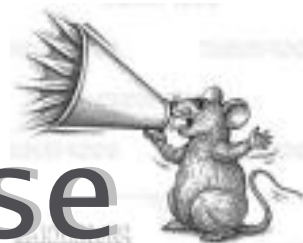


The Church Mouse



Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



Summer Reading Recommendations

By Pastor Kelly Boubel Shriver



Special points of interest:

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- Pentecost offering, Pg. 3
- PPC supports Peer to Peer program at Milan High School, Pg. 4
- Easter Worship at PPC, Pg. 6

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Summer is quickly coming upon us, and if you're anything like me, you may be searching for a good book to take to the lakeshore or simply sit with in the sun. So, without further ado, here are a few summer reads I'd recommend you take a look at!

***The Grantchester Mysteries* by James Runcie (fiction).** These fun mystery stories are set in 1950's England, and star Father Sidney Chambers as the crime-solving priest of the small town of Grantchester. Along with his friend, Police Inspector Geordie Keating, and his dog, Dickens, Rev. Chambers navigates the waters of being a small-town pastor, a bachelor, and an amateur sleuth. These stories are a great summer read: entertaining, engaging, and fun. They're also the foundation of a new BBC television show called "Grantchester," which is equally worth watching.

***The Gospel of Father Joe* by Greg Barrett (biography).** Father Joe is a Catholic priest who serves in one of the poorest parts of Bangkok, Thailand. He's a complete character, and often finds himself at odds with the Catholic Church, but always out of a deep sense of love and calling to the people he serves. This is a wonderful biography of a man who is doing compelling, hard, Christ-like work in one of the most difficult places you could imagine. I read it in a single afternoon, it was so engrossing!

***The Pastor* by Eugene Peterson (autobiography).** May of you know Eugene Peterson as the author of "The Message," a modern paraphrase of the Bible. However, did you know that he served as the founding pastor of a PCUSA congregation for many decades? This autobiography tells parts of his story: as a husband, a pastor, a scholar, and most of all a disciple of Jesus. It's a beautiful story of a life still being lived well.

***The Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowell (history).** Vowell is well known for her quirky, funny take on history. She's written a number of different books about all manner of different historical events. Any one of her books is well worth reading. I loved *The Wordy Shipmates*, which focuses on the Puritans who settled here in America. Her wit is sharp, her observations are clear, and she tells history as if it were a fascinating story (which it is!). This book is enjoyable, and you'll learn something new!

***Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass (history, sociology, religion).** This is the book I'll be spending part of my summer diving into, and I'd welcome you to join me. Butler Bass is a scholar of American Christianity who has done significant and important work on the changes the American Church is undergoing right now. We see decline all around us: lower membership, less influence, increasing irrelevance. Butler Bass faces these issues head on. However, she doesn't stop there. Instead she presses us to ask: what if we're really heading into a "Fourth Great Awakening" as a church, and what will a renewed faith will look like for the American Church.

Deacon Report: Nurturing in 2015

By Jill Morey, Deacon

This year the Deacons will meet regularly on the third Sunday of each month. We are a congenial group led by co-Moderators Jim & Joan Cullip.

For 2015, Mary Huber is our official Secretary and Monique Rae is responsible for keeping our Flock Lists current. I will be submitting articles to the newsletter. In addition to serving the spiritual needs of individual church members, we are also responsible for hosting selected PPC events.



Our most recent was the Deacon Soup Supper which was held on April 2, prior to the Maundy Thursday worship service. Monique Rae coordinated the committee's efforts to provide a wonderful selection of soups, breads, and desserts. A free-will offering was taken at the supper, and the donations totaling \$104 were earmarked for One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you to all who attended!



Mission and Outreach Report: Volunteers needed

By Sue Barney, Mission and Outreach Committee co-chair

Aid in Milan will be having a Chili Cook-off Fundraiser on Saturday, May 9 from 12:30 pm to 4 pm at the Father Joe Family Center located at 410 North Street. Admission is free, and not only are you invited to attend, but they are hoping you will want to help.



Here is what they need:

- ✓ Baked Goods for the "Cake Walk and Bake Sale": You may deliver desserts 5-7pm on May 8 and/or 10-12 am on May 9 at the Father Joe Center.
- ✓ If you have a great recipe and would like to compete, a large crock pot of Chili for which the winner will receive the title, plus \$100!

Participants in the chili cook-off should contact Gail Hullstrung at 734-660-2540.

If you can provide a baked good, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, just so we know who is donating, and how much we are donating. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Then on Sunday, May 24, Peoples Presbyterian Church (PPC) will be hosting a BBQ picnic at Mercy House on Stone School Road in Ann Arbor. Mercy House is a haven for local homeless. It's also a place that has been supported in a range of ways by the various Washtenaw County Presbyterian churches.

The PPC Mission Committee is asking for volunteers to make fruit salad, tossed salad, potato salad, coleslaw and cookies, as well as money donations.

Contact Sue Barney or Rev. Kelly Shriver with questions.



Generosity changes everything.

Special Pentecost Offering- May 24, Day of Pentecost



By Sue Barney and Carol Vollink, Mission and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs

Because of the Pentecost Offering, since 1998, congregations have raised over \$3.9 million for ministries with children at risk, as well as youth and young adults. The Pentecost Offering makes it possible for our congregation to take an active part in bringing healing and wholeness to children at risk. Our church keeps 40% of the offering for local ministries that serve children and youth. The General Assembly uses the remaining 60% for:

- 1) ministries with youth and young adults (25%);
- 2) young adult volunteer opportunities (25%); and
- 3) child advocacy initiatives being developed on such issues as child soldiers, child trafficking, child sexual abuse, bullying, and violent video games (10%).

This year the **40% our church keeps will go Milan High School Peer-2-Peer/Life Savers campaign promoting self-esteem, anti-bullying, mental health, and coping skills.**

On May 24, the collection of the Pentecost Offerings will be received and dedicated. There will be special Pentecost Offering envelopes available in the pews or simply write "Pentecost Offering" on your check's memo line. Thank you for helping to make a difference!



SERVING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ...MAKING CONNECTIONS FOR A LIFETIME

The ministries supported by the Pentecost Offering teach young people to make faith, fellowship, and service part of their lives. Your gift to the Pentecost Offering unites young people in Christ and inspires them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

YOUR GIFT TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING DOES GOOD, NEAR AND FAR



GLOBAL REACH



LOCALLY-MINDED



SUSTAINED IMPACT



GLOBAL REACH

25% SUPPORTS YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER (YAV) EXPERIENCES AROUND THE WORLD

The Pentecost Offering provides young adults the opportunity to serve alongside communities while sharing the word of God. Your support makes it possible for volunteers to dedicate a full year of service for an experience that inspires for a lifetime.



1/3 of YAV alums go on to ordination and pastoral leadership



80% of YAVs continue to regularly attend worship services



2/3 of YAVs report participating more in their congregations after their term of service

It costs about \$22,000 to fund a year of service for one YAV. With your gift, we can support more participants in this transformational program.

Help us double the number of YAVs by 2016!



LOCALLY-MINDED

40% STAYS WITH YOUR CONGREGATION, HELPING YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Your gift can develop and support programs for youth in your own community. From creative outreach efforts to critical support for children at risk, your congregation is able to answer the call for the young people they serve.



SUSTAINED IMPACT

25% GOES TO MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH

Supported almost entirely by the Pentecost Offering, ministries with youth provides vital programs for a critical age group. This ministry acknowledges and celebrates youth as the keepers of God's world, capable of serving as agents of healing and leaders along the path of Jesus through events like the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

10% MINISTRIES FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

The Presbyterian Mission Agency represents and advocates for children around the world. This vital work seeks a quality education for all children, nurturing them in mind, body, and spirit.

Depression is an illness; not a flaw in character.



Peer-to-Peer Adolescent Depression Awareness program at Milan High School (and how PPC is helping)

By Sue Barney and Carol Vollink, Mission and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs

In the average classroom of 20 adolescents, it is estimated that one or two are suffering from depression. High schools and communities all across the nation struggle with social stigmas associated with depression. These social stigmas prevent the ones experiencing depression from asking for and receiving the help they deserve and need.

The Adolescent Depression Awareness program, which originated at the Rachel Upjohn Depression Center at the University of Michigan (U of M), has launched a Peer-to-Peer component that has been developed to help raise awareness of depressive illnesses among students. Peer-to-Peer team members use their leadership skills and knowledge to help create a culture of caring and support in their school. The implementation of this unique public awareness campaign has effectively reached students, increasing understanding of depressive illnesses, reducing stigma, and encouraging students to seek help if needed. Please note though, that the Peer-to-Peer project team is not meant to serve as a support or therapy group for its team members or for other students.

Milan Peer-to-Peer members sponsored the following activities for the Milan High School community during the month of March 2015:



- An all-school assembly with speaker Will Feininger, a U of M defensive lineman, who suffered with depression and mental illness
- The Corner Health Theater Troupe: conducted an interactive discussion and play about adolescent depression
- Various lunchtime and after-school activities to build student awareness

The funds that Peoples Presbyterian Church (PPC) gifted to Milan High School's Peer-to-Peer/Life Savers campaign this year (in conjunction with the Rachel Upjohn Depression Clinic) are well utilized. The ability to provide students with after-school refreshments is significant in helping draw students into ongoing weekly support meetings, conversations, and training. Additionally, during the two years PPC has given donations from Peacemaking Funds and dinner earnings, other things that were supported included: "You are awesome" buttons, Cyber Kindness training, as well as a small mileage reimbursement to a guest speaker who was coming to talk on peace in the community.

Two Milan High School staff members, Kathy Falkner and Mark Rodan, who are working with this program, have shared their heartfelt appreciation to Peoples Presbyterian Church. Kathy wrote to us: ***"PPC's contribution to our alternative programming for MHS adolescents has been critical to our ability to 'sustain' the conversation about depression. Thanks so much for being a part of it! Thanks for remembering us."***

And Mark Rodan sent this: ***"A huge thank you to PPC. Without the funds you provided, we would not have had the ongoing momentum to keep the meetings going. THANK YOU! These two years of support have made a huge difference in peaceful/supported student life at Milan High School."***

The PPC Mission and Outreach Committee has chosen the above-mentioned programs to receive the forty percent of the Pentecost offerings which PPC keeps to use for local ministries. The 2015 Pentecost Offering will be received and dedicated on May 24. See the SPECIAL PENTECOST OFFERING article for more details on how your donations are distributed and are making a difference.

Christian Education Report: Bring your friends, more fun coming!

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

We were happy to have some new teachers during Lent. Joan Cullip, Carol Vollink, and Lynn & John Bulmer all enjoyed our youth as they each taught a lesson. Hebrew Fry Bread was made for our enactment of the Last Supper which drew in many parents and grandparents to partake in the sacrament.

PPC had lots of participants for the Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. There were 6 children in the age 4 and under group, and 14 in the older group. A grand total of 23 youth of all ages were present at the worship service. Hallelujah!! Very exciting!



After Easter, we moved on to the story of Doubting Thomas. Michelle LaFuente and daughter Gabrielle taught one Sunday, and Kristen & Chad Lawver led the class the following week. The first Sunday, the youth had to believe and trust the teachers as they put their hands into a box with a variety of unknown items in it. The next week, they participated in a "trust walk," which meant being blindfolded and holding on to a rope as they were led through various parts of the church and even outside, knowing that with their trust in the teachers, they would be safe even though they could not see. Everyone enjoyed learning about Doubting Thomas.



Youth Sunday, June 7

Plan to be here on June 7 when we will be celebrating with a huge worship service. It will be Youth, Confirmation and Graduation Sunday all in one.

Gabrielle LaFuente will be confirmed, and Courtney Rae will be honored as our high school graduate from Airport High School. Before worship, there will be a Graduation Breakfast in honor of Courtney's graduation. Watch for the sign-up sheet!



Vacation Bible School: Kick-off will be July 12



Vacation Bible School planning is well underway for July 13 - 17, with the kick-off on Sunday, July 12. The theme this year is **Son Spark Labs** with lots of science "magic" included. Anyone who would like to be involved in this exciting week, either as a teacher, assistant, kitchen help, baking, scientist, and/or decorating and set-up, please let Carole London know. There is something for everyone!

Easter Worship 2015 at PPC



Thank you Gary Brown and all the people who assisted on Easter Morning to make our Breakfast so delicious. And thank you to the clean up crew too!



These photos were taken in preparation for Worship Easter Morning. We had a full sanctuary! Thank you all for coming and also, thank you to those who donated flowers to help make the Easter Worship so beautiful.

Also of note: the total offering for Aid in Milan at the Community Good Friday Service, held at the Milan Free Methodist was \$685.67.

All photos courtesy of :
The Rev. Kelly Boubel Shriver



MOM

Happy Mother's Day



May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons 10 am Worship, Communion, C.E.	4 7pm Handbell Practice	5	6 7pm Bookworms	7	8	9
10 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons 10 am Worship: Mother's Day, Handbells, Genesis Bells, C.E. Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to Clerk.	11 7pm Handbell Practice	12 7pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons 9 am Deacons Meeting 10 am Worship, C.E. Session Packets will be ready for pick-up.	18 7pm Handbell Practice	19	20 7 pm Session Meeting	21 1-3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project	22	23
24 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons 10 am Worship, C.E. Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for June Issue.	25 Church Office will be closed. Memorial Day	26	27	28 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating	29	30
31 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons 10 am Worship, C.E. Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to Clerk.	May Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Deacons 					

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