

HOLLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 11



# H P C T I D I N G S

DECEMBER 2006

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NEWS AND UPDATES	2
CONGREGATIONAL NEWS	3
TEENS FOR CHRIST	7
EVENTS CALENDAR	5
OUR LIFE TOGETHER	6
ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
MISSIONS UPDATE	8

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- If you know of anyone needing a large print newsletter, please call Teri at the office: 248-634-9494
- Herb's e-mail is: [hpointerm@sbocj.oba.net](mailto:hpointerm@sbocj.oba.net) and his phone is: (810) 714-3290
- Worship hours:  
10:30 Worship  
9:00 Sunday School

## INTERIM NOTES



Advent is upon us once again! Since spring, HPC has been laying plans for December. By the time you read this, some of those plans will have already shown results in the decorating of the church building, especially the sanctuary and our new narthex. I trust that many of you will have already been involved in one or more of the many decorating projects carried out under the able leadership of Laura Parker.

Advertised in this newsletter are several other Advent activities including the evening of carols & songs led by the Fenton HS Ambassadors on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Advent Family Fair on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and caroling on the 17<sup>th</sup>. **THE SUCCESS OF EACH OF THESE ACTIVITIES DEPENDS ON ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER AND INVOLVING OTHERS FROM OUTSIDE THE CHURCH IN THEM.** My personal hope as your interim pastor is that

we will celebrate together a happy and meaningful Advent season.

Please be especially aware of the Family Advent Fair. A lot of planning & work is going into it to make it a success. The Fair takes the place of a children's service or program. Special activities are planned for children, young people, and adults. The fair will take place from 3:00 until 5:00 pm and will end with a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party.

If all of our plans come to fruition, Advent 2006 will be a time to re-

member. Advent, indeed, is always a time to remember. We remember family members who live far away. We remember those who have died. We remember our own childhood and relive memories of other times, other places. In the midst of it all, we remember Christ.

Advent is also a time of preparation and rededication to Christ and to the deepest principles and meanings of our faith. My prayer is that Christmas 2006 can be such a special time of preparation.

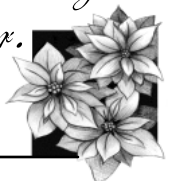
Herb ■

One set of activities is especially intended for the spiritual nurture of adults. During the whole time of the Fair, the sanctuary will be open for prayer & meditation. There will be a place for lighting prayer candles. One or two elders and I will be present to pray with and for those who would like to have that opportunity. There will be a brief meditation guide available. The elders and I will also be willing to do a brief ceremony of anointing with oil those who feel a special need for a spiritual blessing. ***In the middle of a busy, hectic season, this will be one opportunity for us to spend a few minutes in quiet, contemplation, and prayer.***



*Sincere wishes to all of the members and friends of Holly Presbyterian Church for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

*Herb and Runee Swanson*



## NEWS AND UPDATES

### The 2007 Session

At its Fall congregational meeting, the congregation elected six members of the church to join the session for 2007. Elder Walt Brown (Outreach) will be starting a second term. Elder Broady Cook (Property) will be rejoining the session, having served as a ruling elder previously. Joining them in the "Class of 2009" will be Mary Ann Vergith (Personnel) and Brian Parker (Stewardship). Randy Cook (Worship) was elected for a two-year term to fill a vacancy, and Mary Renico (Christian Ed) will be serving a one-year term to fill a second vacancy.

Please, pray for the session in the coming year. The year 2007 will be a year of transition, and the session will have many important decisions to make and duties to carry out. And, when you see one of these six individuals thank them for being willing to take on the responsibilities of being a ruling elder at this important time in the life of the church.

### Elders' Convocation

The year 2007 will be a year of transition for Holly PC. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is working zealously to find a candidate for our pulpit, and there is every reason to hope that our new pastor should be with us by the end of 2007.

In the meantime, the church has a good deal to do to prepare for the next pastor. The session and its committees will undertake many different tasks during the year. One of those tasks is to call for at least two Elders' Convocations. The purpose of each convocation is to prepare ourselves for revising & working with our next minister. **The session invites all ordained elders to participate.** Other members are also welcome.

The first convocation will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 21<sup>st</sup>, from 2:00 until 4:00. It's theme is "Where we are & where we're going."

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## PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



HPC has been taking up the "Pennies from Heaven" collection for nearly two years. It's original intention was to provide the seed money for carrying out needed capital improvements for our facilities. With the extensive renovation of the church's narthex (foyer), this collection is now being used to augment the pledge drive being carried out by the Stewardship Committee. We urge all of our members and friends to continue to put in their pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars into the Pennies from Heaven bucket. These "modest" contributions have amounted to over \$6,000, which is a substantial help now and will continue to be of real help in the future.

**We do want to emphasize that the Pennies from heaven offering is not intended to be an alternative to pledging support for the renovations. It is intended to supplement those pledges.** THANK YOU! for your contributions to Pennies from Heaven and keep up the good work! ■

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### From the Congregational Care Committee...

#### Greeting Card Donations

We need donations of used and new greeting cards for our Advent booth on December 9. If you can contribute, please drop off in the box located in the Narthex beginning November 12. Thank you!

#### Ambassador's Reception

Attention all BAKERS! We need cookie/finger food donations for the FHS Ambassadors concert on December 3. Please drop off donations during regular business hours in the church kitchen anytime this week. Thank you!

**The next Congregational Care Committee meeting will be held on December 6 at 6:30 pm.**

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### Advent Family Fair

Put it on your calendar! On Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 until 5:00 pm, Holly PC is holding a family Advent Fair. A special committee under the leadership of Laura Parker has planned the fair as a fun time for members, friends, and the community. There will be booths, games & activities, a reading corner, a teen den, refreshment, and an opportunity for some quiet meditation time as well (see Herb's interim notes). It is a fair for all ages. There will be mission craft activities that will help those in need in our community.

Enclosed with this newsletter are six tickets. **MEMBERS & FRIENDS, WE NEED YOUR HELP** to make this event a success for the community as well as the church. Please take the enclosed tickets and hand them out to neighbors, relatives, colleagues, and anybody else you can think of. We have put the word out in the community in a number of ways, but the best way to have a full and happy church on the 9<sup>th</sup> is with your help. Please, come and bring someone with you!

### Stockings for Mommies and Daddies

The following is a list of items needed for adult stockings to be donated for the parents of children in the Holly Area Youth Assistance program. These stockings will be put together at the Advent fair. A box is placed in the Fellowship Hall ready to receive donations.

**Mommies:** nail file, clear polish, polish remover, lip gloss, travel Tylenol, chocolate, travel size hair conditioner, single serving hot chocolate, small hand cream, cough drops / throat lozenges

**Daddies:** pens, inexpensive flashlights and batteries, soap, hair combs, nail clippers, small shaving cream, small aftershave, candy bar, gum, single serving coffee samples, small screwdriver

**Both:** toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, disposable razors, deodorant, postage stamps, breath mints, travel size shampoo, post-its, other small applicable items

**Also needed:** wrapping paper and scotch tape

**See the insert in this newsletter for additional information on  
Advent Activities and tickets for the Advent Fair**

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KIDS PAGE



*A Christmas Legend*

There are many legends-stories-that have come from Jesus' humble birth in the stable. They can help us understand the love of God sent to us in this special baby.

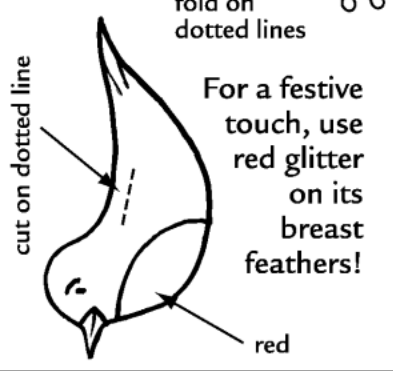
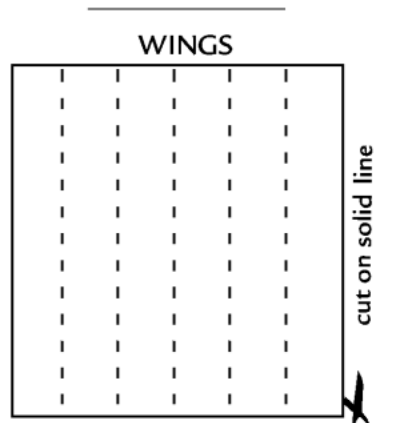
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On that first Christmas night, long ago, a plain, brown bird sat on a beam in a stable. It watched people come to worship the newborn baby. No one really noticed this bird. After the visitors had gone and the family went to sleep, the bird saw that the fire had died out. So the bird flew down and fanned the coals with its wings. It fanned until the fire grew bright and warm again. The feathers on its breast became bright red. The bird stayed by the fire all night, fanning it to keep the baby warm. Since that night, the robin has had a red breast, a symbol of its love.



Cut out the bird and wings below.  
 Color both sides of each.  
 Beak - yellow  
 Head & Back - brown  
 Wings - brown  
 Breast - red  
 Fold the wings like a fan.  
 Cut the dotted line on the body.  
 Insert the wings and fan open.  
 Punch hole. Hang with yarn.



# DECEMBER 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
Advent Decorating Nov. 27—Dec. 2: Contact Laura Parker for times and details.						
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Fenton Ambassadors	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm CCC Mtg.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>9</b> 3p—5p Advent Fair
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am TFC Mtg 3:00 pm AA	<b>11</b> 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	<b>12</b> 2:00 Holly Wood-lands Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 pm—AYSO	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 Youth Sunday</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm AA 6:30 Christmas Caroling	<b>18</b> 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25 Christmas</b> 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Wedding Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 3:00 pm Wedding
<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm AA	<b>DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS</b> <b>Ushers:</b> Ron & Kathleen Howe <b>Lay Leader:</b> TBA <b>Flowers:</b> 12/3 In honor of Amie Davis' birthday <b>Birthdays:</b> 12/1 Amie Davis    12/3 Walt Brown    12/11 Gordie Bradshaw 12/17 Sierra Haneline, Eva Wilcox    12/21 Cassandra Jackson, Harriett Striggow 12/23 Margaret House    12/28 Vicki Lyles					

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER



PLEASE PRAY...

- for the following individuals: Don Campbell, Joe Ponton, Margaret Ganshaw, Alice Horak, Don Giles, June Green, Gladys Havenstein, Peggy Ranger, and all of the members of the church who are facing health problems.
  - for the families of the congregation and for those who are living alone as well. Pray that we can treat each other with care and compassion. Pray for members of the church who face difficult times or decisions.
  - for our church during this interim period
- and for Herb, the session, and our staff Pray for God's leading as Holly PC seeks God's direction for the life and future of our church.
  - for the Pastoral Nominating Committee and each of its members as it carries out its search for our new pastor; and for the person God is providentially preparing as HPC's pastor.
  - for the leaders and peoples of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine. Pray for peace in those nations and in our world. And please re-

*"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Church By-Line

Congratulations to Rod Haneline whose suggested by-line, "Believe. It's just what we do." was chosen as our new by-line.

### Interim Congregational Study

The Interim Congregational Study conducted by members of our church last spring is complete and is available in electronic form for no cost or in a hard copy for \$5 each. Contact Teri in the office for more information.

### Dryer Funeral Home Ornaments and Memorial Service

Beginning Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, Dryer's Funeral Home will be again be offering the opportunity to decorate a Christmas tree ornament in memory of your loved one. Ornaments may be made by visiting the funeral home Monday - Saturday from 9 am - 4 pm through December 3. The ornaments will be displayed on a tree until the memorial service which will be held on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at the funeral home at 7:00 pm. The ornaments will be available to take home after the service. Everyone who has experienced the death of a relative or friend is

invited and encouraged to participate in this memorial.

### Herb's Office Hours

Herb's office hours are usually 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Monday thru Thursday. His home phone is **810-714-3290**. You can also reach Herb through e-mail at

[hpcinterim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hpcinterim@sbcglobal.net)

### Altar Flowers

You may sign up for flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays using the chart in the narthex. The cost of flowers is \$15. Please make checks payable to HPC and designate it for "Flowers".

### Choir

The choir practices in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining the choir! It's fun. It's fulfilling. It's a place for joyful service.



## TEENS FOR CHRIST

### TFC Update

Every Saturday from 12 – 3pm from now until Christmas, we will have a table inside Amie Davis' shop to wrap gifts for free. (Donations accepted). We need volunteers. We need at least two students for each day. We also need wrapping paper and tape donated.

TFC is offering their services for any seniors who would like help decorating their home for Christmas. Contact the office or Desalee for more information.

TFC will be running the cookie decorating booth at the Advent Fair on Dec. 9th, 3-5p. **We are in need of 10-12 dozen undecorated sugar cookies, cans of frosting and sprinkles.** There will also be music in the basement of Jordan's providing. Free tickets are available in today's bulletins. Teens can be entered to win a iPod Shuffle so get some tickets and pass them to your friends.

Blessings, Dessalee Cook



## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: HEIRLOOM STORIES ARE A PERFECT GIFT

Selecting the right gift for a special someone is sometimes joyous, sometimes a chore. Give a gift that's free. A gift that no one else could give. A gift of your legacy!

Consider giving to or requesting a very personal, one-of-a-kind gift this year: heirloom stories. A perfect gift for an adult child who has everything. A perfect gift to request from aging parents who don't know what to give. A daughter knew that the quilt protected in her mother's cedar chest was her great grandmother's. But until her mother recorded the story of the quilt she did not know how dear it really was. The quilt was a wedding present received the day before her newly married great grandparents climbed onto a covered wagon in Pennsylvania to begin their journey westward to Colorado and a new life. Protected and hand carried across the U.S. the quilt bumped for a thousand miles along the Santa Fe Trail with a wagon train. That quilt is now much more cherished.

People forget that they live in their homes with history all around them. Old tools, equipment and machinery have a history all their own. A woman's gloves, hat or shoes describe an era never to be seen again. Most of the stories go untold, leaving generations without the knowledge of an item's uniqueness, history or sentimental value. History lessons and family stories can be integrated, enjoyed & remembered by any age recipient.

Personal belongings and family heirlooms have so much to say. Have yours told their stories yet? They will be welcome and engaging gifts. Here are some ideas to help you tell those heirloom stories:

- Tell them to someone who will act as your scribe.
- Write them down in longhand or on a typewriter or computer.
- Record them on a tape recorder in your own voice.
- Have someone videotape you while you hold an item and tell its story or demonstrate its use.

Even a person with Alzheimer's Disease can often share the stories that others may think are lost. If she can still speak, put an item in her hand, and it may remind her of events or uses, people or places. Ask her questions, and you may get more history than you expected.

Start now to preserve those stories, histories and ways. Give or request a loving legacy for any season or occasion.

### About the Author

Linda LaPointe, MRA is an ElderLife Matters coach and author of several products to assist families experiencing aging including the pamphlet, Don't Be a

Burden: 100 Tips. *Original article can be found at:*  
[www.christmas-celebration.com/articles/perfect\\_gift.htm](http://www.christmas-celebration.com/articles/perfect_gift.htm)

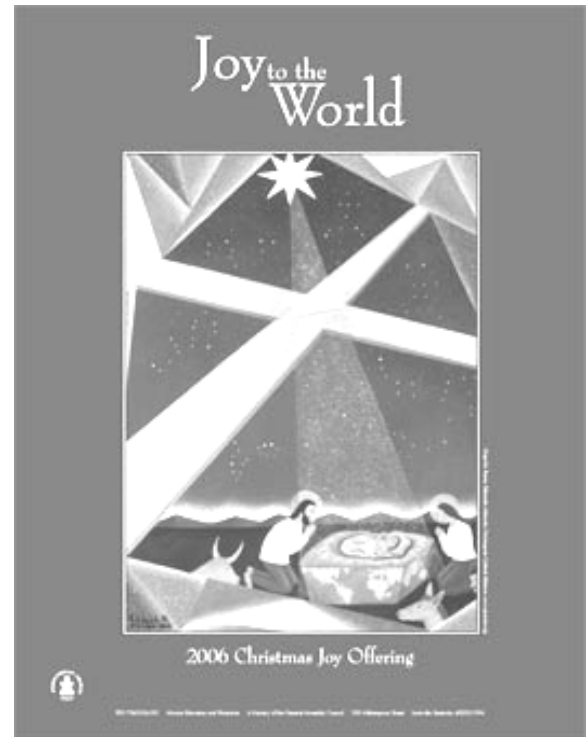
## 2006 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Presbyterian Churches have been contributing to the Christmas Joy Offering since the 1930s. This year, as in past years, Holly PC is taking up the Joy Offering. It is only one of two, along with the One Great Hour of Sharing, that we have held this year. All through Advent, you will be hearing about the Joy Offering through bulletin inserts and minutes for mission given during worship. Special envelopes will be available for making donations. We will take the offering on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at both the morning service and the evening candle light service. If you prefer, you can also mail in a check to the church mak-

ing it out to Holly PC and designating it for the Christmas Joy Offering.

The offering goes to two causes. Half goes to supplement the pensions of retired pastors, especially those who retired in earlier years and have smaller pensions. It is important that we can our pastors, who have usually worked with little regard for their own financial well-being, a secure retirement. The other half goes to Presbyterian schools and colleges that specialize in educating ethnic minorities.

**This is one more way that we can give meaningfully at Christmas. Please, help!**



## ATHLETES IN ACTION

Hello again from the Keefer's! We hope your fall is progressing well. If yours has been anything like ours, it has been filled with a flurry of activity. In the midst of it all, we hope you have been able to find rest in the Lord and taste His goodness there. Some big news around our house is that we are having another baby! Yes, the Lord has blessed us with another little one who will be born at the beginning of April. We are excited, yet a little anxious about having three children under the age of three and a half, but are ready to trust the Lord with the challenge. Ministry on cam-

pus has been going well, and it has been fun for us to watch our leadership students develop a heart to reach out to their friends and teammates with the love of Christ. We continue to trust God for new hearts to share the gospel with and are confident the Lord will bring the right people along our path. We truly are blessed to be able to do what we do!

*Please pray...*

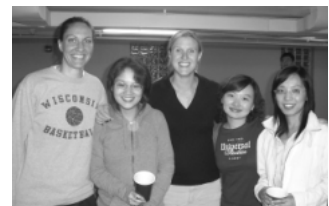
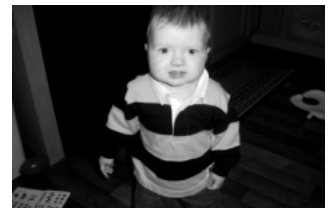
*...for the men's basketball and baseball players. Pray we could sit down with those that are interested and that there would be inroads for the gospel.*

*.....for Melanie as she grows in her new faith. Pray she stays passionate about growing in Christ.*

*...for our partnership with the Chinese students on our campus. Pray they would see the love of Christ through us.*

*...for the growth and development of our new baby. Pray for strength and refreshment for Sarah as she goes through a pregnancy with two small kids in the house.*

*...for Mikayla and Jackson to know how much God loves them and want to respond to that love at a young age.*



Colby and Sarah Keefer  
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[sarah.keefe@aia.com](mailto:sarah.keefe@aia.com)



**HAPPENINGS**



**Christmas In Action  
Pancake Breakfast**

Saturday, Dec., 9th  
from 8 AM—10:30 AM  
At MacCrossans in Holly  
Formerly Yosemite's Steak House



**Cost: DONATION**

Bring your Family and Friends to Breakfast  
before the Dickens Festival Parade!

**All Donations for toward  
Christmas In Action**  
(248)634-8773 - [www.hollytownship.org](http://www.hollytownship.org)

**Friends of the Library Used Book Sale**

Holly Township Friends of the Library will be holding their popular Used Book sales at the library monthly throughout the year. These events help support our local library. Check out the newly remodeled lower level "Book Cellar" where you can browse and purchase used books all week long during regular Library hours. This month's sale will be held on December 15th and 16th.



**Used Book Sale**

*Don't Miss It!*

**Arts and Crafts Sunday School**

*It's fun! It may be messy!*

*You might learn something new.*

*For Kids of EVERY age!*

**December 3rd at 9:00 am**

Christian Education is happy  
to announce that Arts and  
Crafts Sunday will be the first  
Sunday of each Month.



**"Doing business in Holly for  
over 147 years"**



Winglemire Furniture 634-8731



Joseph's Oak Shop 634-6595



Holly Gas Company 634-6645

~ DOWNTOWN HOLLY • MI ~

**Print & Copy  
EXPRESS LLC**

postcards  
stickers  
Full Color Copies  
Design

203 John Street • Holly, Michigan 48442  
Office: 248-634-2333 • Fax: 248-634-2544 • Plant: 248-531-0555  
Business Hours: 8:30am - 5:00pm M-F  
Email: [info@printcopyx.com](mailto:info@printcopyx.com)

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CHURCH**

207 E Maple St  
Holly MI 48442

Phone: 248-634-9494

Fax: 248-634-8595

E-mail: [hollypc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hollypc@sbcglobal.net)

**BULK RATE**

**U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #43**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**"SUDDENLY A GREAT COMPANY OF THE HEAVENLY HOST APPEARED WITH THE ANGEL, PRAISING GOD AND SAYING,  
'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE TO MEN ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS.'" LUKE 2:13-14**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

Our Mission is to:

- ◆ Worship God in a faithful and joyful manner;
- ◆ Teach the good news of the Christian faith, share that faith with each other and reach out to those beyond the church;
- ◆ Be a loving family dedicated to the biblical values of peace, love, faith and justice;
- ◆ Develop a dynamic presence in our community under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Holly Presbyterian Tidings**

A monthly publication of Holly Presbyterian Church

Interim Minister: Herb Swanson

Clerk of Session: Jim Lyles

Financial Secretary: Peggy Ranger

Treasurer: Vicki Lyles

Office Manager /Secretary: Teri Webner

Choir Director: Julia Belyayeva Hull

**Office Hours:**

Monday—Friday, 9:00a.m.—3:00 p.m.

***Our e-mail addresses:***

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Pastor: [hpcinterim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hpcinterim@sbcglobal.net)