



H P C T I D I N G S

JANUARY 2007

Believe. It's just what we do.

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INTERIM NOTES



Since the spring of 2004, Holly PC has been in constant transition. First, there was the period of nine months without a pastor, which ended in February 2005 when I came (and Runee followed later). Now, we're looking at the spring of 2007, nearly three years after Pastor Jack Craft left Holly—and more transition. Runee and I have begun the process of looking for another church, and as I type these words we are "in conversation" with a church in northern New York. It may or may not work out, but if I

do accept a call to that church it is almost certain that by springtime we will be gone.

It isn't time to say farewells yet, but it is important that the members and friends of Holly PC begin to think about what 2007 holds for the church. The pastor nominating committee (PNC) is working hard and moving forward at full steam, and it is possible, perhaps likely, that you will have a new pastor with you by later in the fall. It will be a good day when your new pastor arrives, and Runee

and I pray that she or he will be just precisely the person you need.

It is clear that HPC is going to be without a pastor again for a shorter or longer period. The session and I are working together to lay plans for 2007 so that church life will prosper during that time. Advent was a lot of fun this year. The church looked great, and the new narthex has added a whole new dimension to the church's life. Plans are already being made for Advent 2007! While a pastor plays

Continued on page 8...

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

Looking Ahead to Worship in January

Every Sunday at HPC is a special Sunday. This happy fact will be true again in January.

During worship on **Sunday, January 7th**, we will hold a brief dedication ceremony for the new narthex and other spaces that were renovated this past fall.

Then on **Sunday, January 14th**, Holly PC will ordain and install four ruling elders-elect to the session.

Our monthly contemporary worship service will take place on **Sunday, January 21st**. Those who have attended worship regularly lately will have noticed that we seem to be clapping our hands a lot during worship. There's a reason! We have plenty to celebrate.



Join the fun, join the journey. Come to worship!

NEWS AND UPDATES

Elders' Convocations

The year 2007 will be a year of transition for Holly PC. The Pastor nominating Committee (PNC) is working zealously to find a candidate for our pulpit, and there is every reason to hope that our new pastor will be with us by the end of 2007.

In the meantime, the church has a good deal to do to prepare for the future. The session and its committees will undertake many different tasks during the year. One of those tasks is to call for at least two Elders' Convocations. The purpose of these convocations is to help lay the groundwork for receiving and working with HPC's next pastor. The session invites and strongly urges all ordained elders to participate. Other members are also welcome.

The first convocation will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 21st, from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. Its theme is "Where we Are & Where we're Going."

The second convocation will take place on Wednesday evening, February 7th, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Two experienced, insightful pastors from other churches in Lake Huron Presbytery will be with us to discuss, "The Care & Feeding of Holly PC's Next Pastor."



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**The 2007 Session******Class of 2007**

Jan Bradshaw (Congregational Care)
 Bob Killewald (Worship)
 Peggy Ranger (Congregational Care)
 Mary Renico (Christian Education)

Class of 2008

Randy Cook (Worship)
 Karen Haneline (Christian Education)
 Jim Lyles (Clerk of Session)
 Judy Studer (Outreach)

Class of 2009

Walt Brown (Outreach)
 Broady Cook (Property)
 Brian Parker (Stewardship)
 Mary Ann Vergith (Personnel)

****Please keep the session in your prayers.**



February 5th, 2007

at Holly Presbyterian Church. Pre-registration required.

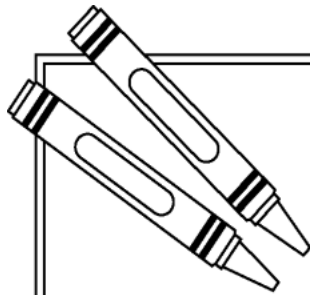
Ultrasound tests will be available thru Life Line Screening. Call 800-324-1851 for an appointment. 50% of all strokes show no warning signs!

- 1) Life Line Screening screens the carotid arteries in the neck for plaque (most strokes are linked to carotid artery blockage).
- 2) They offer the AAA test that screens for aneurysms in the aortic vessel in the abdomen. Ruptured aortic aneurysms are the 13th leading cause in America!
- 3) The ABI test screens for blockage in the lower extremities, which often leads to P.A.D. and coronary disease.
- 4) Bone density tests for Osteoporosis risk are also available for only \$35.00.

Blood tests will also be available. Life Line Screening now offers a complete Lipid Panel, Glucose (blood sugar) and C-Reactive Protein (CRP) for only \$99.00.

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.

KIDS PAGE

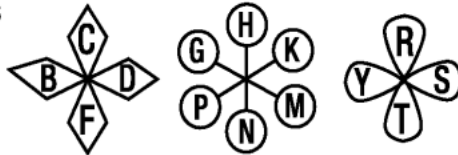


Just for KIDS

You Are Special!

Have you heard that no two snowflakes are the same? Each is different - unique - special ... just like each of God's children.

Here are some words from the Bible that talk about this. Use the code to find the missing letters.



“ e e a e i e e
 i o i , u
 e a e i i ” 1 Corinthians 12:4
 “ ou a e e o o
 i , a ea
 o e o ou i a a
 o i ” 1 Corinthians 12:27

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit.”
 “You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”



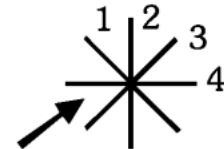
to remind you that
 “you are special!”

You will need:

- 4 drinking straws,
- 1 large paper doily,
- stapler, scissors,
- string, white glue

How to:

1. Crisscross straws.

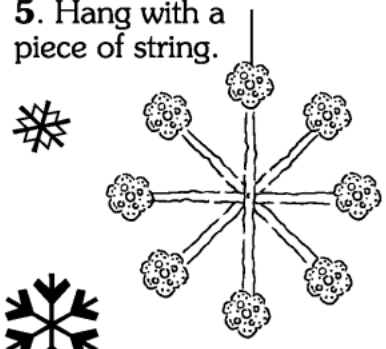


2. Staple in the center where they all cross (can use tape if needed).

3. Cut round designs out of doily.

4. Glue a “doily design” on the end of each straw.

5. Hang with a piece of string.



JANUARY 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Congregational Mtg 3:00 pm AA	8 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	9 2:00 Holly Wood-lands Bible Study	10 6:30 pm CCC Mtg.	11 7:00 pm—AYSO	12	13
14 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am TFC Mtg 3:00 pm AA	15 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	16	17	18	19	20
21 Youth Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Elder's Convocation 3:00 pm AA	22 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm AA	29 7:30 pm - AA/ Alanon	30	31			

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: TBD **Lay Leader:** TBD **Flowers:** A sign up chart is located in the Fellowship Hall

Birthdays: 11/9 Derek Hillman 11/15 Donna Miller 11/21 Sarah Privette 11/22 Melissa McInnis 11/25 Dennis Wagester

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



PLEASE PRAY...

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Church By-Line

Congratulations to Rod Haneline whose suggested by-line, "Believe. It's just what we do." was chosen as our new by-line.

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

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.

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".

Life Line Screening

Karin Povish, a representative from Life Line Screening will be here on Sunday, January 14th after service to talk to members regarding an upcoming health screening to be held at our church on Monday, February 5th. She will also be able to pre-register any wishing to do so at a discount

Choir

The choir practices in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining the choir! It's fun. It's fulfilling. It's a place for joyful service.

February Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to February's January 15th.



Newsletter

for submissions newsletter is Thank you!

Herb's Office Hours

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Phone (810) 629-2384
229 S. Adelaide Street, Fenton, Michigan 48430

Dear Friends,

As I sit here and think about GRACE., I do so with many mixed emotions.

It has been one year since the City has cut off our funding. At the same time, we were informed that United Way had no more money. This left us with no funding at all!

At that time I thought it probably would be better to close, but my heart hurt for the many poor souls who need us.

We had so many calls at that time. The people of this community said "Don't worry we will all help you. You cannot close." So we didn't.

There were five businesses that came up with a large donation for us, and we appreciate that. We have roughly ten families that help us on a monthly basis. Some are \$5.00, some \$20.00 and one \$200.00. We thank all of you. We had five churches that helped us, but now three of them have cut back for their own building projects. Everyone has been wonderful with donations of clothing, etc.

All this talk gets me to one point. We need monetary donations on a regular basis. No matter how large or small, we need continued and regular support.

For 50 years I have been going into my own purse to help. I have used my savings, mortgaged, borrowed etc. The car that I drive will attest to where I am financially. The fact remains, I can't do that anymore. I soon will be 75 and have given almost everything I own to the needy.

However I can not stand to see a sick baby without medicine, a child with a toothache or an elderly person with no place to go. So with no thought to my own finances, I have been helping people with my money, which is almost gone.

To make matters worse, the apartments are beginning to lower their rent and this brings many more low income into the city. We added 148 families to our caseload in the last year.

Our 2005 Christmas and Thanksgiving and 2006 Easter programs were the biggest ever. We are talking 656 Easter baskets that we gave out this year.

Please find it in your heart to support this effort. I need you more than ever before to carry on my lifelong ministry to the needy.

If you need a tax deductible receipt, make your check out to G.R.A.C.E. Inc. If not, please make it out to Nancy Stockham.

Am I begging you? You bet I am. I lose all modesty when it comes to the needy.

Thanking you in advance,

Nancy H. Stockham

**Note: This letter to our communities was originally dated July 25, 2006. Although slightly untimely, the needs and concerns stated in this letter are still very real.*

INTERIM NOTES CONT.

...continued from page 1
 an important role in the life of any church, I'm convinced that your session and others in the church will continue to provide capable leadership in the months to come.

At the end of my sermon for the first Sunday in Advent, December 3rd, I told the congregation assembled that morning that I felt proud of Holly PC and its members. In spite of some rough patches, the church has responded magnificently to the challenges of this time of transition. The last two years have been a special time, not just of transition but also of

change and growth. If the members and friends of the church pull together, the coming year can be just as much a special year, just as much a time of change and growth.

A little later this year, the church newsletter will come with a series of inserts on how a church can build a strong relationship with its pastor. I would like to urge every member of the church to read carefully those inserts. The next pastorate is going to be very important for the future of the church. How each of you receives, treats, and works with your next pastor is a key

factor in how the next pastorate will work out. Every one of you can begin now to prepare for developing a strong, close relationship with your pastor.

I trust that every member and friend of Holly PC will begin at this new year with a spirit of adventure. We believe that God is present in every moment, pushing and pulling us into the future. Our task is to discern as best we can the direction God wants us to go...and the go there! On that path, there is never a dull moment!

Herb ■

At the end of my sermon for the first Sunday in Advent, December 3rd, I told the congregation assembled that morning that I felt proud of Holly PC and its members. In spite of some rough patches, the church has responded magnificently to the challenges of this time of transition.

ATHLETES IN ACTION

I (Colby) traveled to the Dominion republic for a week to use the platform of baseball to share the message of Jesus Christ. Roughly 80 coaches, players and ministers from all over the US were able to share with more than 5000 people and more than 1000 made decisions to accept Christ!

We are so thankful for the great AIA staff team we have to work with on campus at UD. Everyone loves and pursues the Lord and really seeks Him for guidance in ministry. And, they are fun!

It was a blessing to ask the athletic department to

be involved in Operation Christmas Child with us this year. Along with other student-athletes, the entire women's track team showed up with their shoeboxes and toys to send to needy kids all over the world. We collected over 35 boxes!

Please pray...

.....for Colby as he furthers his relationship with the UD baseball coach. Pray the coach would continue to grow in his faith..

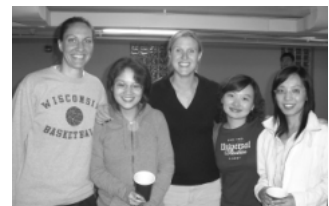
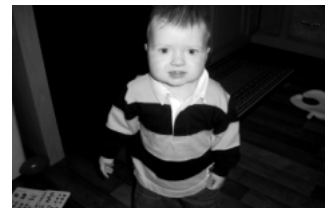
.....for Erin and other student leaders who are taking steps of faith to discipline their peers. Pray God will give them wisdom and much fruit.

...for our staff team to finish strong this semester. Pray we will have unity of spirit as we evaluate this semester and make plans for the next.

...for the four guys in Colby's bible study. Pray they would step up, lead and walk with God courageously..

...for us to experience the Lord on a daily basis and that we would grow deeper in our love for Christ.

... for the growth and development of the baby in Sarah's belly, and for strength and perseverance for her as she goes through her day.



Colby and Sarah Keefer
 2166 Harmony Dr.,
 Xenia, OH 45385
 (937) 374-1795

colby.keefe@aia.com
sarah.keefe@aia.com

HAPPENINGS

Video tape series available

Most of two Gary Smalley seminar series are available. One is Divorce Care and the second is Hidden Keys to Loving Relationships. In Divorce Care we have VHS tapes 1-8 and 11-13 (9 & 10 are missing) plus the Leader's video and the "Road Home" Video. With Hidden Keys we have VHS tapes 3, 5-14 (1, 2 & 4 are missing). These can be a good resource even with the missing tapes. If anyone is interested please contact Walter Fales at Tawas Area Presbyterian Church. Phone 989-876-6612 or email :

wfales@centurytel.net

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.



ALMA COLLEGE
ONLY ONE ALMA.

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 throughout 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 January 12th and 13th.



Used Book Sale

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!

January 7th 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 147 years"



Winglemire Furniture 634-8731



Joseph's Oak Shop 634-6595



Holly Gas Company 634-6645

~ DOWNTOWN HOLLY • MI ~

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BULK RATE

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**"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

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday, 9:00a.m.—3:00 p.m.

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Pastor: hpcinterim@sbcglobal.net