



**Holly Presbyterian Church**

# HPC Tidings

*Believe. It's what we do.*



JULY/AUGUST 2008

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 7

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *If someone you know is in need of a large print newsletter, please contact Teri at the office.*
- *The office e-mail is: [office@shollybc.org](mailto:office@shollybc.org) and the phone is: (248) 634-9494*
- *Worship hours: 10:30 Worship 9:15 Sunday School*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

One of my earliest perceptions of Holly Church is that we are a growing church in many ways besides numerical growth. There is a healthy feeling of ministry present and it is exciting to be part of a caring, concerned congregation. Holly Church offers many enriching opportunities for growth in terms of worship, fellowship, Christian education, mission and service to our members and community.

If we take seriously Jesus' command in the Great Commission to, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations," then is our numerical growth or lack of membership growth a reflection of how successful we are in Christ's eyes? I believe that we are called to be enthusiastic about our faith, to share it when we can, as well as to encourage others to be a part of the most important event in our lives. But does that mean that personal evangelism is synonymous with growth in a congregation? Well, yes it can be; but not necessarily. How we attempt to grow numerically as a congregation is more vital than playing the numbers game of "winning over as many as possible." I don't believe that was the major focus of Jesus' ministry. Church growth is not some competition where whomever has the most members wins, as church growth specialists would have us believe. There is a quality of ministry issue here.

Perhaps some of you have read an article in Time Magazine, entitled, "Those Mainline Blues," which basically stated in no uncertain terms that those denominations which have for centuries dominated America Protestantism and who have indeed been the moral mainstream of this nation for so long are in "deep trouble." The trouble cited is the rapid decline in membership. In the race to gain the largest numbers, we mainliners are descending to the cellar in the minds of those keeping the standings. Claiming that Presbyterians have experienced a 25% decrease in total membership since 1965, (in third place behind the Episcopalians and Disciples of Christ in the all important loss column) the article suggests that cultural and demographic changes are responsible. Failure to utilize the media, radical social and political agendas are also named. Surprisingly, rising secularism, new age cults, and retreat to fundamentalism were not listed as major culprits.

I agree with all the above mentioned as contributing factors, but what has also been strongly suggested is that many of us aren't sure what we believe and are afraid to share our faith. Wherever the fault lies, one has to have one's faith house in order for enthusiasm to exude. And a faith which is insecure can only be bolstered through participation in worship, education, fellowship, and prayer.

Although I take issue with the gimmicky methods and questionable sincerity of some "growing congregations", who take intrinsic pride in numbers, there is something to be garnered from their enthusiasm. Whether or not one calls big numbers "success" is another question, because I believe there is an enormous difference between concern over losing or gaining numbers, caring for individuals in Christ and reaching out in genuine love.

*Continued on page 5...*

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### Reunion with a Cause

This year, we will again be participating in The Reunion with a Cause sponsored by the Genesys Health Foundation. This event is a fun-filled, competitive evening walk held to celebrate and commemorate those lives touched by cancer and to raise money to support various programs. All money that we collect will go to the Genesys Regional Medical Center Cancer Program. This event will be held on Friday, August 8 from 6-10:30 pm at Holly High School. Roberta Sungle will be available to take last minute donations and volunteer sign ups after church on Sunday, August 3. Please contact Jim and Roberta Single at 248-634-4360 for more information.

### Calling all cooks!

As part of our celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday (summer 09), we will be publishing a church cookbook. This will not just be a cookie cookbook, as was done for the 100<sup>th</sup> and the 125<sup>th</sup>, but will include 8 categories of cooking: appetizers & beverages, soups and salads, vegetables and side dishes, main dishes, breads and rolls, desserts, cookies and candy, this and that. There are two-sided recording sheets for recipe submissions located in the narthex. We're hoping to have at least 500 or more recipes in the different categories. Don't forget to include recipes from past or deceased members as a remembrance of their lives and contributions to HPC.

### TwFC Lock Out

Let us run the race that God has set before us ...  
by keeping our eyes on Jesus. **Hebrews 12:1**

**On Your Mark ...**

**August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm**

**Get Set ... to camp out.**

**GO ... have a blast!**

**Camp Out in tents! Games &  
Prizes! Bon Fire! Goodies!  
5m Walk-a-thon!**



Our Lock Out will be held at Randy and Christine Cook's property in Highland. Maps are available for Parents who would like to bring their kids to the Cook's. Anyone who would like to have his or her kids ride with Laura Parker can meet at the Church on Friday at 5:30pm.

We will camp out in tents; if you do not have a tent please let Laura know so we can make arrangements. On the back of this flyer is a list of the things the kids will need to bring to the Lock Out. Please fill out the permission slip and return it to Laura Parker by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Feel free to call me with any questions you may have at 248-634-2773.

May the peace of Christ be with each of you, Laura

## PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



HPC has been taking up the "Pennies from Heaven" collection for nearly four years. It's original intention was to provide the seed money for carrying out needed capital improvements for our facilities. With the extensive renovation of the church's narthex (foyer), this collection is now being used to augment the pledge drive being carried out by the Stewardship Committee. We urge all of our members and friends to continue to put in their pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars into the Pennies from Heaven bucket. **These contributions have hit \$10,000**, which is a substantial help now and will continue to be of real help in the future.

**We do want to emphasize that the Pennies from Heaven offering is not intended to be an alternative to pledging support for the renovations. It is intended to supplement those pledges. Thank You** for your contributions to Pennies from Heaven and keep up the good work!

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER****PLEASE PRAY ...**

- for the following individuals: Pat Frank, Marilyn Hope, Ray Peters, Ardath Regan, June Green, Tim Koerber, Harriet Strig-gow, Bonnie Pelton, Dorothy Pretznaw, Alice Horak, Don & Evelyn Campbell, and all of the members of the church who are facing health problems.
- for the families of the congregation and for those who are living alone as well. Pray that we can treat each other with care and compassion. Pray for mem-bers of the church who face difficult times or decisions.
- For our pastor Randy Cullen and our Ses-sion as they continuously seek God's leading for the life and future of our church.
- For Elizabeth Kici and family, whose son passed away July 18.
- for Brian and Laura Parker and family, whose nephew, Jason Fuller, passed away in July.
- for the leaders and peoples of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine. Pray for peace in those nations and in our world. And please remember the men & women in our armed services in your prayers.

*\*Please call the office if you submitted any of these people so we can follow up on them.*

*“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”*

**- Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****Quilt Show, Bazaar and Bake Sale**

The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 6:30 pm.

Our next quilt making will be Thursday night, Aug. 7 at 7pm. Any ladies currently working on this quilt please bring all materials back for this and a sewing machine if you have a portable one.

The Quilt and Craft Show Committee is looking for people to sponsor blocks for the quilt that will be put to raffle to help costs. Please see Donna Miller for more information.

**Giving Statements**

6 month giving statements for 2008 are now available in the narthex.

**Altar Flowers**

You may sign up for flowers for the sanctuary on Sun-days using the chart is in the narthex. The cost of flow-ers is \$15. Please make checks payable to HPC and desig-nate it for “Flowers”.

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**Randy's Office Hours**

Randy's office hours are currently 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday and 9:00 am – 5:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. His home phone is 248-879-0507. You can also reach Randy through e-mail at [pas-tor@hollypc.org](mailto:pastor@hollypc.org).

**September Newsletter Deadline – Aug 15****NEWSLETTER POLL**

**We are interested in seeing how many of you who read our newsletter would be interested in receiving it via email instead of through the mail. Please email [office@hollypc.org](mailto:office@hollypc.org) if this is something you would be interested in , or call the office at 248-634-9494 and leave a message.**

# AUGUST 2008

# HOLLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 TwFC Lock-Out 7pm-5pm	2 Parking lot open for Holly Depot Home Tour 12pm-5pm
3 10:00 AM Worship Outside Wedding after worship 3:00 PM AA	4 7:00 PM Session 7:30 PM AA / Alanon	5	6	7 7:00 PM Quilt Mak- ing Class	8 6:00 PM Reunion with a Cause— Holly High School	9
10 10:00 AM Worship No TFC Meeting 11:15 AM Let's Do Launch CE Lunch 3:00 PM AA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	11 7:30 PM AA / Alanon	12 9:45 AM TFC / TwFC Missions 6:30 PM Quilt Show Cmt Mtg	13	14 7:00 PM AYSO	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 Contemporary Worship 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM AA	18 7:30 PM AA / Alanon	19	20	21	22	23
24 /31 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM AA	25 7:30 PM AA / Alanon	26	27	28 6:00 PM Optimists	29 TFC Blessing Retreat 5pm-5pm	30

## AUGUST VOLUNTEERS:

### Ushers:

Randy and Chris Cook

### Lay Leader:

Randy Cook

## FLOWERS:

A sign-up chart is located in the Fellowship Hall.

## BIRTHDAYS:

8/02 Patrick Whelan  
8/11 Randy Cook  
8/11 Helen McNamara  
8/18 Bonnie Pelton  
8/24 Janet Shiel  
8/24 Sara Whelan  
8/25 Melanie Studer  
8/27 Alex Parker  
8/28 Bruce Dryer  
8/28 Katie Parker  
8/29 Dale Huffman



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

*...continued from page one*

We need to ask, "What is the model Jesus left us?" Slick Madison Avenue marketing techniques to draw in the crowds are great if we are just a business competing for souls. Looking at Jesus' model of ministry healing the sick, preaching good news, and taking time to be with people while planting special seeds in only twelve individuals is the model of faithfulness by which I understand the Great Commission.

My feeling is that we need to develop a healthy desire to invite and include people from the area and especially from our daily lives to our fellowship, not to compete for numbers but because we care for them. Somewhere there is a happy medium between the statement by this declining church's pastor, "They expected people to come of their own accord," and one of aggressive intimidation. Clearly, we all must be faithful in reaching out to our friends and acquaintances, who, like us, live in a busy and confusing world, constantly competing for our time and attention. Realistically, most who are unchurched or unattached to a church home will not have "seeking out a church" as a priority item,

I want our church to grow, I also want our denomination to grow, but not so that we're in a competition. I believe we grow as intentional Christians concerned for others in this difficult world when we plant the seeds of invitation. We're not called to be "big", just faithful. Caring is the bottom line. After all, Jesus selected only twelve to be his disciples, caring for and nurturing them so that they would go and do likewise. Notice he didn't attempt to convert the entire world in 33 years.

Naturally we don't want the church to lose members. So we should ask ourselves when the last time was that we planted any seeds? Is our church important enough in our life that we would venture to invite someone to come with us one day? Don't we find our peace, and our foundation for living amid this fellowship?

We don't need gimmicks, overzealous religious ramble to reach out to others. All we need to do is ask a simple invitation that says we care.

The rains have come and washed much good soil away. But the planting season is still here. We will grow not because we're keeping score, but because we care.

Your pastor and friend, Rev. Randy Cullen

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### Join us for our "Let's Do Launch" Kick Off Lunch for Christian Ed. Sunday August 10 at 11:15 am

#### Drivers Needed

Drivers are needed Sundays for the ladies at Holly Woodlands to and from church. They need to be picked up in a car rather than a van or a large SUV. If you can provide this service, even once a month, please let Beth Dryer or Kay Vander Kuy know. Please consider providing this valuable service for these wonderful ladies.

#### Fall Women's Bible Study

We will be starting a women's bible study this fall on the Gospel of Luke. To obtain materials or for further information, please contact Laura Parker.

## MEET OUR MISSIONARIES



Allen & Deedee Iobst  
APDO De Correos 188  
11201 Algeciras-Cadiz SPAIN

[allen\\_deedee@yahoo.com](mailto:allen_deedee@yahoo.com)

Colby and Sarah Keefer  
2166 Harmony Dr., Xenia, OH 45385  
(937) 374-1795

[colby.keeper@aia.com](mailto:colby.keeper@aia.com)  
[sarah.keeper@aia.com](mailto:sarah.keeper@aia.com)



**Up to date information on our missionaries can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall**

## Holly Presbyterian Church

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Holly MI 48442

Phone: 248-634-9494  
Fax: 248-634-8595  
E-mail: [hollypc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hollypc@sbcglobal.net)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**For a current list of church events, don't forget to check our online calendar available at our website: [hollypc.org](http://hollypc.org)**

## Inside:

**Reunion With A Cause  
TwFC Lock Out  
From the Pastor's Desk  
And more!**

### MISSION STATEMENT

Holly Presbyterian Church is a community of faith in God that values peaceful, loving, and just relationships in our church, families, and the world.

#### Our Mission is to:

- ◆ Worship God in a faithful and joyful manner;
- ◆ Teach the good news of the Christian faith, share that faith with each other and reach out to those beyond the church;
- ◆ Be a loving family dedicated to the biblical values of peace, love, faith and justice;
- ◆ Develop a dynamic presence in our community under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### Holly Presbyterian Tidings

A monthly publication of Holly Presbyterian Church

Pastor: Rev. Randy Cullen  
Clerk of Session: Jim Lyles  
Financial Secretary: Peggy Ranger  
Treasurer: Vicki Lyles  
Office Manager /Secretary: Teri Webner  
Choir Director: Julia Belyayeva Hull

**Office Hours:**  
Monday—Friday, 9:00a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Our e-mail address:**  
Office: [office@hollypc.org](mailto:office@hollypc.org)