

The Church Mouse



Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



A place to belong...
A place to become...
A place to make a difference.

Volume 9 Issue 9



A new future

By Rev. Kelly Boubel Shriver, Pastor

I love the evening of December 31, and not only because it's the night we celebrate the birth of my sweet son Moses. I love that dark night, and have for a long time, because it represents the changing of the guard, the shifting of the seasons. It's an opportunity to say goodbye to what is past, and open ourselves up to the possibility of a new future. When Chinese and Jewish families celebrate the new year, they spend the days before cleaning their homes, removing every possible speck of dust. In both cultures, the hope is that the new year can be welcomed in with a totally clean slate, none of last year's dust will be welcomed in.

As we celebrate the coming of our new year, I would invite you to share in these words by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Written in 1850, the story goes that he was mourning the loss of his sister's fiancé, Arthur Hallam, when a storm struck. The bells of the nearby Abbey began to ring wildly, not deliberately, and he wrote this poem to capture that moment. It has come to be a poem of elegy and storm, old and new, past and future. I hope you can hear these words as they speak into our new year ahead.

In Memoriam: Ring Out, Wild Bells By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Special points of interest:

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- > One Voice Gospel Choir, Pg. 2
- > Milan Food Bank says Thank You to PPC, Pg. 2
- > Thank you from Nan Cranson, Pg. 3
- > List of Gifts Jesus would like for his Birthday, Pg. 7

Collect, Save and Bring to Church

- > Pull tabs
- > Box tops
- > Soup Labels

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PPC is having a Party! A Christmas Party!



Join us on Friday, December 11 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we come together to celebrate the season. Dinner is included and we'll be having card games, cookie decorating, and a Christmas movie. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, so **please be sure to write your name down** if you plan to attend, just so we get the right amount of food.

Come and be a part of this special celebration. Can't wait!



It's
ALL
About
The
BABY

One Voice Gospel Choir Christmas Concert
December 19, 2015
7pm
St. Paul United Church of Christ
122 West Michigan Ave, Saline
reception with desserts following concert; suggested donation \$10 per person
check our facebook page for more details or call Jane at (734) 845 1985



Thank you from the Milan Food Bank!

Christian Education, with your help, reached and exceeded their goal to collect 80 bottles of Body Wash for the Milan Food Bank!

Thank you everyone, for donating to this wonderful beginning-of-the-year project!

To: Peoples
Presbyterian
Church
Members,

Thank you

Generosity makes a
BIG
difference.....

... "Those who refresh
others will themselves
be refreshed."
Prov. ii: 25b



A Note of Thanks:

Dear PPC Family,



I wish to thank everyone for the cards, meals, visits and prayers during my stay in the hospital. I really appreciate all the concerns and am now on the mend.

I especially want to thank Jack and my family (Bonnie, Rod & Linda, Lori, Rob & Sherri), for all their visits and encouragement.

That's what it's all about: My family and wonderful friends!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, I love you all!

Nan Cranson



Session Highlights: November 2015

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session



PPC's Per Capita for 2016 is \$2,804.48. This is an allocation of \$24.04 per member, based on the December 31, 2014, PPC active member count of 112. Per Capita includes amounts for Presbytery (\$14.67), Synod (\$3.25), and the General Assembly (G.A.) (\$7.12). A check for the total is sent to Presbytery, and Presbytery distributes to Synod and G.A.

The 2016 PPC Operating Budget was approved in the amount of \$148,401.48.

The Communion Schedule for 2016 was approved and the dates are listed below.

January 3	July 3
February 7	August 7
March 6	September 4
March 2 (Maundy Thursday)	October 2 (World Communion)
April 3	November 6
May 1	December 4
June 5	December 24 (Christmas Eve) (Saturday)
	January 1, 2017

Stewardship Report: Consecration Sunday was a success

By Steve Barney, Stewardship Committee Chair

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the members and friends of Peoples Presbyterian for their attendance and participation in the Consecration Sunday worship service, and sharing in the luncheon on November 15. There were 77 people in attendance. As you may know, this was a new way for PPC to conduct the annual Stewardship campaign, and it turned out to be very successful. On that Sunday, over \$104,000 was pledged to the church by those in attendance, reflecting their thankfulness for the gifts that God has provided them, and their commitment to share those gifts to continue the work of God in our community.

We would like to thank Doris Ann Campbell for leading us through the Consecration Sunday process; from the teaching of our Session and a governing team about the process, to conducting the service on that day. Her insight was invaluable in helping us to realize the relationship our stewardship has with our spiritual growth, and showing our thankfulness to God.

We would also like to thank Mary Hayes for the wonderful luncheon that was provided after the service; and also thank Sandy Hayes and Sue Barney for the help they provided Mary.

For those of you who were not able to attend on Consecration Sunday, we would encourage you to consider what God might be calling you to give. We have mailed information to those members and friends who were not able to attend, on how to make a pledge, including a pledge card that you may use to reflect the level at which you would like to give. Please send the pledge card back to the church office at your earliest convenience.

Once again, thank you all for your generous gifts and commitment to see God's work continue through Peoples Presbyterian Church.



Peoples Presbyterian Church

A place to belong,

a place to become,

a place to make a difference.



2015 Deacons

Jim Cullip
Joan Cullip
Mary Huber
Cindy Marsh
Katherine McClellan
Jill Morey
Monique Rae
Gay Waterstradt
Chris Wetzler

Deacon Report: Care is our priority

By Jill Morey, Deacon

PPC Deacons, under the leadership of Jim & Joan Cullip, meet the third week of each month. We continually review opportunities to provide on-going compassionate care for the members and families of PPC.

The group also discussed the best stewardship of the Deacon Fund.

Mission and Outreach Report: You are making a difference!

By Sue Barney, Mission and Outreach Committee Co-Chair



Peacemaking Offering:

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Peacemaking Offering in October. The efforts of our congregation to spread the peace of Christ, and give hope in the midst of challenge and conflict, are appreciated. This year, we raised \$197. Of this amount, \$147 went to the Presbyterian Church USA. The remaining \$50 was sent to Safe House to assist with their on-going efforts to help women and children in crisis situations.

Mercy House:

On Sunday, November 1, six members from Peoples Presbyterian Church (PPC) prepared and served a meal of lasagna, salad, rolls and dessert, to thirty people at Mercy House in Ann Arbor. Every Sunday evening, a local church or organization in the Washtenaw County area takes a turn to serve the meal. Mercy House is a place that provides a safe haven for people who may be homeless, or need shelter, or perhaps they do have their own apartment or room, but still need some assistance. They can stop at Mercy House to use the facilities, do laundry, rest during the day (no overnight stay), or get something to eat.

Special thanks to Helen Barnes for baking cupcakes. Also to Chris Wetzler, Carol Vollink, John & Lynn Bulmer and Sue & Steve Barney for serving the food.

Thanksgiving Baskets for AIM:

A Huge THANK YOU to those who donated food and cash to fill our Thanksgiving Boxes for Aid in Milan (AIM). Amy Doyle at AIM is always amazed and appreciative of the generosity of Peoples Presbyterian Church. When there is a need, you all respond so willingly! Thank you to Christian Education for all your work in decorating wonderful boxes. With us all working together, we have helped to make this Thanksgiving holiday a memorable one for ten needy families right here in Milan, by providing turkey and all the trimmings! We couldn't do this without your help!

Community Adopted Families:

This year, PPC has "adopted" two families for Christmas through Aid in Milan. The families are a husband and wife with a teenage son and daughter, and a young mother with a one and two year-old. The tree is available in the Fellowship Hall and contains gift tags listing items needed. You may select a gift tag showing a gift to purchase. Please wrap your gift, place the gift tag on it, and return it to the church by Sunday, December 20.

All gifts will be delivered on Monday, December 21. All donated gifts are gratefully accepted. Thank you all for your participation in this very important Mission Outreach.



Scarves...Hats....Gloves:

On Wednesday, December 23, PPC is assisting with the Riverside Community Meal at the First Presbyterian Church in Ypsilanti. The organizers of this meal have asked for help in collecting new warm hats, gloves and scarves for the folks who attend this weekly meal, many of whom are homeless and sleep in shelters. There is a box in the narthex outside the church office, to collect donated items. The box will be delivered to the First Presbyterian Church on December 23, so please be sure to have your donations in the box by Sunday, December 20. Your assistance with this project is very appreciated!



Christian Education Report: Halloween, Thanksgiving and the upcoming Christmas Pageant. Don't Miss Out!

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

Rev. Kelly Shriver, along with a few of our church members and friends, handed out coffee, hot apple cider and cookies on Halloween night. They set up a tent in front of the church on the corner of Marvin and Smith. Lots of trick-or-treaters and their parents, stopped in to say hello. The children in Christian Education assisted by decorating two pumpkins which were used to beautify the Halloween table and were seen by all the trick-or-treaters.



We are deep into the season of giving thanks for all that we have. A Thankful Tree was made under the direction of Michelle LaFuente. Then a Thanksgiving place mat was created with a personal prayer and activities on the back. The children have also decorated the ten boxes that are being used to carry the Thanksgiving dinners for the Mission and Outreach project for Aid in Milan.

Our **annual Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 13**, following the worship service. Please come and support the children of our church and cheer them on as we wait for Baby Jesus' arrival. Bring a dish to pass and deliver it to the kitchen before worship. Then head to the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Pageant for a Family Potluck. Everyone is welcome.

Please note: **Practice for the pageant will be on Friday night, December 11, at 5 pm**, right before the Church-wide Christmas Party. Bring your kids to practice and then stay for an evening of food and fun activities for the family!



During December, the children will be working on the Christmas ornaments that we will hand out after the Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service.

Thanks to everyone who brought in their aluminum pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House competition between the University of Michigan Wolverines and the Ohio State Buckeyes football teams. The team with the most tabs will receive \$1,000 from Coca Cola. This is always a fun competition. Thanks to Rachel Flint for delivering the tabs. Let's hope we can beat Ohio State, both on the field and with the tabs. Please continue to save your tabs for next year too!



We would like to recognize the accomplishments of two of our Christian Education children:

- + Congratulations to Shauna Vesper who placed 15th in the State for the Michigan SEMMLA Spelling Bee this year. What a wonderful achievement, Shauna!
- + And a job-well-done also to Victoria Heeringa for obtaining 4th place for her Baton solo in the State Competition. We are so proud of you!

We are very thankful for all our wonderful children in our congregation!



Epiphany Sunday: Come celebrate Jesus' Birthday

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair



Jesus' Birthday Party will be on Epiphany Sunday, January 3, 2016. We will be giving Jesus his gifts on the same day that the Wise Men delivered their precious gifts to the newly born Savior. Amy Gardner has promised she will create Jesus' Birthday cake for us again this year. Thanks Amy!

The list of gifts Jesus would like is below and will also be posted in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to wrap your gift! We love to watch the children do the unwrapping!

Jesus' Birthday Party Gift Wish List!

- Rolls of plastic table coverings in lively fun colors
- Rolls of plastic table coverings (white)
- Dish soap
- Dish towels
- Brillo pads
- Sponges to wash dishes
- Liquid hand sanitizer
- Bleach
- Air fresheners (spray Can)
- Tissues, small box size for the pews, and large boxes, such as Kleenex or Puffs
- Paper towels
- Small snack size plates and dinner size heavy paper plates
- Napkins
- 8.5x11 or 8.5x14 copy paper, in any color, to be used for Memorial Bulletins, the Weekly Announcement page in the Bulletin, or for projects for Christian Education
- Plastic forks
- Paper or plastic juice glasses, 5 oz. size
- Storage bags, zip top, in quart and gallon sizes
- Light bulbs, energy savers, equal to 60 watt or 90 watt
- Hot Chocolate, one cup size packets
- Coffee stir stix
- Ground coffee, regular and decaffeinated
- Coffee filters, 12 cup (coffee machine make is BUNN)
- 100% juice drinks, not the corn syrup variety
- Batteries: 9 volt, C size, Double AA and Triple AAA
- Leaf bags, large paper bags
- Garbage bags, 33 gallon and 35 gallon sizes, also Tall kitchen trash bags
- Diaper wipes
- Disinfectant wipes, such as Lysol or Clorox





**Merry
Christmas!**
*and a
Blessed New Year*

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Stewardship		1	2 7 pm Bookworms	3	4	5
6 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: 2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion, C.E. Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to the Clerk.	7	8 7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	9	10	11 5 pm Children's Pageant Practice 6 pm PPC Christmas Party	12
13 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Genesis Bells, C.E. Pageant 11 am Family Potluck, Bring a dish to pass! Everyone is welcome! Session Committee Packets are ready for pick-up.	14	15	16 7 pm Session Meeting	17 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project	18	19
20 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Deacons Meeting 10 am Worship: 4th Sunday of Advent, C.E. Final day for collection of Gifts for adopted Families.	21	22	23 	24 Church office is closed. 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Church office is closed. Christmas	26
27 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship Service of Lessons and Carols, No C.E.	28	29	30	31 Church office is closed.		



Happy New Year!

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Year's</i>	2
3 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: Epiphany of the Lord, Communion, C.E. Jesus' Birthday Party during Fellowship.	4	5	6 9 am Bible Study	7	8	9
10 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: Baptism of the Lord, Genesis Bells, C.E. Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to the Clerk.	11 3 pm Calendar Planning Meeting	12 7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	13 9 am Bible Study	14	15	16
17 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Deacons Meeting 10 am Worship, C.E. 11 am Adult Education: Topic will be Physician Assisted Suicide Session Committee Packets are ready for pick-up. Session Committee Annual Reports are due to the Church Office.	18	19	20 9 am Bible Study 7pm Session Meeting	21 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project	22	23
24 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship, C.E. Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for the February Issue. Session Committee Annual Reports are available on the Narthex Table.	25	26	27 9 am Bible Study	28 9:30 am Church Mouse Collating	29	30
31 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship, C.E. 11 am Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck	January Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Worship and Music 					

Peoples Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9 am - 3pm; Thurs. 9am - 4pm



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