

**HOLLY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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**“THERE IS NOT ONE BLADE OF GRASS, THERE IS NO COLOR IN THIS WORLD THAT IS NOT INTENDED TO MAKE
US REJOICE” - JOHN CALVIN**

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.

BULK RATE

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

HOLLY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 5



H P C T I D I N G S

MAY 2006

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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 is 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. An unhealthy church 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 servant hood 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!



**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*

Happy Mother's Day!



*“Let all that you
do be done in love.”*

1 Corinthians 16:14

NEWS AND UPDATES

Food For Thought: God is both In and Out

Religion and spirituality dominate our national life in a way that has not been true since the 19th century. Even among Americans who refuse to become involved in religious organizations and groups, many claim to have a faith in God. With all of this interest in spirituality, we would think that Americans are changing the way they behave as well as believe. Recent research by the Barna Group, a Christian research agency, suggests otherwise.

That research indicates that 62% of Americans believe themselves to be "deeply spiritual." When, however, the Barna researchers studied the priorities of their sample group, only 16% of all adults listed faith as their highest priority. The great majority said that family was their first priority. Among those who considered themselves living full-time lives for God and to be deeply spiritual, only 20-25% stated that faith is their first priority. This was true even those who affirmed that the "single, most important purpose of your life is to love God with all your heart, mind, strength and soul."

What strange results! The head of the Barna Group, George Barna, states, "Spirituality is in vogue in our society today. It is popular to claim to be part of a 'faith community' or to have a spiritual commitment. But what do Americans mean when they claim to be 'spiritual?' The recent Grammy awards were perhaps indicative of this breakdown between self-perception



and reality. The members of the group that won the award for best song thanked God for the victory then immediately followed with profanities that had to be bleeped from the broadcast.

It seems as if God is in, but living for God is not. Many Americans are living a dual life – one filled with good feelings about God and faith, corroborated by some simple religious practices, and another in which they believe they are in control of their own destiny and operate apart from Him." Barna concludes, "It certainly seems that millions of Americans are fooling themselves into thinking that they have found the appropriate balance between God and lifestyle." We do live in a strange world! ■

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". ■

NEWS FROM JAMAS

Dear Holly Presbyterian Family,

We have been doing our Acoustic Cafes at Borders Bookstore

in Flint the second Friday of each month, and one at the Great Lakes Crossing Borders. This has tripled our attendance at these, although we can't charge admission. The conversations and opportunities have been great.

Our Rock Nights continue to be popular. We have had some great "Honest Truth" open discussions after the bands play, and some in between bands. The questions and topics that have come in are serious for the most part. Questions have come in on suicide, drugs, the meaning of life, and one from a lead singer in a popular band asked, "Does God have a plan for our lives?" We had a good talk.

Please pray when you think of it, for students to find and follow Christ, for more locations to do our programs, and for our finances which are low due to less places for Rock Nights, and more Acoustic

Nights filling in for a bit.

Thank you for your vital prayers and support!

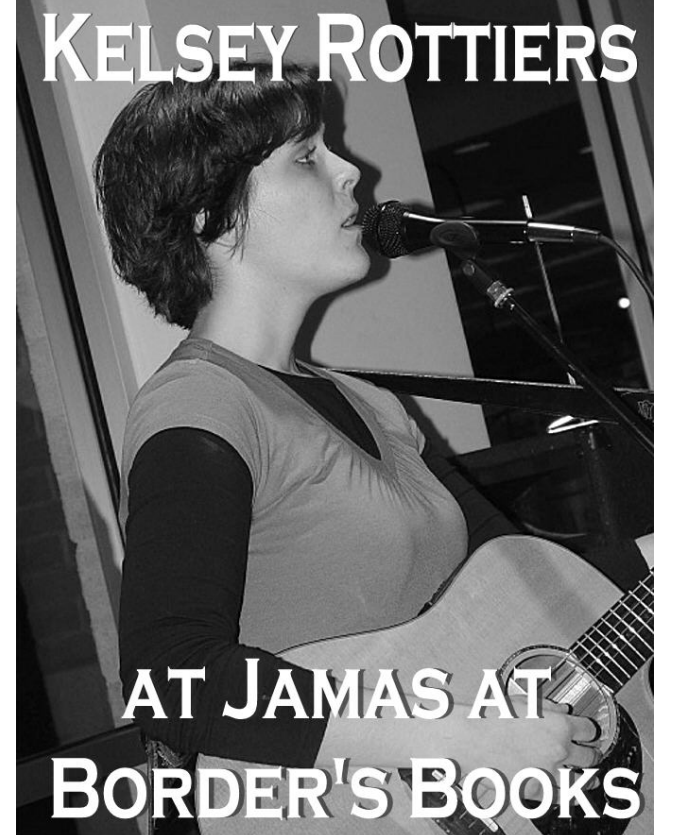
In Christ's Love,

ron moore for Jamas

airborn@tir.com

www.jamas.cjb.net

PO Box 930, Fenton, MI 48430



Kidz Theatre Kompany presents:

"The Wild, Wild, Wildest West"




Friday May 5th @ 7 PM, Saturday May 6th @ 2 & 7 PM

Friday May 12th @ 7 PM, Saturday May 13th @ 2 & 7 PM

at the Karl Richter Campus (Old Holly High School)

Tickets are \$5.00 available at the door or at the Little Professor Book Store on Silverlake Parkway in Fenton. Flowers and refreshments will be available for purchase. Hope to see you there!

"Doing business in Holly for over 147 years"

	Winglemire Furniture	634-8731
	Joseph's Oak Shop	634-6595
	Holly Gas Company	634-6645

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INTERIM NOTES CONT.

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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

Greetings from the Keefers! Can you believe its spring already? Where did the last three months go? Time has been flying by as we feel we have been flying from one thing to the next o our ministry adventures. But, I suppose that is the nature of campus ministry...these students don't slow down, so why should we? Right? Here's a snapshot of what's been going on with our family:

Spring Break Service

We have the privilege to train our new AIA staff here in Xenia and one of our goals is to help them develop a heart that reflects the heart of Jesus. So, while our students were gone over spring

break we created a service opportunity to expose our new staff to Christ's heart for the poor. We partnered with the Life Enrichment Center (A faith-based, non-profit organization that works with the underserved of Dayton. We spent three days serving them and it was a great opportunity to see God working and moving through the LEC.

Answer to Prayer

We have not had much participation from the volleyball team at UD. Well, this month He sent one of them our way! Jamie Lee accepted Christ after accepting an invitation to join Emily, my new trainee, and I (Sarah) to hang out.

Please pray...

...for the LEC serving the poor here in Dayton. Pray God will use them to show people His love. Pray also for financial blessing for them.

...for Jamie Lee to grow in her new faith. Pray against the enemy's desire to steal, kill and destroy.

...for God to continue to break down misconceptions among the athletes as to who He is and what we are doing on campus.

...for us to have refreshing times in the Word in our personal devotions, and for ears to hear what God is teaching us.

... for our kids. Pray they

would develop hearts that love and serve the Lord. ■



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CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Worship in May

Worship at Holly PC in May will focus on our relationship with God in life and worship.

On Sunday, May 7th, we will share together in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and *the service and sermon will look at God and worship at Holly PC.* How is God present with us as we worship? How can we prepare ourselves to discover God in worship?

The following Sunday, May 14th, is Mothers' Day. To add a little zest to the day, *the sermon will wrestle with the gender of God.* Is God male? This sermon will take us into the realm of using "politically correct language" about God.

Then, on May 21st, the congregation will celebrate Ya'll Come Sunday, and *the theme of the service and the sermon will be on God and the church.* One of the criticisms we hear of mainline churches like Holly PC is that they have lost contact with God. The Spirit no longer moves in them. So, how do we experience God in our church life?

Finally, May 28th, is Memorial Day. It provides us with a chance *to reflect on the relationship of God to our nation.* In these troubled times of terror, war, and tragedy, how does our nation relate to God? Is God on America's side, as some Christian claim, or is God against America, as others claim? How does our relationship to God influence our understanding of our nation?

The themes of both the services and sermons will be a mixture of Christian celebration & joy and Christian challenge & reflection. The hope is that these four services will involve both your hearts and your heads—as good Presbyterian services always should! Holly PC is a good place to be on Sunday Morning. ■

Thoughts for Memorial Day

The anthropologist and naturalist, Loren Eiseley, who died in 1977, wanted this epitaph for his wife and himself: "We loved the earth, but could not stay."

No one can stay, of course. We all are moving inexorably toward that final day when "the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done" (Book of Common Prayer).

This Memorial Day we particularly remember the men and women who have perished in war, giving the ultimate sacrifice to make the world a better place. They too "loved the earth, but could not stay." May God hasten the day when we can solve our disputes peacefully.

We also remember all our loved ones whose stay on Earth is over. Christians believe that death does not end all. We trust that the God who made us will provide for us when our bodies can no longer sustain us.

A memorial stone on the campus of the College of Wooster in Ohio, placed there by a class many years ago, reads:

*United in time
Divided in time
To be reunited
When time shall be no more.*

That is a hope we can have for ourselves, our loved ones and those who sacrificed all. ■





Mothers of the Bible

God wants us to love and honor our mothers – not just on Mother's Day, but every day. The Bible tells us about many mothers who loved God.

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2 1 3 3%

1+ 4 1+

3 1 2 1 3%

3% 1 4 1 2

3% 1 4+ 4+ 1 3%

2 1 2 2%

1+ 2 1 3 1 3+ 1+ 3 3%

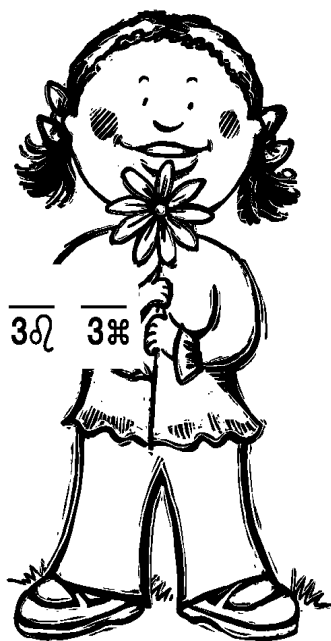
2 1+ 1 3%

2 1 2+ 3% 1+ 2

2 1+ 3+ 1+ 4% 1 3%

Use the code to discover each mother's name.

CODE					
	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	E	I	O	U
2	R	C	L	Y	M
3	Z	B	S	H	T
4	D	N	V	K	G



ANSWERS: NAOMI, RUTH, EVE, SARAH, HAGAR, HANNAH, MARY, ELIZABETH, LEAH, RACHEL, REBEKAH.

A Cheerful Bouquet for Mother

Make a beautiful bouquet for your mom that will cheer her up for many days — and it doesn't need any water or sunshine!

What you need:

- 12 bendable straws
- colored construction paper, colored card stock or craft foam
- craft glue
- hole punch
- bud vase or terra cotta pot
- clay or play dough (optional)
- scissors
- pencil

What you will do:

1. Cut the colored paper, card stock or foam (or a combination) into 24 or more flower shapes and 24 or more leaf shapes (about 1-2 inches). Make them different sizes and colors.
2. Punch a hole in the center of each flower and one near the base of each leaf.
3. Bend each straw and push the flower shapes (2 or more layered on top of each other) onto the short end of the straw. Do not go past the bend.
4. Put a little glue behind the flower at the hole to hold it in place.
5. From the bottom of the straw, slide 1 or 2 leaf shapes onto the straw and glue them in place from underneath.
6. After the glue has dried, put your flowers in a bud vase or display them in a terra cotta pot.*
7. *If you use a terra cotta pot, place a fist-sized ball of clay or play dough in the bottom of the pot. Push the straw ends into the clay or play dough. When the clay or dough dries out, it keeps the flowers arranged without them falling over.

Your mother will appreciate the time and love you put into making this cheerful bouquet for her.

TEENS FOR CHRIST

TFC MAY News



GARAGE SALE

It is time to clean out that closet and pack up those boxes because the teens are having a garage sale to fund our mission trip. Sometime in June our fellowship hall will be lined with tables of goodies (junk to some) to raise money for our mission trip to West Virginia June 18 – 24. Donations can be dropped off during regular office hours Monday through Friday from 9 am – 3 pm or Sunday after church. Adult volunteers are needed and all teens participating in the mission trip are expected to work. Dates will be announced.

Speaking about mission trip, there is still space to join us as we travel to West Virginia to do light construction work. Information on the organization we will be working for is found at http://www.wvpresbytery.org/wvmaw/housing_locations.htm. Wednesday is our day off and we will be white water rafting down the New River Gorge. Last year's trip was very memorable and this one will prove to be the same. Our fundrais- efforts are intended offset the cost of this trip, which will be about \$400. Reser- vations are needed so that we can better estimate the cost per teen so let Ron Moore know at moron@tir.com.

On the same note, our Palm Sunday Brunch raised about \$230 toward the trip. Thanks need to be given to our congregation who so graciously support our activities and all the teens and adults who helped serve and clean up. Without the volunteer we have, our group could not function. God has blessed us in so many ways. Thank you!

Lastly, our regularly scheduled meeting is May 7 after church. A field trip is scheduled details will be forthcom-

ing. Likewise, there is a scheduled backpacking trip May 28- 29. This too might change due to spring high school sports. If you would like information about our trip, see Broady Cook. The dates and destination are still in the planning stage now but there will be one you can count on that!

Have a great month,
Dessalee Cook



TFC Ridiculous Store

Candy for Sale



Proceeds to benefit Teens For Christ Missions Trip



May 7 and 21st
after service in the Fellowship Hall

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



PLEASE PRAY ...

- for the following individuals: Don Giles, June Green, Alice Horak, 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 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 nations and in our world. And please re-

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

Martin Luther King, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



pate, please be in touch with the Kirkridge Church office at (810) 694-3321 or kirkridgeoffice@sbcglobal.net.



Questionnaire

Questionnaires for members to fill out have been mailed to those who did not pick one up from the narthex on Easter Sunday. **It is very important that every member fill one out and return it as soon as possible.** The questionnaire is part of the congregational mission study that HPC must complete before the church can begin to search for a new pastor. The data collected will be used in several ways, but one of its most important uses is for the pastoral nominating committee (PNC), which will probably be elected in June. **If you are a member of the church (or currently in the communicants' class!) and have not yet filled one out, please fill yours out thoughtfully, truthfully, and prayerfully, and return it to the church as soon as possible. THIS IS IMPORTANT. If you have not yet received yours in the mail, please contact Teri in the office at 248-634-9494.**

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".

Service Opportunity

Kirkridge Presbyterian Church, Grand Blanc, is sending a team to the Gulf region later in June. There are still places available for up to six adults. If you would like to partici-

MAY 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9:00-5:00 TFC Garage Sale	2 9:00-5:00 TFC Garage Sale	3 9:00-5:00 TFC Garage Sale
4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Congregational Mtg. 11:30 TFC Mtg. TFC Ridiculous Store 3:00 pm AA	5 7:30 pm - AA / Alanon	6 6:30 pm - Congregational Care Committee	7	8 7:00 pm AYSO	9 6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	10 5:00 pm Wedding
11 SUMMER HOURS BEGIN 10:00 am Worship 3:00 pm AA	12 7:30 pm - AA / Alanon	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 TFC Church Cleanup
18 Graduation Sunday 10:00 am Worship TFC Ridiculous Store 11:00 am - Graduates Tea 3:00 pm AA	19 6:30 pm - Session 7:30 pm - AA / Alanon	20	21	22 6:00 pm Optimist Club	23	24
25 10:00 am Worship 3:00 pm AA	26 7:30 pm - AA / Alanon	27	28	29	30	

MAY VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: Randy and Broady Cook Lay Leader: Mary Renico

Flowers - Sign up located in kitchen: 5/14 In honor of Margaret Ganshaw's 85th Birthday and The Lyles Family in honor of Kevin's Birthday

Birthdays:

5/02 Chris Bradshaw 5/05 Gregory Dryer 5/07 Gordie Dryer 5/08 Lindsay Brabon 5/10 Margaret Rainey
5/11 Kevin Lyles 5/14 Margaret Ganshaw 5/20 Evan Vergith 5/21 Jack Kaczmarzyk 5/22 Karen Haneline