

The Church Mouse



Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, MI



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

Volume 9 Issue 8



Coming this Fall!

By Rev. Kelly Boubel Shriver, Pastor

I love a good short story. I still remember studying the “short story” genre in Freshman English back in high school. We started with the story “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell, a story of a slightly insane, wealthy hunter who is tired of all the big, African game he’s spent his life hunting. He wants a bigger challenge, a new game, the most dangerous game...hunting humans! It’s a dark, twisty little story, and it clearly captured my 14-year-old brain, as I still remember the story to this day. But even more than this individual story, I’ve learned over the years to love the brilliance of telling a story well in a concise manner.

I enjoy a good 15-minute radio spot on *This American Life*, and I give thanks for a well-written children’s book. I would rather watch a compelling television show than a movie, and I have several volumes of essays and short stories littering my bookshelves at home. In my own way, I think preaching is my own stumbling attempt at this short-form genre. Say one thing, say it well. I don’t always hit my target, but thankfully Sunday comes once a week, so I can always try again. I think the “short form” has more potential to stick with us, in part because it asks us to remember just one thing.

In the Bible, it turns out Jesus is something of a fan of this short story form, as well. From the words and stories the writers recorded, we know Jesus loved a good parable, they were his own sort of “short stories.” Little fables told to make a point. Over this fall, we’re going to be reading through some of the short stories of Jesus, sifting and shaking and panning for hints of what his own little stories have to say to us today. I hope you’ll enjoy it as much as I do. The parables are surprising short stories, but there’s one thing along the way I can promise: there’s no human hunting in Jesus’ short stories...much to Richard Connell’s disappointment, I am sure!

par·a·ble

/ˈperəb(ə)/

noun

a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.



Special points of interest:

- > Pentecost Offering, a thank you from Milan High School, Pg. 2
- > PPC Women’s Group Brunch details, Pg. 3
- > Thanksgiving Baskets will be donated to Aid in Milan, Pg. 4
- > Call for Volunteers, Pg. 5
- > Merry Makers event details, Pg. 6

Collect, Save and Bring to Church

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

Inside this issue:

Stewardship Report	2
Mission and Outreach Report	4 & 5
Christian Education Report	7
October Calendar	8
November Calendar	9

Stewardship Report: “Rebuilding our Walls” Campaign 2016

By Steve Barney, Stewardship Committee Chair

Between now and Sunday, October 4, Stewardship will be focused on fundraising for our second year pledge drive for the “Rebuilding our Walls” campaign. Thank you for your generous gifts that have allowed the completion of many repairs around the church building and the manse. Your much-needed donations to this campaign in the second year (2016), will be used to complete the important remaining items on the list. Those items include: Paint the wood exterior surfaces of the church, update the heating and cooling system controls from pneumatic to electrical, and re-side the manse garage. We still need approximately \$25,000 to be pledged through 2016. If you are already giving to this campaign through 2016, we thank you for your generous support!

In addition, on Sunday, October 4, we are asking for members and friends to volunteer to work on a number of items around the church after the worship service – this will be a way to help with the church building needs beyond a monetary pledge. Lunch will be provided. We will eat first, then get to work!

The work will include things like a general grounds clean up, painting the Youth room, painting the manse deck railing, among other projects. So be sure to wear your work clothes to the Sunday, October 4 worship service.

Again, we cannot say it enough, thank you for your generous support of Peoples Presbyterian. Please prayerfully consider what you might be able to pledge to the final year of the “Rebuilding our Walls” campaign by Sunday, October 4. And remember to plan to stay that Sunday after the service to have lunch and help out working around the church.



Please prayerfully consider what you might be able to pledge on Sunday, October 4.



Pentecost Offering Update:



Milan High School says Thank you!

By Carol Vollink, Mission and Outreach Committee Co-Chair

The Pentecost Offering, which was collected back in June, amounted to \$542. The Mission and Outreach Committee sent \$326 to Presbytery and sent \$216 to the Milan High School Peer-to-Peer/Lifesavers program. A thank you note from Milan High School's Kathy Falkner read:



“Your ‘team’ and the work that you do is a blessing to US!! Thank you for keeping your eye on the work that we do and for continuing to take such an active interest in our programming. Gratefully, Kathy”

PPC Women's Group: Gratitude, Sharing Around Our Tables

By Sue Barney, Mission and Outreach Committee Co-Chair and Jo Lawver, Mission and Outreach Committee



Women of Peoples....please plan to join us for a "Gratitude Brunch" on Saturday, November 7 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Our meal, which is free of charge, will be followed by a guest speaker, Reverend Renee Roederer, and the dedication of our Thank Offering boxes.

At this time of year, classic signs of autumn are all around us. The leaves are changing colors, and apple cider is stocked in abundance in the grocery stores. As the calendar turns toward November, we begin to associate these signs with gratitude. Our Thanksgiving celebrations are near, and we will soon add our own family traditions and rhythms to the season.

As we prepare to give thanks, we invite the women of PPC to join us for a brunch. The Rev. Renee Roederer will lead us in conversations about gratitude. We gather frequently around our Communion Table, remembering that we belong to God and one another. As we near the Thanksgiving season, how might this rhythm of our life together invite us to live more abundantly around the many other tables of our lives?



A bit of history about the Presbyterian Thank Offering: In 1888, Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of North America, as a "thank offering to her Lord." Women responded, and the Thank Offering was born. Women gave sacrificially, and were credited with saving the worldwide missionary movement of the church at that time. Presbyterian women continue the tradition to this day.

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women meets annually to review the applications submitted for grants which utilize our donations. Projects are funded in the United States and internationally.

Some recently funded projects include providing safe water for a high school in India, providing weekend food packs for needy children in North Carolina, developing an exercise program for senior citizens in Wisconsin... the list goes on and on.



Please pick up a Thank Offering box from the basket in the Narthex and start collecting your coins. Or, checks should be made payable to PPC Women's Group.

Plan to gather with other women of our congregation to enjoy a guest speaker and have some time of fun and fellowship with our Presbyterian "sisters."

A sign-up sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall....deadline for sign-up is October 24.

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



- Francis of Assisi

Mission and Outreach Committee Report



By Sue Barney and Carol Vollink, Mission and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs

Blood Pressure Monitor/Oxygen Meter Project

Recently Diane London shared about a program to provide free blood pressure machines and oxygen meters to Milan community members who are not able to afford them. The Milan Senior and Activity Center has agreed to manage the distribution and conduct the record keeping of this program.



The intent of the new program is to ensure that individuals have the resources they need to help manage his/her medical conditions. Vouchers will be used **ONLY** for individuals who have a Milan doctor. That doctor will give vouchers to residents medically in need, who are having difficulty affording a machine. The Little Pharmacy in Milan is furnishing the blood pressure monitors for a discounted price of \$35. This is a program where your dollars will stay in this community.

PPC's Mission and Outreach Committee has donated \$35 to the project. Donations of any amount may be made payable to, and sent to, the Milan Seniors for Healthy Living, 45 Neckel Court, Milan, 48160, with "Blood Pressure Monitor Project" on the memo line. Through this project, you really can help change a life right here in Milan!

Peacemaking Offering will be collected Sunday, October 4

Please join us on October 4 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.

This fall, our 25% of the Peacemaking Offering will be divided between **SAFE HOUSE** and the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's **EDUCATION PROJECT FOR HOMELESS YOUTH (EPHY)**. The EPHY program helps students in homeless and temporary living situations to attend and succeed in school. In Washtenaw County during the 2014-2015 school year, nearly 1,300 students were affected.



Checks may be made out to Peoples Presbyterian Church with **PEACEMAKING OFFERING** written on the memo line. If you are donating cash, please ensure the envelope is marked with **PEACEMAKING OFFERING**. Thank you again for making a difference.

Peoples Presbyterian Church will again be supporting Aid in Milan (AIM) by donating 10 baskets of items needed for a Thanksgiving dinner.



A sign-up sheet will be located in the fellowship hall on November 1. Items will need to be brought to church by November 22, as baskets will be delivered to AIM on November 23. We are also asking for cash donations to go toward the purchase of turkeys. Checks or cash may be donated anytime. Be sure to make your check payable to Peoples Presbyterian with Thanksgiving Baskets in the memo line. Cash should have Thanksgiving Baskets written on the envelope.

**The Mission and Outreach Committee wishes
to thank you all for your support.**

Mission and Outreach Committee Report, continued

By Sue Barney and Carol Vollink, Mission and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs

Riverside Community Gathering Dinners at First Presbyterian of Ypsilanti

These meals started as a community outreach by the First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti, with additional support from Westminster Presbyterian Church (Ann Arbor). Those two churches continue to carry the majority of the responsibility for these Wednesday night meals. Now the CLUSTER (comprised of the seven Presbyterian USA churches in Washtenaw County who work together on Mission issues) has agreed to help support this ministry of sharing the "hospitality of Christ." Did you know that 60% of the people in Washtenaw County who meet the requirements of poverty live in Ypsilanti? Peoples Presbyterian Church (PPC) has committed to continuing to send two workers, and desserts, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. We will also be donating \$269 to offset a tiny portion of the lost funding for this program. The sign-up sheet for workers or donating dessert is located on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

PPC's Reverend Kelly Shriver chaired this Cluster Committee. Beginning with the upcoming November meeting, Rev. Keith Geiselman will co-chair this with Pastor Kelly.



**TOGETHER WE
ARE STRONGER!**

PPC will provide a Dinner for Mercy House on Sunday, November 1. JOIN US....

Mercy House, on Stone School Road (Ann Arbor), functions as a "hospitality house" for people living on the streets, in their cars, or in tents in the woods. It is a place they can come to shower, take a nap, and wash their clothes.

Different churches provide a meal on Sunday evenings at the Ann Arbor Mercy House. PPC volunteers who served a meal in the spring found it to be a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Therefore, we will be repeating this meal project. Volunteers who have already committed are Reverend Kelly Shriver and her husband John, Sue and Steve Barney, Lynn and John Bulmer, and Carol Vollink.

It would be helpful to have more volunteers join in this service opportunity.

Please contact Sue Barney if you would like to join in this outreach experience either by providing food, or by joining us at Mercy House. Sue can provide more details on the time and location as the gets closer. We would really appreciate your help! Thank you!



Looking ahead to December, Community Adopted Family.

Be looking for information coming up on November 29 regarding our "Adopted families" this holiday season. Mission will be receiving names of two families in early November. Checks or cash may be donated anytime to Peoples Presbyterian Church. Please write "Adopted Family" on the memo line or envelope.

**Your support of these projects
is so greatly needed and appreciated.**



Thank you!

Merry Makers will be Saturday, October 17

By Charles Pratt, Fellowship Committee Chair



Merry Makers will be meeting on Saturday, October 17, not October 10 as previously published. The place will be Ruby Tuesday, 1375 E. Michigan Avenue in Saline. The time will be 6:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, so if you are coming, please be sure you get your name down so we know how many to expect. You can also call the church office at 734-439-1922 and request to have your name to be added to the list. Can't wait! Will be fun!

Don't forget to keep collecting pull tabs, and then bring them on or before Sunday, November 22.



By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

We are collecting the tabs for the University of Michigan vs. Ohio State competition in support of the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor. This event will be on Saturday, November 28. It is sponsored by Cocoa Cola, who will give the team with the most tabs \$1,000. Who knows, this year we might beat Ohio State both on the field and in this pull tab competition.

So **mark down the date, Sunday, November 22**, to bring all of your collection of pull tabs to church, so they can be delivered on time. Go Blue!!



Attention Kids!

There are fun events to come with Christian Education...

Write these on your Mom's, Dad's, Grandma's and Grandpa's Calendars!

Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 13

Birthday Party for Jesus - Sunday, January 3

Come and Join Us! Bring a Friend!



Christian Education: Whales, Backpacks, Blankets & Bells

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair



Our Fall Kick Off proved to be a WHALE of a good time!! After blowing up the twelve-foot black whale with huge googly eyes, we all crawled inside and read the story of "Jonah and the Whale" from the Bible, using a flashlight. Yes, we also prayed while in the belly of the whale to be safely released onto dry land. It worked, and everyone put a paper Jonah in a balloon, blew it up, put eyes and a tail on it, and took home their own Jonah in a Whale. There was also a booklet made to be used to re-tell the story. Our lesson was to listen to God's guidance and instructions, and to follow it.

During worship, a large pile of backpacks placed up in front of the church were blessed by Pastor Kelly. They all received her blessing and positive thoughts for the upcoming school year. Everyone received a miniature tennis shoe key ring! This is to symbolize how the congregation will be with the children and adults "every step of the way" during the year, and we pray that everyone has a very safe, productive and fun year ahead.



We had a very successful jump start in our collection of body wash containers for the Milan Food Bank. Our goal is 80 and we had over half on the first Sunday. Won't everyone help us out as we collect the final 40? Will it take one, two or three more Sundays???

Looking ahead...



On **Sunday, October 4**, the children will deliver the six fleece blankets, which were made during Vacation Bible School (VBS), to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. We will also deliver toys and activities for the babies and children to keep them happily occupied in their hospital beds. From the offering collected during VBS, we were also able to purchase some school supplies for their education room.



Kids!



Genesis Bells will play for the first time this Fall on **Sunday, November 8**. Come join the group in this fun musical way to participate in worship.



Thanksgiving boxes will be decorated by the children before they are filled by the Mission and Outreach Committee with all the wonderful fixin's for Thanksgiving dinner. Each year these boxes are delivered to Aid in Milan so they may be given to some local families.




October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div>October Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Mission and Outreach</div>  </div>				1	2	3
4 9 am Choir Practice Wear your work clothes! 10 am Worship: World Communion Sunday, "Rebuilding our Walls" 2016 Campaign, Peacemaking offering will be received and dedicated, C.E.	5 7 pm Handbell Practice	6	7 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Bookworms	8	9	10
11 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: Stewardship Pledge Drive Campaign Kick-off, C.E.	12 7 pm Handbell Practice	13 7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	14 9 am Bible Study	15 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project	16	17 6 pm Merry Makers Event at Ruby Tuesday, 1375 E. Michigan, Saline
18 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Deacons Meeting 10 am Worship, C.E. Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to Clerk.	19 7 pm Handbell Practice	20	21 9 am Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: Reformation Sunday, Handbells, C.E. Session Committee packets are ready for pick-up.	26 7 pm Handbell Practice	27	28 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Session Meeting	29	30	31 <div> Hallowe'en  </div>



GIVE
thanks

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: All Saints' Day, Communion, C.E. Begin gathering items for Aid in Milan Thanksgiving Baskets. Daylight Saving Time Ends	2 7 pm Handbell Practice	3	4 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Bookworms	5	6	7 10 to 12 noon PPC Women's Group Brunch with speaker, Rev. Renee Roederer
8 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: New Member Welcome, Genesis Bells, C.E. Continue to gather items for Thanksgiving Baskets. Session Committee Monthly Reports are due to the Clerk.	9 7 pm Handbell Practice	10 7 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	11 9 am Bible Study	12	13	14
15 9 am Choir Practice 9 am Deacons Meeting 10 am Worship: Consecration Sunday, C.E. 11 am Stewardship hosting a luncheon, Everyone is Welcome! Session Committee packets will be ready for pick-up. Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for the December/January Issue.	16 7 pm Handbell Practice	17	18 9 am Bible Study (last meeting before Advent Break) 7pm Session Meeting	19 9:30 am Church Mouse Collating 1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project	20	21 9 am Stated Meeting of Presbytery, Annual Meeting, First Pres. 200 East Main, Northville
22 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: Thanksgiving Sunday, Handbells, C.E. Final Day for collecting items for Thanksgiving baskets. 6 pm Community Thanksgiving Worship Service- Location to be announced.	23 No Handbell Practice.	24	25	26 Church Office closed. <i>Thanksgiving</i>	27 Church Office closed.	28 6 pm Decorating Party to prepare the church for the Advent Season
29 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Worship: 1st Sunday of Advent, Hanging of tree decorations, C.E. Begin collection of Christmas Gifts for the Community Adopted Family.	30 7 pm Handbell Practice	<div> November Fellowship Hour is hosted by: Personnel  </div>				

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