



H P C T I D I N G S

FEBRUARY 2007

Believe. It's just what we do.

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

MONEY AND THE CHURCH'S FUTURE



The greatest challenge facing us as a church in 2007 is to open ourselves individually and as a church to God's leading. We believe that the church's central purpose remains to worship God and be an instrument of the Good News for Holly and the surrounding area. How well we do these things depends on several factors, not just one or two. Among those factors is money. In order to do God's work, we have to have an income. It's as simple as that.

Even if it is simple, however, we need to emphasize that the church has to have money not to "get by" but to be effective in doing God's will.

*This is important to remember as we look at the pledging facts for 2007. As of January 15th, the session has received 40 pledges totaling just over \$80,000. As a result, the session has had to draw up a revised 2007 budget, which still shows a shortfall of \$50,000. **There was a similar shortfall, although not as large, in 2006, and it needs to be emphasized that the shortfall is caused by major expenses that the session cannot control, especially the pastor's salary.** In 2006, the operating budget used by the session itself showed a small net balance for the year. In spite of a very active, fruitful year, session did not use all that it had available to it for conducting the programs of the church.*

As a church, we have serious decisions to make about the financial state of the church. If we decide that the church has to start cutting back on expenses and economize, we will be taking a dangerous step backwards. We all share a vision for a growing church, but one of the things we have to have to grow the church is money and not a little of it. If we skimp on the church's finances, we will only end up killing the church. A "frugal church" is one that lacks vision, faith, and courage. Frugality inspires no one. Worse, it starts every discussion with money rather than faith.

So, what can we each do?

Continued on page 8...

Dress Up Sunday!

Once a year, we dress up for worship and take a congregational picture. This year Dress Up Sunday is **February 11th**. **After worship, we'll take a photograph of the congregation, which will be used in several ways. It will appear on our website. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will use it to give candidates for the pulpit a first impression of our members. It will appear in the pictorial directory that will be prepared later in the spring.**

After the photo session, the TFC will hold their **ANNUAL VALENTINE'S BRUNCH** and prepare for us another rendition of their famous spaghetti dinner. This is an important fundraiser for the TFC.

This is our first big event of 2007. What better place is there to be on the 11th than in worship, in fancy duds, in the annual church pic, & in the social hall sharing in a great meal? Even though it isn't "bring a friend" Sunday, why not bring a friend along too?

NEWS AND UPDATES

2007: A Year for Change & Growth

As most of us know, HPC will be without pastoral leadership for a part of this coming year. Session, however, has laid plans for numerous meaningful activities during the year. If these plans bear fruit, HPC will be a substantially stronger church by the end of the year.

Four events are of special importance. On **MARCH 31st** the Christian Education Committee is hold a **LENTEN CHILDREN'S FAIR**, which is aimed at bringing children from the church & community together for a time of fun and learning. On **DECEMBER 8th** the CE Committee will sponsor the **ADVENT FAMILY FAIR**, similar in some ways to the one the church held last year. **Our goals are to provide our own children with Christian education and fellowship activities involving lots of other kids, to provide fun activities for other children, and to become known in Holly as the church that cares for children.**

The other two events were described in

this month's lead article. They are the two gala fundraisers, one to be held in May and the other in October.

These four events address two of the most serious issues facing our church in 2007. The first issue is that of how to provide a strong, fun Christian education program especially for our children when we have so few children. The second question we face is that of obtaining the financial resources we need to sustain an active, vital life and program. Put most bluntly, HPC needs children and it needs money. These four events are a good start in meeting both of those needs.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS for all four events is wide participation by the members of the church. If you give time, energy, enthusiasm, and prayer to these events, they will prove to be a blessing to the church. As the church motto puts, "Believe! It's just what we do." ■

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



HPC has been taking up the "Pennies from Heaven" collection for nearly two years. Its 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

Pictorial Directory

LifeTouch will be here April 30 & May 1 to take your photographs for the pictorial directory. Please save these dates! More information to come!

If anyone has the time and enjoys taking photos, please let Jan Bradshaw know as we want to capture all groups and activities within the church. Also, if you have recent photos of church activities, we would love to borrow them. However, please remember to put your name and phone number on the back so we can return. (P.S. You can also e-mail them to gordonbradshawjr@comcast.net)

Calling all Prayer Warriors!

In addition to our telephone prayer chain, we will also be e-mailing urgent prayer requests as they come up. Look for a sign up sheet in the near future.

Pastoral Calling Teams

Our committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to be part of a calling team. There are several members and friends of the congregation who need special attention and would appreciate visits or phone calls. If you're interested, let Peggy Ranger or Jan Bradshaw know. We will also have a sign up sheet available during worship one Sunday.

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Won't you please consider volunteering for a Sunday in February? There is a sign-up sheet near the coffee pots in the Fellowship Hall.

HPC Photo Album

Thanks to Bonnie Pelton, a good part of our church family history has been preserved through the organization and upkeep of photo albums. We are looking for a volunteer to carry on this tradition. Please let Jan Bradshaw or Peggy Ranger know if you can help.

Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18th, after worship. This meeting will review the 2007 budget, hear reports from the session and the Pastor Nominating Committee, and elect a congregational nominating committee. **All members of the church, please attend this important meeting.**

The Second Elders' Convocation

The second elders' convocation will be held **Wednesday evening, February 7th from 7:00 until 9:00 pm.** The session has invited the pastors of two Lake Huron Presbytery churches to share their experiences with the elders of the church. The Rev. Jim Neumann is pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Saginaw, and the Rev. Ted McCulloch is pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Birch Run. They will address the question of how HPC can prepare itself for a healthy, Christ like relationship with its next pastor. **Every elder of the church (not just those currently on session) is strongly encouraged to attend this meeting; it is one important step on the road to calling a new pastor.** There will be ample time for discussion.

INTERIM NOTES

At its stated meeting for January, the session put together an exciting package of programs and events for 2007. We all realize that HPC will be without a pastor for some months this year, and it is important that the whole church pull together to make the year a successful one. One of the session's goals for 2007 is to maintain the momentum gained over the last two years not only by carrying out activities the church has done in the past but also by experimenting with new activities. You have read about some of those activities in other parts of this newsletter.

I'm excited and hopeful for you for the coming twelve months. We all hope and pray that the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will be able to proceed expeditiously to finding a candidate for the pulpit; but even if HPC does not have a pastor by December it will be a good year for the church.

The thing every member and friend of Holly PC should keep in mind is that the final earthly responsibility for the life of the church does not rest with the minister but with the whole church. Your next pastor cannot lead where you will not go. A capable minister can do little in an incapacitated church. It is vital, therefore, that the whole church show the strength of its own leadership and the depth of its own commitment; and 2007 provides you with an excel-

lent opportunity to do just that.

When a church is between pastors, more often than not, things slow down and the church goes "quiet" (comatose might be a better word!). Giving drops off. Attendance goes down. Not too much more than the bare bones routine takes place. Things "start over" and "start up" only when the new minister arrives. In this case, HPC has issues to face and challenges to meet, and it will be much better for the church if it gets on with its life now.

Let me share with you all the hope I shared with the session at its last meeting—that HPC will be moving full steam ahead when your next pastor arrives to the point that she or he has to make a running leap to get on board. That can happen only if the session and other lay leaders lead well and the whole church follows just as well.—Herb



PNC UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to work on finding our next pastor. The Church Information Form, after being reviewed and modified a few times, has now been approved both by our session and by the presbytery. Early this month it was entered into the PC(USA) database. So we should start seeing information from potential new pastors fairly soon.

Meanwhile, after a Christmas hiatus, the PNC has begun meeting again. We are looking at ways to ramp up our meeting schedule, as we will soon be dealing with information from (we hope) a lot of candidates. Keep us in your prayers--Jim Lyles, PNC Chair

FEBRUARY 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm AA	5 Life Line Screening Pre-registration only 800-324-1851 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	6 6:30 pm CCC Mtg.	7 7:00—9:00 pm Elders' Convoca- tion	8 7:00 pm—AYSO	9	10
11 Dress Up Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am TFC Valentine Brunch 3:00 pm AA	12 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	13 2:00 Holly Wood- lands Bible Study	14	15	16	17
18 Youth Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Congregational Mtg 3:00 pm AA	19 7:00 pm Session 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm AA	26 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	27	28			

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- **FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS:** **Ushers:** TBD **Lay Leader:** TBD
- **Flowers:** 2/11 Jack and Kathy Henn 2/18 The Parker Family - A sign up chart is located in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Birthdays:** 2/5 Andrew Mdnnis 2/8 Ben Jackson 2/10 Jerry Redoutey 2/12 Judy Studer 2/12 Ian Vergith
- 2/18 EB Bradshaw 2/18 Emma Murphree 2/22 Christine Hadley 2/25 David Dryer

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



PLEASE PRAY...

- for the following individuals: Virginia McDonald, Don Campbell, Margaret Ganshaw, Alice Horak, Don Giles, June Green, Gladys Havenstein, Laura Parker, 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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18th, after worship. This meeting will review the 2007 budget, hear reports from the session and the Pastor Nominating Committee, and elect a congregational nominating committee. **All members of the church, please attend this important meeting.**

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.

Life Line Screening

February 5th, 2007 at Holly Presbyterian Church.

Pre-registration required.

These non-invasive, completely painless vascular

screenings take about 10 minutes each, and are offered for just \$45 each. (Or all three for just \$109). **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER.** Call 800-324-1851 for your appointment or for more information. **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.

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

*** Annual Reports are due in electronic form to the office no later than February 1st. ***

JAMAS



Outreach Ministry Update!

We are 4 years old!

The average age of a coffeehouse ministry like ours is 1 year. Our numbers have far exceeded our projections, and we continue to be one of the most popular venues for rock and acoustic music in the area.

Music brings the people we are reaching out to, in the door and we have relational ministry - loving, listening, praying with, as well as Bible study in a discussion format. This year we have had more Christian bands, and solo artists which brings witness right from the stage. Our early years saw some of this, but we were careful not to have too religious an atmosphere up front which might keep away the very nonreligious people we are here for. From our popular image, we are now able to be a bit more up front with our witness from the stage, and more band members and fans have been commenting on their Christian spiritual growth.

We recently had Patrick Kelly sing and speak. Patrick was in the popular national band "Chiodos", but dropped out when his faith was being compromised by being in the band. It was amazing to see 40 students sitting quietly on the floor listening to Patrick.



Former Chiodos, Patrick Kelly sings and talks faith.

Our acoustic nights at Borders Books and Music on Miller Road have put us in contact with many new seekers of truth, and believers as well. We have been able to be a Christian witness there in a new and beautiful way. These are on the second Friday each month.

Prayer Requests: ✝

1. That the good news of Jesus will continue to find open hearts in our area, and that those who need to hear will continue to come and hear.
2. For open facilities for our programs. At present we do not have our own building to use.
3. For financial support from churches and individuals. Our funding grant is in it's last declining amounts which cuts our funding in half just when we are ready for a very fruitful busy year. Our funding from our parent church, Holly Presbyterian, has also been cut by half this year to \$167 per month. Our \$2000 a month operating expense is supported only by \$833 per month now, leaving us to raise \$1167 each month from donors and programs.

How you can help: ✝

1. Help spread the word about our programs by word of mouth, or posting flyers.
2. Financially, would you consider a monthly contribution, or a one time gift? We are tax deductible, and depend on our faith partners now more than ever.
3. Pray! Thanks!

Yours in Christ,
 Ron Moore Director: Jamas Cafe
 PO Box 930, Fenton, MI 48430
www.myspace.com/jamascafe, email: airborn@tir.com

MONEY AND THE CHURCH'S FUTURE CONT.

...continued from page 1

Here are some ideas:

First, pray for your church that it might continue to be a church that is alive to God's leading—a church with a purpose and a deep desire to fulfill that purpose.

Second, if you have pledged for 2007, please go back and look at that pledge. Is there room for \$25 or \$50 or more a month in your pledge? If we each added something each month to our pledge it would add to the church's income, which is a start towards dealing with the deficit the church

faces.

If you have been intending to pledge and haven't done so yet, please get your pledge in as soon as possible—and maybe add a little more to the amount you originally thought you'd give.

Third, the Stewardship Committee is planning to do two major fund raising events during 2007. A task force is now being set up. The thought at this point is to have a co-ordinated set of activities running at the same time on a Saturday in the spring. These activities could include a car show,

silent auction, ice cream social, garage sale, sock hop, or other events. **Given enthusiasm, creativity, hard work, and good advertising, these events could bring in a substantial amount of income.** One suggestion has been to give a part of the profit to a worthy local cause so that these events would be fellowship, evangelistic, and outreach opportunities rolled into one.

You can help! We need ideas. We need heads, hands, & feet. We need prayerful support. The new chair of the Stewardship Committee is Elder Brian Parker. The other

members of the committee are Christine Cook, Peggy Ranger, and Vicki Lyles. If you have ideas and if you can help, please, contact one of them.

Fourth and finally, let's not be lax in giving once Herb leaves. In 2004, when Jack left, church giving dropped off substantially. We missed a great chance to build up a bigger balance to meet future expenses. Let us not make the same mistake twice!!

In all of these ways, we can work together to make HPC the kind of church we want it to be. Amen!

SYNOD SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you interested in furthering your education? Would you like to attend a General Assembly national conference on behalf of your church? A variety of scholarships are available, and you may qualify!

Peacemaking Scholarships

For adults and young adults who are ...

- Members of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation within the bounds of the Synod of the Covenant
- In need of financial support and wish to attend a peacemaking conference, seminar or other event

Source of Funds: Annual Peacemaking Offering

Justice for Women Scholarships

For adults and young adults who are ...

- Members of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation within the bounds of the Synod of the Covenant
- In need of financial support and wish to attend a conference, seminar or other event related to concerns of justice for women and children

Source of Funds: Undesignated Mission Giving to the Synod from congregations

Racial Ethnic Scholarships

Scholarships are available for ...

- Full-time and part-time study toward the baccalaureate degree or certification at colleges, universities and vocational schools
- Full-time students enrolled in Master degree programs for church vocations at approved Presbyterian theological institutions

Source of Funds: Undesignated Mission Giving to the Synod from congregations

Covenant Scholarships

For clergy, church educators and lay church leaders who are ...

- Members of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation within the bounds of the Synod of the Covenant
- in need of financial support and want to continue their education in areas related to ministry

Source of Funds: Existing Synod Restricted Funds

Additional Information and Application Forms: Look on the synod's web site for all the details

www.synodofthecovenant.org

HAPPENINGS

Employment resources available

There is information regarding local employment opportunities available in our office for those of you who may be interested. Please feel free to call Teri in the office, M-F 9 am—3 pm.

Alma College Presents Lectures on Intelligent Design

Two lectures on intelligent design will take place at Alma College in the Remick Heritage Center. On Monday, February 5 at 8 pm Dr. Michael Behe, Professor of Biochemistry at Lehigh University and originator of the concept of intelligent design, will speak. On Wednesday, February 7 at 8 pm Dr. Sean B. Carroll, Medical Institute Investigator at the University of Wisconsin, Madison will speak on the concept of evolutionary development. Both presentations are free of charge and open to the public.

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 through out the year. These events help support our local library. Check out the newly remodeled lower level "Book Celler" where you can browse and purchase used books all week long during regular Library hours. This month's sale will be held on February 9th and 10th.

**Used Book Sale****Presbytery seeks applications for the position of Stated Clerk**

As a result of the resignation of the current Stated Clerk, the position will become vacant in April. Ordained elders and ministers of Word and Sacrament may serve as Stated Clerk. Interested persons are invited to submit a letter of application and a resume. In the letter, please address the following questions: 1) Which two characteristics or skills do you have that you believe qualify you for the position of Stated Clerk? 2) What is your understanding of the role and relationship of the Stated Clerk to the Presbytery? Application deadline is February 15. Interviews will be scheduled between March 5 and 16. Applications may be sent to the Presbytery of Lake Huron, P.O. Box 6129, Saginaw, MI 48608-6129, to the attention of the Personnel Committee. The job description is attached to these announcements.

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!

February 4th at 9:00 am

Christian Education is happy to offer Arts and Crafts Sunday on the first Sunday of each Month.



"Doing business in Holly for over 148 years"



Winglemire Furniture 634-8731



Joseph's Oak Shop 634-6595



Holly Gas Company 634-6645

~ DOWNTOWN HOLLY • MI ~

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**"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

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