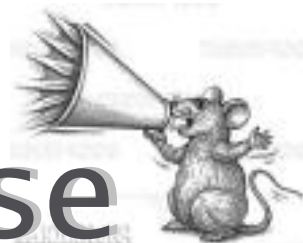


# The Church Mouse



Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



## Turning down the noise

By Pastor Kelly Boubel Shriver

### Special points of interest:

- One Great Hour of Sharing, Pg. 2
- Rose London Scholarship applications are due, Pg. 3
- Easter Worship Schedule, Pg. 4

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Last night I was sitting on the couch, folding laundry. I love folding laundry. There's something that feels very peaceful and meditative to me about taking an unruly pile of clothes and transforming them into neat, sorted, organized stacks. Normally when I fold laundry I like to turn on the TV and zone out for a bit. Folding, watching. But last night was a little different. For some reason, I left the TV off, and the house was very quiet.

A few minutes into my folding task, John popped up from behind his computer and asked me, "does it seem quiet in here to you?" And it was. Far more quiet than usual. The kids and the dog were asleep, the TV and radio were off, the furnace wasn't blowing, the water heater wasn't heating, and outside I couldn't hear cars passing or people walking, probably because it was late and cold. It was very quiet, in that way it seems to be only in the dead of winter, and it made me stop for a moment. I put down the socks in my hand and just paused. I took a moment to simply be silent in the midst of the silence.

Now, in a house with two young children, a dog, and all manner of noise making devices, silence is a difficult commodity to come by. In fact, I think it might be impossible during the hours my sons are awake. But there's something about silence, when I can find it, that I find calming. It seems to recharge that part of me that gets so worn down by children, chores, work, driving, cooking, talking, listening, and other kinds of noise in my life. It feels like silence gives me space to breathe, if even only for a minute or two.

And it made me wonder, is this what Lent is supposed to be in the midst of our Christian calendar? I know I've already made this point about Advent, and that's actually not a surprise. Advent and Lent are linked seasons. Traditionally, they're both purple. They're both seasons of fasting. They both provide space to prepare: for Christmas, the celebration of God coming into the world, a light in our darkness, and Easter, the celebration of God coming back, triumphing over death and despair. That moment of quiet on the couch, surrounded by warm piles of clean clothes, it reminded me of my need to pause in a greater sense. Not just two minutes on Sunday night, but 40 days of intentionally quieting the noise of my life, the noise in my head, the noise in my soul.

**And so I would invite you to join me in these next few weeks of Lent as I look for ways of turning down the noise and distraction around me, to find moments of quiet and peace.**

It's not always easy to see, and in such a busy, loud, distracting world, it takes work and intentionality to see it. But I think that if we have enough intention to look for pockets of quiet and peace, we'll start to see them around us. A book I read called them "the fringe hours." Those bits and pieces of time we generally run right past, but they're there for the taking. A minute of silence. A moment of peace. A pause to take a deep breath. A season to quiet our hearts and minds as we contemplate the radical hope of our God who conquers death with life.



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through **One Great Hour of Sharing** to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world.

**THE NEED IS GREAT  
AND SO IS OUR CALLING.**

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.

**March 1...Fish Banks** will be **given out**

**March 29...Palm Sunday**..special collection/dedication of the **Fish Banks and OGHS offerings**. OGHS envelopes are available in the pews or you may just write OGHS on the check memo line. Thank you for your continuous generous support over the years.

During March, you will hear Cindi Thompson, Jo Lawver, Pastor Kelly Shriver, and Carol Vollink share OGHS Minute for Mission information.

2015 OGHS theme is FAITH ENDURES. "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts." Romans 5:5

**"I WAS HUNGRY  
AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD"**

*The Bible*  
-Matthew 25:35



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### THREE WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10



[presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs](http://presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs)



PRESBYTERIAN  
MISSION  
AGENCY

# Stewardship Report: Focusing on devotion

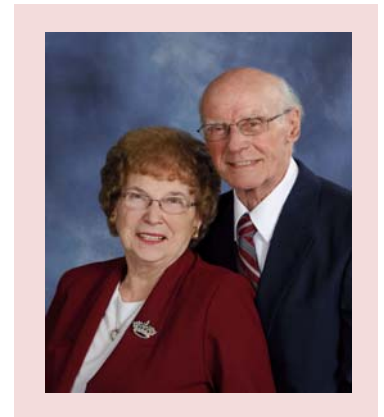
By Steve Barney, Stewardship Committee Chair

For some of our articles in the Church Mouse Newsletters this year, Stewardship would like to focus on the time and talent that members devote to our church's ministry and mission. Certainly pledge dollars are an integral part of Stewardship. But just as important, is the dedication of time and talent that is so vital to the success of our church.

From serving on committees, volunteering on mission projects, working during the Fellowship Hour, being a Deacon or an Elder, working on improvement and maintenance items in our facilities, to ensuring that the church is locked and safe each night, we have so many people who are dedicated to Peoples and serve faithfully in so many different ways.

So for this article and our first month, we would like to recognize long standing members of Peoples Presbyterian, Jack & Mary Ann (Nan) Cranson, for their years of dedicated service to the church. Here are just a few of the ways they have devoted their time and expertise to Peoples:

Both have served faithfully as Elders and/or Deacons for years, helping to direct and guide the church in its operation and service to members. They often provide for the Fellowship Hour, and many times assist the other committees responsible for it during any given month. They have provided food and support frequently for memorial dinners, or other dinners and parties, held at the church. Both have done numerous updates, and coordination of projects, as part of buildings and grounds (especially Jack as Session Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for so many years). And finally, they have faithfully provided assistance (like rides to church) for our church family members. Thank you both for your kindness, attention and service to the people and the church as a whole. We are all truly blessed to have you with us.



Jack & Mary Ann Cranson

If there is anyone whom you would like to see Stewardship recognize for the time and talent that they give, or have given, to Peoples Presbyterian, please do not hesitate to send an email to [spbarney@comcast.net](mailto:spbarney@comcast.net) or see me at church.



## Scholarship Reminder...

By Doris Ann Campbell, Chair, Stewardship sub-committee: Memorials and Scholarships



Applications for the Rose London Memorial Scholarship are now available in the church office. High School seniors graduating in the year 2015 and attending college or trade schools in the fall of the same year are eligible. Seniors must be active members at Peoples Presbyterian Church. Those interested in obtaining complete guidelines for this scholarship may request a copy from Michele Ward in the church office.

**Deadline for submission of the application is the end of this month, March 31.**

Please include a current photograph that will be suitable for publication and your Social Security Number (required by law for disbursement of the money). The student must also provide the name of the institution, the date the scholarship award is due at the college, and the address where it needs to be delivered. The scholarship award cannot be completed without this information. Applications submitted after March 31 will not be considered.

# Invite a Friend to Church for Easter – Probably Not

By Lauren Porter, [laurenporter.wordpress.com](http://laurenporter.wordpress.com)

Are you planning on inviting an unchurched friend to worship this Easter? You may be in the minority according to a recent article from the Christian Post.

According to David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group, a recent survey revealed that less than a third (31%) of Christians were planning on inviting a friend who doesn't normally go to church to attend Easter worship with them this year.

While the results of this survey probably shouldn't be surprising, it is all the same rather discouraging. Perhaps this is why so many of our denominations, not to mention our local churches, are slowly declining year by year. Somehow, we seem to have lost our will to evangelize.

It's not that we don't want unchurched people to come to church. We do. If asked, most of us will say we are for it. But, we don't want to be the ones to do it. We don't actually want to ask someone to come to church with us. We're afraid to invite someone to church. Which likely means we're also afraid to share our faith and tell them about Jesus.

That's problematic considering that surveys regularly report that somewhere between 80% and 90% of all new Christians first came to church because they were personally invited by a friend or relative.

To put that in perspective, advertising such as direct mail regularly accounts for less than 2% of all new people. A pastor's invitation is around 6%. Evangelism programs like the Alpha Project weigh in at about 6% as well.

All of which means that the personal invitation of a friend or family member is the single most effective way of getting someone to come to church, let alone introducing them to the Christian faith.

Sadly, only a third of all Christians feel up to doing that. The rest seem willing to leave it to the pastor or a direct mail advertising blitz.

If we're going to be the church God has called us to be, we're going to have to get over our fears and invite our friends and family to church, for Easter or any other Sunday. Even if we don't invite them to church, we need to find the courage to tell them about Jesus.

So, that said, who are you inviting to church this week?



## Easter Worship Schedule:

<b>Sunday, March 29</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship: Palm Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received and dedicated.</b>
<b>Thursday, April 2</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	Soup Supper by the Deacons of PPC
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Worship: Maundy Thursday, Communion</b>
<b>Friday, April 3</b>	<b>Time to be determined</b>	<b>Community Good Friday Worship Service, Place: Milan Free Methodist Church, 950 E. Arkona Road</b>
<b>Sunday, April 5</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	Easter Sunrise Breakfast and Christian Education Annual Easter Egg Hunt
	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship: Resurrection of the Lord/Easter</b>





# Christian Education Report: Here is a look at what we're doing. Come join us!

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

A new opportunity arose for the children in Christian Education (C.E.) for Valentine's Day. The Family Radio Station organized a project called, "Valentines for Kids . . . By Kids." The children made valentines to be distributed to children in area hospitals. Some of these kids are very sick or enduring painful treatments. Our kids were very excited to participate in this heartwarming project. We sent fifteen Valentine's cards made by Peoples Presbyterian preschoolers through high school kids.



The Lenten Season is upon us, and C.E. is off and running! Every child received a purple copy of the Family Lenten Calendar, with many great and easy ideas for every day of the six weeks of Lent. Two King's cakes were made in honor of Mardi Gras and served during Fellowship Hour on February 15. Carol Vollink amazed the children in class with a Magic Cross which is their Ticket to Heaven. Ask one of the children to show you how to make a magic cross, you will be amazed, too!



The Widow's Mite (coin) will be enjoyed in play fashion as the kids get into costume and act out the Lenten story. They will learn the valuable lesson that any gift, given in the true spirit of love and sacrifice, is greatly appreciated by God. Then we will be teaching the symbolism of the pretzel. The children will make their own pretzels and serve them at Fellowship Hour. Ask them what the shape of the pretzel has to do with Lent. They will be hitting the Bible in order to solve a Holy Week Game as they follow all the events through the scriptures. Everyone gets to create their own Last Supper picture, fashioned after Leonardo Da Vinci's painting. They even get to decide which disciples are sitting where in the picture. Do you know why there are twelve disciples?? Who replaced Judas after his death?? Ask a child.



On Palm Sunday, March 29, the Last Supper will be re-enacted in the Youth Room right after the worship so Pastor Kelly can join us. The children will make all the preparations, baking the Hebrew Fry Bread, pouring the juice and setting the table.

After the Lenten Season, we will learn about Doubting Thomas and the questions that he had for Jesus.

I would like to proudly announce the addition of two new Christian Education Committee members - Jackie Freeman and Michelle LaFuente. Welcome ladies, we are so excited to have you join us!!

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at approximately 9:15 am on Easter Sunday, April 5. We will meet in the Youth Room to hand out the bags and instructions.



Mark your calendars - Vacation Bible School will be July 12-17, 2015.  
Details yet to come! See you all there!!



# 5-Year Time Capsule 2015-2020: Don't forget

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

Don't forget to fill out your 5-Year Time Capsule 2015-2020 and put it in the gold Time Capsule box. Adults and kids are welcome to participate - questionnaires for the youth were copied on yellow-colored paper and the apricot questionnaires are for the adults. It is a good way to set goals for yourself, think about your current situation and how it will differ in five years. Also, there are some thoughts and predictions for the life of Peoples Presbyterian. Join in on the anticipation as life goes on until 2020!



Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us in this futuristic project.



## Come Worship with US!



## Buildings and Grounds Report


By Jack Cranson, Buildings and Grounds Committee



- † The wallpaper in the lounge, which was damaged due to a leak, has been replaced. Fantastic job by Steve & Sue Barney! Thank you both!
- † Sidewalks have been cleared of snow as needed. Thanks Rod Cranson and Jim Cullip.
- † A company called Home Spec has completed waterproofing the Manse basement. The walls were then painted by Steve Barney and Jack Cranson. Thank you all!
- † Burned out light bulbs continue to be changed.
- † The cordless microphone, used by the Pastor during worship services, has now been repaired. Thank you Richard Brown!



# March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons <b>10 am Worship: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent, Communion, C.E., OGHs Fish Banks will be handed out by youth.</b> Session Committee Packets are ready for pick-up.	<b>2</b>  7pm Handbell Practice	<b>3</b>  7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	<b>4</b> 9 am Bible Study  7pm Bookworms 7 pm Session Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons <b>10 am Worship: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent, Genesis Bells, C.E.</b>  <div style="background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 am March 8.</b> </div>	<b>9</b>  7pm Handbell Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9 am Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:45 am Milan and Area Chamber of Commerce Breakfast at the Milan Senior Center - PPC is sponsoring Breakfast	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 am Deacons Meeting 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons <b>10 am Worship: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, C.E.</b>	<b>16</b>  7pm Handbell Practice	<b>17</b> <div style="color: red; transform: rotate(-45deg); font-weight: bold;">             St. Patrick's Day           </div>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  1-3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9 am Stated Meeting of Presbytery at First Presbyterian Church, 205 E. Lake, South Lyon, MI 48178
<b>22</b> 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons <b>10 am Worship: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, C.E.</b> Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for the March Issue.	<b>23</b>  7pm Handbell Practice	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9 am Bible Study	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Sunday Morning Cartoons <b>10 am Worship: Palm Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing offering received and dedicated, re-enactment of the Last Supper during C.E.</b>	<b>30</b>  7pm Handbell Practice	<b>31</b>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <b>March Fellowship Hour</b>              is hosted by:  <b>Worship and Music</b>  </div>			

# Peoples Presbyterian Church

210 Smith Street, Milan, MI 48160



*The Reverend Kelly Boubel Shriver, Pastor*

Phone: (734) 439-1922

Email: [ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org](mailto:ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org)

Web address: [www.peoplespresbyterian.org](http://www.peoplespresbyterian.org)

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon. to Wed. 8am - 4pm

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9 am - 1pm; Thurs. 9am - 4pm



Newsletter Editorial Staff

Nan & Jack Cranson, Nancy Kuzniar, Gordon & Judy Parker, Michele Ward

Place  
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Here

Peoples Presbyterian Church  
210 Smith Street  
Milan, MI 48160