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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *If someone you know is in need of a large print newsletter, please contact Teri at the office.*
- *The office e-mail is: hollypc@sbcglobal.net and the phone is (248) 634-9494*
- *Worship hours: 10:30 Worship 9:15 Sunday School*

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

Epiphany is an underrated season in the Christian year, which falls between the end of Christmas excitement and the serious walk to the Cross during Lent. This year, there is a very short period of time between Epiphany Sunday (January 6th) and the First Sunday in Lent (February 10th). In fact, Easter arrives quite early this year on March 23rd.

So, what is it that we remember during Epiphany? Well, we recall the long journey of the Magi, who traveled from a distant land in the East, following the star, seeking the Promised One. According to Matthew 2:1-12, they were the first gentiles to believe in Christ. During this brief period of spiritual observance, we are to observe that long pilgrimage, and remember that we, too, are pilgrims along the voyage of faith. Not long ago, I saw a bumper sticker that proclaimed that "Wise Men still seek Him." To make it more politically correct, wise people must still take the long trek to Christ, through a sometimes arduous journey of faith and perseverance into a new year of hope and possibilities. But whether or not the journey is bumpy or smooth, arriving at Christ and shining that light for others is the goal. There is a parable told of a man wandering about in a forest for several days, not know-

ing the way out. Suddenly, he saw a man approaching him. His heart of filled with joy. "Now I shall certainly find out which way is the right way," he thought. When the two men neared one another, the lost man asked the stranger, "Tell me, kind sir, which is the way out of the forest? I have been wandering about in the trees for several days." The stranger answered, "Friend, I do not know the way out either, for I too, have been searching about for many days. But this I can tell you. Do not take the way I have been taking, for that will lead you nowhere. Let us look for a new way out together."

That, in effect, is a parable of the Christian community of faith. We are sojourners, congregated in this fellowship of searching souls. By following that star, we look for the fulfillment of God in the way of Christ. At the beginning of a new year, and new beginning for Holly Presbyterian Church, let us recommit ourselves to our common journey of being the Church God has meant us to be. And as the Magi of old, let us support one another, as we begin a new year of as beacons of light in this community. Have a blessed New Year!

Your pastor and friend,
Randolph F. Cullen

LOOKING AHEAD

Pastor Installation Service

Sunday, January 13, 7p

Please join us for the installation of the Reverend Dr. Randolph F. Cullen as pastor of our church. A reception for Randy and his family will be held immediately following the service.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Thank You!

The Outreach committee would like to express their extreme pride in this congregation. Your generosity was inspiring as you donated enough personal hygiene items to fill **76 stockings** for moms and dads of Holly Area Youth Assistance students. And the Adopt a Family Christmas board was emptied of tags within an hour after church the first Sunday it was put out. Over and over again our church family shows its love of our fellow man. God bless you all.



150th Anniversary Committee

July of 2008, our church will be celebrating our 150th anniversary. Thus far, members of the committee which will plan this landmark celebration include: Judy Studer, Barb Brown, Shar Hecht, Mary Renico, Joyce Merryweather. If there is anyone else who is interested, please let Judy Studer know as soon as possible. A brain storming session will be held after the first of the year.



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! ■

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany begins on January 6 each year. It gets its name from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning “to appear, to show or to manifest.” The ending date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

Traditionally, Epiphany Day marks the coming of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews.

The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus — a truth that justifies his perfection as the model of real life.

The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity, which are all characteristics of the Epiphany emphasis.

After Christmas

There is a story of a father who ordered a kit for a tree house as a Christmas gift for his son. Late Christmas Eve, as he tried to put the pieces together, he discovered to his dismay that he had received a kit for a sailboat. His letter of complaint to the company brought this reply in January:

“While we regret the inconvenience this mistake must have caused you, it is nothing compared to that of the person out on a lake somewhere trying to sail your tree house.”

—Anonymous



Bible Quiz



On the threshold of a new year, it seems fitting to recall an Old Testament promise of God. It is this: “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I am doing a new thing; ... I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”

Those words will be found in one of the prophets. Are they in:

- Jeremiah
- Isaiah
- Ezekiel

Whatever the answer, it is still true that God makes a way for us out of our wildernesses and offers us “the living water” in whatever desert we may find ourselves (see John 4:10).

Answer: Isaiah 43:18-21

A Prayer for Entering the New Year

We know, O Lord, that our times are in your hands. While we live on Earth, enable us to please you in all things. Especially now, as we enter a new year, we pray for strengthened spirits that we may praise you properly by our thoughts, words and deeds. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER**PLEASE PRAY ...**

- for the following individuals: Elizabeth Kici, Harriet Striggow, Bonnie Pelton, Dorothy Pretznaw, Alice Horak, Virginia McDonald, Don & Evelyn Campbell, June Green, 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.
- praises for the hiring of Randolph Cullen as our pastor. Pray as he and Session continuously seek God's leading for the life and future of our church.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for the Pastoral Nominating Committee and each of its members as it has carried out its search for our new pastor, for the many hours that they have poured into this task.
- for the leaders and peoples of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine. Pray for peace in those nations and in our world. And please remember the men & women in our armed services in your prayers.

**Please call the office if you submitted any of these people so we can follow up on them.*

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

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Volunteers Needed**

The worship committee is looking for any one interested in being involved with investigating multimedia options for the church. If you are interested, please let Randy Cook know.

Free E-Mail Addresses Available

We now have available to the congregation free e-mail service through our domain name. If you are interested in obtaining one, contact Teri in the office. You can also check out our e-mail start page at <http://startpage.hollypc.org>.

Bell Choir

Anyone interested in joining the bell choir, please contact Rob Privette or the office for our next practice. We would love to have you!

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".

**Snow Days**

In the event of local school closings due to bad weather, the office will be closed.

February Newsletter Deadline — Jan. 15

JUST 4 KIDS

Sweet Scripture Treat!

... a recipe hidden in your Bible!

You will need:

a Bible
a bowl
a spoon
waxed paper
a plate
measuring cups



In the bowl put:

1/2 cup I Samuel 14:25

(Hint: H _ _ _ _)

1 1/2 cups Judges 5:25

(powdered/dried)

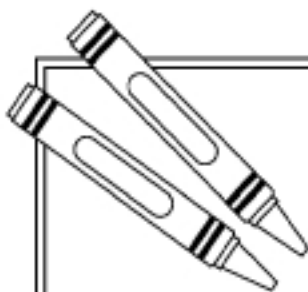
(Hint: M _ _ _)

1/2 cup I Samuel 30:12

(Hint: R _ _ _ _ _)

Mix together and drop on waxed paper on the plate. Put in the refrigerator for a while to set.

Enjoy!



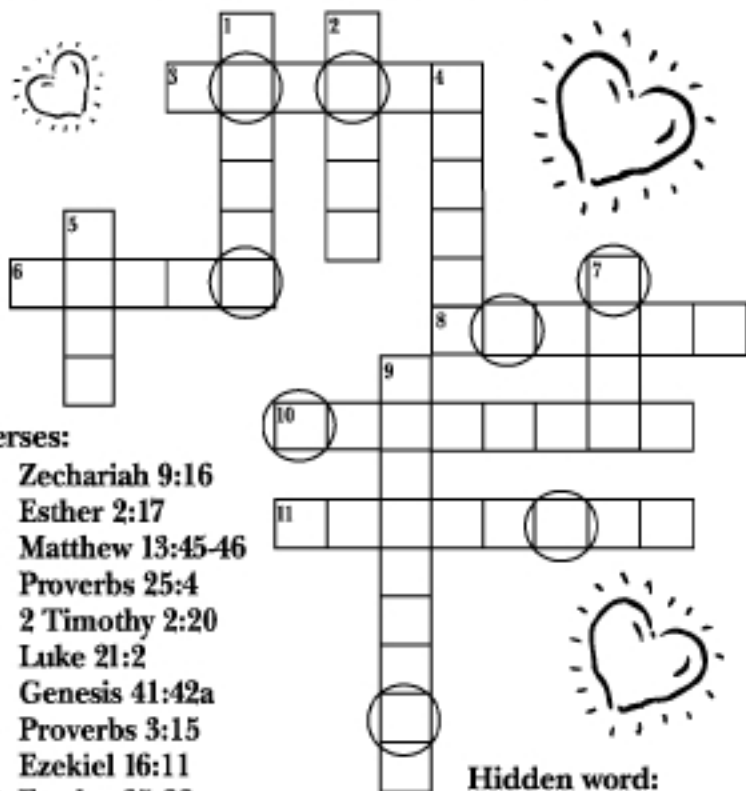
Just for KIDS

Matthew 6:21

“For where your _____ is,
there your heart will be also.”

There is a special or valuable item in each verse below.

Find the item and fit it into the boxes with the corresponding number circled. Unscramble the letters that are circled. Spell a word that fills the blank above.



Verses:

1. Zechariah 9:16
2. Esther 2:17
3. Matthew 13:45-46
4. Proverbs 25:4
5. 2 Timothy 2:20
6. Luke 21:2
7. Genesis 41:42a
8. Proverbs 3:15
9. Ezekiel 16:11
10. Exodus 35:22
11. Ezekiel 16:11

Hidden word:

Hidden Word: Treasure
1. Jewels 2. Crown 3. Pearls 4. Silver 5. Gold 6. Coins 7. Ring
8. Rubies 9. Bracelets 10. Earrings 11. Necklace

TEENS FOR CHRIST

2008 God's Creation Wall Calendars

Available now !

Help support Teens For Christ Mission Trips. Calendars may be purchased on Sunday mornings or in the office during office hours, M-F 9a—3p.

\$10 Each
2 for \$15

Makes a Great Gift!



MEET OUR MISSIONARIES



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PRESBYTERIAN HAPPENINGS

New Fair Trade Web site launched to help Peruvian artisans

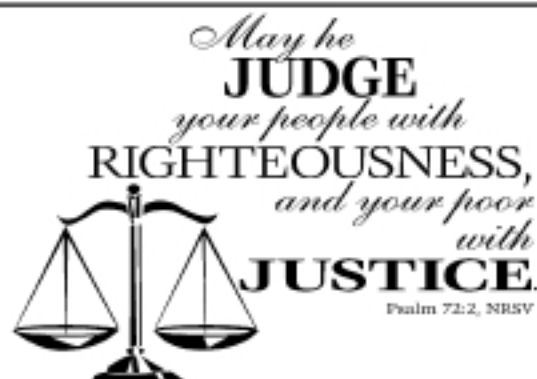
Partners for Just Trade, a non-profit organization related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has launched a Fair Trade Web site aimed at helping disadvantaged Peruvian artisans find a new marketplace for their goods and earn a sustainable wage in return. The Partners for Just Trade (PJT) Web site <http://www.partnersforjusttrade.org/> makes it easy to purchase Peruvian handcrafts and other products online and educates consumers about the meaning of fair and just trade. Items for purchase on the cyber-marketplace range from colorful handbags and backpacks to hand-woven cotton shawls and socks made by Quechua-speaking women who often knit the socks with bicycle spokes when they don't have enough knitting needles. Other items available include ceramics, toys and accessories for babies, and religious items such as nativity scenes and pastoral stoles. PJT is related to the Presbyterian Hunger Program's Joining Hands Network that cultivates global partnerships between impoverished artisans and conscientious consumers. In addition to Fair Trade products, the group addresses the root causes of poverty through education, solidarity and a commitment to trade justice. The group, which receives strong support from Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery — which is a Joining Hands partner in Peru — works to benefit the artisans by reducing the number of middlemen and minimizing overhead costs to return up to 40 percent of the retail price of an item to the producer.

"Religion and Politics," the 2008 Ohio Council of Churches convocation, will be presented Jan. 28 and 29 at the University Plaza Hotel in Columbus. The Synod of the Covenant will host a luncheon during the convocation on Jan. 28. Contact the office for more information.

Church Leadership Seminar: A learning opportunity for all church leaders and clergy Saturday, February 2, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn. Sponsored by the Detroit Presbytery. Featured Guests: **Dr. William Carl**, President, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary *Growing the local church*; **Dr. Ron Peters** Professor of Urban Ministry, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Over 20 workshops to choose from: -What Elders Need to Know -The Office of Deacon -All about the Book of Order -High Impact Programs for Mid-Highs -Spiritual Practices for Leaders -Conducting a Productive Meeting -Sabbaticals -a 2-way Benefit -Urban Ministry -World Mission Opportunities -Local Hands-on Mission -Transforming the Local Church -Mock Session Meeting -Promoting Healthy Congregations -Spiritual Development in Children -Writing/Evaluating Curriculum -Self Study -Visioning and Re-visioning -Reaching out to College Age -Applying Business Principles -Developing a Multi-Cultural Church...and more. **Lunch reservations requested- \$7/person** Watch the web site for more information: www.phydetroit.org

Stewardship Kaleidoscope: National Presbyterian Stewardship Conference

This is an event for elders and pastors, middle governing body staff and volunteers that will feature keynote presentations by Cynthia Campbell, Karl Travis and Charles F. Easley, Sr., as well as workshops and worship centered on congregational and presbytery stewardship. Learn about the biblical and theological basis for stewardship and get whole-life, year-round, practical ideas for meaningful stewardship programs. March 10-12, 2008 in Fort Worth, Texas. Registration fee \$50. Complete brochure available soon. For more information contact the Synod of the Sun at 866-381-7075 or office@synodsun.com.



Used Book Sale

The Holly Friends of the Library will be sponsoring a used books sale at the Holly Twp. Library on **January 12th and 13th** during regular library hours.

Come on out and support your local library!



Holly Presbyterian Church

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BULK RATE

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Inside:

**Pastor Installation
From The Pastor's Desk
Food For Thought
And more!**

**For a current list of church events, don't forget to check our online calendar
available at our website: hollypc.org**

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

Pastor: Rev. Randy Cullen
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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