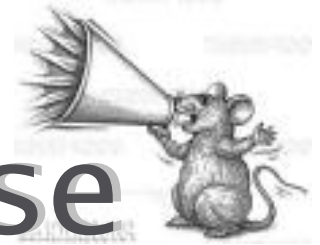


The Church Mouse



Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



Fall: Educational, Busy and hopefully Fun!

By Pastor Kelly Boubel Shriver

Special points of interest:

- Christian Education Kick-off details, September 7, Pg. 2
- Peacemaking Letter, Pg. 4
- Gun Free Church Zone, Pg. 5

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On Sunday nights, Enoch and I don our aprons and belly up to the kitchen counter for some good, wholesome baking. Enoch is a great help measuring flour, baking soda, raisins, and all the rest. He's tolerable when it comes to stirring-most of the ingredients stay in the bowl. And when it comes to sneaking licks off the spatula...well, I guess he comes by that honestly. Banana bread, oat cookies, pumpkin muffins, spider cake. Whatever it is, we know that by 9pm the house is going to smell wonderful, and we'll have a special treat for breakfast during the week. It's a great way to wind down our weekend and prepare for the week ahead. Quietly measuring, spooning, baking something to enjoy on those Monday mornings that arrive all too soon.

The last few weeks of August always feel, to me, like a Sunday night. Families are buying clothes, pencils, tissues, and lunchboxes-preparing for the first day of school. Kids are cramming in the end of the summer homework. People without school age children seem to be preparing for the coming fall, squeezing the last hopeful weeks of summer for all they're worth. Starbucks is even getting in on it, bringing back the Pumpkin Spice Latte in August. August! It's like we're all running around, getting things in place before Monday morning/September hits and we're off and running until Friday afternoon/Christmas break comes around.

At my desk, it's been no different. But, much like baking our weekly breakfast bread, the work has been fairly enjoyable and full of anticipation. When I measure out the pumpkin, ginger, nuts, and cloves, I can tell the bread is going to be dense, spicy, and delicious. As I sit at my desk

and look at the calendar, I know this fall is going to be educational, busy, and hopefully a lot of fun. Measured out, mixed together. Baked and ready for September to hit.

We have a great Adult Education class planned for Sundays after church. We'll be talking about how our life reflects our faith...being a Christian doesn't mean adding one more thing, it means being intentional in all the little ins and outs of your life. Our New Member Class will be a part of that Adult Education series. On Wednesdays, we'll be studying the goofy, often overlooked books of Ezra and Nehemiah. And the youth will be gathering together before church on Sundays for donuts and Sunday Morning Cartoons (no adults allowed!). Our Congregation will be serving the neighborhood on Halloween Night this year by putting on a Carnival in our parking lot. And we'll be working with our neighboring churches to raise food and funds for Aid in Milan, as well as promote a spirit of gratitude in Milan during the Thanksgiving season. We will be welcoming a new building campaign, a season of Stewardship, a co-church retreat with Tecumseh, a denominational conference, and I'm sure many, many potlucks!

On Sunday nights, the smell of cinnamon and allspice gives me hope for Monday morning, as tired and bleary eyed as I know I'll be. Just the same, I know our fall will be busy, and it's always hard to say goodbye to the slower pace of summer, but I can smell the good things in the air, and I can't wait to enjoy everything we've cooked up!

Christian Education: Kicks off Sunday, September 7

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

Don't miss the Christian Education (C.E.) Fall Kick-off on Sunday, September 7!! Check out all these great happenings:

First, if you could please, let's plan to wear our VBS cross t-shirts to our Sunday Kick-off! Rivet, this year's VBS Mascot, will be joining us too with a special message as we begin another school year.



Pastor Kelly is going to be leading the "Blessing of the Backpacks" during the children's message. So be sure to bring your back pack, book bag, or lunch box, and they will be brought forward during the children's message to be blessed for a safe, productive, and exciting school year. We also are asking teachers, administrators and all school staff to bring your school book bag for a blessing to start your school year off on a very positive note.

Our story on C.E. Kick-off Sunday will be David and Goliath. We will learn how a young boy trusted in the protection of God so much that he overcame the awful threats of a real giant. There are "giants" in all of our lives. We will find out how we can face those "giants" and successfully overcome them. One thing we will guarantee is that you will obtain such courage and confidence that you will walk out of the church 3 to 4 inches taller than when you walked in. Come see how this is possible!!



For some people though, just the daily needs become "giants" in their lives. With this in mind, our fall mission project will be to collect 80 baby wet-wipe packages, to be given to the youngest members of the Milan community. Everyone is invited to participate in this mission endeavor and bring in baby wet-wipe packages to help our neighbors. They will be collected during the children's message. Then we will put together a pyramid in the Fellowship Hall of all the packages of wet-wipes. Come watch the pyramid grow! The wipes will be donated to the Milan Food Bank at the Vineyard Church.



After worship, be sure to come to the Fellowship Hall. The Deacons will be hosting a Hot Dog Roast for everyone (see below), so make sure to grab your Sunday friends and join us!!



HOT DOGS

Best in Town!

The Deacons are organizing a Hot Dog Roast right after Worship on Sunday, September 7. Included will be chips, a drink and homemade cookies. Cost is by donation. (\$3.00 is suggested.)

Be sure to get your name on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall in advance. These sheets are used to get a count as we don't want to run out of food!!

See you September 7
for the Christian Education Kick-off,
and then come to the Fellowship Hall and have a hot dog!!

Stewardship: Estimates are in.

By Steve Barney, Stewardship Committee Chair



Stewardship would like to update you with regard to the church and manse building needs, and the anticipation of a Capital Building Pledge Campaign that we briefly wrote about in last month's issue of the *Church Mouse Newsletter*. At this point, estimates are in for the various needed repairs and updates for the church and the manse. As mentioned previously, these needs include:

- replace the roof for the main portion of the church
- repair/replace the pumps/motors for the boiler heating system
- paint the wood exterior surfaces of the church
- repair/update the nursery
- update the heating and cooling system controls from pneumatic to electrical
- waterproofing of the manse basement (and repair damage done by water leaks)
- repair of the manse garage

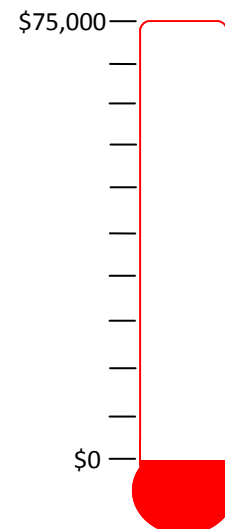


All of these items must be completed to maintain the usefulness and value of these facilities. In total, the costs for these repairs are over \$75,000. Some, like the replacement of the roof on the church and the repair/replacement of the pumps/motors for the boiler, need to be completed as soon as possible (before inclement weather and cold set in...we need to stay dry and have heat!).

The special committee that was formed to identify what needs to be done, estimate the cost of the items to be completed, and determine how to fund these items, presented the results of their study to Session this past week, and Session approved the following recommendation from the committee. A Capital Pledge Campaign will be conducted over a two year period, to raise \$75,000 to complete the items listed. In addition, it was recommended and approved that the repairs to the roof and pumps/motors commence as soon as possible, and funds be used from other accounts to pay for these two items. As monies come in from the Capital Campaign, those accounts will be repaid.

As discussed in our last article, we know these are difficult issues to deal with, and will require support from all of us. We also know that we need to invest now to secure the future of our church facilities, so that we can continue our mission for the members of our church family and the community we serve, and ensure that our descendants can continue God's work in Milan through Peoples Presbyterian.

We will be planning special communications to our church family on how this Capital Campaign will be conducted, and how you can help pledge support to raise the funds necessary for these repairs. In the meantime, we have already set up an account to accumulate monies given for the building needs, and thank those of you who have already begun to contribute.



PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Telephone: 734-439-1922



*Rev. Kelly Boubel Shriver
Pastor*

Peacemaking Offering 2014

Dear Friends,

Please join us on October 5, 2014 as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and receive the Peacemaking Offering. On 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 peacemaking activities. In the past, we have given to Milan High School for peacemaking/anti-bullying and self-esteem/acceptance activities, which was so appreciated. We have also contributed to Safe House in Ann Arbor. Funds have been used to aid our schools with drug/alcohol prevention education and to help sponsor peacemaking/self esteem workshops that helped youth accept differences and realize similarities in each of us.

PPC continues to look for ways to assist in these worthwhile projects in our community, and will be able to continue to do so with your support.

Let us be faithful in our work for God's peace in our community and in the world. Checks may be made out to Peoples Presbyterian Church with PEACEMAKING OFFERING written on the memo line.

Thank you for your continued support,



Thank you for your continued support of Mission!

By Sue Barney, Mission and Outreach Co-Chair

On July 29, the co-chairs of the Mission and Outreach Committee, Carol Vollink and Sue Barney, had the delightful opportunity to provide lunch for the Fundraising team of JettRide. Lunch was shared at the Nature Park, as the group of eight bicycled through Milan on their way to spend the evening in Bedford. The group raises funds and awareness for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy through an annually planned cycling trip. This year, the group of student bicyclists and their chaperons were traveling from Oregon to New Jersey, about 3500 miles, in eight weeks! At the time of our meeting, the group had raised \$27,600 to help fight Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. If you would like more information, you can visit their website at <http://jettride.jettfoundation.org/team/>

Our Mission and Outreach Committee is continuing to ask you to volunteer to help serve dinner, and create a dessert, for the Riverside Community Meal project for local homeless at First Presbyterian Church, Ypsilanti. If you would like to volunteer on the fourth Wednesday of the month, see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or contact Sue Barney. Thank you all for your continued generosity!



For it is in *giving*, that we receive.

- Francis of Assisi

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS from August 20, 2014



By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session

The August 20, 2014 Stated Session Meeting was held at the home of Sue and Steve Barney,

Presbytery: Doris Campbell was elected Commissioner to the August 26 Presbytery meeting. The meeting has been relocated to Ann Arbor First Presbyterian because of flooding in St. Clair Shores.

PPC Women's Group: The next Cancer Hats Project gathering will be on Thursday, September 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the church Lounge.

Major Building Repairs: The special committee formed to review needed repairs to church facilities, and how to fund them, has met and is in process of determining the scope of the repairs and the cost. It has already concluded that the best way (given the cost of the identified items to date) to fund the repairs/ updates is to have a capital building fund pledge campaign, to be conducted over a two year period. Some of the repairs will need to be completed before winter.

Gun Free Church Zone: A Gun Free Church Zone policy has been adopted. The policy states: "Individuals (other than active law-enforcement officers) are prohibited from (concealed or openly) carrying guns onto Peoples Presbyterian Church property."

Mission and Outreach:

*On July 29, Mission hosted a lunch at the Milan Nature Park for the JettRide fundraising group, who are riding bicycles from Oregon to New Jersey, raising funds and awareness for Duchene Muscular Dystrophy.

*PPC continues to send volunteers to the First Presbyterian Church in Ypsilanti on the 4th Wednesday of each month to serve meals to local homeless. Volunteers are still needed for August and September.

*On August 28, PPC will host a meeting of the Mission Cluster group. Mission will provide muffins and coffee for the 10:00 a.m. meeting.

*Mission is donating \$50 to the Milan Fire Department Prevention/Protection and Education program for elementary students.

Worship & Music: Storage areas behind the chancel, in the balcony and a section of the Fellowship Hall were sorted, cleared, cleaned, and reorganized on July 22. The 5th Sunday service on August 31 will have a heavy emphasis on music. Planning has begun for Advent/ Christmas. Hanging of the Greens service will be November 30, C.E. pageant following worship on December 14, Service of Lessons and Carols on December 28.

Christian Education: VBS attendance up!!

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

Our Vacation Bible School "Workshop of Wonders" had many wonderful activities throughout the week. We had an increase in attendance by 38% over last year. There were 37 young kids and 9 young adults who came to VBS. We were pleased to have over 30 different adults who were on hand to keep up with the 46 excited kids.

A new component in the curriculum this year was a science section. John Shriver was our "mad scientist" during the week, and Ruth Ann and Dan Fraser presented an amazing Magic Science Show at our Grand Finale at the end of the week.

This year the "mission was accomplished," as we collected \$266.70 to "raise the roof" for Mercy House in Ann Arbor. There were also over 80 bottles of body wash, shining like stained glass, on the window sills in the sanctuary. The bottles were delivered to the Milan Food Bank at the Vineyard Church.

The Christian Education Committee is very grateful to the entire congregation for their constant support, encouragement, promotion, and donations for our annual summer VBS. It takes a "whole congregation" to have a successful VBS, and we did!


Photos of Vacation Bible School! We can't do this without you!

Photo Credits: Sallie Bancroft, Michele Ward





September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Church Office will be closed.	2	3 7 pm Bookworms	4	5	6
7 9 am Choir Practice (resumes) 10 am Worship: Communion, C.E. Kickoff Hot Dog Roast during Fellowship, Everyone is welcome! Session Committee Monthly Reports due to Clerk. Personnel Committee Meeting during Fellowship.	8 6:45 pm T.O.P.S.	9 No Worship and Music Committee meeting this month.	10 9 am Bible Study (resumes)	11 6:15 pm Handbells Potluck, 7 pm Handbell Practice (resumes)	12	13
14 8:45 am Deacons Meeting 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: Guest Pastor- Rev. Lal Rodawla, Genesis Bells, C.E. Session Committee packets are ready for pick-up.	15 6:45 pm T.O.P.S.	16	17 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Session Meeting	18 1 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project 7 pm Handbell Practice	19	20
21 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons 10 am Worship, Minute for Peacemaking, C.E. 11 am Animate: Practices Class/ New Members Class Church Mouse newsletter Articles are due for October Issue.	22 6:45 pm T.O.P.S.	23	24 9 am Bible Study	25 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating 7 pm Handbell Practice	26	27
28 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons 10 am Worship, Handbells, C.E. 11 am Animate: Practices Class/ New Members Class	29 6:45 pm T.O.P.S.	30	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> September Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Deacons </div>			

Peoples Presbyterian Church

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