

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### TRANSFORMATIVE MINISTRIES SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE AN IMPACT FAR AND NEAR

The same Spirit that descended on the earliest followers of Jesus on the Day of Pentecost continues to work in the lives of believers today. Across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), people are hearing and following the Holy Spirit's call to be the hands and feet of Jesus in today's world with help from the Pentecost Offering. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Here are some examples of how your gifts are having a far-reaching impact.

For nearly a decade, the First Presbyterian Church in Homewood, Illinois has sent a steady stream of volunteers to the nearby Jones Memorial Community Center, whose mission is to strengthen family ties, emphasize the worth of God's children (all persons), and answer a community need.

Karen Maurer is one of the members who regularly tutors children in math and reading in the after-school program — and also provides moral and emotional support. “Most aren't from great home situations, and they often come to the tutoring program after a stressful school day,” she says.

First Presbyterian also supports Jones Center with gifts received from its Pentecost Offering. Congregations, like ours, keep 40% of the Pentecost offering to invest in youth in our own communities.

(INSERT... “THIS IS WHAT WE DO HERE”...  
PASTOR MAY CUSTOMIZE)

The Young Adult Volunteer program offers, what is for many, a life-changing experience. Young Adult Volunteers work for one year at sites around the world and across the United States to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation while exploring the meaning and motivation of their faith in an intentional community with peers and mentors.

Last year, your Pentecost Offering gifts helped Kristen Young serve at a shelter in Peru for young survivors of sexual and domestic violence. One of her most poignant memories is of Diana, who came to the shelter scared

and refusing to smile. As the days passed, Diana's somber countenance began to brighten. Kristen said Diana's transformation gave witness to the opening words of a song that is frequently sung at the shelter: “The Spirit of God is in this place; the Spirit of God moves in this place.”

Closer to home, God's Spirit was moving last year among the 2,000 youth who attended Faith in 3D, a youth conference in Florida. Held on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, the event weaves together Dr. King's teachings on the beloved community and nonviolent change with the challenges of discipleship in a world made smaller by the forces of globalization.

Adam Bowling, associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Morganton, North Carolina, has taken three different youth groups to Faith in 3D since 2009. “The preaching is always excellent, and it provides a witness to Dr. King's legacy and the plan and dreams God has for you.” He has seen youth reorder their priorities and even change their career ambitions after attending Faith in 3D.

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” This is our Pentecost Offering. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray ~*

*Transforming God, We give thanks that  
your Spirit renews us with visions of a  
world filled with goodness and hope.  
As we strive for the well-being of all, keep us  
mindful of the promise of our children,  
youth and young adults.*

*Amen.*