

The Church Mouse



Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



Volume 10 Issue 7

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



(RE?) Formation

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

One of the periodicals I have found helpful is "The Parish Paper," Which is available every month from the Presbytery. It was started many years ago by the late Lyle Schaller, one of the most gifted church consultants many of us have known. I have had the privilege of taking some continuing education classes from him. This ministry is continued by Cynthia Woolever, and the "Parish Paper" continues to offer insights to clergy and congregations alike.

The end of October marks Reformation Sunday, and, hopefully, by then our search for a permanent pastor will be well under way. It seems to me to be helpful to reflect on some of the insights of the most recent edition of "The Parish Paper." The complete issue is available in the office.

"Alan Roxburgh says churches daring to write their next chapter should ask the **best question**: 'What are the challenges we currently face for which we presently have no answer but must address if we are to live into God's future for us?'"

"Unless (we) ask the best question, the best answer has not been discovered yet. ..." "Have the courage to take this advice: 'Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.'"

If this is going to happen, certain suggestions were made to make this process more effective.

Tell stories. Every church creates a narrative about their creation, the best times, challenging episodes... These stories reveal something about core values ...

Identify a need, challenge, or passion. Effective idea implementation stems from what people already are talking about and focused on...Set realistic deadlines for getting things done.

Practical experience and skills count. Effective new idea implementation involves people with track records of getting things done. Leaders and members with practical experience in other settings can offer insights.

Look beneath the "what" to understand the "why." What are the underlying philosophy and core values behind effective efforts?

Don't look for the perfect plan. If what (we) want to (do) were easy, many churches already would be doing it. "Do it and fix it" is a better plan than waiting for the perfect plan.

We have a faithful future ahead of us. Let us, together, enjoy and implement the journey.

Sincerely,

-- Dick --

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- > Upcoming Events Pg 7

Collect, Save and Bring to Church

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

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A Multi-Family Rummage Sale will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Friday October 7 and Saturday October 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please come out to support this event and encourage your family and friends to stop in to find some treasures.

Contact Diane London fdl123@att.net if you have questions.



Peacemaking Offering 2016

By Chad Lawver, Missions Committee Chair

The Peacemaking offering will conclude on October 2. Part of the proceeds will be going to Safe House in Ann Arbor.



This Fall we will continue to help put together Thanksgiving baskets for Aid in Milan!



This Christmas we will be sponsoring a family or families for Aid in Milan.



Thank you for your continued support!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session

Pastor Nominating Committee At a congregational meeting on August 28, the following members were elected to the Pastor Nominating Committee: Steve Barney, Doris Campbell, Jackie Freeman, Bill Kolasa, Brian LaFuenta, Mary Huber, and Chris Wetzler. The purpose of the PNC is to search for a new Called Pastor for the church. A meeting date is being scheduled with The Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair (from Ann Arbor First Presbyterian), who is the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry liaison. Rev. Fair will work with the PNC throughout the process of the pastor search.

Halloween on the Corner PPC members will again serve hot cider, coffee, and cookies to trick-or-treaters on Halloween during Milan's trick-or-treat hours of 6:00-8:00 p.m. Skip Lawver has volunteered to coordinate this activity.

A church family Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 10. Time to be determined. Chuck Pratt will coordinate the dinner. Others will work on craft activities and games in the Fellowship Hall, and a movie and popcorn in the Lounge.

Building our Walls, and Buildings and Grounds

After much research and planning, the controls for the church's heating and cooling system will be converted from the current (old) pneumatic controls, to electronic controls. This should provide much better regulation of the church's heating and A/C needs. The work is expected to be done the last week in September, and the system will be shut down during the process.

Work on the Manse continues, and some of the areas are complete. In the dining room, the drywall is completed and painted; crown molding is finished and windows are trimmed out. The kitchen has been gutted, three levels of flooring removed, and new wood put down. New kitchen flooring is being priced. Cabinets are selected and will be ordered soon. Carpet has been installed in the living room, halls, and dining room.

Things that should be scheduled: A general fall clean-up and weed pulling event. Help cleaning out the crawl spaces under the manse. Sweeping out the garage at the manse.

Fellowship The date of the Merry Makers Dinner at Red Lobster has been changed back to October 8 at 6:00 p.m. A **church family Christmas Party** and dinner/potluck are being planned for Saturday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

Mission and Outreach The Peacemaking Offering will be collected and dedicated during worship on Sunday, October 2.

Stewardship (Doris Campbell) Consecration Sunday will be on November 13, with leadership provided by The Rev. Beth Downs. Several Session committees have already submitted their 2017 Budget requests to Steve Barney and Doris Ann. The rest of the committees should send their requests to both Doris and Steve as soon as possible.

Worship and Music Dan Fraser has resigned from the committee, as our meeting times conflict with his teaching schedule. The committee is looking for a new member or two.

Buildings and Grounds: Update from the Building

By Steve Barney, Building and Grounds Committee Member

We're happy to report that beginning Tuesday, September 26, Adrian Mechanical has started the conversion of the church's heating and cooling system controls from pneumatic to electrical. This was one of the larger updates that needed to be completed from our building drive. This needed to be done as the pneumatic type control system is obsolete, and very difficult and expensive to repair. There will be numerous advantages to the new system including some energy efficiency, no more noisy compressor running periodically (that was needed to keep pressure in the air lines that controlled the system), more/easier control over the temperature, and having a system that is more easily maintained. The cost of this conversion is about \$28,500. It should take less than a week to do the conversion.

Manse Update

We continue to make great progress in updating the manse. As you can see from the picture, the old kitchen has been torn out. When doing so, we did find some water damage that happened near the sink, and that has been repaired. In addition, a new sub floor has been laid, and a concrete board sub floor laid as well, so that we can ceramic tile the kitchen floor. We found that we could ceramic tile the floor for half the price of having vinyl flooring installed.



We have also taken delivery of the new kitchen cabinets. Again, we have saved a bunch of money on these cabinets by buying ones that need to be assembled before being installed. It cuts our price by over half, and these are very excellent quality cabinets to boot!

Of course, we're realizing these savings because of a dedicated crew of volunteers from the church doing the work for free!



We anticipate that the improvement will be complete, probably by the end of October. We will schedule an open house when complete, so you can see all of the work that has been done.

Stewardship Report: Financial Matters - Per Capita

By Doris Campbell, Stewardship Committee Chair

Every year the church sends to the Presbytery of Detroit its Per Capita apportionment. The apportionment is based on the number of members a church has in a specific year. The 2016 apportionment is based on the membership of 12/31/14. Our membership at that date was 112.

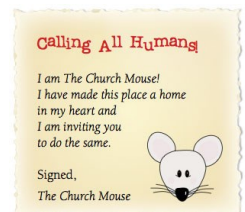


The amount that is paid per person is determined by the needs of the General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery. In 2016 the General Assembly needs \$7.12 per active member, the Synod of the Covenant \$3.25, and the Presbytery of Detroit \$14.67. Total amount paid per person is \$25.04. The total amount we pay then is \$2,804.48.

Why do we pay it? There are basic administrative costs at all three levels of the church. That means it helps cover the cost of governing body meetings, Moderator and Vice-Moderator expenses, Stated Clerk's Office, and general office operations. There is no other source for such funds than local congregations. So each governing body determines what they will need per person to cover these expenses for the year.

Peoples Presbyterian covers that expense through the pledges that we make each year. It also helps if a person writes a check for \$25.04, designating it to Per Capita.

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your continuing support of the work of the church. To date all is well and we will be in the black at the end of the year.



The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office Announces another Medication Take Back Event
on Saturday, October 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
in the Pioneer High School parking lot.

In 2014 and 2015, deaths related to opioid overdoses nearly doubled for Washtenaw County residents age 21 and under. Behind marijuana, prescription drugs are the second most abused substance among teens today. Many teens mistakenly view prescriptions as a medically safe way to get high. Prescription pain relievers, such as OxyContin and Vicodin, are the most commonly abused, and teens can get these easily from their homes. Help us keep our teens and children safe.

On Saturday, October 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Ann Arbor Police Department and the Division of Pain Research (UM, Department of Anesthesiology) are hosting a medication take back event in the Pioneer High School Parking Lot.

Find out more details at the following website

<https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/pain-research/events/201610/october-8-2016-pain-medication-take-back-event>

or Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/UMAnn-Arbor-Police-Pain-Medication-Take-Back-Program-1644440462497763/>

Questions? Contact Kristin Bennett 734-998-0455 or email krisbenn@med.umich.edu

Reminder: The Milan Police Department has a 24/7 drug disposal box in the lobby, right in front of the dispatcher. You can leave all medications including narcotics and other controlled substances. They can't accept liquids of any kind and those can be taken to the Saline Pharmacy on North Ann Arbor road (behind the carpet/flooring store).



Christian Education Report: A Great Beginning

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

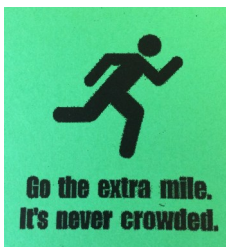
What an exciting Fall Kick Off we had! The Back to School Survival Kits were presented during the Children's Message, then everyone's backpacks were blessed by Pastor Dick. The Genesis Bells played their first song for the school year and sounded fantastic! Thanks, Monique! Ellen helped the kids create a special key chain for their school backpacks.



Seventy-eight jars of peanut butter and jelly have been brought in . . . and counting! What a wonderful response to our outreach project of a Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive for Aid in Milan. If you still have some jars for the collection, bring them in this Sunday. We certainly appreciate your very generous and quick response to this mission idea. In three Sundays we reached our goal of filling all the window sills in the sanctuary! Thanks congregation! Many Milan youth will be able to have a nutritious lunch or snack this school year.



One of our six windows filled with peanut butter and jelly.



Our current CE lesson is the story of "Going the Extra Mile," and we have heard a couple of stories from the Bible that are great examples of going beyond what is expected. We are all trying to find opportunities when we can go the extra mile for those around us. Many kids already do this in their daily activities. The kids will be presenting a challenge to the congregation to remind them to conscientiously go the extra mile whenever the opportunity presents itself. A card with the words "Go the extra mile. It's never crowded" on green paper for "go" will be handed out to all the kids, as well as the congregation, as a daily reminder.

October will bring an "eye-opening" lesson on how we are all very similar to a pumpkin! It will be presented on October 23 during the Children's Message - you won't want to miss it!



Kids, feel free to wear your non-scary Halloween costumes to church on Sunday, October 30. There will be a Halloween project for you to create during class.

Christian Education Continued

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair



Dates to Remember:

- October 23 - Pumpkin Gospel - just how are you like a pumpkin??
- October 30 - Wear your non-scary costume to church
- December 9 - Christmas Pageant Practice and Church-wide Christmas Party, dinner provided.
- December 10 - Christmas Pageant Practice
Church Wide Christmas Party following Practice
- December 11 - Christmas Pageant during worship service
- January 8 - Birthday Party for Baby Jesus on Epiphany Sunday, complete with a special birthday cake.

Pop tab collection - please bring in all your pop tabs in by Sunday, November 20, so we can take them over to the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we took 5 pounds, we have more than that already!



Plastic cap collection - we just doubled our previous total weight of 23 pounds, we now have over 43 pounds - that is 10% of our goal of 400 pounds to make a park bench . . . Thanks!



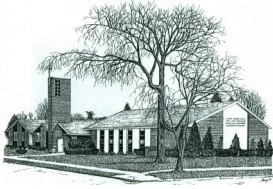


October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Stewardship						1 9 am PEO Lounge
2 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship, <u>World Communion, Sunday</u> C.E. Minute for Mission in Support of Peacemaking, Offering received and dedicated during Worship Green Tape Sunday	3 7 pm Handbells - Sanctuary	4	5 9 am Bible Study Lounge 7 pm Bookworms - Lounge	6 3 pm Set up for Rummage Sale FH	7 8 am - 2 pm Rummage Sale FH	8 8 am - 2 pm Rummage Sale FH Merry Makers Event: 6 pm Dinner Red Lobster
9 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship, C.E Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to the Clerk.	10 7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	11 7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting - Lounge	12 9 am Bible Study Lounge	13	14	15
16 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship, C.E 11:15 am Deacons Meeting- Lounge Session Committee Packets are ready for pick-up.	17 7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	18	19 9 am Bible Study Lounge 7 pm Session Lounge	20 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project Lounge	21	22
23 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship, C.E Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for the November issue.	24 7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	25	26 9 am Bible Study Lounge	27 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating	28	29
30 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship, C.E, Handbells <u>Reformation Sunday</u>	31 Halloween 6-8 pm Refreshments on Corner 7 pm Handbells Sanctuary					

Peoples Presbyterian Church

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