



Holly Presbyterian Church

# HPC Tidings

*Believe. It's what we do.*



December 2010

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## From the Seminarian's Desk

by Cassie Todd

As we move toward the Season of Advent in the Church calendar, we come to a time of remembering and waiting. We remember how the Israelites waited for their Messiah to come. They had a hopeful expectation that their Savior would come and save them from Roman reign.

In Advent, we not only remember the waiting for the first coming of Christ, but also we actively participate in the waiting for Christ to come again. We say the Lord's Prayer asking God for "Thy Kingdom come". We remember God's promise to us for Christ to come and a new kingdom to come. We have a hopeful expectation of this.

But what does this hopeful expectation look like? Are we stumbling? Is our expectation of a new kingdom similar to what the Israelites were expectant of in a Messiah? When Jesus came into the world, he brought a completely different idea

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### December Calendar

- Dec 4 Family Christmas Fair
- Dec 5 Teens/Adult Sunday School 9:15am  
Children's Sunday School 9:30am  
Worship with Communion 10:30am  
Fenton Ambassadors Concert 7pm
- Dec 6 Stewardship Meeting 7pm
- Dec 8 AYSO 7:30pm
- Dec 12 Teens/Adult Sunday School 9:15am  
Children's Sunday School 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am  
Family Christmas Caroling 6pm
- Dec 13 Session Meeting 7pm
- Dec 15 Newsletter Deadline
- Dec 19 Teens/Adult Sunday School 9:15am  
Children's Sunday School 9:30am  
Contemporary Worship 10:30am
- Dec 21 Knit-Wits Meeting 6:30pm
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service 8pm
- Dec 25 CHRISTMAS
- Dec 26 Worship 10:30am  
(No Sunday School)

Also, feel free to visit our [online calendar](#).

of Messiah, a Savior of the world, not a political king to reign over the Jewish people.

To a point, we are in the dark of what this kingdom will look like, and what the second coming would be. Historically, our expectations tend to fall short. Yet we are still to have this hopeful expectation of Christ coming.

We learn how to look forward, by looking back and remembering Christ's coming into the world. We were in the darkness, and Christ's light came into our world. We light candles each week of Advent as a sign of Christ's light coming again into our world and read passages of Isaiah to remember what this promised kingdom looks like, learning how to have a hopeful expectation for the kingdom and revising us when we fall short in that expectation.

May God help us to have a revised more hopeful expectation that leaves no one out of the Kingdom this Advent season, and may we be open to the Holy Spirit working within us to work towards this new Kingdom.

--Cassie

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## The Pastors' Corner

### "Advent"

The word *advent* means "coming" or "arrival." In the church, Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year while it prepares us for the end of time. In many churches and homes, people light candles during each of the four Sundays symbolizing progression -- a movement toward something grand. We move toward the day of the coming of Christ, the Child, Messiah and Light of the World.

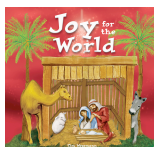
During each of the Sundays of Advent, the scripture readings exemplify the two-edged sword of the season -- the coming of the Christ child and the coming of God's final realm. While we hold fast to hope, we see that we also must be ready and on the watch.

Ann Weems writes in her book [Kneeling in Bethlehem](#), *This Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us. In the midst of shopping sprees let's*

## Prayer Shawl/Chemo Cap Ministry - The "Knit-Wits"

The Knit-Wits need donations! Because this is such a vibrant (and productive!) ministry, many projects are in the works. In addition to the ongoing knitting projects, the group is working on several sewing endeavors including Little Dresses for Africa and neck warmers and neck coolers for US Soldiers in Afghanistan. As such, we are in need of supplies -- most importantly fabric. Donations can be dropped off in the Narthex (where there is also a complete list of fabric types needed.) If you have any questions, contact Bev Ponton or Rev. Ann.

*Make the World a Better Place One Stitch at a Time*



## Family Christmas Fair

Mark your calendars and bring you friends to church on Saturday December 4th from 2pm - 5pm for our Family Christmas Fair! We'll have craft and activity stations, a craft bazaar, a mission project, storyteller and a "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" celebration complete with cake.

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## Found Coat

A woman's beige (lined) raincoat was found and returned to the church. It is now located in the upstairs coat closet for the owner to retrieve.

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## Food Pantry

As the food need for people in our community is still growing, we will continue collecting food for the pantry at Holly First Baptist Church. Please remember to bring your canned or boxed food and place it in the Narthex.

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## Our Life Together

Please pray...  
...for Ardath Regan, Dan Nash, Josh Banks, Pat Frank, Jerry Studer, Edith Sargent, Jack Smith, Beth Foss, Harriet Striggow, Bev Ponton, Alice Horak, Cristy Banks, Terry Sizemore, Amie Davis and all of the members of the church who are facing health problems.

...for the families of the congregation and for

*ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.*

Luke 2:1-21, which tells of the birth of Jesus, contains some of the most beloved passages of the Bible. Angels and shepherds serve as the ones to announce the Messiah's birth, and Mary treasures and ponders what they say about her newborn son. Mary has opened her life to God, so that others too may be blessed. Through no conscious choice of her own, a baby emerges from the quiet, cushiony warmth of the womb into an entirely strange environment filled with harsh temperatures and textures. There is no going back. This first Christmas, as has been true from the beginning, is laced with contrasts.

Even from the glorious story of Jesus' beginnings we know that Christ was born into the world so that He could die and save the world. Even death is where life is found, for death is not the final word but the beginning of a new and glorious life. "Do not be afraid: for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." *The Good News is that in spite of our faithlessness God is faithful and Jesus Christ was resurrected, for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believed might have everlasting Life. Listen, you who have ears to hear. Listen, and sit down to bread and wine with strangers. Feed his sheep ... Love one another, and claim new life in his name.*  
*--Kneeling in Bethlehem, by Ann Weems*

Blessings, Revs. Ann and Bill

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those who are living alone. 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 Session as they continuously seek God's leading for the life and future of our church....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.

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## Office Hours

Regular office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm.

Pastors Ann and Bill Robertson's hours are on Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. The office is closed on Fridays.

Up-to-date information is available at our [website](#) under "Church News" or you may contact the church at 248-634-9494.

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## Our Missionaries

Please pray for our missionaries. Up to date information on them can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall:

Allen and Deedee lobst  
APDO de Correos 188  
11201 Algeciras-Cadiz SPAIN  
[allen\\_deedee@yahoo.com](mailto:allen_deedee@yahoo.com)

Colby and Sarah Keefer  
4695 Sycamore Dr  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
[Colby.Keefer@athletesinaction.org](mailto:Colby.Keefer@athletesinaction.org)  
[Sarah.Keefer@athletesinaction.org](mailto:Sarah.Keefer@athletesinaction.org)  
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## 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.
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