniversary with an alumni reunion and choral concert put on by a joint choir of Christ and Westminster Presbyterian church singers, directed by Joe Chrisman and Kathy Otterson. It was a blessed day during which alumni from the 1930s and after shared punch with the class of 2010 while giving thanks for a rich history

and looking forward to a promising future.

The afternoon began with hard-hat tours of our new student apartment building (which has opened just this week). Attendees put up with construction mess that is a sign of growth and activity.

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A STUDENT
PERSPECTIVE

Anne Lovell

Looking around at the centennial celebration in May at Pres House, I could easily notice the changes that Pres House had gone through over the years. The day was packed full of people sharing their stories and experiences—of dances, parties, worship services that filled the whole

chapel, and even being tear-gassed. I loved hearing the stories of those who met, fell in love, and eventually got married at Pres House. So many different stories, different faces, and different celebrations, but one thing has stayed the same: How much Pres House matters to those who enter its walls and worship or study or socialize there. Looking around and meeting people at the centennial, I was amazed at how Pres House has touched so many hearts and souls.

I didn't come to the Pres House until last September. I hadn't regularly attended any church my first two years at UW-Madison. Everything I tried just wasn't what I was looking for. Finally last September, after deciding that my faith was too important to me to not have a church that I could comfortably worship in, I gave in to my Presbyterian roots and went the first Sunday of the semester to

worship at Pres House. I never went anywhere else. I knew that this was where I was supposed to be. Pres House is much more than the typical ministry—it is truly a "home" and you find a new "family" there. Since that first day, I have made so many friends and met so many amazing people through Pres House. I found myself getting more and more involved as the year went on. It started with playing my cello on the music team and escalated into so many opportunities to grow in faith through small group, service team, and the mission trip. Pres House was exactly what I needed and I'm so thankful that God led me there.

Good things come with a fight, and at the centennial we learned how much work it has taken to keep the Pres House open. I thank anyone who has ever been a part of that struggle. I hope many more people walk in the doors of the Pres House and continue to make it the home that it has been and still is. ☚

After an opening choral piece, Jim Jondrow, who had traveled with his wife, Marjean, from Arizona, reflected on Pres House history (His comments and other parts of the event can be viewed in a video at www.preshouse.org). The whole sanctuary joined together to sing the Pres House Hymn, written by alumni in the 1930s. The concert's centerpiece was a composition by Stephen Paulus, "The Spirit That Sets Us Free." It is a musical rendition of the Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith.

The words of the Brief Statement of Faith remind us that the same Holy Spirit that led the early church guides us today. The same Spirit that for one hundred years engaged the Pres House community through word and sacrament in worship, inspired the faith of thousands through study and scripture, bound friends and spouses together in fellowship, and called women and men to leadership and service is at work here at Pres House today. The same Spirit that made this place a home for so many is building up a new home in 2007.

Following the concert, alumni and friends mingled happily at the re-

ception, perused photos gathered from Pres House's archives, and dedicated the Main Lounge in honor of Karen (Frick) and Walt Pridham, who donated funds for major renovation work.

I am both incredibly grateful and profoundly humbled to be here at Pres House during this centennial year because the past one hundred years hold so much amazing history and faithful service to Jesus Christ and his church. The former students, churches, board members, volunteers and donors who have been a part of this place over the decades leave us a legacy today. We have the legacy of the scriptures and the theology and traditions of our church that provide rich sustenance to students today, and the prayers of former students are felt by current students.

We have been left a legacy of leadership as students today are inspired by the history of leadership that has come out of Pres House. For many decades Pres House was a full-fledged church run entirely by student elders and deacons. The students who learned leadership at Pres House went on to become leaders in politics, academia, business, human services, their com-

munities, and in their churches as pastors and elders.

The spiritual legacy of Pres House continues today through the financial, physical, and prayer support of our alumni and friends. Many of you have given this year, and we trust that you will continue to be generous (see article on page 3). The legacy of Pres House continues in each generation. The children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren of alumni are now attending the University of Wisconsin. The youth in your churches are a new generation of students who will find a home at Pres House, and we welcome into our midst. Please point them in our direction so that they can take advantage of the programs and activities available both in the new residence and at Pres House itself. Share with them what it meant for you to be a part of this community during your university years. In 2007 we are looking back on an incredible history, but we are also looking forward to the next one hundred years of significant ministry on the campus and a legacy of stories not yet written.

Send us your students, and come visit us! ☞

PRES HOUSE 100-YEAR CELEBRATION PHOTOS



Photo credits: Dory Blobner and Barry Sherbeck

HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A LEGACY TO PRES HOUSE?

"As I get older I start to think about the things that were most important to me and want to remember them in my giving. Pres House was one of those most important places in my life."

—Lois Spies Dick, Class of '44

Pres House lives today because of the people who gave their time, their love, their money, and their prayers to make a home for students on campus. The ministry and future of Pres House is dependent on the continued generosity of alumni and friends. We are able to conduct worship services, offer discussion groups, host service projects and mission trips, and build a new residence only because of individuals who give to Pres House.

We are grateful for the legacy that each financial gift leaves the students today. Pres House as both a physical facility and as a source of programming offers new generations of students opportunities to grow and flourish while they are here to study.

There are many ways to support the ministry at Pres House including annual giving and capital campaign contributions. Here are two specific ways of leaving a legacy that you may find meaningful:

Planned Giving. Naming Pres House in your will or supporting the ministry with a gift annuity, unitrust, annuity trust or pooled income fund will have a long-lasting impact on the future of the foundation. These gifts ensure a legacy of funding that will allow Pres House to be as meaningful in the lives of future students as it was for those of the past.

IRA Distributions. In 2007 federal tax law allows an individual age 70½ or older to make a one-time, tax-free IRA distribution of up to \$100,000 to a charitable organization. This benefit is scheduled to expire at the end of 2007. Please contact Pres House for further information, or ask your attorney and/or accountant for more details. ☞

2007–2008 PRES HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We thank our outgoing board members Gretchen Lord Anderson, Jim Brown, Gary Diffie and Ellen Montei for their service to Pres House. We welcome new board members Craig Howard, Jim Jennings, Anne Lovell, and Leslyn Amthor Spinelli.

Anne Gustafson, Covenant Presbyterian
Marjorie Hamann, Secretary, Westminster Presbyterian
Dan Holum, First Presbyterian, Waunakee
Alice Honeywell, First Presbyterian, Waunakee
Craig Howard, Dale Heights Presbyterian
Jim Jennings, Westminster Presbyterian
Anne Lovell, Student Representative, Pres House
Kirk Morledge, First Presbyterian, Waunakee
Tom Schwei, President, Westminster Presbyterian
Robert Sorensen, Vice President, Christ Presbyterian
Leslyn Amthor Spinelli, BrynMawr Presbyterian, Cottage Grove
Ralph Thomas, Treasurer, Westminster Presbyterian
Jonathan Thornhill, Student Representative, Pres House

PRES HOUSE RESIDENCE



**THE STUDENT APARTMENTS ARE FINISHED!
PLEASE JOIN US FOR EITHER OR BOTH
OF THESE CELEBRATIONS**

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

1:00–4:00 P.M.

TOURS AND REFRESHMENTS

WORSHIP SERVICE AND BUILDING DEDICATION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

TOURS 3:00 P.M. WORSHIP 4:30 P.M.

DINNER FOLLOWING

FOR MORE INFORMATION

608.819.4663

PRES HOUSE RESIDENCE

439 NORTH MURRAY ST. MADISON, WI

WWW.PRESHOUSE.ORG



PRES HOUSE LEADERSHIP TEAM 2006-2007

From left to right. Front Row: Brynn Peterson, Megan Evansen, Anne Lovell, Jonathan Thornhill (Moderator). Middle Row: Peter Friedrichs, Katie Olsen (Emma Elsdon on lap), Maggie Wright, Kelsey Wolff. Back Row: John Shin, Emma Pelton, Benjamin Fortin, Tim Lee, Jake Schieffer (Vice-Moderator)

PRES HOUSE SEEKS TO BE A SPIRITUAL HOME AT THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON CAMPUS. IN KEEPING WITH THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION OF HOSPITALITY. PRES HOUSE IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING A RELIGIOUS CENTER AND HIGH QUALITY STUDENT HOUSING TO PROMOTE THE SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL, AND INTELLECTUAL GROWTH OF RESIDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY. PRES HOUSE IS A MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.A., AND WELCOMES INDIVIDUALS OF EVERY PERSPECTIVE AND BACKGROUND.

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