



H P C T I D I N G S

MAY 2006

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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: hpcinterim@sbcglobal.net and his phone is: (810) 714-3290
- 10:30 Worship
9:00 Sunday School

INTERIM NOTES

In many church circles these days, one of the most hotly discussed issues is "church health." Dozens of books and thousands of articles have been written on the subject, and there are a multitude of descriptions of what it means to be a healthy church. All of this attention on church health is surely one symptom of the slow but steady decline of the mainline denominations as well as declining interest in religious institutions. (For example, our own Lake Huron Presbytery has been

losing members steadily for years. In 2005 its churches lost another 2.9% in total membership). If things were going "great guns" in the mainline churches there wouldn't be all of this talk about church health.

The health of a church affects every member. Healthy congregations inspire spiritual health and growth. Unhealthy members on the other hand fail to facilitate and may even get in the way of our spiritual well being.

So, what is a healthy church? Different authors emphasize different pieces of the pie, but there are some common threads in their answers. A healthy church consciously follows Christ. Now, some of you are thinking, "No, duh!" But, I suspect one of the most common sources of "unwell" churches is that they give lip service to following Christ but don't incorporate his compassionate style of servanthood in their own lives. "They talk the talk, but they

Continued on page 8...

Y'ALL COME SUNDAY

Having had a fantastic success last year, Holly PC will hold its second annual Ya'll Come Sunday on May 21st. The goal of Ya'll Come Sunday is to bring as many members together as possible on a "regular" Sunday. Another big feast is planned. So, put it on the calendar and ya'll come!



**"Surely he hath
borne our grief
and carried our
sorrows."**

Isaiah 53:4

NEWS AND UPDATES

One great hour of sharing

It is that time of year again! Holly PC is joining with thousands of Presbyterian churches and congregations of other denominations to collect the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. The OGHS began in 1949, and the gifts we give it support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Before we contributed a dollar to the Katrina relief effort last fall, for example, OGHS funds were already at work. A generous contribution here will be of immense benefit to the world's poorest and neediest.

And as we look to our church's future, it is important to remember that one of the key marks of a growing, spiritually alive church is its generosity to others and willingness to serve as Christ served. When you give to OGHS, you both serve others and build a future for Holly PC.

(For examples of how OGHS funds are used go to the One Great Hour of Sharing website at www.onegreathourofsharing.org/mission.html). ■



Food For Thought: Going to Church is Good For Us!

Recent research conducted by the Pew Research Center shows that people who regularly attend worship are happier than those who do not. Of those who go to church weekly, 43% report themselves to be "very happy." For people who attend once a month or less, some 31% say they are very happy. And for those who seldom or never attend worship, only 26% claim to be very happy. These figures hold for Catholics, Evangelical Protestants, and mainline Protestants—the more American Christians attend worship the more likely they are to be happy.

The question the research does not answer is what is the cause and what is the effect. Does going to church make people happier? Or, are happy people more likely to go to church? It may work both ways. In any event and apart from its other rewards, going to church is good for us. It brings us into contact with more happy people than we're likely to meet anywhere else. In sum, worship seems to inspire happiness in us and reinforce the happiness we bring with us. So, come to church! It'll do ya good! ■



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



At the beginning of each Sunday worship service we receive contributions for the "Pennies from Heaven" building fund. The purpose of "Pennies from Heaven" is to begin gathering the necessary funds for capital improvements needed for our facilities. Our Session will, with our congregation's input, decide how these funds will be utilized. Our building needs are extensive – plumbing, electrical and structural integrity – as well as general expansion. Another option would be to build new facilities. We conduct this building fund as "Pennies from Heaven" so that all members, young and old, may participate. With much prayer for God's wisdom and blessings the "Pennies from Heaven" fund will play a significant role in the future of Holly Presbyterian Church.

All contributions are tax deductible. You may use envelopes provided at the rear of the sanctuary. Please include your name. Make all checks payable to Holly Presbyterian Church with annotation "Pennies from Heaven". ■

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Easter Baskets

The Women's Group is again this year spearheading the drive to give Easter baskets to children and seniors who would otherwise not receive them. Your help is necessary for us to achieve our goals of meeting or exceeding last years total of 48 baskets. We have already received most of the necessary baskets and the grass to put in them, but we are still in need of many items to fill the baskets with.

Please consider the following items for children's baskets:

Bagged, wrapped candy	Bag of jelly beans	Crayons	Hair clips
Hot wheels/match box cars	Toothbrush/paste	Fruit snacks	Children's books
Teen magazines	Jump ropes	Coloring books	Nail polish
Stickers	Hair accessories	Gel pens/pencils	Hacky sacks
Parachute men	Balsa wood gliders	Super balls	Silly putty
Other small, fun games			



Or for senior citizens:

Stationary	Pens	Postage stamps	Seed packets
Word search books	Small clay pots	Small coffee	Tea
Herb window gardens	Small canned ham	Toothpaste/brush	Hand lotion
Gift cards to Farmer Jack, Kroger, Meijer or gas stations			

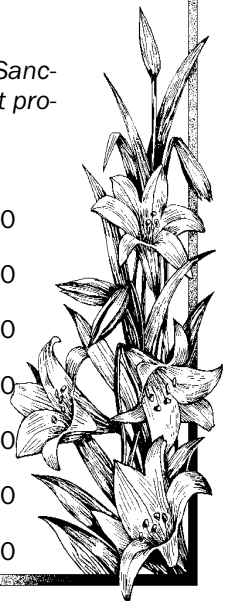
Please help our women continue the tradition of helping those in need. We need your support! Give generously. Drop off all donations in the fellowship hall and watch each week as our giving increases. Special thanks to all Sunday school classes who will again help to assemble these baskets. Thanks to everyone for your support.

Have a blessed Easter season, Kay

Easter Lily Memorials

Remember and Honor Loved Ones by sponsoring an Easter Lily or Spring Plant for the Sanctuary for Easter Worship. Select your choice from the list below and sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex.

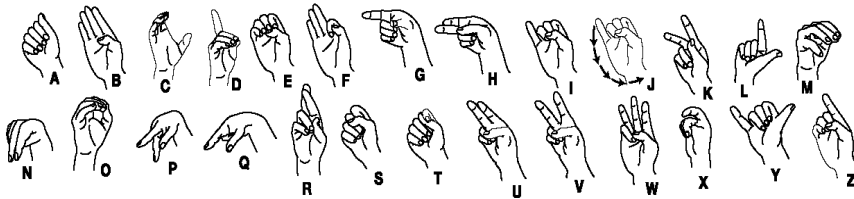
Easter Lily: Single Plant 3-5 Blooms with foil wrap and bow	6" Pot	\$15.00
Easter Lily: Double Plant 6-10 Blooms with foil wrap and bow	8" Pot	\$25.00
Easter Lily: Triple Plant 9-15 Blooms with foil wrap and bow	10" Pot	\$35.00
Spring Bulb Garden: Mixture of hyacinth, tulip, daff. crocus	10" Pot	\$30.00
Daffodil	7" Pot	\$25.00
Hyacinth	8" Pot	\$25.00
Tulip	8" Pot	\$20.00





"Behold my hands and my feet ..." Luke 24:39 (KJV)

Hands play an important role in the story of Jesus' death and Resurrection. Use this hand alphabet to retell the Easter story.



Jesus' _____ were _____ to the tree.



Two criminals were also crucified, one on the _____



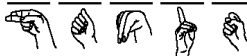
_____ and the other on the _____ of Jesus.



Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "_____ ,



into your _____ , I commit my spirit."



The _____ of Jesus' friends _____



Him from the cross to the tomb.

Jesus showed _____ His _____



to prove He was Christ.

Bring your _____ together in _____



and thank God for His Son Jesus.

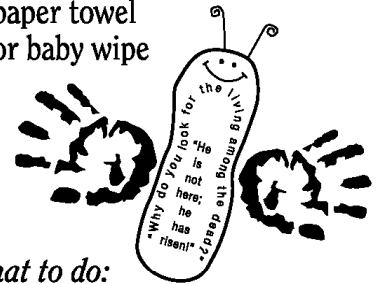
Make a HANDPRINT BUTTERFLY



The butterfly is a symbol of new life and of the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and gave us hope for a new life.

What you need:

- Bible verse Luke 24:5-6 (NIV)
- tempera paint or acrylic paint
- paintbrush
- 1 sheet of light-colored construction paper
- paper towel or baby wipe



What to do:

1. Draw a picture of a butterfly's body. Make it wide enough to write this verse inside the body:

*"Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here; he has risen!"*
Luke 24:5-6 (NIV)

2. Use the paintbrush to paint the palm of your hand.
3. Make a butterfly wing with your handprint by pressing your hand down next to the butterfly body.
4. Clean your hand with the paper towel or baby wipe.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 with the other hand.
6. Let the butterfly remind you of the sacrifice Jesus made for us and of the beauty of his Resurrection.

ANSWER: HANDS, NAILED, RIGHT, HAND, LEFT, FATHER, HANDS, HANDS, CARRIED, THOMAS, HANDS, HANDS, PRAYER.

APRIL 2006

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30 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm AA	APRIL VOLUNTEERS Ushers: Bruce and Beth Dryer Lay Leader: Jack Kaczmarczyk Flowers - Sign up located in kitchen: 4/9 by Larry and Janet Shiel 4/16 by the Killewalds in honor of Cathie's birthday Birthdays: 4/13 Margaret Perry 4/14 Franklin Privette 4/17 Gerry Jackson 4/18 Cathie Killewald 4/23 Kathy Henn 4/23 Marilyn Hope 4/25 Jan Bradshaw 4/25 Ivah Curle 4/29 Christine Cook																																																																																																

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



PLEASE PRAY ...

- for the following individuals: Betty Giles, June Green, Alice Horak, 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 leading for the life and future of our church.
- for St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Lake Charles, La., which is still working to recover from last year's hurricanes and whose pastor, the Rev. Louise Randall, died recently.
- for the leaders and peoples of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine. Pray for peace in those

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

Martin Luther King, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come to the HPC Kitchen Shower!

The Congregational Care Committee is planning to host a kitchen shower on Saturday April 29th at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to share in the fun! We will have pizza, salad, and a special treat for dessert. There will be games, fun and fellowship to share in.



As we cleaned the kitchen, we became aware that there are several items that our kitchen is lacking, as well as several items that need replacing. We will be setting up a board with needed items for you to choose from to bring to the shower. This board will be similar to the

board used at Christmas for the Katrina family. There will be a wide array of items on it, everything from paper cups for coffee hour to pot holders, kitchen towels and dishcloths, to a 14-16 qt. pan. Families and friends are encouraged to buddy up for the larger items that we need. Cash donations are also welcome, so that we can use the cash for items we don't receive, or for things like new kitchen curtains, should the kitchen be painted. So if you are short on shopping time, please consider a cash donation. Be assured it will be put to good use.

If you are unable to attend our shower, we will miss you, but please bring your item(s) on Sunday April 30th. We will

have everything on display in the fellowship hall for all to see. Please

help the CCC update our kitchen, and make this shower a success. We hope to see all of you there. (P.S. Even Herb has promised an appearance!)

Remember April showers bring kitchen flowers!!!

Happy Easter to all, Congregational Care Committee

Coffee Hour Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers for coffee hour set-up. The schedule, sign up sheets, and instructions are posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Coffee hours are great opportunities to fellowship and strengthen our relationships with one another. Please consider being a part of implementing this invaluable tool. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Renico at 810-694-3281.

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.



TEENS FOR CHRIST

March TFC News

Several teens attended the Alma Youth Mix this month. The theme was Road Trip- Stop, Look, and Listen. Our keynotes and small groups focused on "spiritual journey." There are side trips, pitfall, and bumps in the road and awesome events in each of our spiritual journeys. What a great time we had listening and sharing with others. Thank you to Nick Vergith for chaperoning and Ian, Jordan, Bronwyn, and Brian for attending.

Also, by the time you receive this we will have had our 30 Hour Famine. It is a first hand experience in to seeing what it is like to go without food for an expended amount of time and to raise money for World Vision. There are three churches participating. Details will be shared after the event. Likewise, there will a Breakfast Fundraiser on April 9th in the fellowship hall as well as our regular meeting that day. Details are below and will also be in our church bulletin.

The teens will also be participating in Christmas in Action on April 29. Please see Broady for a consent form.

Blessings, Dessalee

TFC Ridiculous Store



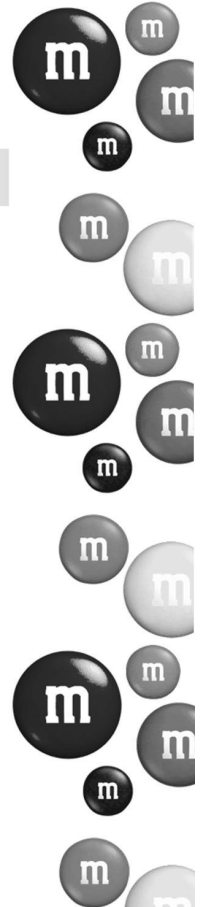
Candy for Sale



Proceeds to benefit Teens
For Christ Missions Trip



April 2 and 23 after service
in the Fellowship Hall



Palm Sunday Brunch

TFC Brunch Fundraiser

April 9th following service

Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Fruit

\$6 per person

\$24 for family of 4 or more

INTERIM NOTES CONT.

...continued from page 1

don't walk the walk." They don't practice forgiveness and love. They don't speak out against injustice. They allow unhealthy practices in the church to go unchecked.

Another key mark is that **healthy churches have a sense of vision.** They look to the future with excitement and commitment. The members believe that their church is on a path leading them to more fruitful times. A healthy church is both contented in its experience of God's grace and restless to grow in faith and service.

Healthy churches are growing churches.

They grow spiritually, in their knowledge of the Bible, in service to the world, and in numbers. Healthy churches attract new members by the quality of their congregational life. However, we need to keep the horse in front of the cart here: spiritual growth and a healthy congregational life are the seeds of numerical growth—not the other way around. And in some situations, such as declining rural areas, churches can be healthy without growing numerically.

Another surprising characteristic is this: **healthy churches do not fear conflict.** Numerous authors make the point that conflict is a normal

part of any church's life and plays an important part in maintaining church health. Healthy churches see conflict as a challenge rather than a threat. They encourage dialogue where there is disagreement and forgiveness where there is misunderstanding. Conflict can help us grow and learn.

Healthy churches have a lively, meaningful, and attractive worship life. The members attend worship because they want to give worship to God and because they find meaning in the service of worship. Several authors make the point that the form of worship (traditional, blended, or contemporary) is not as

important as its quality.

There is no such thing, obviously, as a perfectly healthy church. Health is not a steady thing. We can be healthy and still come down with serious illnesses. Thus, we have to always, always reflect on the current state of the church. How healthy is it? What are the challenges and obstacles a church faces in staying healthy? What is the role of the pastor, the session, and other church groups in church health? These questions and the marks of church health are especially worth asking and pondering in an interim period, such as the one Holly PC is going through now. Herb

ATHLETES IN ACTION

The AIA Superbowl Breakfast and our student-athlete Winter Retreat were absolutely incredible. God showed up and did great things in the hearts of the people who were in attendance. Another opportunity, though, that Sarah had was to attend a conference held to encourage, empower and equip our AIA staff women. It was an amazing three days of connecting with other staff and more importantly, with God. Almost every time our speaker would read from scripture she would say, "Now you're women in ministry, right? So, you've heard this before. Watch out that God's Word just doesn't become 'blah, blah, blah' to you."

I realized that I have a tendency to glance over scripture as I read it because I know I've seen it before. It's like the bible has become old to me or something. God reminded me during the conference that His Word is living and active and can speak to me today differently than it spoke to me yesterday or 5 years ago. It has been refreshing for me to slow down as I read the bible since I've been home, soaking in what God has for me that day. And God has been faithful to speak to me, restoring to me the joy of His Word. To God be all the glory!

Please pray...

...for the student athletes

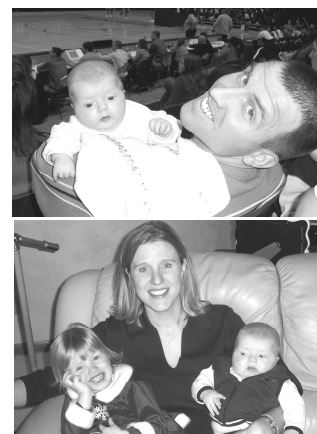
who attended our Winter Retreat. Pray against the enemy in his attempts to steal, kill and destroy what God did there.

...for us on campus at UD as we continue to reach out to the students. Pray specifically for the freshman dinners we are trying to have with each team. We would love to have them over to our home for a meal and show them Christ's love.

...for Nick, Zach, Emily and Ashley, the new AIA staff we are training at UD. Pray God would continue to give us wisdom and discernment as we dig into their lives.

...for our walks with the

Lord. Pray they would be continue to be refreshed by the Savior. ■



Colby and Sarah Keefer
2166 Harmony Dr.,
Xenia, OH 45385
(937) 374-1795
colby.keefer@aia.com
sarah.keefer@aia.com

MISSION: JUAREZ, MEXICO

Crossing the border to Mexico you go straight from hotels, buildings, and houses into a bigger reality. Shacks line down the streets serving as homes to the poor families in Juarez. Many move to the area to work in near by factories thinking it to be a great temporary investment. They come with the idea that they will make enough money to send back home but unfortunately this is not how it works out. Generations end up staying in this impoverished community. Their lack of money turns this community to take certain measures that drive from their creativity. Walls are built from old tires. Ever see those large wooden crates food is carried in? The sides of the old crates serve as fences to their homes. Our group, during the day, split up into three different work groups. One group dug dirt leveling out a street damaged from erosion. Another group worked at a local place where a soup kitchen is held at that we all worked at on Wednesday afternoon. They fixed the building's roof and did some painting. My group worked at a church. We dry walled a bathroom, tiled a floor, and texturized walls in a Sunday school room. We worked with some guys from a drug rehab. center near by who were just overly delighted by the Lord and to be working for God! At night we came back as a group and ate dinner together. We then had some sort of activity and worship. Some of the activities included getting ice cream, visiting a local church, having a

cook out with the guys from the center, and going on a scavenger hunt where we learned more about the city with everything we found. Each day I became closer to God and felt at home. It's a strange thing when you realize that living in a shack with only cold water and



11 other girls in bunks in the city of Juarez is your own "comfort zone". The only thing I felt I was lacking was the fact that I knew no Spanish, (not my straightener, make-up, cherished computer, or anything else I did without that week)! I'd just like to thank the church again for making this experience possible. It was so amazing!

-Cassie Jackson



Christmas in Action Oakland County

"Neighbors helping Neighbors"

If you, or your civic group, youth group, school, or business would like to get involved, please call us at (248) 618-7433. Look through our site at www.hollytownship.org/cia/default.htm and experience the difference that you can make!

P.O. Box 310 • Holly, MI • 48442-0310
(248) 531-8774 • fax (248) 634-7092



Check us out on the web: www.jamas.cjb.net.



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over 147 years"

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Holly Presbyterian Church

207 E Maple St
Holly MI 48442

Phone: 248-634-9494
Fax: 248-634-8595
E-mail: hollypc@sbcglobal.net

BULK RATE

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



"WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD? HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN!" - LUKE 24:5-6

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
Secretary: Teri Webner
Choir Director: Julia Belyayeva Hull

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Our e-mail addresses:

Office: hollypc@sbcglobal.net
Pastor: hpcinterim@sbcglobal.net