



HPC Connections

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving



January 2016

Reflections from Reverend Sharlyn

Epiphany!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. Isaiah 9:2



Epiphany celebrates the incarnation - God coming into our mortal world as one of us. Why would God do this amazing thing? Why not

come in all God's glory to dazzle us with light and power? Why come as a poor, vulnerable baby born to a young peasant who was more girl than woman?

Can you imagine that scene though - if God showed up in full Godly attire? We think of God as Love, don't we? And I certainly believe that's true. But God is also mighty, omnipotent and powerful. I think it would scare us out of our wits if we were to suddenly see God here in front of us!

When I was growing up my pastor told a story on Christmas Eve that I have always remembered. It was about a little girl who was afraid of the dark. In fact, she was terrified of the dark. One night she was upstairs playing when all the lights in the house went out. She was so unreasonably terrified that she crawled under the bed to hide, in case someone or something came to get her.

Her dad, of course, knew of her fears. He grabbed the flashlight and bounded up the stairs, calling her name. But she wouldn't come out from under the bed. So her dad got down on his stomach and shined the light under the bed, which actually caused her even more fear. So then her dad scooted himself under the bed so he could be right there where she was. It was then that she recognized her daddy and knew she was safe.

That is an illustration of what God did for us so we would not be afraid. He got down on our level - as small and lowly as he could get - so he could come to us with the light and we would begin to recognize him and know we are safe with him.

Epiphany is about "seeing the Light." It is about recognizing God in the Christ-child. John says in his gospel, in the first chapter, "The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness did not comprehend it." That is the New King James translation. Sadly, there are still many people who are in deep darkness and who do not comprehend who the Light of the World is. They continue to "be in the dark."

But, I prefer the New Revised Standard translation that says "the darkness did not overcome it (the Light)." In spite of the darkness of our days in this world, take courage! There is no darkness - there is

nothing - that can ever overcome the Light of the World - our Savior, Jesus Christ who is our hope, our peace, our joy and pure love!

Merry Christmas Dear Church Family!
Rev's Sharlyn and Fred

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



A Word from Pastor Shaun. . .

When you read this the Christmas decorations have been stored back in their boxes and the New Year's Eve ball has fallen in Times Square. You might have even returned all of the gifts that didn't match your taste and even come up with a new resolution to follow for this coming year.

You might have even celebrated "Epiphany" during the first week of January or heard a good sermon related to the historical meaning



Christmas Program

and celebration of Epiphany? When you were done celebrating or hearing about Epiphany did you feel any different or did you just think this was another thing we do at the church?

Now I could research what Epiphany means and gather the commentaries on what the current theologian's think, but I would rather challenge everyone of us to create our own Epiphany moments in other people lives each month of this year.

Instead of thinking about yourself I want you to look back at this time next year and know that you have changed something for someone or helped them realize something that they needed to change in their life. The only stipulation to this challenge is you can't just give someone money. You have to truly put thought into what you will do and not just be ordinary like everyone else, but be abnormally like the birth of the Christ.

Good Luck-

Pastor Shaun-

- **Annual Session & Team Retreat**-January 9th from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm in the Community Room at the church. ALL Team Members are encouraged to come from 9:30 - 12:30 (lunch and snacks will be provided). The Session will then meet alone from 12:30 - 2:30. This will be a great time for worshipful visioning and planning for the coming year. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining in with this fun and meaningful event. (This retreat will take the place of the January Team Party Night.)

- **New Staff Member**

We have a new nursery attendant named Eric Mowery who will be introduced to the congregation soon.

- **Life Line Screening** is coming to Holly Presbyterian Church on

Tuesday January 26th from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Pre-register to save \$10 by calling 888-653-6450 or visit lifelinescreening.com/community-partners

- Friends with Needs Outreach extends an invitation to the Congregation and the Community to attend an informal meeting with State Representative Joseph Graves on Friday, January 29th, at 1pm in the Community Room. The topic will be on Mental Illness and cuts that have affected them.
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for January 2016 **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

7:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Bible Study
Schedule of Additional Events

- Jan 3 10:00 am Fellowship Team meeting
- Jan 7 7:00 pm AYSO Community Room
- Jan 8 10:00 am -12:00 pm Baby Pantry
- Jan 9 9:30 am - 2:30 pm Annual Session
& Team Retreat -Community Room
- Jan 10 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm Fellowship Hall Private
- Jan 13 7:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Bible Study-
Fellowship Hall-"Come to the Waters" Begins
- Jan 15 February Newsletter Articles Due
Deadline for annual committee team reports
- Jan 16 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Baby Pantry
- Jan 17 12:15 pm Healthy check up
- Jan 19 7:00 pm Session Meeting
- Jan 22 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
Confirmation Retreat 5:30 pm Fri to Sat 4:00pm Echo Grove
- Jan 24 Potluck after worship and game party
- Jan 26 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Life Line Screening of America
Fellowship Hall and Narthex
- Jan 29 Rep. Joseph Graves-Community Room
to speak on Mental Illness (FWN)
- Jan 30 11:00 am Fellowship Hall Private Party
-

Finance Team Update



Income and Expenses

Income: November \$11,120.36 YTD \$ 121,759.67

Expenses: November \$10,490.46 YTD \$125,643.36

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

Go to 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,

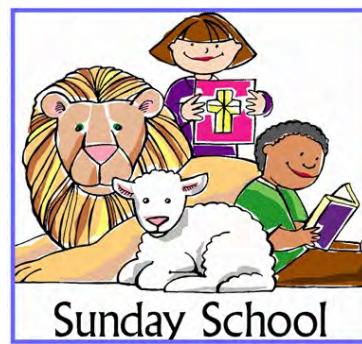
Finance Team

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

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 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. 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.**
cmcoco2375@yahoo.com or 248-343-4157.

From the Lion's Den



Though it routinely ranks among the five favorite films of all time, *The Shawshank Redemption* is not usually regarded as a Christmas movie. The film stars Tim Robbins as a man named Andy Dufresne who is sent to Shawshank Prison having been wrongly convicted of killing his wife. The horrors of prison life are almost beyond belief. But Andy makes friends with another inmate named "Red" played by Morgan Freeman. Red is the voice of wisdom and experience who guides Andy through prison life.

In a famous scene, Andy commandeers the prison PA system to play a soaring duet from a Mozart opera recording. The prisoners are transfixed by its beauty. Later, an inmate asks him if his stunt was worth the price of two weeks in solitary. Andy answers, "Yes. Prison is the only place where the music makes sense," because it is important never to lose hope. Red protests that "Hope is a dangerous thing. Hope can drive a man insane." But Andy is unfazed. "Hope is a good thing," he insists. "Maybe the best of things, and a good thing never dies."

Christmas is God's story of hope - both good and dangerous. It is easy to miss it amid the schmaltzy sentiment of secular celebrations, but it is the very inbreaking of God into our imprisoned world. Frederick Buechner put it best:

Christmas is full of the wildness and strangeness of divine grace. The Word became flesh. It is not tame, it is not touching. It is not beautiful. It is uninhabitable terror. It is unthinkable darkness riven with unbearable light. Agonized laboring led to it, vast upheavals of intergalactic space, time split apart, a wrenching and tearing of the very sinews of reality itself. [Whistling in the Dark: An ABC Theologized, p. 29]

In the dim, starlit manger, the Word became flesh; hope became real. The rulers of this world, the wardens of our prison, tried to kill it. But a good thing never dies.

Andy Dufresne ("A.D.") was an apostle of hope in a prison that could not hold him in spirit or in body. He is an image of Jesus, whose birth was announced with angelic melodies, and who transforms our despair into unquenchable joy and invincible hope.

Where Christ is born, hope lives, even in the most dismal circumstances, even when the darkness seems overwhelming. The walls of the old order have been breached. The angels are singing. The light has come. Reality has been torn apart. Nothing will ever be the same again.

Dan Saperstein
Executive Presbyter

Technology Team

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



Care Team Update

Prayers of Concern

- For those serving, or who have served, in military service.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Barbara & Owen Hallberg (Dr. Teryl LaFalce's mother & stepfather), Burnell Jenkins (brother of Joan Davis), Bill Renico & Mary, Sara Pettit and baby Ceclia, Jimmy Duncanson (son), Todd Duncanson (husband) of Carrie Duncanson, Randy & Missy Doyon.



Prayers of Concern at Presbytery of Lake Huron

- Ben Offrink, son of the Rev. Jim Offrink and Elder Sally Offrink is doing very well in his battle with cancer. Ben and the children would appreciate your continued prayers, 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 have completed their training. They are now traveling to various churches for financial and prayer support. You can follow them on their blog at eveniftheskyfalls.wordpress.com. (Mission Co-Workers in the Philippines)
- Michael and Rachel Ludwig, our Mission Co-Workers who are serving in Niger. A note came from them saying November was characterized by sickness and opportunities to visit. They remain thankful for loving family, staying connected with friends, good health, and so much safety than most people. For the love of God that will not let us go. Other PC (USA) mission co-workers are not in the same position.
- Elder Sally Pomeroy (Croswell-First) had surgery for cancer on Dec 1st. The prognosis is very positive.

Nurse Karen will be in on Sunday, January 17th after worship. Nurse Karen will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate

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.

Property Team Update

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.



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 Linda Burns for details.



Worship Team

Linda Burns

Vicki Lyles

Gordie Bradshaw

Fellowship Team Update



Fellowship Team will have a meeting on January 3rd at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee Hour sign up for the month of January 2016

Dates	Treats	Set up	Clean up
1/3	Roberta Single Donna Miller	Roberta Single Donna Miller	Roberta Single Donna Miller
1/10	Loretta Weiss	Loretta Weiss	Loretta Weiss

1/17	Ellen Paulson Reisa Hamilton Linda Burns	Ellen Paulson Reisa Hamilton Linda Burns	Ellen Paulson Reisa Hamilton Linda Burns
1/24	Cathie Killewald Jennifer Chanter	Cathie Killewald Jennifer Chanter	Cathie Killewald Jennifer Chanter
1/31	Kevin Magnuson Ellen Paulson	Kevin Magnuson Ellen Paulson	Jennifer Chanter Ellen Paulson

Outreach Team Update

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, Jan 8th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, Jan 16th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Friday, Jan 22nd, 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

- 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.

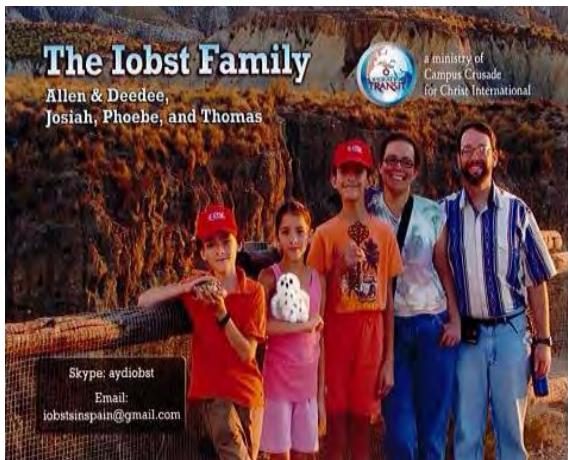
Give & Take Library: We invite the entire HPC family to support this element by donating children's books (used or new).

Supporting our Missionaries



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

[Keefer November Newsletter Link](#)



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

[Iobst Oct/Nov Newsletter Link](#)

[Christmas link](#)

[Iobst Family wishing you a Merry](#)

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.

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.

Personnel Team News

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

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

Our 2016 Session

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

Class of 2018

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)	

See what's happening on our social sites.

