

HPC Connections

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving

November 2016 Newsletter
Volume 16, Issue 11



A message from Reverend Sharlyn

Counting Our Blessings -



Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms. - Psalm 95:1-2

We should always give thanks to God. In every situation we find ourselves in, it is still a good thing to be thankful to the Lord because he is blessing us with his presence, grace and mercy. We should always be thankful for our salvation that comes through our Lord Jesus Christ.

November is a month when we especially turn our thoughts to being thankful. Thanksgiving Day is, for many of us, a day to celebrate all that we have to be thankful for - our family and friends, our home, our church, and our faith. Of course, we are thankful for the country we live in and those who went before us, struggling in hardships, and even fighting, to give us the freedom we enjoy in America.

For the Israelites, the time of harvest was especially a time for giving thanks. Deuteronomy 26:10 says, "So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." It was a great day indeed when they could bring a tenth of the harvest - the first fruits, the tender grains, and give it in worship as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God who had given them so much - guiding them to freedom, giving them land to live on and blessing them with the harvest.

Today, we don't bring in a load of the first fruits of the harvest of grain and leave it in the church. Please don't do that! But this is the month when we

gather our pledges to be dedicated to God. We discern what we can give of the income we have been blessed with, fully aware that it all is a blessing from God. All we have and all that we are belongs to our loving Creator. We also consider the talents and time we have, and we pledge, not only what monetary gifts we will give, but how we will use a portion of our time and our talents for the good of the ministry and mission of the church. Paul says, in 2 Corinthians 9:7, *"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* If you feel led and can give the full 1/10 tithe, as they did in the Old Testament, give it with gratitude and thanksgiving. But, whatever you feel God is leading you to give, whether it be a small amount or a large amount, do it with an attitude of gratitude.

Jesus said, *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* - Matthew 6:21 Our stewardship commitment Sunday is November 13th. It is a special day to consecrate our pledges to God; an opportunity to dedicate ourselves and all we have to the One who blesses us with his great love and presence.

November 6th is another day of giving thanks as we remember the generous lives of those members and loved ones who have died in the past year, and also those whose memorial gifts - gifts that were given in their honor and memory - were used for the ministry and mission of the church. We remember and give thanks for their lives and legacy that lives on in our hearts and minds.

Last, I would like to challenge us all to keep a gratitude journal through the month of November. Just get a little notebook or journal and write down, every day, three blessings you are thankful for, and then say a prayer of thanks to God. When you come to Thanksgiving Day, share some of those blessings with family as you are giving thanks at the table. One of my greatest blessings is the congregation at Holly Presbyterian Church. Thanks be to God!

-Sharlyn

If you would like to help those affected by Hurricane Matthew Disaster Relief, see the forms on the table in the narthex thru Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Give. Act. Pray.

Information from our bulletins and calendar as well as special projects and disaster relief can be found on our website at www.hollypc.org





Don't forget to change your clock on Saturday November 5th. We will go back to Daylight Savings time. So, we will set our clocks back one hour and gain an extra hour sleep. I think I have it right this time. Sherry :)

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Stewardship Commitment Sunday is November 13th. Please pray earnestly over the next few weeks asking God to guide you in how to use your talents and in what you should pledge.



Memorial Poinsettias

A sign up sheet is available in the narthex for anyone who would like to order a poinsettia in memory of a loved one, or would simply like to sponsor a plant for the sanctuary. The plant cost includes matching red wrap and red bow. The cost is \$15.50 for a single plant or \$25.00 for a double plant. The final day to order a plant will be Sunday, Nov. 20th. Plants will be placed in sanctuary for Friday, November 25th Caroling event.



~Memorial Dedication Sunday ~
November 6th, 2016

Remembering.....



tag, purchase the gift, wrap it, and bring it to the church with the tag on the gift. Members of the Outreach Committee will deliver the gifts to the homes of the two families Christmas Eve after our service that evening at the church.



November 2016 Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

9:30 am A.S.S. Adult Sunday School

10:30 Fellowship & Coffee

11:00 am Worship

3:00 am AA

Monday

7:30 pm AA & Al Anon

Tuesday thru Thursday

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs

Wednesday

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch

7:00 pm Presbyterian Men Bible Study on Luke

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

"Bad Girls of the Bible and what we can learn from Them" Ends
Nov 16th

Schedule of Additional Events

Nov 1 All Saints Day

Team Meetings:

Informational Technology 6:30pm - 7:30 pm,

Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm , Personnel 7:00 pm -

7:30 pm, Christian Ed 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

- Nov 2 1:00 pm Grief Support Group
- Nov 3 7:00 pm AYSO
- Nov 6 11:00 am Memorial & All Saints Sunday
- Nov 8 ***Team Meetings:***
Fiance 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Care 6:30pm -
7:00pm, Outreach 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm,
Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- Nov 13 11:00 am Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- Nov 15 Newsletter Articles Due
- Nov 16 1:00 pm Grief Support Group
- Nov 19 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
- Nov 20 Christ the King Sunday
Healthy Check up
- Nov 23 No Friends with Needs or Womens Bible Study
- Nov 25 Baby Pantry 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Christmas Caroling Time 6:00 pm
- Nov 30 Grief Support Group 1:00 pm
-
-

A Word from Pastor Shaun

Several times over the last couple of weeks I have been in conversations with people who say they don't have enough kids coming to their house to hand out candy at Halloween.

You might also be one of those people who don't have enough kids but, I have a place that does have enough kids and others who enjoy handing out candy. This place is our own church.

During the last couple of years our church has been a warming station and a place for families to take a rest before moving on through the neighborhood to collect more candy. When the families come into the church doors, they are greeted by members of the church, offering candy to the kids, while also offering a place for the families to sit down and have some popcorn and something warm to drink.

So I personally invite everyone to come and have some fun. We will be setting up everything around 5 pm and handing out candy around 6 pm.
-Shaun

Christmas Caroling at HPC

Christmas Caroling is Coming Friday November 25th at 6:00pm to our church. The community comes in and sings carols and has refreshments. Then they join the parade and go into town to see Santa. Stop by and check it out.



Sunday School

The Christian Education Team needs to know a count of how many children, and their ages, we will have for Sunday School this year. We want to provide classes for all who come. Please let us know soon so we can plan. Rev. Sharlyn will be leading the Christian Ed team for a while so please email her at pastor@hollypc.org or call the church office at 248-634-9494 and leave a message for her if you have a child who will be in Sunday School. We will be working with our little ones, giving them a good start with Bible stories and music. We are in need of two volunteers to help this year. Please see Charlee Litten or Pastor Sharlyn. Barb Brown will teach the adult class and we hope that many will come join in.

From the Lions Den

In my last column, I wrote about how the shifts in American religion have affected the well-being of ministers. Ministry has changed from being a high-status, low-stress occupation to a low-status, high-stress one. This has had the effect of increasing the physical, financial, emotional, and ultimately, spiritual well-being of pastors. In this column I will begin to address some ways congregations and presbyteries can help address this problem.



A plan for pastoral health and well-being should, I think, incorporate the following dimensions:

1. Connection. Ministry can be a lonely calling. Ministers are often treated at arm's length by parishioners and members of the wider community. They find themselves caricatured as otherworldly or judgmental, though few take the time to know them as real people. Ministers rarely have time to develop strong relationships outside of church, but find friendships in church problematic. The resulting strain on the pastor's spouse and family to provide emotional support

can lead to a siege mentality and other problems. It is vital, therefore, for pastors to connect with other pastors in non-threatening ways.

2. Care. The old question, Who cares for the caregiver? is apropos of pastors. Every pastor needs a pastor, just as every member does. And although that is part of my calling as executive presbyter, I often find that many pastors are reluctant to turn to me because I am also in one sense, at least, their supervisor. Pastors benefit not only from attention to their physical and emotional health, but also from the kind of spiritual care that might come from a spiritual director or ministry coach.

3. Collaboration. The increasing demand on "professional ministry" to provide leadership and services to a whole congregation is both unhealthy and unbiblical. Presbyterians affirm a shared ministry between teaching elders (pastors) and ruling elders (session members). This is an expression of both the "priesthood of all believers" and our distrust of individual authority. Ministry in Presbyterian churches should always be a shared activity. Healthy ministry places a priority on identifying and discipling church leaders to share in the hard work of spiritual leadership and pastoral care.

4. Keeping the Sabbath. God created the Sabbath as a command to rest oneself (Exodus 20) and to release others from unjust burdens of labor and debt (Deuteronomy 5). Yet many pastors struggle to keep a day off, much less to devote it towards rest and release. The same could be said of vacation. Many a pastor has learned that one cannot escape the demands of ministry unless one is both out of town and out of reach. This is sometimes a challenge for pastors and congregations who feel the need for pastors to be on call 24/7.

Just as the Hebrews extended Sabbath to include Sabbath years (Leviticus 15, Deuteronomy 25) as well as Sabbath days, so we Presbyterians have incorporated a ministry sabbatical for church officers, who must rest one year after six consecutive years in service as deacon or ruling elder. The parallel for pastors is the pastoral sabbatical, typically a three month period of rest, renewal, reflection, and recharging that is often extended after six or seven years of continuous ministry in a congregation.

Many presbyteries require ministry sabbaticals regularly be incorporated into terms of call (ours does not). Studies have demonstrated that sabbaticals, if properly planned, can be of benefit to both the pastor and the congregation.

To have a healthy congregation, those who lead them must also be healthy physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Any plan for congregational health must also address pastoral health as a high priority. It is my hope that pastors, sessions, and congregations can work together to support pastoral health and well-being.

On a personal note, I will be out of town on vacation from October 15-23. During this time, Stated Clerk Ted McCulloch will be available for presbytery emergencies.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter
dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Finance Team Update

Income September \$ 9,091.40 YTD \$105,333.73

Expenses September \$10,009.48 YTD \$107,856.59



Thanks,

Finance Team

Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Laura Parker and Carrie Duncanson.

Christian Education

Adult Sunday School We will be continuing our study of the Gospels, covering Paul's Letters to the Romans. We will meet at 9:30 on Sundays, and will finish just before Coffee Hour at 10:30. If you are not a teenager anymore, you are welcome to the 'big kids' Sunday School. [small treats provided, bring your own water or coffee.]



Wednesday Lunch Bunch Bible Study- Each Wednesday at noon. We will be studying Luke. You are welcome to join us. Please bring a little something for your lunch! A good time of learning and fellowship. If you have any questions see Charlee Litten.

Women's Bible Study Our study is based on the book, *Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them*, by Liz Curtis Higgs. This study will be led by Reverend Sharlyn. We will begin each week at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the church downstairs. His book is fun and informative. Hope many of you will join in!

Presbyterian Men's Bible Study Wednesday's at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Gathering Place. We will be studying the Gospel of Luke from now through to Advent. This is a class led class. Please join us. Each week we discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. It is a good learning time and fellowship as well.

Grief Support Group

The grief support group will meet every other week on Wednesday. For November, we will meet on the 2nd, 16th, and 30th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Even if you have not lost a loved one, but have a life changes you are struggling with, or if you just feel the need to be with others for support, please join us! This group will be led by Reverend Sharlyn and Elder Linda Burns, our Stephen's Minister.

Technology Team

Technology Team members are Sara Pettit, Walt Brown, Jim Lyles, and Brian Parker.

Care Team

Praying for our church family & friends. .
Concerns



For those serving, or who have served, in military service.

- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Jim Lyles, Rev. Sharlyn Gates, Jim DeHaven (Rev. Sharlyn Gates father), Joan Davis, Carole Cohee Soya (friend of Linda Voorhies), Sandi (Carrie Duncanson friend), Donna Miller, Buck Buchanan (Kathleen Howe's brother), Alisha Sollund (Carrie Duncanson's friend), Celia Pettit, Amber (Dorothy Leaming's granddaughter), Terry & Julie Parish & Angel Vliet, Margaret Rainey, Fran Olson, Cecilia Borema (Margaret Rainey's granddaughter), Peggy Ranger, Barb Brown, Bob Killewald, Paul Burnett (friend of Cathie Killewald), Tom Schettling, and Lois Caryl.
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- Pray for our Missionaries- The Iobst family, The Keefer family, Rev Cathy Chang family, and The Ludwig family.

Healthy Check up will be Sunday November 20th Nurses Karen and Char will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate
- glucose check

Get your vitals checked and be in charge of your wellness!

Note: These screenings are not intended to be a substitute for your doctor's care. Results are strictly for your information, and is not medical advice.

Care Team

Karen Haneline, Loretta Weiss, Beth Dryer, Linda Burns, Jennifer Chanter, Jan Bradshaw, Judy Studer, Ellen Paulson, Lisa Martin, Charlene Clement and Emily Martin.

Outreach Team

In The Beginning News!

We are looking for **new** volunteers for the Baby Pantry Team. Giving your time or resources to this wonderful outreach ministry will bless you in so many ways! Contact Judy Studer or Cathie Killewald if you are interested in supporting this ministry.



UPCOMING DATES:

Friday, November 11th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, November 19th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Friday, November 25th 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Items we need include: We are low on many clothing sizes:

- Boys pants (12-18 mo, 24 mo, 2T)
- Boys shirts (3T, 4T)
- Boys PJ's (18-24 mo, 2T, 3T, 4T)

We are in need of size 4 diapers. Also we need Kleenex, baby wash, wipes, diaper ointment, kleenex and baby socks.

Any donations can be placed in the crib in the narthex, or financial donations can be placed in the offering plate with a notation or envelope marked "Baby Pantry". Thank you for your generous support.

If you feel called to this ministry or just want to see what it is about please see Judy Studer or Cathie Killewald.

"And he took the children in his arms, put His hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:16

Prayer requests from our families

- New families to the community that are struggling to make it. They appreciate the help we give them. They are in need of a better jobs or a job to keep there family going.
- 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 families expecting new arrivals this year. May they experience healthy pregnancies and safe deliveries.
- Pray for those parents who are not getting enough hours on their work schedules.
- Pray for those parents who are seeking work.

Thank you,

Judy Studer, Cathie Killewald, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash and Reisa Hamilton.

Property Team

1. The following jobs still need to be completed:

- Clean and paint boiler room floors
- Power wash and stain stairs leading to lower level
- Scrape and paint railings at rear entrance.

Supplies and materials will be provided.

2. Building Safety-A reminder to all to check the building for unlocked doors, water, or anything that could be pertinent to the building. It would be appreciated. We could easily prevent disasters.

3. We are a smoke-free property. No smoking on the Grounds or in the Building at HPC.

Thank you.

Property Team. Lori Goldsmith, Randy Cook, Broady Cook, Gerry Jackson, Tim Burns, Tom Schettling and Ellen Paulson.

Worship Team

Weekly Attendance

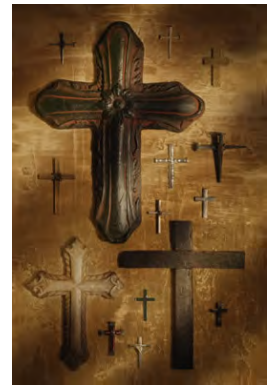
Don't forget to fill out the blue fellowship book for our record keeping of your weekly attendance. Not only is the entry used for important data the church needs to collect for accounting purposes but it is used to learn visitors names, address corrections, etc. Thank you.

Also, Worship is in need of volunteers. Open positions include substitutes and monthly positions for worship leader, ushers, greeters, and communion servers (must be an Elder of the church of serve Communion).

For the month of December, we will need five (5) families (including Christmas Eve) to speak and then light the Advent candle. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring your family together at Christmas.

If this sounds like something that interests you see Linda Burns for details.

Worship Team
Linda Burns
Vicki Lyles
Gordie Bradshaw



Support our Missionaries

[Jobst Family picture 2015](#)
[Josiah Phoebe, Thomas,](#)
[Deedee and Allen from Left to Right](#)

[Newsletter link: September Newsletter](#)

[Kids Newsletter: Summer Project 2016](#)



[Keeper Family picture 2014](#)

Colby and Sarah Keefer
and family

Newsletter link: [October Newsletter](#)

The Outreach Team Laura Parker, Jennifer
Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash, James
Lyles.



Fellowship Team

- Fellowship Team meeting will be on Sunday November 6th at 10:00 am in the back of the Fellowship Hall.
- The Ambassadors Concert is scheduled for Sunday December 4th at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Please see the sign up to get your cookies on the list.

Thank you.

Fellowship Team

Margaret Perry, Beth Dryer, Donna Miller, Colleen Spring, Roberta Single, Cathie Killewald, Elizabeth Kici, Judy Studer and Fran Olson.

Personnel Team

Charlee Litten, Jennifer Chanter, Judy Studer, Dale Huffman

Supporting Missions.

The Keefer Family-Athletes in Action

Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor, Mi

The Iobst Family- Operations Transit

Algeciras, Spain

(Both Working Under Campus Crusade for Christ)

HPC Christmas - Adopt a Family

In the Beginning Baby Pantry

Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry
Holly, Mi

Friend with Needs

School Supplies-Holly Area Youth Assistance
School Supplies for Haiti

2016 Session

Class of 2016

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Christian Ed. Team | |
| Lori Goldsmith | Property Team | (810) 397-9722 |
| Bob Killewald | Finance Team | (248) 310-2410 |

Class of 2017

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Margaret Perry | Fellowship Team | (810) 735-7692 |
| Karen Haneline | Care Team | (248) 894-3489 |

Class of 2018

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Reisa Hamilton | Outreach | (248) 634-2641 |
| Charlee Litten | Personnel Team | (810) 694-0095 |
| Ellen Paulson | Clerk | (248) 320-0375 |
| Sara Pettit | Technology Team | (810) 730-8357 |
| Linda Burns | Worship Team | (586) 482-3091 |

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn DeHaven Gates
(248)369-8893(h), (620) 423-2671(c)

Associate Pastor: Shaun Hardimon (810)635.0586(h),
(586)292.8772(c)

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