



# ***HPC Connections***

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving

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December 2015



## **Advent Reflections from Reverend Sharlyn**

I can hardly believe we are entering the Season of Advent again! The time has gone so quickly this past year. I love Advent! While Christmas is such a glorious celebration of the birth of Christ, it also has so many other, fun, but busy elements to it - baking, shopping for great presents, and decorating just to name a few things. But Advent is all about focusing on the coming of Jesus. I found this article from a 2012 edition of the *Presbyterian Outlook* and really liked what it says:

"In Advent, we use our Scripture-shaped imaginations to feel what it

was like for the children of Israel to long for a Savior. Also, we get in touch with our own yearning for the future coming of the Lord when he will establish justice, wipe away every tear and bring the fullness of his peace. **We pay attention to the experience of waiting on God rather than rushing on to the next religious activity.**

Thus, Advent leads us to experience our neediness, our hopefulness and our desire for God." - Mark D. Roberts, *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2012. As I read that article again, with the recent terrorist attacks on France and Russia, and all the threats to our country that we are hearing, for me, Advent means even more this year as we long for Jesus' return and the promise of justice and peace. There is an Aramaic word that we sometimes hear - *maranatha* - which has two meanings, depending on how the syllables are divided. *Marana tha'* - is an imperative form, oriented toward the future, and is translated as: "Come, our Lord!" And *maran a'tha* - the perfect form, expresses a completed event in the past. It is translated as: "Our Lord has come." It is a paradox for us.

*The Companion to the Book of Common Worship* says it so well: "In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the "righteous branch" to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land. **Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!** In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord"

This Advent Season, let us patiently focus on our hearts longing

for our Savior. May we be filled with new hope and peace.

**Maranatha! O Come, O Come Emmanuel!**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gifts, given to me for Pastor Appreciation month. What a loving and thoughtful congregation you are! Fred and I already enjoyed the gift certificate to the Holly Hotel - a place we are both quite fond of, and I am delighted to have some nights already paid for to do something I find very meaningful - that is going on a private retreat to pray, reflect and plan at Vivian's Via Rosa in Waterford. VVR is a great retreat house owned by the Dominican Sister's of Peace.



Thank you! I appreciate it very much.

Peace and Grace,  
Rev. Sharlyn

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Information from our bulletins and calendar as well as special projects and disaster relief can be found on our website [www.hollypc.org](http://www.hollypc.org)



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## *A Word from Pastor Shaun. . .*

With only about two weeks until Black Friday shopping takes place the conversation about what to buy everyone for Christmas is surely to come up. There is the excitement of planning what stores have the best deals and how will you will get to all of them before the store runs out of a particular item.



For others this is the time they go out as a family and find the perfect Christmas tree. They get up the morning after Thanksgiving, eat breakfast together and head out, either to a local tree farm, or the corner lot selling a vast array of different types of Christmas trees. After spinning the tree in a three hundred and sixty degree motion and cutting this branch, and that branch, the family has found the perfect Christmas tree.

As much fun as it can feel to get the prized item during Black Friday or finding the perfect Christmas tree I would like everyone to remember there is another event going on around this time of year called Advent.

Advent is the season four weeks before Christmas in which we prepare for the coming of Christ. It begins on Sunday nearest to November 30th. Advent is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and its name comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming". The season also celebrates Christ's anticipated coming again in the fullness of time to rule triumphantly over life in heaven and earth.

Please find the time during the next couple of weeks prior to Advent to plan your strategy for prayer, reflection, and truly spending time with God.

Pastor Shaun

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## ***Calendar of Events for December 2015***

### **Regular Weekly Events**

**Sunday** 9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am Fellowship and Coffee  
11:00 am Worship  
3:00 pm AA  
  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm TFC

**Monday** 7:30 pm AA & Alanon

### **Tuesday thru Thursday**

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

### **Wednesday**

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch

7:00 pm Presbyterian Men's Bible Study

### **Schedule of Additional Events**

Dec 3 7:00 pm AYSO

Dec 6 10:00 am Fellowship Team meeting - back of Fellowship hall  
7:00 pm Fenton Ambassadors Choir Christmas Concert - We will have a sign up sheet for volunteer to bring cookies cheese, crackers, etc. for snacks for this great event.  
Last day to order Poinsettias

Dec 8 Team meeting - Rev Sharlyn is preparing chili. Teams provide Christmas goodies

Dec 11 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry  
12:00 pm Healthy Check up

Dec 15 7:00 pm Session meeting

\*January articles due for Newsletter\*\*must print 12/22

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

Party

Dec 19 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Baby Pantry

Dec 20 11:00 am Worship / Christmas program

Dec 24 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec 25 Merry Christmas/ Happy Birthday Jesus

Office Closed from Thurs, Dec 24 thru Mon, Jan 4th

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## Finance Team Update



### Income and Expenses

Actual Income	October: \$14,245.65	YTD:\$110,639.31
Actual Expenses	October: \$11,050.19	YTD:\$115,152.90

### From Your Treasurer - Important Dates if You Itemize

If you itemize charitable contributions on your income tax, please note these requirements for having your contribution count for 2015:

1. Check dated AND postmarked by December 31, 2015  
or

2. Check dated in 2015 and AT THE CHURCH no later than December 31 if you bring it in yourself.

The last Sunday in December is the 27th. If you will not be at church that day, please be sure that you meet one of the requirements above.



If you wait until the following Sunday to put your check in the offering plate, we are legally required to record it as a 2016 contribution, even if the check is dated 2015.

If you have any questions, please see Vicki Lyles.

### **Electronic Giving - It's so easy. Give it a try.**

Go to [www.hollypc.org](http://www.hollypc.org), scroll to the bottom of the page "electronic online giving", and click on "give now". You will be directed to the Presbyterian Mission Exchange Website: it will show Holly Presbyterian Church. Choose either one time or recurring. Put in the amount, day of week, start date and end date. The rest is your information (i.e. name, address, credit or debit card information\_\_\_\_\_). Then press give now. You did it!!

Note: Presbyterian Mission Exchange sends you by email a notification of each contribution you make. Keep these for your records for tax purposes.

Thanks,

Finance Team

Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Brian Parker, Laura Parker and Christine Cook.

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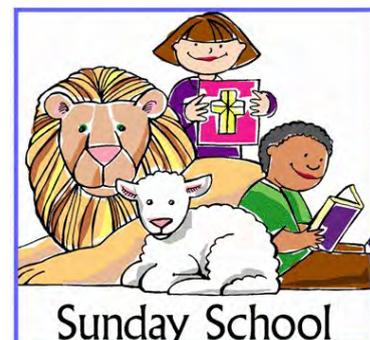
## Christian Ed Team Update

### **Adult Sunday School-**

Barbara Brown is leading this group in a study of the New Testament. This class meets Sunday at 9:30 am.

### **TFC (Teens for Christ) -**will be meeting

Sunday evenings at 6:00pm -8:00pm. Through the end of the year,



we are doing a new study, Echo the Story, that will allow teens to discover meaning and a personal identity in the Bible narrative through conversations, meditation, and creativity. If you have questions, please see Sara Pettit.

**Wednesday Lunch Bunch**-Wednesday at Noon. We are currently studying the Psalms. All are welcome to to join us. Bring a little something for lunch! A good time of fellowship and learning. If you have any questions, please see Charlee Litten.

**Presbyterian Men's Bible Study** Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall upstairs. The current study is based on select scripture reading followed by discussion. The class is led by Randy Cook.

### **Upcoming Women's Bible Study**

Please join our next Women's Bible Study beginning January 13th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The study is a Presbyterian Women's study entitled 'Come to the Waters' by Judy Record Fletcher. This nine week study will be led by Laura Parker and Christine Cook. Please sign up in the Narthex or let Christine know you will be attending. We will be ordering the books in December, each book cost \$13. If you are able to reimburse the church for the book that would be helpful. **Please call, e-mail or speak to Christine if you have any questions. cmcook2375@yahoo.com or 248-343-4157.**

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## **From the Lion's Den**

As I continue to introduce myself to you in these first columns, I'd like to say a few words about my work patterns as your executive presbyter. Like most pastors serving churches, I will try to keep one day off each week, typically Mondays, except on those occasions when I have had no weekend commitments. I will still respond to emails on Mondays, but might not be able to respond to voicemail messages.



It is my hope to spend most of my Sundays in the churches of the presbytery. As I mentioned in my last column, I am available to preach, teach a Sunday school class, or share a minute for mission. It is also my

practice, whenever possible, to fill the pulpit on the first week of a pulpit vacancy between pastors. This serves the dual purpose of easing the transition for congregations, as well as to help educate the congregation for the challenges ahead. (I wrote my Doctor of Ministry thesis on this critical time in a congregation's life.) I do not seek honoraria for any service performed on behalf of churches in the presbytery. If one is offered, I will ordinarily sign it over to the presbytery (the exception being short-notice non-emergency substitutions). Some video and audio tapes of my sermons can be found on my YouTube channel - you can follow the link from my website, <http://dansapertein.blogspot.com>. One Sunday each month I will reserve to worship with my wife Liz in whatever congregation she chooses as her church of membership.

If for any reason members of the presbytery and its congregations need to reach me, the best way to do so is by phone or email. You can reach me at the presbytery office number, 989-799-7481 . If I am not in, you can try the cell phone number on the voicemail message, or leave a voicemail. I will ordinarily return emails and phone messages by the end of the next work day, unless it is marked "urgent" or "emergency", in which case I will try to respond as soon as possible. If an email has not been replied to within two work days, it might have gotten caught in a spam filter or slipped through the cracks (it happens). In that case, please feel free to call or text me directly.

All ministry requires a balance between honoring the call to be available for pastoral service and maintaining personal boundaries for family life and self-care. It is my hope to serve you faithfully and to be a good model of healthy self-care for the presbytery.

Dan Saperstein  
Executive Presbyter  
[dsaperstein@presbylh.org](mailto:dsaperstein@presbylh.org)

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# Technology Team

The Technology Team is made up of Walt Brown, Jim Lyles, Nick Pettit and Brian Parker.



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## Care Team Update

### Prayers of Concern

- For those serving, or who have served, in military service.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Linda Voorheis, Beth Krauss (friend of Laura Parker), Scott (brother in law of Carrie Duncanson), Sara Pettit and baby Celia, Barbara & Owen Hallberg (Dr. Teryl LaFalce's mother & stepfather), Burnell Jenkins (brother of Joan Davis).
- For peace and comfort for the family and friends of Jim Hope, and for Vicki Lyles and family as they grieve the loss of her family, Tom Gilbert.



### Prayers of Concern at Presbytery of Lake Huron

- Ben Offrink, son of the Rev. Jim Offrink and Elder Sally Offrink is doing well in his battle with cancer. The girls are attending preschool now and enjoying it. It is still a challenging time for the entire family however, so continued prayers are appreciated. The Offrinks are very grateful for the support and love shown to them.
- The Rev. Tom Brackbill (Alma-First) and wife Pam as they deal with all that encompasses Pam's diagnosis of Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease. Pam is under the care of Masonic Pathways.
- The Rev. Cathy Chang and family as they continue training as Mission Co-Workers in the Philippines.

- Michael and Rachel Ludwig, our Mission Co-Workers who are serving in Niger.
- Elder Sally Pomeroy (Crowell-First) who will be having surgery for cancer on December 1st. The prognosis is very positive.

Nurse Karen will be in on Sunday, December 13th after worship. Nurse Karen will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate
- heart rate
- blood glucose levels

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.

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## Fellowship Team Update

Fellowship Team Meeting December 6th immediately following worship in the back of the Fellowship Hall.



Fellowship Team

Margaret Perry, Donna Miller, Cathie Killewald, Beth Dryer, Roberta Single,

Mary Renico, Fran Olsen, Elizabeth Kici, Coleen Spring, Judy Studer and Jan Bradshaw.

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## Property Team Update

Effective September 1st we are a smoke-free property. No smoking on the Grounds or in the Building at HPC.



### 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.

Thank you,

Property Team

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

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## Worship Team Update

### 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 for the next several months. Open positions include substitutes for worship leader, ushers, greeters, and Communion servers (must be an Elder of the church to serve Communion). If this sounds like something that interests you see Dessalee Cook for details.

Worship Team  
Dessalee Cook  
Vicki Lyles  
Gordie Bradshaw

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## Outreach Team Update

Advent adopt-a-family 2015



For a number of years the congregation of the Holly Presbyterian Church has celebrated Advent by adopting two local families and providing them with Christmas gifts. Again this year we have drawn names from from those participating in our Baby Pantry Ministry and selected the two families. A board with the information for each family and their family members and gift tags will be placed in the Narthex. Each tag will only include the person's first name (plus the age if a child) and type of gift, including size if it is clothing. Members of the congregation will choose a gift tag, purchase the gift, wrap it and bring it to the church. All presents need to be back by Sunday, December 20th. 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.

UPDATES!

*Special note: The family names of the winners and participants will be kept strictly confidential. Only Rev. Sharlyn Gates and the Outreach Chairman will know who the participants are.*

## 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 Laura Parker if you are interested in supporting this ministry.

### UPCOMING DATES:

Friday, Dec 11th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, Dec 19th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Friday, Jan 8th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

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

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

We are in need of Diapers size 1 and 4 as well as wipes. Kleenex, hand soap, wipes, & diaper rash cream are an ongoing need.

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

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

### Prayer requests from our families

- Prayers for baby, Keisha Lowes, who was losing weight because of the flu. Also pray for her grandmother, Sharon, who has a blood clot on her arm where she had surgery. Sharon is the caretaker for the baby.
- 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.
- Prayers for baby, James Grant Saucier, born with a cleft palette. May God bless him and be with him, and with his parents as they learn what is ahead, and learn to manage life with a newborn.

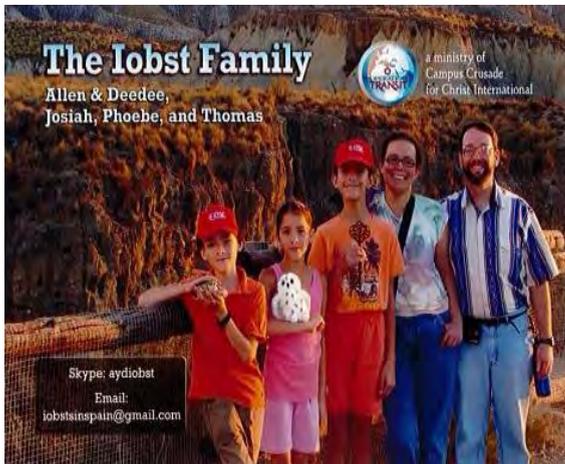
Give & Take Library: We invite the entire HPC family to support this element by donating children's books (used or new).

## Supporting our Missionaries



Colby and Sarah Keifer, Univ. of Mich. Athletes in Action who continue to reach college athletes in the name of Christ.

[Keifer October Newsletter Link](#)



Operation Transit!  
CRU missionaries, Allen and DeeDee Jobst, continue to reach people in the name of Christ and distribute bibles.

[Jobst Oct/Nov Newsletter Link](#)

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OLSHA Action Agency needs help in these areas: Handymen, Housekeepers, Survey Takers, Office Volunteers, Yard Clean ups, Snow Removal and Lawn Mowing, Minor Home Repairs, Home Safety Devices, Heavy Housekeeping and Yard Services. If you can help, please contact Marie Verheyen at 248-209-2671 or MARIEV@olhsa.org with questions and to sign up. Details can be viewed on the office bulletin board.

### **FENTON AMBASSADORS CHOIR IN CONCERT**

at HPC Sunday December 7th at 7PM. 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. We will have a sign up sheet for

volunteers to bring cookies, cheese, crackers, etc. for snacks for this great event.

Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteer drivers for Monday's and Friday's for Holly. They provide meals to homebound seniors. Please call there office at (810) 632-2155 if you are willing to serve.

The Outreach Team

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

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## Personnel Team News

We are continuing to look for a nursery care provider.

Our church has many teams that not only accomplish awesome tasks, but have great fellowship and laughter. Please consider joining one of our teams.



Charlee Litten, Jennifer Chanter, Judy Studer, Dale Huffman, Margaret Perry

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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)

Grace Centers of Hope- Easter Baskets  
Pontiac, Mi

HPC Christmas - Adopt a Family

In the Beginning Baby Pantry

Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry  
Holly, Mi

Friend with Needs Outreach

School Supplies-Holly Area Youth Assistance

School Supplies for Haiti

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## Our 2015 Session

### **Class of 2015**

Charlee Litten	Personnel Team	(810) 694-0095
Dessalee Cook	Worship Team	(248) 634-5680
Jim Lyles	Clerk	(248) 634-4610
Walt Brown	Technology Team	(810) 629-1618

### **Class of 2016**

Christine Cook	Christian Ed.Team	(248) 887-2012
Lori Goldsmith	Property Team	(810) 397-9722
Bob Killewald	Finance Team	(248) 310-2410

### **Class of 2017**

Laura Parker	Outreach Team	(248) 245-5348
Margaret Perry	Fellowship Team	(810) 735-7692
Karen Haneline	Care Team	(248) 894-3489

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)