



September 2010



A Letter from Matt Todd

7 July, 2010

Dear Holly Presbyterian,

Thank you all for the encouraging words and for the bookmark. That will come in very handy with all the books I have here to read.

Here is an update of what I am doing in case Cassie hasn't informed all of you. For the month of June, I was at Bagram Air Force Base. There I basically just helped get our command center ready by doing various tasks, like painting and building a deck. Now I am stationed at Camp Gamberi which is southwest of Bagram, about 45 minutes by helicopter and 8 hours by vehicle.

Here I will be training the Afghan Army in vehicle maintenance. There were 11 of us selected to be on this mission. Aside from vehicle maintenance, we will be training on weapons, radios, welding, generators and A/C. The 11 of us will be here for the duration of our time in-country.

The Afghans are eager to learn. Some of them pick up very quickly while others take time. There is a 43% illiteracy rate, they can't read or write their own language. We use interpreters to communicate with them and will eventually learn some of the language and be able to talk to them.

Right now we've only been working with them from about 8:30 am to 11am. They have prayer around 11 every day and then lunch. The afternoons get way too hot to be outside under the sun training. Monday it reached 105 by 10am. I stay well hydrated to be out there, but it is still hot.

Thank you all very much for your thoughts and prayers.

-Matt

September Calendar

- Sept 5 Worship with Communion 10:00am
- Sept 6 Labor Day - OFFICE CLOSED
- Sept 8 AYSO 7:30pm
- Sept 12 Sunday School Kickoff
 Worship 10:30am
- Potluck Luncheon 11:30am
- Sept 13 Session Meeting 7:00pm
- Sept 15 Newsletter Deadline
- Sept. 19 TFC 9:15am
 Sunday School 9:30am
 Contemporary Worship 10:30am
- Sept 26 TFC 9:15am
 Sunday School 9:30am
 Worship 10:30am

Check out our [online calendar](#).

Worship Schedule

Please note that beginning Sunday, September 12th, we will be returning to our regular 10:30am worship time.



Sunday School Kickoff

Beginning Sunday,

September 12th we will once again be having Sunday School for the younger children. Please join us at 9:30 for Christian Education for our younger children. Also, all members of HPC are invited to a potluck following worship to celebrate the beginning of another year of Christian education.

Teens and Adult Education will begin the following Sunday, September 19th at 9:15.

From the Seminarian's Desk

by Cassie Todd

Dear Church Family,

This month in lieu of writing an article I would just like to tag on to my husband's thank you letter and express my gratitude as well. Thank you for your undying support in this difficult time in our lives. Your prayers and gifts have been joyfully received in our hearts.

As I begin to start a new semester, I also would like to take this time to thank you for all of the prayers and financial support which you continue to offer me throughout my time of studies at Columbia Theological Seminary.

In closing I'd like to offer up some scripture to use as prayer for Matt this month. Please pray for him that, "No evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:10-11 NRSV).

--In Christ, Cassie Todd

The Pastors' Corner

As you read "Angels of America" by Priscilla Atkins, we urge you to stop and pause over each of these phrases. Prayerfully ask God to stir your hearts, minds and spirits in response to the many ways we can serve Jesus Christ our Savior. How can we be more mindful of others, more loving, and more giving to all of God's children?

The hospital chaplain who sits in the room of a sick child in Chicago and brings the child to God—not with words but by her quiet presence.

The Benedictine sister from Bolivia arriving in Michigan in December. A stranger opening her arms to welcome her.

The father who sends his son to Afghanistan, and the one who doesn't.

Teens For Christ is Set to Resume!

Watch your E-mail!

Listen to the Word on the street!

Be prepared to have fun and share your joy with others!

Pastors' Vacation Schedule

The pastors will be out of town the week of September 20th to return on the 24th.

World Communion Sunday

Potluck

Mark your calendars now for a potluck luncheon following worship on Sunday, October 3rd in celebration of World Communion Sunday.

Please bring a dish from around to share and your own table service.

Prayer Shawl/Chemo Cap Ministry

The "Knit Wits" have been very busy this summer! Members of the ministry have collectively created over 55 neck coolers to be sent to two different units in Afghanistan.

Additionally, members have crocheted more than a dozen chemo caps and are still working!

This is such a wonderful example of the big contributions a small group of people can make!

Anyone interested in joining this vibrant ministry is encouraged to talk to Rev. Ann or Bev Ponton. Information on upcoming projects and meetings will be available in future Sunday bulletins.

Make the World a Better Place One Stitch at a Time

Choir Start Up

Beginning Sunday, September 12th, the choir will begin rehearsing every Sunday following worship.

Balls

The soldier killed in Iraq
whose obituary reads "no known family."

The beautiful Pakistani boy and his family
who move in next door.

The angel who is sitting next to you in
church texting a friend;
and the one who isn't.

The student who completes a thousand
forms so that he can study abroad and
still fulfill the requirements of his nursing
major.

The seminary student who comes back
to visit and announces, "I get it—
Christianity is about listening.
Really listening."

The chemist in her lab searching for
answers at midnight.

The way we say good-bye to someone
we will miss, pray for her safe journey.

The ways we love those we love.

The ways we learn to pray.

The good woman--the good man--
who insists on pouring out the contents
of the alabaster jug.

During lean times, the extravagant
gesture.

A tired poet in New York
ending a poem with a flourish:
Give my love to, oh, anybody.

---Priscilla Atkins

God's Spirit roams among us here at Holly
Presbyterian Church. Can't you feel it? The
summer is nearly over and our children and
teachers will soon be heading back to school.

Service time will change; choir practice will begin;
Sunday school will start; and all of us will welcome
each other as we worship, learn and give to each
other and to the world around us. We, too, are
Angels in this time and place and are challenged
to find ways to "Give our love to, oh, anybody."
And as we do, we will see this love multiply and
grow beyond all expectations!

-- **Blessings and Peace, Revs. Ann and Bill**



Blessing of Backpacks

***Sunday, September 12th
During Worship***

In recognition of the start of
school and our new program

Bells

The youth bell choir will be performing in church
on Sunday, October 3rd in celebration of World
Communion Sunday. Anyone interested in
participating is encouraged to contact Rob
Privette.

Food Pantry

As the food need for people in our community is
still growing, we will continue collecting food for
the pantry at Holly First Baptist Church. Please
remember to bring your canned or boxed food
and place it in the narthex.

Our Life Together

Please pray...

...for Pat Frank, Jerry Studer, Dan Nash, Peggy
Ranger, Edith Sargent, Jack Smith, Beth Foss,
Ardath Regan, Harriet Striggow, Bev Ponton,
Alice Horak, Cristy Banks, Terry Sizemore,
Amie Davis 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. 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 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. Pray for those
who seek recovery in Pakistan and Haiti. And
please remember the men & women in our
armed services in your prayers.

Office Hours

Beginning August 30th, the regular office hours
will change to Monday-Thursday 9:00am -
2:00pm.

Pastors Ann and Bill Robertson's hours are on
Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings.
Up-to-date information is available at
our [website](#) under "Church News" or you may
contact the church at 248-634-9494.

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 and Deedee Iobst
APDO de Correos 188
11201 Algeciras-Cadiz SPAIN
allen_deedee@yahoo.com



year, the Christian Education committee would like to begin the year with a blessing. So students -- bring your backpacks! Teachers -- Bring your school bags! Others -- bring your briefcases, bags etc. Please set them around the altar as you come to worship.

Colby and Sarah Keefer
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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.