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# ***HPC Connections***

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving

January 2017 Newsletter  
Volume 17, Issue 1



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## ***A message from Reverend Sharlyn***

### ***When all is said and done...***

*See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.  
Isaiah 42:9*

As I write this article, it's still the middle of December. In my own life things have changed since I sat in my dad's hospital room and wrote the December newsletter article, back in November. He passed away on November 22nd, just right after I wrote. I have a mixture of feelings from that experience of being there for several weeks. There is definitely grief I feel in his passing. My dad and I had to work at building a relationship, but we did it and for the most part it was good. When all is said and done, we loved each other. I know he was proud of me and appreciated my almost daily calls, which I am missing even though I dreaded calling because his hearing was so bad. We were both often frustrated.

What I know - as a daughter, among many other titles, as a human being, and as a pastor to all of you - is that life and relationships are so tangled up with emotions and memories, with highs and lows and hopefully level places much of the time. Our loving relationships are complicated as we give and take, as we seek what we need in our relationships and do our best to give back as well. As a counselor I have seen pain and separation in relationships, but also healing and growth. As



a minister, I have seen families in conflict but also great togetherness; sometimes it is easy and sometimes it takes a lot of effort.

I guess what it comes down to is that loving is joyful and painful all at the same time. But it's so worth it! I am reminded of a song titled *A Holy Thing to Love* by Libby Roderick that says "It's a human thing, a holy thing to love what death can take; a human thing to love the thing whose loss can cause your heart to break." And at the end it says "Knowing that our hearts will break we love each other all the more."

When all is said and done, loving and being loved is worth any pain we might experience in loss. I write this because my own experience causes me to think back on this past year - and the years I have been here in Holly. And to place myself alongside all of you, my friends. Many of you have loved and lost, yet you reflect the love you knew so beautifully. In my experience in North Carolina, there were so many blessings besides the loss. First of all, your support and encouragement meant more to me than words can express. Knowing I did not have to worry about my place here as your pastor and reading your messages of love was such a blessing! And having the support of many new friends in Rocky Mount, many who were church family to my dad, who became extended family for me - you and they, together, demonstrated what the Kingdom looks and feels like here on earth. No denominational divisions - just pure Christ-like love.

I am taking vacation and going back in January to close out my dad's estate. I am glad I will have that time to slowly go through everything. I'm thinking a lot about what that feels like to close out a life. I think it deserves a little time and care and thoughtful thanksgiving in the process. I know many of you have gone through that process. I have a new and different perspective on your lives, your grief and your experiences because of my own.

As we come into a new year, we look back over all that has happened, all our experiences of work and love, of joy, pain and loss and I pray that all of you can say that in everything there were blessings abounding to make it all worthwhile. We look back, but we also have our eyes focused ahead to see what the new year will bring to us. I am trusting that it will be full of its own tangled relationships, full of love and emotions, of tears and joy. When all is said and done, it is about relationship, isn't it? Our relationships with our most special significant other, our family, our closest friends, our church family. And most of all it is about our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For in him we know that we have joy in the midst of grief, we have peace in the midst of conflict and pain, we have hope even when things look hopeless. And most of all we have love - a love that is full of promise. And because of his love we can feel very assured that even death is never the end.

May God bless us in our loving and living into the new year, trusting that He will be with us in all things.

Peace and Grace!

Reverend Sharlyn

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We will have a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 1st after worship for the purpose of electing new elders.

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### **Session Retreat 2017**

The retreat will be Sat Jan 7th in the Community Room from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm.

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The background of the entire page is a photograph of three lit white candles on a rustic wooden surface. The candles are lit, casting a warm glow. In the foreground, there are pine branches and snow, suggesting a winter or holiday setting. The word "Light" is written in a large, elegant, purple cursive font, and "OF HOPE" is written in a smaller, purple, sans-serif font below it.

# Light OF HOPE

The people who walk in darkness  
will see a great light.  
For those who live in a land of deep darkness,  
a light will shine.

Isaiah 9:2

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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](http://www.hollypc.org)



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## Carols, Candles & Communion

Saturday December 24th 8:00pm will be our Christmas Eve service. Please join us.



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## UN-Hanging of the Greens

Taking down the greens will be on Sunday, January 8th after Worship. Please stay and help with a merry spirit and a helping hand.



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## Adopt a Family Christmas Outreach Project

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Adopt a Family Christmas Outreach Project. Christmas would not be the same for two families. We show the love of Jesus as he has taught us to.



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## From the Fenton Ambassadors Concert December '16



*Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!*



## January 2017

### Regular Weekly Events

#### **Sunday**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am Fellowship and Coffee  
11:00 am Worship  
3:00 pm AA

#### **Monday**

7:30 pm AA & Alanon

#### **Tuesday thru Thursday**

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

#### **Wednesday**

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch  
7:00 pm Presbyterian Men's Bible Study

### Schedule of Additional Events

Jan 1 Congregational Meeting to elect elders after worship

Jan 3 Office Reopens

#### **Team Meetings**

Information Technology 6:30pm-7:30pm

Worship 6:30pm-7:30pm

Personnel 6:45pm-7:30pm

Christian Education 7:30pm-8:30pm

Jan 5 7:00 pm AYSO

Jan 8 10:00 am Fellowship Team Meeting

12:15 pm Un-Hanging of the Greens

Jan 10 **Team Meetings**

Finance 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Care 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Outreach 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Property 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Jan 11 1:00 pm Grief Support Group

Jan 13 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

Jan 15 12:00 pm Healthy Check up

Newsletter deadline Articles Due

Jan 17 7:00 pm Session Meeting

Jan 18 Deadline for Annual Committee Reports

Jan 21 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

Jan 25 1:00 pm Grief Support Group

Jan 27 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

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## A Word from Pastor Shaun

Depending on when you read this you could have been part of several snow falls and several days of single digit weather. In addition, you could have been rushing around finishing Christmas shopping and preparing the final touches of Christmas dinner.

If not you could be like a lot families who have to travel to different family members' homes over several days for dinner and sharing Christmas gifts with each other.

Between dealing with the weather of the season and family obligations even the best person becomes tired and needs some rest. Just like the weather and the holiday season can make our body's need some rest. Our faith can become weakened and needs to be reenergized for various reasons. When this happens remember these few scriptures.

*Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)*

*28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

*Exodus 20:8-10 (NIV)*

*8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.*





Shaun

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## FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM

We wish to give a very special thanks to everybody who has already turned in their pledge cards. Your generous responses are so necessary to help us to finalize the Budget for next year. It really helps us to determine what we are able to do for our Church during the coming year.

It is exciting to see the responses we have had already. We are looking forward to receiving the rest of the pledge cards not yet turned in.

May the Holy Spirit give you Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy.

Thank you so very much,

Bob Killewald, Finance Chair

## Finance Team Financial Update

Income            November    \$ 8,715.48     YTD \$127,191.63

Expenses        November    \$10,097.90    YTD \$129,221.41

Thanks,

Finance Team

Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Laura Parker and Carrie Duncanson

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## Christian Education

**Adult Sunday School** The Adult Sunday School class meets on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Community Room. We are starting a new study of

the Jewish background of Jesus. All adults and high school students are welcome to be part of this class and join the discussions. (Small treats provided; bring your own coffee or water.)

**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.

**Presbyterian Women's Bible Study** We will be taking a break and getting back with you in February or March.

**Presbyterian Men's Bible Study** Wednesday's at 7:00 pm. **No Bible Study on December 28th.** We will meet in the Gathering Place. 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 January, we will meet on the 11th and 25th 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.



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## Technology Team

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

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## Care Team

*Now may the God of HOPE fill you with all JOY and PEACE in believing that you may abound in HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13.*



## **Praying for our church family & friends. . Concerns**

- For those serving, or who have served, in military service.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Pete & Fran Olson, Laura Parker:

and Caroline Lucido (sister in law), Joe (brother), Celia Pettit, Karen Haneline: Delores (mom), Jim Lyles, Joan Davis, Carrie Duncanson: Sandi, Alisha Sollund (friends), Donna Miller, Terry & Julie Parish & Angel Vliet, Margaret Rainey: and Cecilia Borema (granddaughter), Peggy Ranger, Barb Brown, Bob Killewald, Paul Burnett (friend of Cathie Killewald), Tom Schettling.

- For peace and comfort for the families of Beth Krauss (friend of Laura Parker's), Ronnie Anderson (Fran Olson's brother) and Jim DeHaven (Rev. Sharlyn's father).
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- For our country and for world peace in a time of trouble.

## **IN OUR PRESBYTERY AND MISSIONARIES PLEASE PRAY**

- The Rev. Cathy Chang and family serving in the Philippines, Michael and Rachel Ludwig serving in Niger, Colby and Sarah Keefer & family in Ypsilanti (Athletes in Action), Allen and Deedee Iobst & family in Spain
- Families of Rev. Robert Fox retiree from Lapeer First. passed away 11/24/16 and Ian Kelly passed away 11/23/16. His wife, The Rev. Kate (VanBrocklin) Kelly, was ordained by our presbytery and served as Associate Pastor of Alma First for two years. The Kellys have two young girls.
- Kathy Grimes, Commissioned Ruling Elder of Elkton-Chandler and Kinde First continues treatment for breast cancer.

Healthy Check up will be Sunday January 15th 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.

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## 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, January 13th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, January 21st 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Friday, January 27th 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 job or a job to keep their 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.

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## Property Team

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.

Please remember we are a smoke-free property. No smoking on the Grounds or in the Building at HPC.

Thank you.

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

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## 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).

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

Worship Team  
Linda Burns  
Vicki Lyles  
Gordie Bradshaw

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## Support our Missionaries

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

[Newsletter link:December](#)

[Kids Newsletter:Summer Project 2016](#)



[Keefer Family picture 2014](#)

[Colby and Sarah Keefer](#)  
[and family](#)

[Newsletter link: November Newsletter](#)



[The Outreach Team Reisa Hamilton, Laura Parker, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash, James Lyles.](#)

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## Fellowship Team

- Fellowship Team meeting will be on Sunday January 8th  
at 10:00 am in the back of the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you.

Fellowship Team

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

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## Personnel Team

Charlee Litten, Jennifer Chanter, Judy Studer, Dale Huffman

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## 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

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***Our 2016 Session***

**Class of 2017**

Margaret Perry	Fellowship Team	
Karen Haneline	Care Team	(810) 735-7692 (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

**Class of 2016**

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

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)