

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 5



An Introduction

By Temporary Pastor, Rev. Dr. Richard O. Griffith

One of the opportunities of being selected as the Temporary Supply Pastor for Peoples is to introduce myself. I know that we will be working on calling a permanent pastor as expeditiously as possible, and I will do all I can to help us continue to be the kind of congregation one would want to serve.

That being said, let me introduce a family and myself. I was born in Pontiac, but my first six years were in Vermont, where my father was a college math professor. We moved to Long Island as he continued his career and where I was raised.

I met Nan while we were students at U of M, and received my seminary education (B.D. [now called M.Div.] and D.Min.) at The Theological School of Drew University, a United Methodist educational institution in Madison, New Jersey. Subsequently, I completed both weeks of interim training provided by the PC (USA).

We have two children. Our son, Peter, is a somewhat special needs person, suffering brain damage when he had his tonsils removed as a child. He owns his own condo, and has been a cashier at the Motor City Casino for the past 15 years.

Our daughter, Jane, is married to Phil, and they are the parents of Katie and Cara, our two grandchildren. Jane and Phil are caring parents with clear boundaries and unconditional love, which has been beneficial to everyone.

Nan has been a gifted teacher for many years (I am biased), and now is retired from The Roeper School, where she still does occasional substituting.

My career mostly has been in the institutional church, serving congregations from New York to Chicago, with most of my ministry being in southeast Michigan, and including Presbyterian interim ministries in Ohio and Michigan. I also served on the editorial staff of the United Methodist magazine for Michigan, have experience in career counseling, and am now completing a two year term as the President of the International Council of Community Churches.

All this I hope will contribute to what I love to do – being a caring pastoral presence to God's people, now here in Milan. May we all be blessed in our time together!

Special points of interest:

- > Vacation Bible School details, Pg. 4
- > A message from the Office Administrator, Pg. 5

Collect, Save and Bring to Church

- > Pull tabs
- > Box tops
- > Soup Labels
- > Plastic Lids
- > Empty Water Bottles with their caps, see Pg. 4 for details.

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Mission and Outreach Report: Pentecost and Tacos

By Chad Lawver, Mission and Outreach Committee Chair

The special Pentecost offering was collected on Sunday, May 15. If you haven't donated, and would still like to do so, it isn't too late. The Pentecost Offering envelopes are still in the pew pockets in the sanctuary or simply write Pentecost on the memo line of your check. Please donate soon, though. Remember, this helps children in need, and we get to keep 40 percent. This year, we will be donating funds to Milan High School for their programs **Project Straight Talk, Peer Mediation, and Life Savers** which promote self-esteem, anti-bullying, mental health and coping skills.



The "Tacos for Triennium" luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 22 was a wonderful success. Thanks to all who donated funds to send Gabrielle Lafuente to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium this year. Triennium meets every three years at Purdue University and is the largest Presbyterian youth gathering. We raised over \$600 dollars!!!! Thank you everyone!

Fellowship Report: Toledo Zoo Trip Info

By Chuck Pratt, Fellowship Committee Chair

Family Makers is heading to the Toledo Zoo on Saturday, June 11, and we're making a day of it. If you are planning to come, we are meeting in the church parking lot at 9 a.m. and will car pool to our destination. The cost will be: \$19 for adults, children (2-11) \$16, and for Seniors (60+) it is \$16. Bring your friends and let's enjoy a beautiful, fun day!



Please note:

Merry Makers and Family Makers will be taking the summer off. The next scheduled outing will be for the Merry Makers in October 2016. The place, date and time will be announced later.

Christian Education Report: Flowers, Moms and more!

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

May Day, May 1, brought many brightly colored May baskets filled with homemade flowers created by the youth of the Church. It is the official "Good Bye Winter, Hello Spring holiday!" Everyone made two May baskets, one to keep and the other one to hang on someone's door and...run!! Katie Bell did just that and her neighbor was so surprised and excited about receiving the May basket that she wrote Katie a thank you note for her kind gesture.



Thank you!



The children made some colorful glass votive candle holders, with a stained-glass look and a candle, for Mother's Day gifts on May 8. Then a special "You are the Light of my Life" card was enclosed. Beautiful carnations were handed out by the children to all the women in the congregation thanking them for nurturing all the kids throughout the year. During worship, Victoria Heeringa read a prayer for all Mothers and Camron and Ryan Heeringa explained our gift of carnations to the congregation.

On Sunday, May 15, Joan Cullip and the youth created some thoughtful "thinking of you" cards to be sent to those people who are not able to worship with us regularly.



The next big Christian Education day will be June 5 for Youth and Graduation Day.

First there will be a Graduation Breakfast before worship at 8:30 a.m. honoring:

Lauren Rae graduating from Airport High School and
Tiffany Weston from Milan High School.



Doris Campbell will be the special guest speaker for the event. During worship, the church will honor both girls, and Lauren will deliver her Senior Sermon and play the flute for the offertory. The younger youth will participate in many other ways, including the Genesis Bells. A sign-up chart for the breakfast is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. You won't want to miss it!



Thanks to everyone who has brought in their hard, plastic caps!! The huge plastic container is "filled to the brim" - but we will continue to collect them!

Did you know, it only takes 400 pounds to make a park bench. How close do you think we are??? Quite a ways off yet, so keep those caps coming in! Thanks to all from Christian Education!!



Vacation Bible School! More details here...we can't wait!

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair



Vacation Bible School (VBS) is right around the corner and we are all "going down on the COW a-bunga FARM"!! VBS will be July 11 through 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Each class will have its own color-coded bandana, which the children will wear nightly, since we will all be "country folk" for the week. There are many new and fun activities to enjoy. The mission project will be Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor. The offering collected will go to the House, and we will collect items on their "Wish List" (see below) which include many convenience and grab-and-go type of foods.

Help! We would like to ask for everyone to collect clean, empty water bottles with their caps which will be used for a project. There will be a box set up in the Narthex to collect them.

For the last night, Friday, we have contracted with the Chamberlin Pony Rides and Mobile Petting Zoo to bring in their complete petting farm for our Grand Finale family potluck and entertainment.

Look for the banner and yard signs which will be appearing all over town very soon!



Photo Credit: Chamberlin Pony website

The Ronald McDonald House Wish List:

For the kitchen: 

Note: A nightly dinner is provided. Only snack-type food items are needed for the pantry.

- Food items:
- *Breakfast Bar
- *Microwaveable pasta (single-serving)
- *Microwaveable ready-to-eat soups (single-serving)
- Coffee Creamer
- Individually packaged cookies & snack foods
- *Easy Mac
- *Instant oatmeal packets
- Microwaveable Popcorn (full sized bags)
- *Pop tarts
- Individually packaged saltine crackers
- Salt & pepper
- *Single serving cereals
- Vegetable oil



Supply items: 

- Coffee stir sticks
- Dinner napkins
- Dishwasher detergent
- *Paper napkins
- *Paper plates/bowls
- Plastic storage bags -- gallon size
- Paper towels
- *Plastic silverware
- Salt and pepper sets (disposable)
- Soft Scrub
- Styrofoam carryout containers

For the laundry: 

- Bleach
- Detergent
- Dryer sheets

Items with an asterisk (*) indicate the most needed items.



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The Ronald McDonald House Wish List:

For the office: 

- "Forever" postage stamps
- Lightbulbs, 60 watt
- Masking tape
- Permanent markers
- Pop-up Post-it notes
- Scissors
- 8 1/2 x 11 white copy paper



For the bedrooms: 

- Alarm clocks
- Bath & hand towels -- white
- Washcloths -- white
- Mattress pads -- twin & full size
- Pillows
- Pillowcases -- white
- Pillow protectors
- Room deodorizers
- Twin-size Aero beds
- Velour or fleece blankets (cream colored -- twin)

For families' entertainment needs: 

- Family-oriented DVDs (no VHS please!), Foosballs, pool cues & balls Xbox 360 video games (E-rated) and controllers

For the bathrooms: 

- Anti-bacteria liquid hand soap
- Disposable vinyl gloves
- Kleenex
- Purell hand sanitizer
- Room deodorizers
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Toilet brush with holder
- Toilet paper

Miscellaneous: 

- Combs & brushes
- Shark bagless vacuums
- Journals
- Manicure sets
- Phone cards
- Q-tips
- Sanitary napkins
- Target gift cards
- *Travel-size toiletries including shampoo, deodorant, razors and shaving cream, toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Umbrellas



Items with an asterisk () indicate the most needed items.

A message from Michele Ward: You are wonderful!



It is with a bit of a heavy heart that I say that I will be leaving my position as Office Administrator at Peoples Presbyterian Church. I am taking advantage of a great opportunity and going to a commercial real estate company.

You have all been so kind, thoughtful, appreciative and most of all inspiring to me. Although I am leaving my position, I will continue to assist with the church's financial software as long as needed, so I will see you if not when I am in the office, then maybe when I attend church from time to time! I sincerely thank you all for your encouragement and well wishes! You are all wonderful people!



Session Highlights: May 2016

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session



Buildings and Grounds:

- Painting of the outside wood and metal portions of the church building has been completed.
- Skip Lawver was appointed as Chair of Buildings and Grounds, pending his election as a Ruling Elder at the next congregational meeting. Skip was ordained an Elder in 1981.
- Buildings and Grounds members have done a “manse tour” to determine what work needs to be done prior to the next full time occupancy. Rev. Griffith will occasionally stay overnight at the manse when late meetings or early services make the drive to Southfield impractical.

Fellowship: On May 21, the Merry Makers will go to dinner at Red Lobster in Ann Arbor. On June 11, church family and friends will go to the Toledo Zoo. There were not enough sign-ups to rent a bus. The next Merry Makers event will be on Saturday, October 15.

Mission: The date of August 28 was chosen as the day to attend Mercy House and take dinner for the homeless.

Worship and Music: The new red Paraments were unwrapped, and the committee was very impressed with the creative workmanship by designer Jeff Wunrow.

Women's Group: A total of 116 hats have been delivered to St. Joe's Oncology Unit so far this year.

Date change: The date of the June Stated Session meeting was changed to June 22, 2016.

RULING ELDERS 2016-2017 - *UPDATE

- † ***Skip Lawver** - Buildings and Grounds
- † Carole London - Christian Education
- † Charles Pratt - Fellowship
- † Sue Barney - Membership
- † Chad Lawver - Mission and Outreach
- † Steve Barney - Personnel
- † Doris Campbell - Stewardship, as well as the Sub-Committee of Stewardship, Memorials and Scholarships
- † Helen Barnes - Worship and Music





June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Membership			1 7 pm Bookworms - Lounge	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Graduation Breakfast 10 am Worship, Communion, Graduation/ Youth Sunday	6	7	8	9 7 pm Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting - Lounge	10	11 9 am Family Makers goes to the Toledo Zoo - meet in the church parking lot
12 10 am Worship: Guest Pastor- Rev. Dr. Harold J. Ellens, C.E Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to the Clerk.	13 6 pm Handbell Potluck	14 7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting - Lounge	15	16 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project - Lounge	17	18
19 10 am Worship: Father's Day, C.E 11:15 am Deacons Meeting- Lounge Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for the July/August issue. Session Committee Packets are ready for pick-up.	20	21	22 6 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting - Lounge 7 pm Session Meeting - Lounge	23 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating	24	25
26 10 am Worship, C.E	27	28	29	30		



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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Thursdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



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