

The Church Mouse



Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



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

Volume 10 Issue 2



What's on your soundtrack?

By Rev. Kelly Boubel Shriver, Pastor

As John and I prepare to pack up our house and move, one of the tasks on my list for the past few weeks has been digitizing all of our CDs so that we don't have to move the ridiculous stack of jewel cases with us. It's not a small task, 750 albums at last check...and I still have one large box left to dig through. John's music is easy to spot, his tastes have been fairly singular for decades: outlaw country of the Johnny Cash-Meryl Haggard variety. The boys' few CDs are classic kid stuff: Raffi, Sesame Street, Veggie Tales. But my music, well, it's schizophrenic to say the least. A rap album here, a classical album there, some early Contemporary Christian, followed by a 2016 pop disc, chased with a little 1992 Seattle grunge.

As I've gone through the painstaking task of entering disc after disc, I've noticed that these individual albums, varied though they might be, tell a story about who I've been, who I am, and who I am becoming. I was delighted to find a dusty copy of "Who Will Cut Our Hair When You Are Gone?" by the Unicorns, a short-lived Canadian band; listening to their songs transported me back to the cave-like dorm rooms of Haggett Hall at the University of Washington. I was surprised that the music brought back memories I hadn't pondered for over a

decade. Their songs were a sort of soundtrack to a very particular season of my life, and it is fascinating to remember what I considered exciting, joyful, scary, and unknown at the age of 19.

Music has a way of helping us remember in a very vivid and specific way. Songs create their own memories, they tell our stories back to us, again and again. This is a huge part of the reason we sing at church. Our songs, from the revival tent hymns to the early medieval chants to the contemporary world tunes, they surround us with a powerful way of remembering our stories, of thinking about our community, and rooting all of that deeply in our brains. When I go to visit our most elderly members there are two things even the most memory affected people can sing/say with me: The Lord's Prayer and Amazing Grace. Songs work their way into our bones, they become a part of us, they tell our story again and again.

So, what about you? What songs tell your stories? What albums speak to who you were and who you are? What hymns resonate most fully with the hope and promise of Christ? What songs will you still sing when you have forgotten all else?

Special points of interest:

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- > What's next for PPC, Pg. 3
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- > Our Community says Thank you, Pg. 8

Collect, Save and Bring to Church

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

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Easter Worship Schedule:



Sunday, February 28	10:00 am	Worship: Welcome New Members, C.E.
Sunday, March 6	10:00 am	Worship: Communion, C.E.
Sunday, March 13	10:00 am	Worship: Genesis Bells will play
Sunday, March 20	10:00 am	Worship: Palm Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing received and dedicated, Re-enactment of the Last Supper during C.E
Thursday, March 24	5:30 pm	Soup Supper by the Deacons of PPC
	6:30 pm	Worship: Maundy Thursday
Friday, March 25	6:30 pm	Community Good Friday Worship Service, Location: Marble Memorial UMC, 8 Park Lane, Milan
Sunday, March 27	9:00 am	Easter Sunrise Breakfast by the Men of PPC
	9:30 am	C. E. Annual Easter Egg Hunt
	10:00 am	Worship: Resurrection of the Lord/Easter



Personnel Report: Next Steps for our Church

By Steve Barney, Stewardship Committee Chair



I'm sure many of you have questions regarding the next steps for our church because of Pastor Kelly's announcement of her acceptance of a call to another church. As the new Personnel Committee Chair, I thought it might be a good idea to include an update here to possibly answer some of the questions.

Rather than listing the many different things that need to be accomplished as we transition to a new pastor, I thought it might be more helpful to outline the major steps and milestones in this process.

The first steps in this process have already been completed or are starting as we speak. Those are: Kelly has notified us and the Committee On Ministry (COM) and other Presbytery officials of her acceptance of a new call. Representatives of COM have already met with the Session of our church in a special meeting to offer their assistance and to outline the steps we need to follow during the transition. The meeting with COM was very helpful and informative, and shows their support of us in this process. They gave us encouraging news that leads us to believe that we can have a much shorter transition period to call and install a new pastor - (our last transition took 4 years). Here are the rest of the steps outlined by COM for us:

- On March 6, we will have a special Congregational Meeting to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Kelly.
- COM assigns us a Transitional Leadership (TL) Representative to assist us in calling either an Interim or Temporary Pastor while the process for the search for a new fulltime pastor takes place. This step is also already complete as our TL has been assigned. COM will shortly assign a Pastoral Call (PC) Representative to assist us on the rest of the process steps.
- We need to appoint a committee to work with our TL to start the process of hiring an Interim or Temporary Pastor. Again, Session is already acting upon this and Carole London and Charles Pratt will be our Session Representatives leading this committee. Serving on this committee will be Brian LaFuentes, Kathy McClellan, Jennifer Rupert and Von Thompson. They have already begun to meet with the TL, and their goal is to have our transitional pastor identified, hired and start as near as possible to Kelly's last day.
- We need to complete a Self Study (formerly called a Mission Study). There is good news here as well. Since our last Self Study was completed not too long ago, we will be able to update our existing Study and utilize it rather than staring over with an entirely new one. Again, Session has already appointed Session members Doris Ann Campbell, Steve Barney and Nancy Kuzniar (as Clerk of Session) to head the committee. They will also be recruiting members of the congregation to assist in this regard, and the goal here is to complete the study within a month. COM will assist our committee on the process steps of the Self Study. The study will need to be accepted by Session and the COM at Presbytery.
- Once our Self Study is completed and approved, Session then requests permission from COM to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Our church Nominating Committee will need to nominate members to serve on the PNC, and they must be elected by the congregation so a congregational meeting will be held for this purpose.
- The PNC, again with assistance from COM, will work to complete a Ministry Information Form (MIF) from information obtained from the Self Study and other sources. The MIF is then posted on the PCUSA website, and Personal Information Forms (PIF – think “resumes”) will then be received from potential candidates for the PNC to review. From there, the PNC will narrow the field of candidates and select those to be



Continued on Page 4...

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interviewed, and hear potential candidate/s preach in a neutral pulpit (another church) before nominating their selected candidate and terms of call to the congregation for its vote. Upon approval by the congregation, COM presents the call to Presbytery for its concurrence. After this, our new pastor will be installed.

As I indicated, there are a number of details in each of these steps to be completed that aren't listed here for sake of brevity, but hopefully this summary gives you an idea of the major milestones that lie ahead for us during this transition period.

I will try to provide periodic updates on the pastor search process as time moves forward and we move along in these process steps.



Session Highlights: February 2016

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session



New Elders and Deacons: On Sunday, February 14, Helen Barnes and Chad Lawver were ordained and installed as Elders, and Steve and Sue Barney, having previously been ordained, were installed as Elders, all for three-year terms. Staci Bashaw was ordained and installed as a Deacon, and Jo Lawver and Chris Wetzler, having previously been ordained, were installed as Deacons, all for three year terms.

Pastor: Rev. Kelly Shriver has announced that she has taken a new pastoral call in West Linn, Oregon. Her final Sunday in the PPC pulpit will be Easter Sunday, and the Shriver family will be moving shortly thereafter.

Call for a Congregational Meeting: A Congregational Meeting has been called for March 6, 2016, immediately following worship, to dissolve the pastoral call between The Rev. Kelly Shriver and Peoples Presbyterian Church effective March 31, 2016. At this meeting the Congregational Nominating Committee will also bring a slate of recommendations to fill vacant seats on leadership boards.

PPC Women's Group: 39 knit hats were delivered to St. Joe's Oncology unit on February 8. The Cancer Hats group will meet next on Wednesday, March 16, 1:00-3:00, in the church lounge.

Merry Makers: On February 13, 22 people went to dinner at JR's in Milan. A trip to the Toledo Zoo is planned for June 11, 2016. This activity will be for families and friends. If enough people sign up, bus transportation will be arranged.

Riverside Community Meal: Sue Barney will attend the Riverside Community Meal meeting on Feb. 23. Sue has agreed to serve on the Riverside Meal steering committee.

Carillon: An upgrade for our long-silent Carillon system has been purchased. Once it is installed, we will be able to use the Carillon again. The system is now computerized, which will eliminate the problems we have had with the original Carillon system. The cost is being covered by Memorial Funds.

Capital Campaign and Major Building Repairs: Funds are now available to begin some of the major building repairs. The work to be done has been prioritized as: 1. Electronic Controls for the heating/ cooling system; 2. Paint the wood portions of the church building exterior; and 3. Refurbish the Manse by the end of the year to have it ready for new occupants.

One Great Hour of Sharing

By Carol Vollink, Mission and Outreach Committee Member



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing, to share God's love with our neighbors experiencing needs in the United States and around the world. Your generous gifts to this Special Offering help provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) will support the following:

- + **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Provides support and relief to people affected by natural disasters and epidemics.**
- + **Presbyterian Hunger Program: Works to eliminate hunger and its causes.**
- + **Self-Development of People: Supports those affected by oppression and injustice to overcome hardships.**

February 21: The One Great Hour Fish Banks were given out. These are available to anyone in the congregation who would like to fill with donations to help others. Extra banks are available in the Narthex.

March 20, Palm Sunday: A special collection/dedication of the Fish Banks and OGHS offerings will be done. OGHS envelopes are available in the pew pockets, or you may just write OGHS on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your continuous generous support over the years.

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to send a big thank you to Carole London and our wonderful Christian Education youth who put the Fish Banks together and the OGHS envelopes in the pew pockets.

Appreciating your caring of others,
Your Mission and Outreach Committee



Generosity changes everything.

Don't forget! The Rose London Memorial Scholarship applications are available in the church office.

By Doris Campbell, Memorials and Scholarships Committee Chair



Applications for the Rose London Memorial Scholarship are available in the church office. High School Seniors graduating in the year 2016 and attending college or trade schools in the fall of this year are eligible. Seniors must be active members of Peoples Presbyterian Church. Those interested in obtaining complete guidelines for this scholarship may request a copy from Michele in the office. The deadline for submission of the application is March 31, 2016.

Christian Education Report: Celebrating and Learning

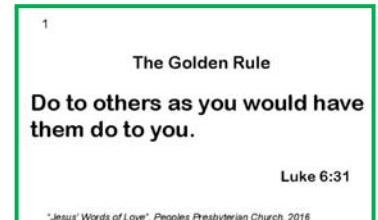
By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

The Lenten Season is upon us and the children in Christian Education (C.E.) are enjoying the various celebrations.



On February 7, they made two delicious King's Cakes and served them to the congregation. Both Jennifer Rupert and Pastor Kelly found a Baby Jesus in their piece of cake. They both will have a year of "good luck"!

We are beginning the Lenten Season memorizing some of "Jesus' Words of Love." All the children in C.E. received a scripture memory box filled with 44 encouraging, kid-friendly bible verses to memorize. One verse will be chosen each week and if they memorize it, they will get a star on the chart. Feel free to ask any child what their memory verse is for that week.



The Youth will re-enact the Last Supper
on Palm Sunday, March 20,
and enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt
after the Easter Breakfast, Sunday, March 27.



Our Lenten Outreach Project is filling a "Treasure Chest of Love" for the boys and girls arriving at SafeHouse Center in Ann Arbor. SafeHouse is a safe haven for victims of abuse. The SafeHouse Center provides free and confidential services for all victims in Washtenaw County, as well as emergency shelter, counseling, a legal advocate, support groups and especially...hope.



When women decide to flee the home, they are encouraged to first secure all the children, then bring all their important documents, money and a vehicle. Clothing and toys for the children are the last things to worry about since they can be replaced.



This is where we come in. A "Treasure Chest of Love" will be given to a child when he or she arrives and will be something they can take with them as they leave SafeHouse. The chests are made from shoe boxes or plastic shoe box-size containers. They're wrapped or decorated and filled with personalized items, either for a boy or a girl, in a chosen age category. There are labels to place on the boxes and an instruction sheet giving lots of ideas for filling a box. C.E. is going to make a pyramid in the Fellowship Hall of all the completed Treasure Chests. The children will deliver the boxes to SafeHouse Center after Easter.

C.E. invites you to join us in this outreach opportunity, to touch the lives of many children who feel scared, helpless and hopeless. Let's put a smile on their faces as they open their very own "Treasure Chest of Love."

May we all be mindful of Easter as we travel through the long days of Lent!

Celebrating our Youth's Accomplishments

Let's celebrate Victoria Heeringa who was very successful at her recent Baton Competition. She won:

- ★ 2nd place for her Solo Routine,
- ★ 4th place for her Two-baton Routine and
- ★ two 1st place and one 2nd place in her team events.

Yeh Victoria, way to go!



Meet your 2016 Deacons!

By Joan Cullip, Deacon Co-Moderator



Pictured here left to right: Katherine McClellan, Staci Bashaw, Gay Waterstradt, Chris Wetzler, Mary Huber, Jo Lawver, Jim Cullip, Joan Cullip
Photo Credit: Rev. Kelly Shriver and Joan Cullip

Deacons: The Ministry of Compassion and Service

The ministry of deacon as set forth in scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.

Book of Order

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA
2013/2015



Easter Flowers! Beautifying the church

By Michele Ward, Office Administrator

Last year was such a great success that we thought we would do it again! We are planning to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday with a lovely variety of flowers.

For your donation of \$20, you will receive 2 plants. (We cannot guarantee what type of flower you will receive.) Plants may be taken home after the Easter Sunday Worship Service.

Please look for the “Easter Flower Donation” card located in the pew pocket, or you can simply sign-up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The final date for payment of flowers will be Sunday, March 20. Thank you, in advance, for your donation towards the beauty of our Easter Sunday Worship Service.



Giving Thanks: Your donations working in the community.

By Sue Barney, Mission and Outreach Committee Member



Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your donation to support the survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault that SafeHouse Center serves every day. Your contribution makes our essential work possible. Because of you, survivors in our community know that they are not alone! We are especially grateful for your support as we look toward a year of significantly decreased federal funding. Now more than ever, your gift makes a critical impact, and allows us to continue to provide the services that make such an important difference to survivors.

Every day, survivors come to us with an abundance of hope because they believe that their lives, and the lives of their children, can be better. That hope is sustained through many of our services: support groups, legal advocacy and individual counseling. Our emergency shelter, 24-hour HelpLine and response teams are available any time, day or night, to remind survivors they do not have to go through these difficult times alone, and that hope is available. Every year we help over 5,000 survivors find safety, and your commitment to our work helps us do just that.

Thank you!

Kate MacEwen

Director of Resource Development



Dear Peoples Presbyterian Church,

This year's Adopt-A-Family for Christmas was a great success! Aid in Milan collaborated with 20 donors to sponsor 46 Milan area families. Peoples Presbyterian Church generously sponsored two of those families. The families receiving gifts could not have been more grateful. Thank you!

We at Aid in Milan would like to thank you for your giving spirit, and for your willingness to help out our neighbors in need.

We are always looking to improve the Adopt-A-Family process. If you have any feedback that would help us do that please send me an email or give me a phone call.

Thank you again! We look forward to working with you again in 2016!

Sincerely,

Amy Doyle

Program Director



You are making a *difference* in the lives of others.





March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Buildings and Grounds		1	2 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Bookworms	3	4	5
6 9 am Choir Practice-Music Room 10 am Worship: 4th Sunday in Lent, Communion, Minute for Mission, C.E. 11 am "End of Life Issues" Adult Education Class—Lounge Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to the Clerk.	7	8 7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	9 9 am Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9 am Choir Practice-Music Room 10 am Worship: 5th Sunday in Lent, Genesis Bells, C.E. 11 am "End of Life Issues" Adult Education Class—Lounge Session Committee Packets will be ready for pick-up.	14 7 pm Handbell Practice	15	16 9 am Bible Study 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project 7 pm Session Meeting	17	18	19
20 9 am Choir Practice-Music Room 9 am Deacons Meeting-Lounge 10 am Worship: Palm Sunday, OGHS rec'd and dedicated, C.E. re-enactment of the Last Supper 11 am "End of Life Issues" Adult Education Class—Lounge Church Mouse Newsletter Articles are due for April Issue.	21 7 pm Handbell Practice	22	23 9 am Bible Study	24 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating 5:30 pm Deacon Soup Supper 6:30 pm Worship: Maundy Thursday	25 6:30 pm Community Good Friday Worship Service—Marble Memorial UMC, 8 Park Lane, Milan	26
27 9 am Choir Practice-Music Room 9 am Easter Sunrise Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt 10 am Worship: Resurrection of the Lord, C.E.	28 7 pm Handbell Practice	29	30	31		

Peoples Presbyterian Church

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