

### Per Capita

Per capita payments, which represent a contribution to the work of the Presbyterian church at all levels, offer a working example of Christian sharing. Each year, the Presbytery of the Northern Plains determines its budget needs, including the financial needs for administration expenses such as staffing and office expenses, and then spreads that expense as a requested assessment from each church, based on the number of church members in each church. A request for per-member contribution is also made by the Synod and by the General Assembly; the sum of those three amounts constitutes the total per capita payment. Each church is asked to pay the total per capita payment to the Presbytery, which then distributes the payments among the three recipients. This way, each Presbyterian church, whether large or small, within the Presbyterian Church (USA), has the opportunity to share equally to promote the work of the Presbytery, the Synod, and also the General Assembly.



Per capita payments recognize the fact that we Presbyterians see ourselves as a collective part of the body of Christ. We are not separated by region or by distance, instead Presbyterians are a single body, faithfully sharing our resources at all levels of the

church. By sharing in these expenses, the collective financial strength of all church members can be focused on issues which concern all Presbyterians, not only in our area, but throughout the country and the world.

The per capita payments for 2012, as approved by Presbytery of the Northern Plains, are \$42.50 per member; from each per-member payment, General Assembly receives \$6.50, Synod receives \$5.00, and the Presbytery of the Northern Plains receives \$31.00. The faithful recognition of this financial contribution by each church is integral to the operation of the Presbytery, since the Presbytery makes the payment, based on the number of church members in the Presbytery, to the Synod and General Assembly, even if a local church does not pay that church's per capita assessment.



*Elder Michael Lochow,  
Stated Clerk*



*Laurie Elhard, Communication  
Coordinator/Bookkeeper, with  
her daughter.*

### Unified Mission Giving

In addition to the per capita assessment, the various levels of the Presbyterian church offer the opportunity for collective mission giving. If per capita is seen as a sharing of the expense of running the Presbyterian Church (USA) at all levels, our shared mission giving is likewise an opportunity for all Presbyterians to share in the mission work of the greater Presbyterian church, not only locally, but also at national and worldwide levels.

Mission offers diverse opportunity for sharing with all of God's children. From the promotion of programs for Presbyterians of all ages, to addressing the needs of those persons who are impacted by disaster, poverty, and other misfortunes. Mission giving allows all Presbyterians to gather their resources for the purpose of positively impacting the needs of people throughout the country and the world.

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains has approved an allocation of mission contributions, by suggesting mission giving, based on 60% retention by Presbytery, with 20% forwarded to Synod, and 20% forwarded to General Assembly.

If you would like more information on what mission opportunities are available or how you can be to involved in different mission possibilities, please contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or email [pnpoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pnpoffice@gmail.com).



The Presbytery has joined with ecumenical partners to help with recovery efforts in communities affected by flooding.



The Presbytery has made a \$12,000 commitment to help the Bdecan food shelf in 2012.