



November 2010



A Letter from Afghanistan

The following is a new letter we received from Matt Todd dated September, 15 2010.

Dear Members of Holly PC,

I want to thank you all for the support you have been giving me. Last Wednesday I received the package that you all sent. Everything in it was well received. I shared it with the fellow members of my team and its contents went fast.

This past month has been quite slow. August is the holy month of Ramadan in the Muslim culture. During this time, Muslims are not allowed to eat or drink from sun-up to sun-down so we didn't do a lot of training. The training we did do, we tried to do inside and out of the heat. Thankfully this also put a stop to any attempt of attack. The last attack we had was August 7, right before Ramadan started.

Now that it is over, we have had a hard time getting the Afghan soldiers to come to our training.

During this time of lack of training, it has made for me a lot of personal time. Time to do a lot of thinking and reflecting. Time to spend in the gym and most importantly, time with God. I have spent a lot of time trying to figure "What's next?" Cassie is nearing the completion of her schooling and will soon be searching for a call as a minister. During this next year, we will have a lot of big decisions to make, and with God's guidance, we will make the correct ones.

In approximately five and a half weeks, I will be home taking my two week leave. I will be home with my amazing wife, enjoying my time with her,

November Calendar

- Nov 1 Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm
Family Christmas Fair Mtg 6:30pm
- Nov 6 Daylight Savings Ends tonight
- Nov 7 Worship with Communion 10:30am
- Nov 8 Stewardship Meeting 7:00pm
- Nov 10 AYSO 7:30pm
- Nov 14 Multiply the Gifts Sunday
Teens/Adult Sunday School 9:15
Children's Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30am
- Nov 15 Newsletter Deadline
Session Meeting 7:00pm
- Nov 16 Knit-Wits Meeting 6:30pm
- Nov 21 Dedication Sunday
Teens/Adult Sunday School 9:15
Children's Sunday School 9:30
Contemporary Worship 10:30am
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving - Office Closed
- Nov 25 Office Closed
- Nov 28 First Sunday of Advent
Teens/Adult Sunday School 9:15
Children's Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30am
Hanging of Greens 11:30pm
Chili & Soup Supper

Check out our [online calendar](#).

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don't forget to change your clocks (turn them back one hour) when you go to bed on Saturday, Nov 6th!

living every moment to its fullest, and taking none for granted. Afghanistan is far from being anything like home, and I cannot wait to return.

Again, I want to thank you for the care package and for all the love and support that you have given to both me and Cassie.

Thank you,
Matt

The Pastors' Corner

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the holiday season of Thanksgiving. There are many special happenings here at church as well as the ones that we celebrate in our homes and our community. It is our hope and prayer for each one of us that we will come to this time with a sense of awe and praise for all the many gifts we have been given.

Joyce Rupp writes in Out of the Ordinary:

May an abundance of gratitude burst forth as we reflect upon what we have received.

May thanksgiving overflow in our hearts, and often be proclaimed in our prayers.

May the harvest of our good actions bring forth plentiful fruit each day.

May our basket of blessings surprise us with its rich diversity of gifts and its opportunities for growth.

May all that nourishes and resources our lives bring us daily satisfaction and renewed hope.

May we always be open, willing, and ready to share our blessings with others.

May we never forget the Generous God who loves us lavishly and unconditionally.

This Thanksgiving Blessing is just one of many reminders of how blessed our lives can be even in the midst of hardships and sorrows, frustrations and disappointments. It also serves as a challenge to each one of us to share our bounty with our church so that the gift will be multiplied and the ministry of Holly Presbyterian Church will thrive and grow in the days, months and years ahead. May God continue to teach us to appreciate what has come to us as blessing and gift. And may God keep on urging us to share what we have.

As the saying goes: "See you in church!"

—Pastors Ann and Bill

New Boiler

Session has made the decision to replace our oldest boiler. Estimated costs are about \$16,000. The money will come from the New Boiler Fund and Pennies from Heaven, which total \$12,000 at this time. We have talked about replacing the boilers for many years, and have been setting special contributions aside for "someday". That day has come. If you are able to make an extra contribution for this purpose, please consider doing so. Any shortfall between the cost and the special monies will have to come from our general operating expenses. Please indicate "boiler" in the memo field of your check. Contributions can be put in the Sunday offering, or given to Peggy Ranger or Vicki Lyles.

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 Josh Banks, Dan Nash, Pat Frank, Jerry Studer, 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. And please remember the men & women in our armed services in your prayers.

Office Hours

Regular office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm.

Pastors Ann and Bill Robertson's hours are on Mondays 1:30 - 8:30 pm and Wednesdays 10:00am-3:00pm.

The office is closed on Fridays.

Up-to-date information is available at our [website](#) under "Church News" or you may contact the church at 248-634-9494.



**Stewardship
News**

Our stewardship theme this year

is "Multiply the Gift." You should be receiving a more detailed letter in the mail soon. This is a very important year for Holly Presbyterian Church, as we look forward to calling our new pastor. We need to show this person our generous giving; it will be a drawing card. We want to put our best foot forward to show our caring and faithfulness. Psalms 116 verse 12 asks: "What shall I render to the Lord for all of his bounty to me?" How can you multiply the gift?



Advent Preparation

Sunday, November 28th is the first Sunday of Advent. This begins our time of preparation as we await the birth of Christ.

Please join us Sunday November 28th for "**Hanging of the Greens**". We will be putting up our Christmas decorations for the next weekends Family Christmas Fair and the Fenton Ambassadors performance. Please join us for this all member work day and share in fellowship and a light lunch. Watch the bulletin for more details.

The Family Christmas Fair is coming to Holly Presbyterian Church on Saturday, December 4th - 2:00 to 5:00. Celebrate the Advent season with crafts for all ages, games, prizes, storyteller, and bazaar. Invite family, friends, and neighbors and kick off this wonderful time of year with a free afternoon of fun!

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

Colby and Sarah Keefer
4695 Sycamore Dr
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Colby.Keefer@athletesinaction.org
Sarah.Keefer@athletesinaction.org

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.

Visit our [website](#).

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