

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.



January

January 2014

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Time sure flies when you're having fun, doesn't it? Well, I guess the older you get the faster time seems to fly, even if you are NOT having fun. I hear this all the time from older parishioners. I have experienced it first hand myself ...

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 Iobst**, continue to reach people in the name of Christ and distribute bibles.

but I AM having fun. Or, at least I'm feeling blessed all the time and am having much pleasure serving as your pastor!

Can you believe that March 1 marks three years that Fred and I have been in Holly? In some ways, it seems like we have not been here that long; yet, on the other hand, there are times it feels like we have always been here, always a part of the fellowship at Holly Presbyterian Church. Much of that positive feeling comes because you have accepted us and made us feel so welcome!

Looking back at what has taken place over this past year, we can see that the Holy Spirit has most definitely been active in leading our congregation and working among us to have patience with the building projects and financial issues, to enjoy our fellowship, and to have energy and vitality doing the ministries we have been called to do. We have brought in new members; we have baptized babies, children and adults, we have shared in the communion of the Lord's Supper together, and we have commissioned and welcomed our Associate Pastor and his family!

In the year 2014 I expect there will be new things coming and that we will continue to grow as disciples of Jesus -



Alan and Dee Dee, along with their children, will be spending this year in the United States reconnecting with 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](#)

sharing the Good News, creating new and meaningful ways of worship, growing our ministries, our membership and our faith.

God says through the prophet in Isaiah 43:19 "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (NIV)

Sometimes, when we get bogged down with worries about how we are going to accomplish something, or how we will pay for a project, it can feel a bit like we are in the wilderness, trying to find our way. When we get tired and begin to feel a bit burned out from all the work, we start to feel dry spiritually, like we are in the wasteland, searching for water, thirsty for God.

But then, there is the promise! "I am making a way in the wilderness; I am putting streams in the wasteland." God is doing a new thing among us and He is providing the way and the spiritual drink that will satisfy us and keep us going His way. Let us keep our minds and hearts open to what new things the Lord is doing and may we thrive and be strong in the year 2014!

Peace, Grace, Joy and Love to you all!

Reverend Sharlyn
Your Pastor and Friend



Reflections from Pastor Shaun. . .

Wasn't the weather around Christmas amazing this year. Many of us either knew someone or were the victims of losing power because of too much snow or ice on the power lines over the holiday season. If this was not enough the temperatures dropped drastically to add to all of the problems caused by the snow and ice.

For most us affected by the weather we were able to make some simple adjustments to our lives by calling someone and asking if we could stay at their house, went out to eat because we couldn't cook, and were still able to open gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas with little problem.

Sometimes in our lives we have to be reminded that what we are experiencing is a little discomfort and nothing really that bad. I was reminded of this on Christmas Eve when a man came to our church only wanting to warm up and share Christmas Eve service with us. Through different conversations we found out this man was living in a tent and his only heat source was produced by fire in a can. Not once during any of these conversations did he ask for anything except to share Christmas Eve service with us. He didn't ask for money, a place stay even with the temperatures being freezing, and gave freely when the offering plate was placed in his hands.

I will let you decide - did not having power, or getting your Christmas presents on a different day, really cause you any discomfort - or have we all forgotten how much we are given by God?



FYI's . . . and other interesting tidbits!

Did you lose power?

You may be eligible for a credit from Consumers Energy!

"Qualifying customers can be reimbursed a certain amount for each day they were without power. Go to www.consumersenergy.com and search for "Electrical Outage Credit". The top result will be a form customers can fill out, which can get them started with a credit for each day without service. Have your account number and other standard information ready. " (Tri County Times, January 1, 2014)

Tax Prep Help from the IRS!

If you plan to file a tax return for 2013, you may be able to file through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that offers free tax help for qualifying taxpayers. Through the IRS's VITA program, you can take advantage of traditional face-to-face tax preparation with an IRS-certified volunteer or you can use the

facilitated self-assistance service where you prepare and file your own tax return with access to an IRS-certified volunteer if you have questions.

For both services, the VITA Program generally offers this free tax help to people who make \$51,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation and can inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify, such as Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing. To find a VITA location near you that offers self-assistance tax preparation or traditional face-to-face tax preparation, go to <http://1.usa.gov/Xy2TTR>.

For general information about the VITA program, visit this link: [Tax Prep Help](#)



Finance Team Report

The Finance Team (formerly the Stewardship Committee) is working to finalize the upcoming budget for 2014, and appreciates the pledges and commitments made of time, talents & resources made by the HPC Family. We will welcome Elder Bob Killewald as our team leader in January.

Thank you for your faithful support of ministries that we all love.

Year-to-date (November 30th, 2013) Income/Expenses
Holly Presbyterian Church Financial Summary:

Budgeted income: November \$9,811.91 YTD \$111,291.77
Budgeted expenses: November \$10,217.02 YTD \$126,395.83



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!](http://hollypc.sparkssundayschool.org)

<http://hollypc.sparkssundayschool.org>

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.

Please Note: The adult Sunday school class will not meet on

January 19th when the Browns will have their kids home.

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS: New Member Class for all who are interested in becoming a member of Holly Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Jan. 11th from 10 a.m.-1p.m. Lunch is included. We will meet at the church in the Community Room. Please let Sharlyn know if you are interested by calling the church office at 248-634-9494.or by 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. January 9th is our next study, we hope you

will join us. *Please note this is not the first Thursday of the month, we are adjusting the date for this month only to give everyone a little break after the holidays.*

January Calendar of Events



- Jan 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- Jan 2 OFFICE HOURS RETURN TO NORMAL
- Jan 5 TEENS FOR CHRIST MTG 9:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30am
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR 10:30am
WORSHIP 11:00am
AA 3:00pm
- Jan 6 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm
- Jan 7 PROPERTY TEAM MTG 7:00pm
- Jan 8 WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH 12noon
WORSHIP TEAM MTG 7:00pm
CHRISTIAN ED TEAM MTG 7:00pm
- Jan 9 PRESBYTERIAN WOMENS STUDY 6:30pm
DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS!
AYSO MTG 7:00pm
- Jan 10 BABY PANTRY 10am - 12pm
- Jan 11 NEW MEMBER CLASS 10:00am - 1:00pm
- Jan 12 TEENS FOR CHRIST MTG 9:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30am

FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR 10:30am
WORSHIP 11:00am
FELLOWSHIP & CARE TEAM MTG 12:15pm
AA 3:00pm

Jan 13 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm

Jan 14 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE
FINANCE TEAM MTG 7:00pm

Jan 15 ***FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***
WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH 12noon

Jan 18 BABY PANTRY 10am - 2pm

Jan 19 TEENS FOR CHRIST MTG 9:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30am
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR 10:30am
WORSHIP 11:00am
AA 3:00pm

Jan 20 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm

Jan 21 SESSION MTG 7:00pm

Jan 22 WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH 12noon

Jan 24 BABY PANTRY 10am - 12pm

Jan 26 TEENS FOR CHRIST MTG 9:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:30am
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR 10:30am
WORSHIP 11:00am -Special Guests: The Iobst Family
MISSION POTLUCK Following Worship
AA 3:00pm

Jan 27 AA AND ALANON 7:30pm

Jan 29 WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH 12noon

Feb 1 LEADERSHIP TRAINING PLANNING RETREAT 9:00am

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 Beatrice Johnston, Judy and Paul Blackburn, Nicole Conway, Raelene (Hill) Morgan, and Irene (Bailey) Raby, Grace Ranger, Brian Palmero, Fred Gates, Bill and Mary Renico, Butch and Linda Crider, Jeff Watkins, Sara Erzen, Leon Parker, Maxine Bolyea, and Kennedy Todd.
- For all those affected by the violence and war around the globe.
- For all those suffering as a result of the devastating weather, natural disasters, and global violence 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 past year, and for the new year.



Prayer Requests from the Lake Huron Presbytery:

- Emily Becker, wife of the Rev. John Becker (Honorably Retired former Pastor of Vassar-First) who has entered hospice, and for John as he supports her.
- The Rev. Tom Cundiff and wife Nancy (former Pastor of Saginaw-Warren Avenue) as they enjoy Tom's move to Member-At-Large.

- The Rev. Dale Swihart and wife Barbara (Pastor of Fenton-First) and they enjoy Dale's retirement at the end of the year.



Order Scrip this Fall!

Order January 5th - Delivery January 12th

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 Team Update:



SANCTUARY ROOF UPDATE: We are replacing the roof over the sanctuary due to wind damage and age. The contractor we have hired will also be removing the old chimney at a total cost of \$11,759.00. The Property Team welcomes any contributions towards this repair as we will be financing the repairs through donations, Pennies from Heaven, memorials, and our line of credit. If you are interested in donating to this necessary repair it would be very much appreciated. Remember to label your contribution accordingly.

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



The HPC Outreach Team's Adopt a Family project was once again a huge success, thanks to the wonderful generosity of our congregation.

Thank you!

MISSION POTLUCK!

Our Special Guests

Allen & Dee Dee Iobst

On January 26th, we will have the joy of hearing Allen and Dee Dee Iobst tell us about the mission work they are involved with in Spain. It will be a great morning to hear what God is doing through their work and our support of them. They will speak to us in worship and then, we will celebrate together with a potluck following the service.



Allen & Dee Dee Iobst
and family in Michigan!

**POTLUCK
SUPPER**

Please plan on coming and hearing what they have to tell us, and then spending some time in fellowship with the Iobsts and with one another.

"After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go."

Luke 10:1-3

***2014
Elder & Leadership Training
Day Retreat!***



Saturday, February 1 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

All are welcome to share in this important time of sharing, learning and growth as we look at how we will lead this church forward and answer our calling by God.

This year's time will be a visioning/planning retreat, along with some work on our new team structure. There will be time for fun, for worship, and Sara Pettit will spend some time with us doing an initial strategic planning for church growth.

This will be an important time for the session to be in unity about where we want our church to be in a year and how we are going to work together to make it happen.

We are opening this up for everyone to come and participate if they wish - even if it is just for the strategic planning part. Please let us know if you are interested in attending by Clicking on this link:

[RSVP to Retreat!](#)

We will need to have a headcount in order to plan for food and meeting space. We hope you will feel moved to make this a priority for 2014!

Mark your Calendar!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, Feb. 9th



We will gather together following worship in our Fellowship Hall for a special extended coffee hour with snacks, to discuss the coming year and hear from our pastoral staff & session members.

Please plan to attend!

In the Beginning News!



Parent Child Play Group
... resuming later this winter!

For more information contact Krystal Caloia at 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.

- Pray for the children and family of Chantel Kline who passed into the greater life the end of November.

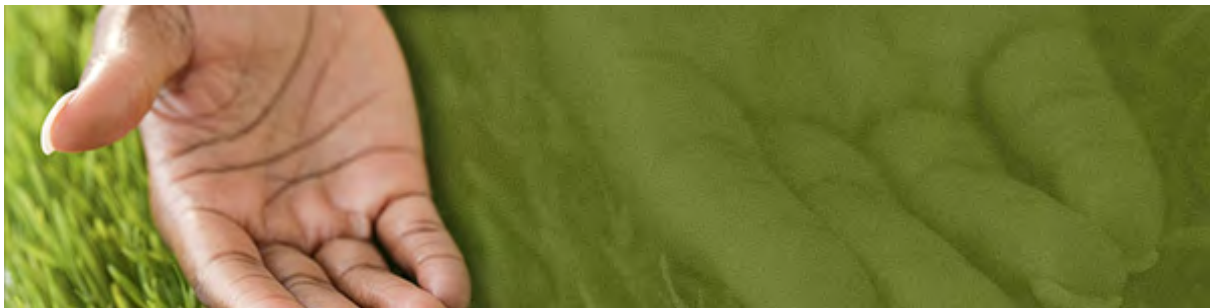
UPCOMING DATES: Fri. Jan. 10, 10am - 12pm
Sat. Jan. 18, 10am - 2pm
Fri. Jan. 24, 10am - 12pm

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*

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

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.

Your 2014 Session

Class of 2014

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

Class of 2015

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

Class of 2016

Christine Cook	Christian Education Team	(248) 887-6647
Lori Goldsmith	Property Team	(248) 397-9722
Bob Killewald	Finance Team	(248) 310-2410

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)