

A PLACE TO BELONG...

A PLACE TO BECOME...

A PLACE TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE

**Special points of  
interest:**

- Christian Education  
Bench Project
- Winterfest Chili  
Cook-Off

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PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MILAN, MI



# The Church Mouse



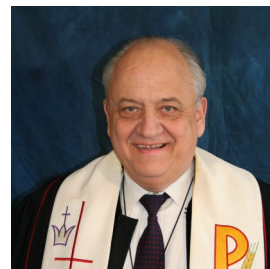
Volume 11, Issue 1

February 2017

## TRANSITIONS

### RULING ELDERS: THE MINISTRY OF DISCERNMENT AND GOVERNANCE

“As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God’s Spirit and governance of God’s people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they ‘lord it over’ the congregation ... but because they are chosen ... to discern and measure its faith and life. Ruling elders ... exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment and discipline, and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships ... (and) serve faithfully as members of the session.”



### DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

“The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust politics or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgement should be chosen for this ministry. “Deacons may also be given special assignments in the congregation ... including assisting with the Lord’s Supper.”

### PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

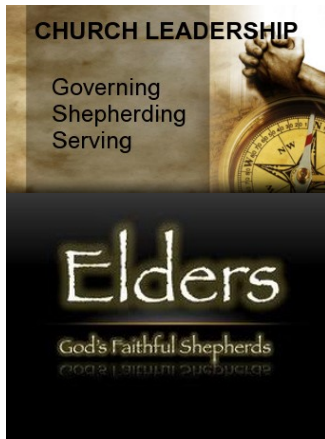
“When a congregation has a vacancy in a pastoral position ... the congregation shall, with the guidance and permission of the presbytery, proceed to fill the vacancy. “The committee’s duty (according to the process of the presbytery) shall be to nominate a pastor for election by the congregation.”

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Continued on page 2



## Transitions continued



It is helpful for us to be aware of the ideals expressed in the Book of Order, as well as the “practical” mandates of Presbyterian governance. As a “connectional” congregation we are informed by the ideal and governed by rule. This gives us both structure and security in many aspects of our life together.

I am so grateful for the quality and commitment of the people we have here. I celebrate the deacons and elders who are completing their terms of service: Elders Carole London and Chad Lawver, and Deacons, Jim and Joan Cullip, and Gay Waterstradt. The people who have been nominated to replace them are: Elders Chad Lawver, Gerald Lawver, and Lisa Pratt, and Deacons Mary and Robert Elliott, Barbara Gauntlett, and Carolyn Wetzler. Also, the people who continue in service, including the Pastor Nominating Committee, the church President, Church Treasurer and Clerk of Session.

We indeed are blessed, and 2017 will see the fruits of their ministries.

Most sincerely,  
Dick

**Thank you to  
all who  
purchased  
Poinsettias in  
honor and  
memory of  
loved ones. The  
Sanctuary was  
beautiful!**



A young woman who played the harp spent a lot of time lugging the cumbersome instrument from place to place. After one performance, she carried the harp into an elevator of a nearby parking garage. On the way up, the elevator stopped and a man started to get on. But noticing the unusual cargo, he hesitated. Then, with a smile, he said “I don’t know if I want to get on with you or not. Just how far up are you going?”

## Christian Education Report

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Chair

On Sunday, December 11, the children enjoyed presenting this year's Christmas Pageant, "Twas the Night Before Jesus' Birth." There were 21 youth involved in the pageant and worship service that day. The Genesis Bells played and many of the youth read poems and scriptures. A wonderful family potluck followed.

Beautiful angel ornaments made by the children and Georgia Anderson, were given out after the Christmas Eve service.

Jesus' Birthday Party was held on January 8, as we joined the Wise Men in bringing our gifts to Baby Jesus. We had a fun party complete with a special birthday cake and lots of very practical gifts for use around "God's House." Thanks to the congregation for the generous gifts!

Rachel Flint delivered all our pop tabs, totaling over 6 lbs, to the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor at the end of November, as our contribution to the competition between Michigan and Ohio State.

It was suggested by some members that we begin another collection for Aid in Milan after the new year. A.I.M. is in dire need of cans of soup. So, we will begin a soup collection as our winter outreach project. Start bringing in cans of soup anytime and we will fill up the window sills in the Sanctuary, then deliver them to Aid in Milan for families in need during the cold winter months.



Christian Education continued on page 4



Angel Ornament

***"We will begin  
a soup  
collection as  
our winter  
outreach  
project."***



The Milan Let's Chill Winterfest, on February 4, will be hosting a Chili Cook-off at the Milan American Legion. Volunteers will be supplied by Peoples Presbyterian Church. Time is from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. Call Diane London for more information.

## Christian Education continued

### Plastic Cap and Lid Collection

As you know, the children are in the process of collecting 400 pounds of plastic caps and lids. When we have collected the 400 pounds, we will deliver them, along with \$225, to Green Tree Plastics Company in Evansville, Indiana. At that time we will trade them for a park bench made from recycled plastic lids. We currently have over 50 pounds, so we are on our way . . . with a lot more to collect. It is surprising how many of these caps and lids you can accumulate. Four hundred pounds of plastic caps and lids will fill ten 55 gallon. trash bags. For your information there is a list of acceptable caps and lids below, along with a list of unaccepted caps and lids. They can be put into the container on the table in the Narthex or in the CE Office. Happy collecting!

***“We have over 50 pounds so we are on our way ... with a lot more to collect.”***

#### Acceptable Plastic Lids

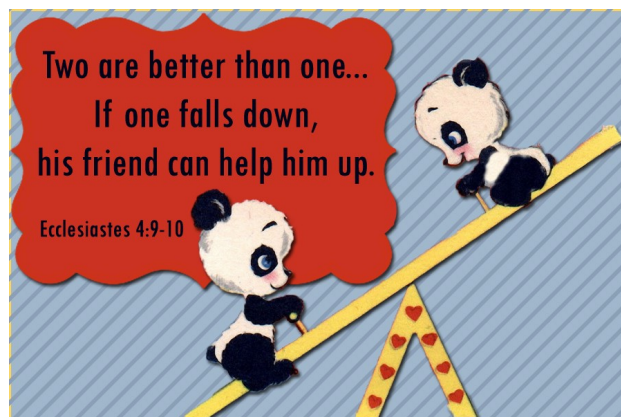
cottage cheese container lids	cool whip container lids
mayonnaise jar lids	coffee can lids
yogurt lids	cream cheese container lids
peanut butter jar lids	butter container lids
ice cream bucket lids (under 8")	prescription bottles (labels removed)

#### Never Acceptable

metal any	food containers
trash any	soap pumps (metal springs in them)
drink bottles	lotion pumps (metal springs in them)
plastic Ziplock type bags	grocery bags
trigger sprayers	no lids over 8" in diameter
fast food drink lids	





**Let's collect plastic caps!**





# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 9 am Bible Study Lounge  7 pm Bookworms Resumes Lounge	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>10 am Worship: <u>Ordination/Installation of Elders &amp; Deacons</u>, Communion, Handbells, C.E.</b>  12pm - 3 pm Elders/ Deacons Leadership Training  Session Monthly Reports Due	<b>6</b>   7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9 am Bible Study Lounge	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>10 am Worship: C. E.</b>  Session Committee Packets ready for pick-up  	<b>13</b>   7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	<b>14</b>   7 pm Worship and Music - Lounge	<b>15</b> 9 am Bible Study Lounge  1 to 3 pm PPC Hats for Cancer Project - Lounge  6 pm C.E. Mtg - Youth Room  7 pm Session Mtg - Lounge	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>10 am Worship: C. E.</b>  11:15 am Deacons Mtg - Lounge  Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for the March Issue	<b>20</b>   7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9 am Bible Study Lounge	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>10 am Worship: <u>Transfiguration of the Lord</u>, Handbells, C. E.</b>  <b>Kings Cake during Fellowship (C.E.)</b>	<b>27</b>   7 pm Handbells Sanctuary	<b>28</b>	