

# Holly Presbyterian Church Newsletter



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



## December 2013

### In This Issue

**Financial News**

**Calendar of Events**

**Praying for each other**

**Scrip Orders!**

**Our Building**

**Christmas Missions**

**Special Cong. Mtg**

**Snoop Party**

**Fund Raising**

Whether we are ready or not, December is upon us! Christmas is coming! The hustle and bustle of the holidays is gearing up into 5th gear and we will most likely find ourselves spinning as we try to meet our own, and everyone else's, expectations.

Every year at this time, I tell myself I will not get caught up in all that unnecessary, crazy

Join Our Mailing List!



## Missionary Updates. . .

Athletes in Action missionaries, Colby and Sarah Keefer, continue to reach college athletes in the name of Christ.

To catch up with them and their latest news click the link below.

### [\*\*Athletes in Action\*\*](#)

#### **October Newsletter**

Campus Crusade for Christ missionaries, Allen and DeeDee lobst, continue to reach people in the name of Christ and distribute bibles.

Allen and Dee Dee, along with their children, will be spending this year in the United States reconnecting with

time. Yet, somehow I often do and I have to admit there is a part of me that thinks it's exciting and fun. To a point. But then, there is that point where you get very tired, and your finances are exhausted and there isn't enough time in the day and you just want it to be over. Come, Lord Jesus!

And that is why I so appreciate Advent! Advent helps us to remember what this whole season really is about; it helps us get a grip on our priorities. Observing Advent keeps us grounded in what is meaningful, what is important and what is not. It gives me a reason to set aside time to reflect and pray and ask for help from the one whose birth I am celebrating and whose return I am looking forward to with anticipation.

The word advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." The Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, which refers to the second coming of Christ.

So, in Advent, we are holding two perspectives: we reflect with our ancestors of old, from the Old Testament readings, as they longed for the coming of the Messiah; and we also wait and watch for Christ to come again as He promised, bringing hope, peace, joy and love. Justice will finally permeate the land and we will live at last in harmony.

I pray you will make a special effort this December to come and worship, taking a little time to sit and reflect, to sing and to pray, to hear the messages of Advent as we all wait together for the celebration of Christ's birth, and as we all hope together for his return.

Advent 1 begins on December 1st. We reflect on the theme of Hope that day.

Advent 2 is on December 8th and our theme is

family, attending training conferences, and feeding their faith.

To catch up with them and their latest news click the link below.

[Campus Crusade for Christ](#)  
[Operation Transit Website](#)

or

[Iobst Newsletter](#)

Peace. That night we have a special Christmas concert from our friends, The Ambassadors, with Brad Wright directing.

Advent 3 is on December 15th with the theme of Joy. The HPC Gathering Place Kids will perform their Christmas program that evening.

Advent 4 is December 22nd with the theme of Love.

The Christmas Eve communion and candlelight service will be held at 8 p.m. Our theme is Grace!

The First Sunday after Christmas is December 29th - a high and glorious worship!

Take some deep breaths, get your running shoes on. Get ready for the busiest season of the year! On your mark, get set, GO!

But take a break and come to worship and relax, reflect and remember what it's really about!

Celebrating with you in Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Grace!

*Rev. Sharlyn*

## *Reflections from Pastor Shaun. . .*

Each year the commercial side of Christmas comes earlier and earlier without any remorse. In October Michele and I stopped into a store to pick up a wedding card and they already had Christmas items set out prior to Halloween and Thanksgiving. What was even funnier this week was when I was listening to the news they were talking about a person who spent six days outside a store to get the "Black Friday" deals on his shopping list.

As much as I may like a good deal on something for Christmas, there has to be a point of stopping and making sure to spend time with

family and friends. Trust me, whatever you may buy today for someone will never bring as much joy and memories as time spent with your family.

Start today and take some time over this Christmas holiday season to begin new traditions with your family and friends that will last a life time for future generations. Maybe it is spending time going through an Advent Calendar, baking cookies, eating dinner, or finding the perfect tree to decorate.

Lastly, I ask you to start another new tradition this Christmas season of inviting someone to this year's Christmas Eve church service. This gift will cost you no money, you don't have to worry about getting the right size, and this would be a great gift to be re-gifted year around.

Have Blessed Christmas  
-Pastor Shaun



*December 7th, 2013 1:00pm - 2:30pm*

*A relaxing afternoon of conversation and fellowship, getting to know other HPC members & friends in your age group, and Pastor Shaun better.*

*Fun holiday activities are planned to keep any little ones happy while the adults hang out. Childcare will be given by Teens For Christ and the Christian Ed. Team.*



## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

### STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

The Stewardship Committee is working on the upcoming budget for 2014, and appreciates the pledges and commitments made of time, talents & resources made by the HPC Family. Thank you for your faithful support of ministries that we all love.

### Year-to-date (October 31st, 2013) Income/Expenses Holly Presbyterian Church Financial Summary:

October 2013 Income	\$ 11,664.18	YTD Income	\$ 101,479.86
October 2013 Expenses	\$ 11,749.47	YTD Expenses	\$ 116,178.81



## *Sunday School & Study Opportunities!*

The Gathering Place for Kids  
Sunday at 9:30 am

Our kids program uses the Spark Activate Faith curriculum and is a Workshop Rotation modeled classroom where our kids get to explore their faith through, art, science, cooking, computers, games, stories, music & drama!

[Register your family and Check it out!](#)

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**December 15th - Following Worship!**

**Adult Sunday School 2013-2014**  
**Sunday at 9:30 am**

Comparative Religions is our current topic and it has been very interesting so far! How does one religious tradition often differ so markedly from another? This is something we will be studying since religions, which form the foundations for a wide range of moral codes, can and do influence the actions of nations on the world stage, of which we are a part. Everyone is welcome to join us any week you are able.

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch!**  
**12:00 noon**

The Lunch Bunch meets at noon on Wednesday for an informal Bible study. We are currently studying the Book of Genesis. Charlee Litten is the leader for this study and does a great job of helping look at the scriptures in new ways and with great joy and humor! Everyone is welcome to attend when ever they are able, just bring your bible if you have one (We have loaners too!) and little something for your lunch!

**NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

For anyone interested in exploring membership at Holly Presbyterian Church we will offer a new members class after the first of the new year. If you are interested in joining us

please contact the church office by calling 248-634-9494 or sending an email to office@hollypc.org

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY "Abiding Hope"

Each month the women of the church are invited to gather together with Rev. Sharlyn as she leads the Horizon's 2013-2014 Bible Study "Abiding Hope". We will meet the first Thursday of each month to explore the word of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy. The Study Materials are available for a cost of \$10 if you do not already subscribe to Horizon's Magazine.

Please let Laura parker know if you need to have a book ordered for you. November 7th is our next study, we hope you will join us.

## *December Calendar of Events*



- Dec 1    TEENS FOR CHRIST MTG 9:00am  
          SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30am  
          FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR 10:30am  
          WORSHIP 11:00am - First Sunday in Advent  
          HANGING OF THE GREENS 12:00pm - Bring a Sack Lunch  
          AA 3:00pm
- Dec 2    AA AND ALANON 7:30pm  
          COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE @ DRYER'S F.H.  
          7:00pm
- Dec 3    PROPERTY MTG 7:00pm

- PRESBYTERY MEETING - Flushing, Mi
- Dec 4 WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH 12noon  
WORSHIP MTG 7:00pm
- Dec 5 PRESBYTERIAN WOMENS STUDY 6:30pm  
AYSO MTG 7:00pm
- Dec 7 YOUNG ADULT GATHERING 1:00pm
- Dec 8 TEENS FOR CHRIST MTG 9:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30am  
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR 10:30am  
WORSHIP 11:00am - Second Sunday in Advent  
AA 3:00pm
- Dec 9 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm
- Dec 10 STEWARDSHIP MTG 7:00pm
- Dec 11 WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH 12noon  
CHRISTIAN ED. MTG 7:00pm
- Dec 12 JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- Dec 13 BABY PANTRY 10am - 12pm
- Dec 14 GIFT WRAP FUNDRAISER! Teens For Christ 1:00pm -  
3:00pm
- Dec 15 TEENS FOR CHRIST MTG 9:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30am  
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR 10:30am  
WORSHIP 11:00am - Third Sunday in Advent  
CHRISTMAS PARTY 12:00pm -Family Fun & Fellowship  
AA 3:00pm
- Dec 16 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm
- Dec 17 OUTREACH MTG 6:00pm  
SESSION MTG 7:00pm
- Dec 18 WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH 12noon
- Dec 21 BABY PANTRY 10am - 2pm
- Dec 22 TEENS FOR CHRIST MTG 9:00am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30am  
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR 10:30am  
WORSHIP 11:00am - Fourth Sunday in Advent  
AA 3:00pm
- Dec 23 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm
- Dec 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLIGHT SERVICE 8:00pm



- Dec 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! Office Closed until January 2nd  
NO WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH
- Dec 27 BABY PANTRY 10am - 12pm  
TFC & TwFC LOCK IN!
- Dec 29 NO TEENS FOR CHRIST OR SUNDAY SCHOOL  
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR 10:30am  
WORSHIP 11:00am  
AA 3:00pm
- Dec 30 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm

## *Praying for our church family*

### *Prayers of Concern*

- For those serving or who have served us and our country in military service.
- For all those who are in nursing homes, shut in, or seeking comfort and healing.
- For Dan Nash, Beatrice Johnston, Harriett Striggow, Gladys Havenstein, Judy and Paul Blackburn, Ethel Weithoff, Marjorie Smith, Nicole Conway, Raelene (Hill) Morgan, and Irene (Bailey) Raby, Carol Ohlmacher, Grace Ranger, Brian Palmero, Fred Gates, Bill and Mary Renico, Dell Cruickshank, Dorothy Leaming, Marilyn and Jim Hope, Roberta Single, Butch and Linda Crider, Pete Olson (Jr), Jaymi Whalen, Jeff Watkins, and Sara Erzen.
- For all those affected by the violence and war around the globe.
- For all those suffering as a result of the devastating weather and natural disasters these past months.

### *Prayers of Joy*

- With expectant, and hope filled hearts, we offers prayers of adoration to our Lord for the blessings and challenges we have experienced this year.



### ***Prayer Requests from the Lake Huron Presbytery:***

- The Rev. John Becker (Honorably Retired from Vassar-First) and wife Emily on Emily's recent diagnosis of leukemia. She is currently being treated at the Cleveland Clinic.
- The Rev. Mike Wilson, Sandusky, who is undergoing treatment for colon and lymph node cancer.
- Karen Banaszak, Certified Christian Educator, who continues to experience significant health issues mostly relating to MS.



## **Order Scrip this Fall!**

**Order December 1st - Delivery December 8th**

\*We may add an additional order on December 15th for deliver December 22nd if enough people are interested. please let Christine Cook or Vicki Lyles know.

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

major retail stores, amazon.com, and iTunes.

Look at the complete list of cards available by  
[Clicking 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!!

## ALL NEW VG'S SHARE PROGRAM!

VG's grocery store has a new program that will replace the Community Share Points Program we are familiar with now. Please click on the link below to see how you can participate going forward. If you have further questions please see Jan Bradshaw.



[Click Here!](#)

## Property Update:



HELP KEEP OUR BUILDING SAFE & SECURE. A friendly reminder to everyone that we all need to be sure that doors are being locked, and pulled tightly closed when leaving the building. We have had a few instances where doors have been found open or ajar. Thanks!



# CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECT

*We are doing our annual Christmas Adopt-a Family mission again this year. The gift tag boards are displayed in the Narthex. Please take a tag, purchase and wrap the gift, placing the tag on the package and bring to church by Dec 22nd. Gifts will be delivered on Christmas Eve.*

## **Annual Fenton Ambassadors Concert December 8th 7:00pm**



We are blessed to once again host the Fenton High School Show Choir "The Ambassadors" for an evening of music and fellowship. Please join us and invite your friends! Refreshments will be served.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

***December 1st following worship.  
Hanging of the Greens!***

Join with other members of the church family to prepare the church for Advent and Christmas. We will decorate trees, set up the Nativities and the Village, hang our garlands, and more! Many hands make light work. . and MORE FUN! Bring a sack lunch and a merry heart!



**SCHWANS CARES  
FUNDRAISER!**

We are taking part in a new fundraising opportunity, providing members & friends a chance to support the ministries and facilities of HPC by purchasing food through the Schwans Food Service. You will be able to order online or by phone, and have the groceries delivered directly to your home. The church will receive 20% of any orders placed between October 20th and December 5th at: Our church's custom fundraiser page by [clicking here](#) or by calling 1-855-870-7208 and reference Campaign ID 2751 and Fundraiser ID 5066. An additional 5% will come back to the church for any orders that those participating place through October 20, 2014. Electronic Gift Certificates can be purchased as well, with 40% revenue back to the church. Instruction sheets are inserted inside the catalogs located on the narthex table.



## **Bake Sale**

### **NEXT BOILER FUND BAKE SALE! January 2014**

Our next Boiler Fund Bake Sale will be held in January 2014. All proceeds from the bake sales will be used to benefit the church's Boiler Fund. If anyone is willing to donate baked goods for this ongoing cause, it will be greatly appreciated. Congregational Care Committee is sponsoring this series of bake sales on the second Sunday of each month.

## **In the Beginning News!**



**Parent Child Play Group**  
*... resuming later this fall!*

Resuming loater this fall  
**For more information contact Krystal Caloia at [kcaloia1007@yahoo.com](mailto:kcaloia1007@yahoo.com)**

### **Prayer requests from our families:**

- Pray for all those in difficult relationships, struggling with emotional and physical abuse, and self doubt. May they be comforted by the love of Christ.
- Pray for young families facing custody conflicts - may they find peace and resolution.

- Pray for those parents who are not getting enough hours on their work schedules.
- Pray for those parents who are seeking work.

**UPCOMING DATES:** Fri. Dec. 13, 10am - 12pm  
Sat. Dec. 21, 10am - 2pm  
Fri. Dec. 27, 10am - 12pm

***Items we need include: Diapers, Kleenex, wipes, lotions, baby wash & diaper rash cream!***

If you feel called to this ministry please see a TFC member, Christine Cook, or Laura Parker.

*"And he took the Children in his arms, put His hands on them and blessed them."*

*Mark 10:16*

### **For Your Information. . .**

- If you have something that you would like included in the newsletter please submit it to the church office by the 15th of the month prior. Thanks!
- If you are not receiving the Email Newsletter and other e-updates and would like to, please call the office at 248-634-9494 and we would be happy to add your email to our list!
- If you have had a change of phone, email or mailing address in the past year, we would like to know so that we can make sure everyone's contact information is current in our database.

## **Supporting Missions . . .**



**The Keefer Family-Athletes in Action**  
Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor, Mi

**The lobst Family- Operations Transit**  
Algeciras, Spain  
(Both Working Under Campus Crusade for Christ)

**Grace Centers of Hope**  
Pontiac, Mi

**Ennis Foundation**  
Pontiac, Mi

**HPC Christmas - Adopt a Family**

**In the Beginning Baby Pantry**

**Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry**  
Holly, Mi

## Your 2013 Session

### **Class of 2013**

Christine Cook	Christian Education	(248) 887-6647
Lori Goldsmith	Property	(810) 397-9722
Roberta Single	Congregational Care	(248) 634-4360
Gerry Jackson	Stewardship	(248) 459-0240

### **Class of 2014**

Karen Haneline	Outreach	(248) 634-7339
Judy Studer	Outreach	(248) 634-8918
Margaret Perry	Worship	(810) 735-7692



## **Class of 2015**

Charlee Litten	Personnel	(810) 694-0095
Dessalee Cook	Worship	(248) 634-5680
Jim Lyles	Clerk	(248) 634-4610
Nick Pettit	Technology	(810) 869-4883

**Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn Gates**

248.369.8893(h)

620.423.2671(c)

**Assoc. Pastor of Young Adult Ministry:  
Shaun Hardimon**

810.635.0586(h)

586.292.8772(c)