

Holly Presbyterian Church

HPC Tidings

Believe. It's what we do.



An Important Message

from Your Pastor ...

The Experience of Waiting on God ...

As I was reflecting on Advent and what to write here that might be something new and different for this season in our lives, I came across an article in the most recent edition of the journal I subscribe to - The Presbyterian Outlook. The article is written by Mark D. Roberts, titled "You too can become an 'Adventophile.'"

Roberts says many of the usual things we say about Advent - that it is a time for preparing for the coming of Christ and that the Latin word *adventus* means "coming" or "visit." He reminds us that our Presbyterian "Directory for Worship" tells us that Advent is "a season to recollect the hope of the coming of Christ and to look forward to the Lord's coming again" (W-3.2002a).

But what I liked the most about this article was how Roberts reminds us that Advent is a time of waiting on God and that we should allow ourselves the experience of waiting. He writes: *"In Advent, we use our Scripture-shaped imaginations to feel what it was like for the children of Israel to long for a Savior. Also, we get in touch with our own yearning for the future coming of the Lord when he will establish justice, wipe away every tear and bring the fullness of his peace. We pay attention to the experience of waiting on God rather than rushing on to the next religious activity. Thus, Advent leads us to experience our neediness, our hopefulness and our desire for God."*

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**Congratulations
to Shaun Hardimon!!!**

The process of becoming a
Commissioned Ruling Elder in

I think most of us will admit that there is much of the secular Christmas that we enjoy being a part of. Rather than our trying to avoid it or compete with it, I invite you to be selective in what you participate in - not because it is wrong, but because it is important for our thirsty spirits to have a little time for the experience of longing for - of waiting for God.

I have purposely chosen to not teach or lead an Advent study this season because, as your pastor, I sense a weariness in you, my congregation. We have just finished the study on the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* and although our strategic planning team will continue working with me on implementing the practices we decided on at the Ingathering Banquet, I feel many of you are ready for a break. So, instead of trying to encourage you to come one evening during the week for an Advent study, I'm inviting you to join me in a daily ritual of breathing, resting, and sitting still with our thoughts on God. Think on these questions:

- Do I long for God to be in my life in a new and bigger way?
- What would it look like if that were to happen?
- This Advent season, what am I hoping for in my personal life, in my community and in the world?

- In Advent, as we light the candles in the Advent wreath, we focus on hope, peace, joy and love. Reflect on how the coming of Christ has brought those elements to our life today, but also on how His second coming will finally bring those things to complete reality.

I do strongly encourage you to make the effort to come to worship on Sunday mornings through this season - to be a part of the life of the church, to worship our God with your church family, to enjoy the music, to hear the words from Scripture and sermon that give us hope for the future, that promise God's love and activity in our lives even today and that challenge us to take the light and love of Christ out with us for the week.

May our Advent season be one of joyful preparation for

the Presbyterian Church (USA) (previously called Commissioned Lay Pastor) is a long one with much study, many exams and some practice (usually along with a full time job). It concludes with a written and an oral exam. It is a great joy to tell you that our intern, Shaun Hardimon, completed and passed his exams this past Saturday, November 24th! He is now ready to move to whatever God has in store for him, whether it be serving as a lay pastor in a small church, or serving alongside a pastor as he has been doing with us. (I would love to keep him!) Shaun has been a gift from God to me and to our church! I give thanks for him and Michele and know you will join with me in rejoicing and celebrating with them for all these accomplishments.

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Sharlyn



***In the Beginning* is open on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, in addition to the third Saturday.**

Dec. Dates & Times

**Friday, Dec. 13th
10:00am-12:00pm**

Saturday, Dec. 22nd

Christmas with all the activities that are involved, but may it also find us taking time to experience waiting and longing for Emmanuel - God with us.

Peace and Joy!
Pastor Sharlyn



Fenton High School
Ambassadors
Show Choir in Concert
Sunday December 2nd, 2012
7:00 pm

*A free Christmas concert with a
Sweets & Treats Reception to follow.
Everyone is welcome at this joyful holiday
event! Invite family, friends & neighbors!*



*A free will offering
will be taken to help
the those families in
our community who
are struggling this
year.*

10:00am-2:00pm

In the Beginning Play Group
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Friday, Dec. 28th
10:00am-12:00pm

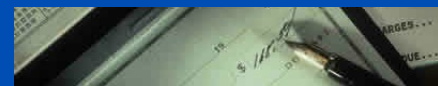
Spread the Word!



**Nursery Care
Attendant Opening**

The Personnel Committee is searching for someone to staff our church nursery. Share this opportunity with anyone you know who may be interested.

MORTGAGE UPDATE



Many of us are aware that we had to take out a mortgage to finish paying for the narthex remodel, but it doesn't get mentioned often.

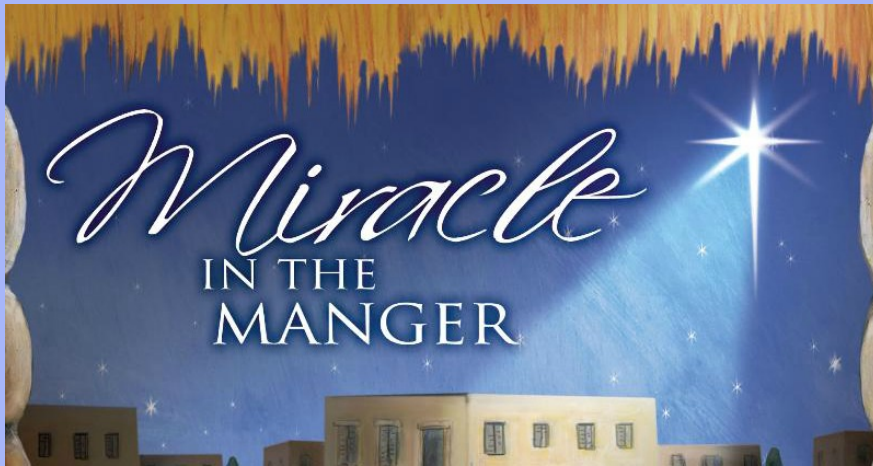
We borrowed \$25,000 from the Presbytery in January 2007, to be paid back at the rate of \$200/month for 15 years. The interest rate on this loan adjusts annually, and we have been



Annual Community Memorial Service

December 3rd, 2012 at Dryer Funeral Home

Dryer Funeral home will host it's annual memorial service at 7:00 pm on Monday evening at the funeral home. The service will include a guest speaker, special music, and a candle lighting ceremony, with names of loved being read aloud. Refreshments will follow the service.



Special Children's Worship Service

Sunday, December 23rd, 2012

11:00 am

Join us as we gather on this fourth and final Sunday of Advent, to hear the meaningful and joyful message that the youth of HPC have prepared for us.

The message of the miracle of Christ's birth will be presented with music, chimes, dance and humor.

blessed that it has dropped each year. This means that a bit more of our \$200 payment was going to principal each time, and a bit less to interest. The balance of the loan will be \$15,426.98 at the end of 2012.



COLLECTING USED CELL PHONES & INK JET CARTRIDGES!

If you have old cell phones, or empty ink jet cartridges that you want to get rid of we can help! They will pay us for working phones and refillable cartridges, and they will recycle to unusable items for us, helping to protect the environment from toxins.

A few things to be aware of:

- No chargers or cases.
- No toner cartridges.

A drop basket is in the narthex.



Save Your VG's Receipts!

All Children are encouraged and welcomed to participate.
Please contact Laura Parker by replying to this email if you
would like your kids or grand-kids to join the fun!



Christmas Eve Worship Candlelight Service & Mini~Contata

Monday, December 24th at 8:00pm

*Please join us for a meaningful Candlelight
Worship service complete with scripture
readings, carols and special music performed by
the Holly Presbyterian Church Choir.*

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

- Dec 2 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am
THE GATHERING PLACE FOR KIDS 9:30am
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am
WORSHIP 11:00am
AA 3:00pm
- Dec 3 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm
- Dec 4 TECHNOLOGY MTG 7:00pm
- Dec 5 WORSHIP COMMITTEE MTG 7:00pm
- Dec 8 PRIVATE EVENT - 10-3 Fellowship Hall
- Dec 9 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am
THE GATHERING PLACE FOR KIDS 9:30am
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am
WORSHIP 11:00am
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG
12:00pm
BAKE & DROP CAROLING 12:00pm -6pm
AA 3:00pm
- Dec 10 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm
- Dec 11 STEWARDSHIP MTG 7:00pm

Bring your VG's receipts to church
and we can turn them to generate
funds through VG's Community
Share Points program. There is a
poster with a pocket for the receipts
in the kitchen.



**YOUR INTERNET
SEARCHES CAN HELP THE
CHURCH!**

**We just received a check for
\$198.00 from Good Search for our
2012 Search activity! WOW!**

Check out Good Search
online to find out how! It's SO
easy and has great potential
to support the ministries here
at HPC!



***January Events!
Mark Your Calendar...***

***Sunday, January 6th
Time to "Un-Deck" the halls!
We will take down and pack
our Advent Decor and do a
little housekeeping after
church. Plan on staying to join
the fun!***

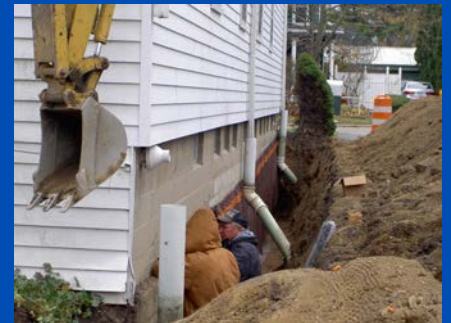
**Property
Update...**

- Dec 12 CONGREGATIONAL CARE MTG 6:30pm
CHRISTIAN ED. MTG 7:00pm
- Dec 14 BABY PANTRY 10:00am - 12:00pm
- Dec 15 BABY PANTRY 10am - 2pm
PARENT CHILD PLAYGROUP 12:00pm
JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- Dec 16 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am
THE GATHERING PLACE FOR KIDS 9:30am
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am
WORSHIP 11:00am
AA 3:00pm
- Dec 17 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm
- Dec 18 OUTREACH 6:00pm
SESSION MTG 7:00pm
- Dec 22 DRESS REHEARSAL: MIRACLE IN THE
MANGER 10:00am
- Dec 23 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am
THE GATHERING PLACE FOR KIDS 9:30am
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am
WORSHIP 11:00am Miracle in the Manger
AA 3:00pm
- Dec 24 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
8:00pm
- Dec 25 Merry Christmas! CHRIST IS BORN!
- Dec 26 OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
- Dec 27 OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
- Dec 28 OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
BABY PANTRY 10:00am - 12:00pm
- Dec 30 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am
THE GATHERING PLACE FOR KIDS 9:30am
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am
WORSHIP 11:00am
AA 3:00pm
- Dec 31 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm



Work has continued to move forward on the repairs to the West end of the basement. Crews from Lowe Excavating came and unearthed the foundation on the east and north walls of the building, tore out the "dog house" entry, and made all of the repairs needed in that area and then back filled the space.

Preparations are underway for the next phase of the project!



Worship Team Update

The Worship Committee wants to wish you a blessed holiday season and update you on some of the upcoming happenings in worship.

We will continue our tradition of asking individuals or families to



Order Date: This Sunday!

December 2nd!

If you are planning to give gift cards as Christmas gifts, or use them for your holiday shopping, please consider purchasing them from the church. We receive a small profit from the sale of each card, which goes toward our everyday expenses. The church should net approximately \$500 this year from this easy fundraiser. In addition to the gas, grocery, and restaurant cards that most of us order throughout the year, there are also gift cards available for many retail stores, amazon.com, and iTunes.



Look at the complete list of cards available be [Click Here](#)
If you do not feel comfortable using a computer, talk to Christine Cook or Vicki Lyles and we can let you know if what you want is available.

Thank you for your support!

Holiday Office Hours

The church office is closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Regular office hours will resume on January 2nd, 2013

Prayer Concerns & Joys

"Do not worry. Learn to pray about everything. Give thanks to God as you ask Him for what you need. The peace of God is much greater than the human mind can understand. The peace

participate in lighting the Advent candle each Sunday of December and Christmas Eve. If you would like to volunteer please see one of the chairpersons. Also, the youth will be participating in a special program December 23 during worship and, of course, don't miss our Christmas Eve service December 24 at 8 pm. There will be traditional carols, candlelight, and a wonderful mini-cantata sung by our own HPC Choir!

Lastly, we are in the need of volunteers for 2013 in the area of monthly lay readers, ushers, and communion servers, and weekly greeters. The only requirement is that you must be an elder to serve communion and all other positions require a cheerful heart and a friendly smile. If that sounds like you, please see committee chairs: Margaret Perry or Dessalee Cook or leave a message in the church office.

*Looking forward to a joyful holiday season & blessings to all,
The Worship Committee*



will keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ."
~Philippians 4:6-7

Concerns

- For all those who are in nursing homes, shut in, or seeking comfort and healing.
- For Dan Nash, Ardath Regan, Travis, Beatrice Johnston, Harriett Striggow, Virginia McDonald, Elizabeth Kici, Pat Frank, Judy Studer, Lisette Cotaling, Steve Fuller, Barb Brown, Mark and Del Ridley, Gladys Havenstein, Judy Merritt, and Colleen Spring.
- For all those who are struggling with economic setbacks, family problems, and emotional upheavals.
- For all those effected by Hurricane Sandy. Pray for families who lost homes and loved ones. Pray the hope of Christ will be evident in our response.

Joys

- For Shaun Hardimon as we celebrate with him the passing of all written and oral examinations for Commissioned Ruling Elder (Commissioned Lay Pastor). Pray for Shaun as he moves into this new phase of his calling!



BAKE & DROP CAROLING

Dec 9th, 2012

The Teens For Christ and Christian Education will be baking treats for all of us to take to our shut-ins as we sing carols and let each one know that they are loved by the church family and that they are in our

thoughts & prayers!

***Please Join With Your Church Family
At 5:00 pm for Caroling!
We Will Divide Into Teams***

WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH!

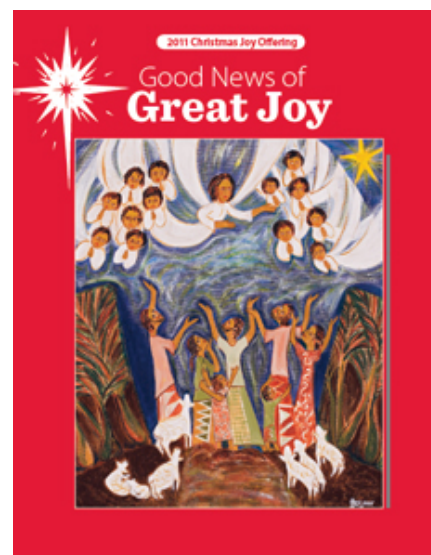
Will be on break through out
December.

**They will resume meeting
on January 9th!**

Every Wednesday
at 12:00 Noon!

Bring your bible and sack
lunch and gather to read and
discuss scripture. This
informal study time is led by
Charlee Litten and will be
reading the Apostle Paul's
letter to the Ephesians.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



Click the link below to more
about this important offering
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
VIDEO

As we celebrate the good news of
great joy and open our hearts to
God's love in Jesus may our gifts
bear joyful witness to that
uncontainable love. The Christmas
Joy Offering supports racial ethnic
education at Presbyterian-related

So That We Can Visit Everyone On Our List.

If you know of a shut in who may not be on our list please see Laura Parker or Christine Cook!



Our Annual ADOPT-A-FAMILY OUTREACH

Back by popular demand, our annual Adopt a Family gift boards will be in the narthex beginning today! We have been blessed with wonderful recipients this year, so take time to choose a tag and purchase a gift to help make Christmas nicer for a worthy family member of one of our two special families this year. See Judy Studer, or Walt, or Barb Brown with questions.

Digging Deeper Study

The Digging Deeper Study will be in break for the month of December. In January Christian Ed will be making decisions on this monthly study in regards to topics, dates and times. If you have an opinion please Christine Cook know.

school and colleges, where students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

This Special Offering will be collected on December 23rd, and December 24th during worship. Please write on your envelope if you wish to designate your donation to either the Board of Pensions or to support the student scholarship at Presbyterian related colleges. Undesignated gifts will be distributed equally to both.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

Dec 9th, 2012

A special congregational meeting will occur December 9, immediately following worship, for the purpose of electing elders and at-large members of the 2013 Nominating Committee.

We will also hear an update on the building issues, and consider a request to buy a new boiler which would require borrowing funds for it.

Holly Presbyterian Church

A member of Lake Huron Presbytery, Presbyterian Church USA
207 E. Maple St. Holly MI 48442 • (248)634-9494
Website: www.hollypc.org • E-Mail: office@hollypc.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:00pm Office Closed on Monday

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn DeHaven Gates

248.369.8893(h) 620.423.2671(c)

E-Mail: pastor@hollypc.org

Our Ruling Session Members are:

2012 SESSION

Jennifer Chanter	Personnel Committee
Dessalee Cook	Worship Committee
Jim Lyles	Clerk
Brian Parker	Technology Committee
Christine Cook	Christian Education Committee
Lori Goldsmith	Property Committee
Roberta Single	Congregational Care Committee
Gerry Jackson	Stewardship Committee
Amy Jones	Congregational Care Committee
Karen Haneline	Outreach Committee
Amanda Banks	Christian Education Committee
Judy Studer	Outreach Committee
Margaret Perry	Worship Committee