

The Church Mouse



Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



Volume 10 Issue 6

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



The Spirit, Intercession, and Songs

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

*Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.
(Romans 8:26) Sing Once, Pray Twice (St. Augustine)*

Hymnody (the composing, arranging and singing of hymns, usually in worship settings) is part of the tradition of the church. Whether it be plainsong, Gregorian Chants, putting Christian words to bawdy ballads (Wesley did a lot of this) all the way to Christian Rock and Roll and contemporary tunes of faith, praise services, and traditional offerings all use music that is intended to “stir the soul.”

I love hymns – the ones I know and appreciate just do something for me in a way I just cannot explain (especially true with Welsh tunes [my heritage]). The Welsh tune, “Cwm Rhondda” accompanies “God of Grace and God of Glory.”

*God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.*

Didn't many of us in Sunday School sing,

*I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

George Beverly Shea never will be forgotten when we remember him singing,

*O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder Consider all The world Thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow'r throughout The universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

Are there hymns in the hymnal that especially move you? Are they part of the Spirit interceding with sighs too deep for words? Just let me know, and we will use them.

Special points of interest:

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- > Celebrating Member Success, Pg. 5
- > Seeking Acolytes, Pg. 8

Collect, Save and Bring to Church

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

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It's Time for a Rummage Sale!



WHO: PPC members, friends and family

WHAT: Rummage Sale

WHEN: Friday and Saturday, October 7 and 8, from 8 am to 2 pm

WHERE: PPC Fellowship Hall

WHY: Because it will be fun, and you can sell some of your treasures to others so they can enjoy them too.

We will "rent" tables, and a portion of the proceeds will be used to cover the cost of the church rental fee. Remaining money from table rentals will be donated to the Milan Senior Center. The money you make from the sale of your treasures is yours to keep. You can put items under your table. However, be aware there isn't a lot of space for very large items, so you may want to rent an additional table space if you have large items.

Costs:

**8 foot tables - \$10, 6 foot tables - \$8, and 5 foot round tables - \$5.
Diane will accept your "rent," and you will be able to choose your table from whatever is available at the time you reserve your space.
There will be no refunds.**



When we did this several years ago we had a great response from the community, with lots of foot traffic.

Set-up is Thursday, October 6, starting at 3:00 pm. You are responsible for bringing your items to the Fellowship Hall, getting your table ready for display (just like a garage sale at your home). You are also responsible for staying with your table to make sales - you can't just leave things at the church. If anyone wants to volunteer to sell items for others, please send an email to the Yahoo group notifying all of your willingness to volunteer, and then if anyone would like your assistance, they can contact you to make that agreement on an individual basis. Items not sold must be removed from the church on Saturday afternoon after the sale.

We already have several tables reserved. Please respond to Diane by email at fdl128@att.net if you want to reserve a table.

Questions may be directed to Diane, Jim or Joan Cullip, Nan Cranson or Jo Lawver.

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PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Peacemaking Offering 2016

Dear Friends,

Join us on **October 2, 2016** as we celebrate **World Communion Sunday** and receive the **Peacemaking Offering**. That day we will receive and dedicate the Peacemaking Offering to support the efforts of our congregation (25%), presbytery/synod (25%), and Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (50%) to spread the peace of Christ and to give hope in the midst of challenge and conflict.

The Peacemaking Offering encourages each congregation to find ways to promote peace within the congregation and within the community. **Our church will retain twenty-five percent of the offering, to be used locally for peace making activities.** Peoples Presbyterian Church will use part of the 25 percent to send to Safe House to help victims of abuse. Let us be faithful in our work for God's peace in our community and in the world. ***Checks may be made payable to Peoples Presbyterian Church with PEACEMAKING OFFERING written on the memo line.***

Thank you for your continued support,

The PPC Mission Committee

Session Highlights: August 2016

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session



A Called Congregational Meeting will follow worship on Sunday, August 28. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) (pastor search committee), and to elect Skip Lawver as a Ruling Elder to fill a Session vacancy.



News Flash! At the Congregational Meeting on August 28, Skip Lawver was elected as a Ruling Elder, and the **newly elected PNC** includes: Steve Barney, Doris Ann Campbell, Jackie Freeman, Mary Huber, Bill Kolasa, Brian LaFuente, and Chris Wetzler.

Personnel: Laura Kirchoff has been hired as the new Office Administrator. Her first day was Monday, August 15. Welcome Laura!

Mission: Thirty youth and eight adults from the Susquehanna Valley and Utica Presbyteries in New York stayed at PPC overnight on their way to Triennium at Purdue University. Thanks to Chad Lawver for coordinating their stay.

Vacation Bible School: Cow-a-Bunga Farms Vacation Bible School was a smashing success. There were 77 youth total, which is 25% more than last year and 62% more than 2013!! Forty children had perfect attendance. Last year 10 different churches were represented besides Peoples, this year we had 15. (see C.E. report elsewhere in the Church Mouse.)

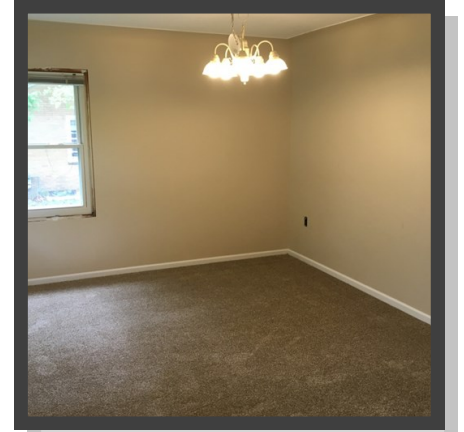
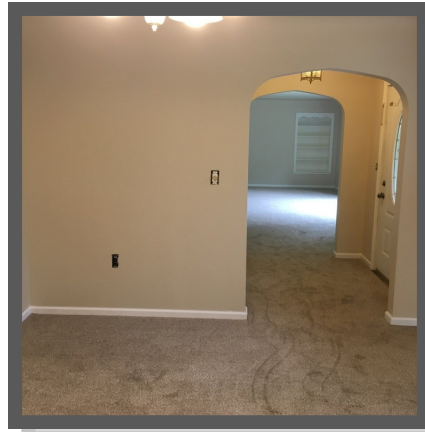
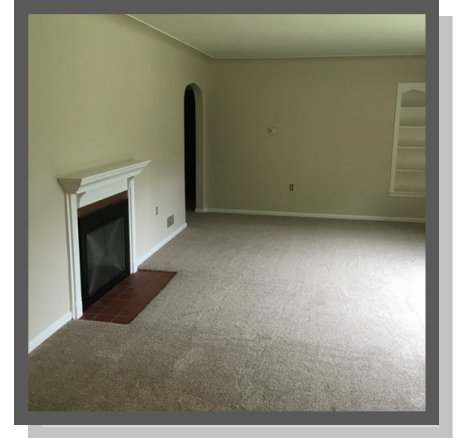
Merry Makers: A Merry Makers dinner at Red Lobster is planned for October 15, 6:00 p.m. Dinners will be planned for every other month except for December, when there will be a Christmas dinner and party at the church.

Buildings and Grounds: A Manse Update

By Steve Barney, Building and Grounds Committee Member

As many of you know, the manse is not currently occupied while we search for a new full-time called pastor. Therefore, a committee was formed to look at the needs of the manse. That committee has recommended completing some improvements to the interior, and Session approved their recommendations. Specifically: new carpet, fresh paint, and new kitchen flooring and counter top.

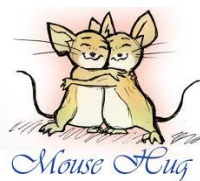
These improvements have come along nicely. The painting has been completed in the bedrooms and living room. The old knotty pine paneling in the dining room has been removed, the room dry-walled and painted. The new carpeting was installed on August 15.



Next up will be the flooring and counter top in the kitchen. Before we do these items however, we are also investigating the possibility of replacing the kitchen cabinets. A number of them are in need of repair (we believe they are the original cabinets from when the house was built in the 40's), and the cost to repair and reface them is much higher than replacing them. We have received a great price on cabinets from Cabinets to Go, and members of the committee have volunteered to do the installation.

Before we proceed with any other projects at the manse though, we want to make sure the repairs/improvements identified from our building campaign are funded. Only if we have the funds to do so, will we proceed with these other improvements to the manse.

We want to give a special thank you to the people who volunteered to work on this project. Jim and Joan Cullip, Bob Elliot, Sue and Steve Barney, and especially Skip Lawver who has been spearheading the improvements!



Personnel Report: Welcome Laura Kirchoff

By Steve Barney, Personnel Committee Chair

The Personnel Committee is excited to announce that we have hired a new Administrative Assistant for the church. Laura Kirchoff will replace Michele Ward who left earlier in the summer for a new job. Laura comes to us with a wealth of experience from her previous jobs and volunteer work, and was highly recommended. The Personnel Committee really felt that she would be a great fit here at Peoples.

Laura has already started the training process on Monday, August 15, and will maintain office hours of 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

If you get a chance, please stop by the church office to welcome Laura to Peoples Presbyterian, and offer your assistance as she makes the transition to her new responsibilities.

In a related note, we all need to say a big thank you to Nancy Kuzniar, who has filled in as the Administrative Assistant since Michele left. She has done a wonderful job in keeping things running smoothly in the church office and making sure all of those responsibilities have been covered. In addition, Nancy (along with Michele) will be participating in Laura's training. Thank You Nancy!



CELEBRATING MEMBER SUCCESSES!



Milan went 7-0 in duals, won the Huron League and Airport Relays, took second in Regionals and tied for 18th at State. For an outstanding season, coach Chad Lawver was named the Boys Track Coach of the Year! Congratulations Chad!



Let's all keep Lauren Rae in our prayers as she begins her studies at Monroe Community College.

Victoria Heeringa was named Novice Overall Champion at the National Baton Competition!!!



Vacation Bible School 2016 a total success!

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

There were 77 different country folk rambling around the church at the Cow-a-Bunga Farms VBS in July! That is 25% more children than last year and 62% more than 2013! Forty of those youth had perfect attendance, and all were well behaved and very enthusiastic!

In 2015, we had 10 different churches besides Peoples participate in VBS, this year we had 15! So religious harmony is possible - just leave it up to the kids!!

Through many hours of planning and organizing, Peoples provided a stellar week of wonderful songs and lessons, crafts, snacks, and recreation! Thanks to all those who spent their spring and summer deep in "VBS world".



Our Mission Project was the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor. Every \$10 donation pays for a one-night stay for a family at the House. As a promotion, we also received one pair of red and white striped socks for each \$10 donated. We were able to collect \$400 on our own in our nightly offerings, and one single donation of \$300 brought our grand total donation to \$700 - largest EVER!! That will cover the cost of 70 families to stay at the Ronald McDonald House for one night - amazing!!



The children also brought in paper supplies for the Ronald McDonald House kitchen which were given a \$200 value when delivered by Rachel Flint. Check out the VBS picture of the 60 kids and adults all decked out in their red and white striped Ronald McDonald socks!!

On Friday, at our Grande Finale, we were lucky enough to receive two special donations enabling us to enjoy the Barnyard Buddies Petting Zoo in the manse backyard. See the poster in the Narthex of all the events of VBS!



Thank you!

A big thank you to all the patient teachers and assistants who had record high attendance. We also want to say thank you to the Deacons in the kitchen, to everyone for the donation of food items, for help with worship, songs, crafts and recreation, for the registration assistants, office assistance and publicity, and to the people who mowed the manse yard. Thank you also goes to all the Christian Education Committee, and to all for your many prayers for the success of the activities of the week!! It takes a whole church to have a successful VBS, and we did!

Christian Education Report: Coming up....

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

Don't miss the Fall C.E. Kick-off on Sunday, September 11! There will be the annual blessing of the back packs for kids and adults alike. Kids, be sure to bring your back pack or lunch container to church, and carry it with you for the Children's Message. For the adults, we're asking if you carry a briefcase or book bag of any kind to work, join in and bring it to church that Sunday. Your item will be placed up at the front to be blessed by Pastor Dick, along with the children's. Then enjoy a wonderful year ahead.

Every child will also be given a "Back-to-School Survival Kit" to assist them in having a great start to the school year. It will be chock full of useful and fun items, all with a special purpose. Come join us on September 11 and get your Survival Kit, along with a nylon back pack to carry it in.

Our Fall Outreach Project will be collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly for Aid in Milan. What a staple peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are for many kids' school lunches! Both crunchy and smooth peanut butter are welcome, as well as peanut butter alternatives such as almond butter or cashew butter. Any flavor of store bought jelly will be great! Let's line the peanut butter and jelly jars along the window sills in the Sanctuary for Aid in Milan.



Many thanks goes out to all those who took a Sunday (or two) to teach the children in the Christian Education classes over the summer!! Summer teachers were: Joan Cullip (twice), Carol Volland, Lynn Bulmer, and Nancy Clarke and her daughter, Amanda Clarke. What a neat experience!!

Dates to Remember:

December 9 - Christmas Pageant Practice and Church-wide Christmas Party, dinner provided.

December 11 - Christmas Pageant directly after worship service .

January 8 - Birthday Party for Baby Jesus on Epiphany Sunday, complete with a special birthday cake.



Volunteers and Fun Party People Needed!

Halloween Night, Monday, October 31, 6pm to 8 pm



Enjoy an evening with the community as they stop by the church lawn for a warm drink and a cookie under a canopy! Last Halloween was a huge success!! The volunteers gave out many gallons of warm cider, hot coffee, and dozens of cookies to our neighbors! Adults and children really appreciated the invitation to have a cookie and some cider in the midst of their Trick or Treating evening. We have people who are willing to do the shopping for the event. **Anyone interested in being our hosts and hostesses to the people of our community for the evening?** Costumes are optional, smiles and welcoming personalities are preferred. Let Carole London know if you have questions, or if you would like to be involved in this fun activity.

Church-wide Christmas Party Friday, December 9, 6 pm to?

Each year, there is a wonderful turn out for this family styled Christmas Party! Our whole church family is invited, and there are activities for all. There will be a casual dinner provided, games for the kids, crafts for everyone, a movie with popcorn in the lounge, card games, Christmas music and a lot of holiday spirit everywhere. **We would like to create a committee of fun party people who would enjoy putting this special evening together. New ideas are always welcome!!** Let Carole London know if you have questions, ideas, or would like to be a part of this exciting committee.



Worship and Music Committee seeking Acolytes!

By Helen Barnes, Worship and Music Committee Chair

Christian Education children from grade 3 and up are invited to volunteer as an Acolyte. Being an Acolyte is an honor, and their role is a special part of our Worship Service at Peoples Presbyterian Church. "It is the duty of the Acolytes to carry the candlesticks to light the lamps of the church."

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Christian Education room for all those children interested.



School Success

By Dr. Charles Fay, Love and Logic Institute (article provided by Carole London)

Do you want your children to be the ones who easily give up when assignments get difficult... or do you hope they'll have the confidence and grit required to keep going when the going gets tough?

What's going to best prepare them for tomorrow's extremely competitive workforce? Will it be high grades because they only took the easier classes... or will it be somewhat lower grades earned by finishing a more challenging course of study?

What's most important: stellar grades or solid perseverance and skills?

As this school year begins, let's give our kids the gift of seeing that satisfaction and growth come from facing challenges.

- Focus on the strain rather than the brains. Instead of praising, "You are so bright," notice their successes and ask, "How did you do that?"
- Help them blame their success on effort and perseverance. Most kids will respond to "How did you do that?" with "I don't know." When this happens, ask a question: "Did you work hard or did you keep trying?" Both options embedded in this question point directly to strains not brains.
- Avoid placing them on a pedestal. Capable kids often get so much positive feedback about their successes that they begin to fear taking risks. It's as if they think, "If I try something challenging, I might not live up to what everybody thinks about me. I'd better take the easier route."
- Show them that failure is not final...it's informative. Many children develop a perfectionistic orientation by watching their rather perfectionistic parents. I've been guilty of this. Sadly, doing so leaves many kids fearful of taking healthy academic risks.
- Give your kids...and yourself...a gift. Do your best to laugh about your blunders, while allowing your children to hear you say, "I sure learned a lot from that!"
- Love them unconditionally. When our kids know that we love them...not what they do...they feel safe to make the mistakes required to become truly exceptional people.



Thanks for reading! Our goal is to help as many families as possible. If this is a benefit, forward it to a friend.



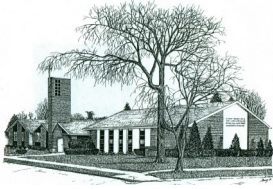


September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Personnel				1	2	3
4 10 am Worship, Communion, No C.E.	5 Church Office will be closed <i>Labor Day</i>	6	7 7 pm Bookworms - Lounge	8 7 pm Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting - Lounge	9	10
11 10 am Worship, C.E . Kick-off Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to the Clerk.	12 7 - 9 pm Handbell practice	13 7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting - Lounge	14 9 am Bible Study Lounge	15 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project - Lounge	16	17
18 10 am Worship, C.E 11:15 am Deacons Meeting- Lounge Session Committee Packets are ready for pick-up.	19 7 - 9 pm Handbell practice	20	21 9 am Bible Study Lounge 6 pm C.E. Committee Meeting - Lounge 7 pm Session Meeting - Lounge	22	23	24
25 10 am Worship, C.E Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for the July/August issue.	26 7 - 9 pm Handbell practice	27 4 pm Stated Meeting of Presbytery - First Pres, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham	28 9 am Bible Study Lounge	29 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating	30	

Peoples Presbyterian Church

210 Smith Street, Milan, MI 48160



Temporary Supply Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Richard O. Griffith

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Web address: www.peoplespresbyterian.org

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.,



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