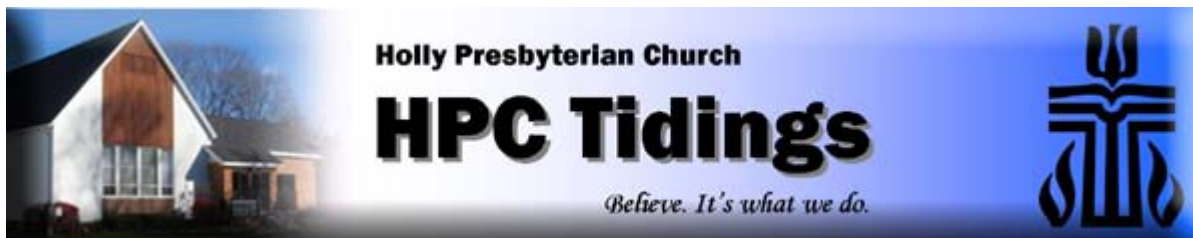


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September 2008

## From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Randy Cullen

Dear Friends,

I appreciated hearing from so many of you in response to my last newsletter on the subject of church growth. So, this next one is a follow-up entitled, "Under Construction: A Caring Community."

To use both a medical and a scriptural analogy, a congregation is like a body (Ephesians 1:12-23). And like a body, it can either be healthy or unhealthy. All the parts, of course, contribute to the health of the whole. Since we members all have the gifts which may be used to keep the body healthy and growing "for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12), how we use them is essential to congregational well-being. I realize we all rely upon God's grace in maintaining us and "equipping the saints", yet our actions and attitudes do make a difference in how we reach out to those around us without a church home. According to most researchers, 70% of new folks in worship on any given Sunday morning are not there because of the pastor, nor the programs, nor the beauty of the building, nor even out of guilt. Most of them are there because you asked them to come. Never underestimate the power of an invitation.

Here are some indicators I have compiled over the years based upon my readings, seminars, and experience:

- Healthy churches always have parking problems; unhealthy churches do not.
- Healthy churches are constantly changing methodology; unhealthy churches don't have to.
- Healthy churches' expenses frequently exceed their income; unhealthy churches always receive more than they would ever dream of spending.
- Healthy churches grow so quickly you forget peoples' names; in unhealthy churches you never see a new face.
- Healthy Churches support missions enthusiastically; unhealthy churches focus on their own problems.
- Healthy Churches are full of tithers; unhealthy churches are filled

### September Calendar

Sept. 6 - Carry Nation Parade Refreshments, 9am  
 Sept. 7 - Sunday School Kick Off and Potluck, 9:15am  
 Sept. 7 - TFC Breakfast Mtg., 9:15am  
 Sept. 9 - Quilt Show Committee Mtg, 6:30 pm  
 Sept. 14 - TFC Lunch & Movie, 11:45am  
 Sept. 16 - Adult Small Groups, 7p,  
 Sept. 21 - TFC Breakfast Mtg., 9:15pm  
 Sept. 23 - Adult Small Groups, 7pm  
 Sept. 28 - TFC Lunch & 24/7 Experience, 11:45 am  
 Sept. 28 - TwFC Lunch and Meeting, 11:45am  
 Sept. 30 - Adult Small Groups, 7pm

### 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.

### Office Hours

Regular Office Hours are 9:00am - 3:00pm M-F. **Please note: The secretary will be on vacation Sept 7 - 14.** Randy's new office

with tippers.

- Healthy churches rely upon faith; unhealthy churches operate totally on what is seen.
- Healthy churches share the tasks of ministry; unhealthy churches say, "that's what we pay the minister and staff for."
- Healthy churches share the "Good News"; unhealthy churches do not.

Underlying all these differences is the individual and the contributions we make to the upbuilding of the body. Let's hope all of us will be in the construction business - the business of building a healthy, caring community.

Your pastor and friend, Rev. Randy Cullen

## Calling all Cooks! Church Cookbook Entries Needed

As part of our celebration of our 150th birthday (summer 09), we will be publishing a church cookbook. This will not just be a cookie cookbook, as was done for the 100th and the 125th, 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.

## Our Life Together Please pray...

- for the following individuals: Pat Frank, Marilyn Hope, Ray Peters, Ardath Regan, June Green, Tim Koerber, Harriet Striggow, 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 members of the church who face difficult times or decisions.
- for our pastor Randy Cullen and our Session as they continuously seek God's leading for the life and future of our church.
- 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.

hours are: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Tu&Th, and Fri 12:00pm - 5:00pm. His home number is 248-879-0507. He may also be reached through email at [pastor@hollypc.org](mailto:pastor@hollypc.org). In order to save on gas, before he moves to Holly, Randy will be working from home on Mondays and Wednesdays. He will be available on these days by phone.

### Our Missionaries

Please pray for our missionaries. Up to date information on them can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall:

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

### 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 Church, 207 E Maple St. Holly MI 48442. 248-634-9494  
**The October Newsletter Deadline is Sept. 15th.**

To ensure you receive our monthly newsletter, make sure you add [office@hollypc.org](mailto:office@hollypc.org) to your address book. If you prefer not to receive future email from Holly Presbyterian Church, please contact the church office.