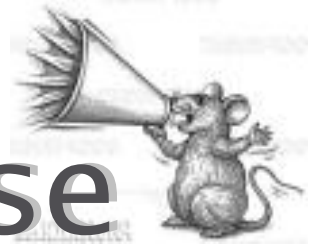


The Church Mouse



Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



That little word “giving” seems to be present

By Pastor Kelly Boubel Shriver

Special points of interest:

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- Pictures from the “Rebuilding our Walls” receptions, Pg. 3
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A few months ago here at PPC, a group of us read a particularly excellent book by Miroslav Volf called “Free of Charge.” In this book, Volf talks at length about the connection between *giving* and *forgiving*. Volf is convinced that giving and forgiving are, essentially, parallel actions. In either action, we are sharing of what we have (be it a jar of jam or our own sense of reconciliation) out of a sense of generosity and compassion toward another person. When I give John a birthday gift, I do so because I love him, and I am grateful for the day he was born. When I forgive John for a slight of one kind or another, I do so because I love him, and I am fundamentally grateful for the relationship we share. Additionally, as a Christian, I find that both actions, giving and forgiving, are foundationally motivated by the simple idea that God first loved me. God gives to me, God forgives me, and out of that reservoir of generosity, I can draw the strength to give and forgive others.

Being that it’s November, all around us that little word “giving” seems to be present. Of course the Christmas rush is already beginning in some places, so “giving gifts” is on our

minds. However, for this brief month, we are lucky enough to be surrounded by reminders of a better kind of giving: thanks-giving. Just like giving and forgiving, I think thanks-giving is rooted in and grows out of the rich soil of generosity. Personally, I love this season. I love being reminded, sometimes daily, to give thanks for all of the good and beautiful gifts I have been given. And I find, in being reminded to be thankful, I’m often motivated to be a bit more generous with the world around me. I try to be a bit more patient with my kids. I’ll donate just a little more food in the bin outside the grocery store. I’ll give a bit more money to the organizations I support. Because, in *giving* thanks, I’m motivated to simply *give* a little more all the way around.

During the month of November, I’m going to be trying a little experiment to incite thankfulness every day. The Young Clergy Women Project, of which I am a part, is hosting a month-long conversation about gratitude, generosity, giving, and thanksgiving, and I hope you’ll join us! You can read a new article about thanksgiving every Tuesday and Thursday on the website:

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www.youngclergywomen.org.

Also, you can join us in a daily photo project to promote living as thankful people. Every day use the buzz-word on the graphic to encourage your imagination. Take a picture of something that reminds you of gratitude and thanksgiving. You can post it to Facebook, put it up on Instagram (you can find me @KellyShriver), or even send it to me and I'll try to send out a daily collage of photos to our church email.

Whether you participate or not, I pray that this season ahead will be full of thanksgiving for you and your family! I'll start us off by saying: I am so thankful for this church and for the many unique and fun people who make up PPC! It is a joy to be in this community with each every one of you.



A special invitation just for you!

<i>Join us for one, two, or just come to all of these events!</i>	<i>When?</i>	<i>What Time?</i>
First Sunday of Advent: We will be celebrating the start of Advent!	November 30	10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent: Communion will be served and the sounds of the Handbell Choir will adorn the sanctuary.	December 7	10:00 a.m.
<u>Peoples Presbyterian Christmas Party:</u> Dinner with plenty fun, all in one evening!	December 12	5 - 9:00 p.m.
Third Sunday of Advent: Christian Education Christmas Pageant: The children re-tell the story of Jesus' birth and then we all will celebrate with a potluck after worship.	December 14	10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent: Jesus' Birthday Party (following our 10:00 am worship.) Bring a wrapped gift for the church. Anything from coffee to paper dinner plates to trash bags. A full list of items needed will be posted in the Fellowship Hall. The children do the unwrapping and of course there will be cake!	December 21	10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve: Handbell Concert and Candlelight Worship Service: Beautiful!	December 24	7:00 p.m.
The Service of Lessons and Carols: join us as we tell the Christmas story through songs and readings.	December 28	10:00 a.m.
Epiphany Celebration	January 4	10:00 a.m.

“Rebuilding our Walls”



If you were unable to attend one of the receptions, here is just a small taste of what you missed!

Photo Credit: Rev. Kelly Shriver



Stewardship: Please Remember to Pledge

By Steve Barney, Stewardship Committee Chair



All of us on the Stewardship Committee would like to encourage those who have not yet had a chance to pledge to please do so. Here is the status of our both campaigns up to the printing of this publication:

Stewardship “General” Pledge = \$73,960 toward our goal of \$100,000

Building Campaign = \$43,805 toward our goal of \$75,000

Please remember that our Stewardship Campaign runs until Sunday, November 2. The Stewardship Committee along with Rev. Kelly, wishes to thank everyone for your continuing support of Peoples Presbyterian Church!

Your Stewardship “General” Pledge

These pledge dollars pay for items like salaries of the employees, utilities, insurance, office supplies and mailing costs, per-capita dues to the Presbytery, the costs of running various programs associated with the Session committees, and many other items.



Your “Rebuilding our Walls” Pledge

These monies will go into a fund to pay for items like the new roof over the sanctuary (it was at the end of its life, and we were experiencing numerous leaks), new pump motors for our boilers (so we have heat!), waterproofing the basement of the manse (to stop the flooding), updating and working to eliminate possible water leaks in the church nursery, installing new electronic controls on our church heating and cooling system, repainting the exterior of the church, and residing the manse garage.

Mission: Thanksgiving 2014

By Carol Vollink, Mission and Outreach Co-Chair

The Mission and Outreach Committee's annual drive to gather items to fill Food Baskets is underway. Their aim is to help those who may not otherwise have a Thanksgiving Dinner. Ten boxes of food will be delivered to Aid-In-Milan for distribution to families in need.

If you can help, here's how:

See the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for a list of the food items needed. Put your name beside items you will provide. When you bring in your food items, place them in the container located under the sign-up sheet.

Or, in addition to the food items, we are accepting cash or check donations which will be used to assist Aid in Milan with purchasing Turkeys. If you prefer to make a cash donation, please place the funds into an envelope and mark it with your name and "Thanksgiving Baskets" and place it on the offering plate on Sunday. If you prefer to donate by check, simply mark in the memo line "Thanksgiving Baskets."

The Thanksgiving Food Baskets/Boxes are being decorated by our youth! They will be delivered to Aid-In-Milan on Monday, November 24. Therefore, please ensure that all your food items are at the Church by Sunday, November 23.

And if you can assist, we need volunteers to help pack the boxes following the church service on Nov. 23.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone for your continued support and generosity for this worthwhile project.



Generosity changes everything.

PPC adopting a needy family this holiday season

By Carol Vollink, Mission and Outreach Co-Chair

We will be adopting a needy family for the holiday season. On Sunday, November 23, Von Thompson will set up a tree in the Fellowship Hall with gift tags (made by Sue Barney) listing items needed. You may select a paper ornament showing a gift to purchase. Please wrap your gift, place the gift tag on it, and return it to the church by Sunday, December 14. John & Lynn Bulmer will deliver the gifts to Aid in Milan (AIM) the next day.

Money is always appreciated. We use the money to buy gift cards from our local Kroger and give them to AIM to use as needed. The Kroger cards allow the recipient the flexibility to purchase gas, food, prescriptions, etc. If you are making a cash donation, please place the funds in an envelope and mark it with your name and "Christmas Mission Project," then place it in the offering plate on Sunday. If you prefer to donate by check, simply mark in the memo line "Christmas Mission Project."

Thank you for helping to make a brighter Christmas for someone else.



Thank you!

Buildings and Grounds Report

By Jack Cranson, Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair



- ✓ Church roof shingled.
- ✓ Fire extinguishers have been professionally checked and two were replaced.
- ✓ Two pump motors in the boiler room have been replaced.
- ✓ Replaced three flow switches in the boiler room, which were sticking closed.
- ✓ Replaced 16 ceiling tiles that had been damaged by water from the roof leaks. Thank you Rod Cranson!
- ✓ Manse was tested for Radon due to a crack in the basement's floor. Radon level results were ok.
- ✓ Scheduled Roto Rooter to check draining problem at the Manse.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS from October 15, 2014

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session



In the month ahead - On November 8, Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort will join us as a guest preacher, and we will welcome New Members during worship. On November 16, Rev. Vern Campbell will lead worship in Rev. Shriver's absence. The Milan Community Service of Thanksgiving will be held on November 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Marble United Methodist Church.

Pastor - A big commitment this month was planning and organizing the "Rebuilding Our Walls" receptions, with the assistance of the Stewardship Team. The receptions were useful and fun evenings spent together.

Fall classes have been going well: Wednesday Morning Bible Study is working on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, Sunday Morning Cartoons for the youth is working through Old Testament Characters, and the Adult Education Sunday after-worship class has been discussing faith practices.

In service to the wider church, I have continued with my work chairing The Young Clergy Women Project. I have been serving on the steering team for the NEXT Church Regional Gathering. My work with the "Goals, Planning, and Strategy" team of the Presbytery continues. Also with the Presbytery, I continue to serve on the Committee on Ministry.

PPC Women's Group - The next Cancer Hats Project gathering will be on Thursday, November 20, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the church Lounge. So far in 2014, a total of 193 knit and crocheted hats have been delivered to the St. Joe Oncology Unit.

December Session Meeting - If all end-of-year essential business can be completed at the November 19 Session meeting, there will not be a December Session meeting.

Stewardship - Both the Annual Stewardship and Rebuilding Our Walls pledge campaigns continue. The receptions for the building campaign went very well. The annual Stewardship Campaign began on September 21 and continues until November 2. New pledge cards have been created for this year, and were mailed out to members with the Stewardship letter. Pastor Kelly continues her stewardship messages in her sermons through the campaign.

Worship & Music - The new Advent/Christmas paraments, which are being made for the chancel area, should be delivered in time for Advent. They will be paid for from Memorial funds.

Worship on the Sunday after Christmas, December 28, will be a service of Lessons and Carols.

Christian Education: Thanksgiving and pop tabs and Advent, oh my!

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair



We were not able to fulfill our ideas for a Halloween celebration on October 31 this year, but have some fabulous ideas to work on for next Halloween. Join us next fall as we are planning for a fun night as we celebrate Halloween with our neighbors.

Thanksgiving brings the boxes that the youth always enjoy decorating for our mission project through Aid in Milan. We will also put together a special, seasonal "Gratefulness Mix" to help us remember the true spirit of Thanksgiving. A simple but perfect prayer will be made into a table decoration for all to use before our family Thanksgiving gatherings.



Can Michigan beat Ohio State??? YES . . . if we collect more pop tabs!! Ann Arbor Ronald McDonald House is once again in competition with the Columbus House in collecting aluminum pull tabs. (Tabs can be from beverages, pet food, soup, any kind of tab.) Coca-Cola awards the winning House with a \$1,000 gift. Rachel Flint has offered to make the official delivery of the tabs by the deadline date of November 29 - the date the Michigan/Ohio State Universities square off on the football field. So bring in the tabs so we can beat Ohio State . . . at least in this competition. Go Blue!!



Advent is coming: Stay tuned for details of our Christmas Pageant, which will take place right after the worship service on December 14.



Jesus will also have his special birthday celebrated on Sunday, December 21. Gift ideas for the party will be forthcoming.



Non-Toy Gift Ideas for Children

By Rev. Kelly Boubel Shriver

Season Passes:
Zoo, Museum, Butterfly
Conservatory, Aviary,
Aquarium, Amusement Park

One-Time Passes:
Movies, Bowling,
Swimming, Theatre
Performance, Sporting
Event, Disney On Ice, Circus,
Ice Skating, Roller Skating,
Mini Golf, Concert

Experiences for Kids:
Horse & Buggy Ride, Train Ride, Ice Cream
Vouchers, special Dinner Out to a favorite
restaurant, A trip to the Fire Station, A trip
to Chuckie Cheese (you can buy the
tokens in advance to include in the
wrapped gift), Coupon Book with "time"
gifts (ie. an afternoon making cookies with
mom, or a trip to the toy store with dad)





November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Daylight saving time ends November 2. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 1! 						1
2 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons 10 am Worship: Stewardship Sunday, C.E. 11 am Animate: Practices Class/ New Members Class	3 6:45 pm T.O.P.S.	4	5 9 am Bible Study 7pm Bookworms	6 7 pm Handbell Practice	7	8
9 8:45 am Deacons Meeting 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Special Session Meeting 10 am Worship: Welcome New Members, Genesis Bells, C.E. Session Committee Monthly Reports due to Clerk.	10 6:45 pm T.O.P.S.	11	12 9 am Bible Study	13 7 pm Handbell Practice	14	15
16 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons 10 am Worship: Guest Pastor Rev. Vern Campbell, C.E. Session Committee packets are ready for pick-up.	17 6:45 pm T.O.P.S.	18	19 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Session Meeting	20 1 - 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project 7 pm Handbell Practice	21	22
23 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: Thanksgiving Sunday, Handbells, C.E. Church Mouse newsletter Articles are due for the Dec/Jan Issue. 6 pm Community Thanksgiving at Marble Memorial UMC, 8 Park Lane, Milan	24 6:45 pm T.O.P.S.	25	26 No Bible Study	27 Church Office closed. Thanksgiving	28 Church Office closed.	29
30 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: 1st Sunday of Advent, C.E.	November Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Fellowship 					

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