



Holly Presbyterian Church

Believe. It's what we do.



From the Seminarian's Desk

April 1, 2011

Athletes in Action

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"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land"

Deut. 15:11

Happy "pseudo" Spring! Well, it sure felt like Spring around here for a few days...but not anymore :) The kids were able to shake off a bit of their cabin fever and played outside every moment they could. Let's just say it was a really refreshing time for mom to have them burn off some energy outside! It's hard to believe at this time next month our students will be taking their final exams and getting ready for their summers. We are really excited that a few of them (and hopefully more) will be participating in some of our Athletes in Action summer opportunities — incredible experiences in which they will grow leaps and bounds in their faith. However, most of the student athletes here at Michigan will stick around Ann Arbor for the summer, taking class and working out with their teams. And because our baby is due in the middle of June, we will get to stick around here with them this summer, too! This will be the first summer that we have been able to spend around campus as we usually travel to Colorado to lead a summer leadership project out there (which, by the way, we are so bummed we can't be at). But, we anticipate our months here in the summer to be very strategic in reaching out to these precious athletes during a time when their schedules are way less hectic. We are already looking forward to what God is going to do!

Spring Break!!!

We decided to try something new this year. Since many of our athletes have to stay around here for the summer and can't join us on summer missions trips, we thought we'd see how available they were to take a spring break mission trip. Well, they were definitely available as 25 student athletes from the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan U, and Concordia U (in Ann Arbor) joined us for a week in Orlando serving the poor. It was an amazing time of exposing our students to the incredible needs of the inner city and allowing them to be used by God there. For many of them, the trip was one that humbled their hearts and drew them closer to the Lord. Here are a few of their stories:

"Before I participated in this alternative spring break I had many challenges in my life that became challenges with God. So many things were going wrong and I grew angry with God and constantly questioned Him. I was afraid that I was driving myself away from God. On this trip I met so many wonderful people that I really connected with and became very fond of. This group I went with made a tremendous impact on my morale and I hope that the people I met stay in my life.

During the trip I worked with children whom have gone through adversity that most people haven't seen in their entire life. These kids experienced gangs, murders, extreme poverty, and multiple other things. In the back of my head I thought to myself, 'I could never cope with these conditions. How could these kids still have the energy and willingness to love God?' Then the Lord opened my eyes and my heart to these children and I can honestly say that I have never been so wrong. The children we worked with were euphoric that we were there and were excited to learn more

love of God in my heart and I knew that these people were placed into my life for a reason. I mean this with all my heart when I say that this trip was a life changing experience for me and I hope to do this in the near future." Kristian, Michigan football



From the Seminarian's Desk –Continued

"This Spring Break trip was so impacting on my life. Some of the things i experienced on the trip changed my life forever. My work site job was mentoring a 12-year old girl at Orange County Academy in Bithlo, FL. Bithlo is one of the poorest parts of Florida. In addition to growing up in poverty, the kids have to go home and deal with very sad family problems --problems I never imagined to be real.

My "buddy" for the week was Kelly. She goes home to a Grandma because her mother has been divorced twice and her two fathers are pretty distant. As we continued to talk, I shared my testimony with her. I told her to feel free to ask me any questions about anything. She then asked me what characteristics I look for in a future husband or boyfriend. I started to describe my Dad—trustworthy, committed, loves God, treats my friends and I with respect, etc. Kelly just looked at me like I was crazy. She just didn't have a category for understanding how guys could be like that based on her life experiences. I felt so ashamed that I had taken this perfect (well, almost perfect) relationship with my Dad for granted. I called my Dad that night to let him know how lucky I was to have a stable male figure in my life.

Another way God impacted me this week was providing friends who are like me and want to grow closer to God. I have been struggling to find friends like that. I know they will hold me accountable for being a strong Christian."

Lexi, Michigan volleyball



On the left: Ariel and Lexi with some of their "buddies" for the week. In the middle: Tim sharing with some girls about how Jesus died for them using a friendship bracelet. On the right: Our students played hard with these kids! This is Quinton, a Sophomore on Michigan's football team.

Please pray...

...for the continued health of the baby growing inside of Sarah. Pray for all of our hearts to be prepared for a new member to enter our family.

...for our students that went on the trip to Orlando. Pray they would stay strong in their faith and that the community that was formed amongst them would spread to the other student athletes here.

...for our staff as we get feedback from our students about this year of ministry, and begin to plan for next year.

...for wisdom for us as we continue to give leadership to the Colorado Project (even though we won't be there!). Pray for our planning meetings on April 4-6th.

...for our family's health. We have all been sick over the past month. We're sick of being sick :)



The lives that were impacted on this spring break trip were impacted, in part, because you choose to partner with us. Thank you! May God bless you richly!!!

Here's what happens around here when cabin fever is at its height...Mikayla (our seven year old) dresses up her siblings. Jaydon and Moriah (on right) seem happy enough. Jackson, however, turns into some sort of ninja princess :)

April Newsletter

Pastor's Reflections

"Take, o take me as I am. Summon out what I shall be. Set your seal upon my heart and live in me."

That little prayer song keeps going through my heart and mind during this season of Lent. It is one of the songs from the Iona community – an ecumenical community of Christians who work toward spiritual growth, peace and discipleship.

I have experienced many times in my life when it seems that the Holy Spirit has given me a song that runs through my mind, over and over. Those songs have been a great source of strength and comfort, and a reminder that it is God who is my guide. When I was preparing to present my doctoral thesis before seminary instructors and peers, I was feeling some anxiety. But the night before my presentation, I woke up with a portion of an anthem our choir had sung recently. *"I will rejoice over you."* That phrase and beautiful little tune filled and surrounded me throughout the hour of the presentation, all that day, and throughout the week!

As I write this April article, we are quickly coming upon the one month anniversary of my being in Holly as your pastor. Fred and I have enjoyed beginning to get to know you and have appreciated your generous efforts to make us feel welcome and at home. The in-home committee gatherings have been a great help! And the welcome pot luck and beautiful cake was wonderful.

We are well into the fourth week of our Lenten study – "24 Hours That Changed the World." We've had great discussion and are spending some time with worship and praise songs as well. While I know it is impossible for everyone to try to get out for evening meetings and that we have many conflicts in our busy lives, I want you to know it isn't too late to join even one of our studies. They are all interesting, and I think you would be blessed by attending just one, if possible. I do hope you will try to come to the Easter morning breakfast and see the final video of our series, titled "Christ the Victor."

As I begin my pastorate here with you, may that little song be my prayer: *"Take, O take me as I am. Summon out what I shall be. Set your seal upon my heart and live in me."*

And may it be yours as well, that we may grow together spiritually, and be set on the course that God has for us as pastor and congregation. May we work together with the mind of Christ, in unity and love, with fresh new vision and enthusiasm for growing the Kingdom of God!

I hope you will plan to attend the service on April 10th at 3 pm, as the Lake Huron Presbytery installs me as your pastor. I firmly believe these messages, vows that you and I make, and the charges we hear in this special service will stay with us, going on and on in our hearts and minds, like a song God gives us, that reminds us it is God who calls us together and God, by the Holy Spirit, who will lead us in paths of ministry.

Peace, Grace, Joy and Love!

Sharlyn

Your Pastor and Friend

Your Spring Cleaning Time can benefit HPC !



Holly Presbyterian is planning for their annual Garage Sale, and we need your help. Are you tired of walking around that old chair, or afraid of opening that closed that is stuffed so full it cries out to be clean? If you do, well than just hold on for a little bit longer, and then bring it down and donate it to HPC for their annual garage

sale. What a better way to rid your house of all those un-used, antiques items, that you no longer want..... This doesn't mean we take husbands! We will use it to benefit our church. Just think clearing out the old, and helping in the service of our Lord! The dates have been set, they are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 19th, 20th, & 21st.

More information on when you may start bringing your items here to the church

will be in the next edition of the newsletter and watch the bulletin we are clearing out space and getting ready for

May 19, 20 & 21

this annual event!



Mark your calendar for these

Garage Sale Dates!

May 19th, 20th & 21st



Our Mission At Holly Presbyterian:

1. Worship God in a faithful and joyful manner;
2. Teach the good news of the Christian Faith, share that faith with each other and reach out to those beyond the church;
3. Be a loving family dedicated to the biblical values of peace, love, faith and justice;
4. Develop a dynamic presence in our community under the guidance of the Holly Spirit

On Sunday, April 3rd, the Schwan's delivery truck will be here in our parking lot for your food pickup, right after church. If you placed an order your delivery will be bundled for easy delivery. You may also place additional orders while quantities last.

Newsletter Deadline is April 15th !

That should be an easy date to remember! It is the same date the internal revenue makes us all tremble in fear.. Now it isn't my desire to make anyone tremble in fear, but I just wish to remind you that it is important that your information get out to the congregation in time for them to plan to take part in or attend your event. If you miss the deadline you may put your information in to the weekly bulletin, in a brief format.

Great Lakes Scrips fundraising is coming to HPC.

Great Lakes Scrips (Scrips) is a gift card based fundraising program. When you purchase a gift card through Scrips you pay the face value of your gift card but Scrips charges HPC a discounted price. For example, If you purchase a \$100.00 gift card to a gas station, you pay

\$100.00 and receive a \$100.00 worth of gasoline. Scrips however only charges HPC \$92.00 and HPC earns \$8.00 off that one purchase. Discounts range between 2% and 16%.

See Christine Cook or Vicki Lyles for more information. We will be available on Sunday's to

answer your questions and take orders. Orders placed will be available for pick up the followingSunday

Easter baskets for the Ennis Foundation

We will be collecting items for Easter baskets for the Ennis Foundation again this year. This organization helps children in Genesee and Oakland Counties. Please bring your items to the church by Palm Sunday. This year they would like us to focus on the age group from 4 years to 12 years of age. They do not want candy to be the focus of what we collect, rather items that will last a longer period of time.

Please consider the following items for children's baskets:

Crayons	Easter baskets/wrap	
Hair clips	Hot wheels/match box cars	
Toothbrush/paste	Fruit snacks	
Children's books	Teen magazines	
Jump ropes	Coloring books	Nail polish
Stickers	Hair accessories	Gel pens/pencils
Hacky sacks	Parachute men	Balsa wood gliders
Super balls	Silly putty	other small, fun games

Please help our women continue the tradition of helping those in need. We need your support! Give generously. Drop off all donations in the fellowship hall and watch each week as our giving increases. Thanks to everyone for your support.



2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office is Closed	2
3 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship with Communion	4 Planning meeting for Summer Event At 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.	5	6	7 Lenten Study 7:00 pm AYSO—7:00 pm	8 Office is Closed	9
10 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 3:00PM Installation Services for Reverend Sharlyn Gates at HPC	11	12	13	14 Lenten Study 7:00 pm AYSO—7:00 pm	15 Office is Closed	16
17 Palm Sunday 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Contemporary Worship Palm Sunday	18 Session Meeting 7:00 PM AA/Alanon	19	20	21 Maundy Thursday Lenten Study Soup & Bread Supper at 6:30 Study begins at 7:15 AYSO—7:00 pm	22 Office is Closed A Blood Donor Saved My Live.....Jesus! Jack Davis Memorial Red Cross Blood Drive At HPC 12:30 to 7:30 GOOD FRIDAY Community Service, noon at the 1st Baptist Church of Holly	23
24 9:00 Breakfast—Please watch the bulletin for updates or changes. Easter Sunday	25	26	27	28 AYSO—7:00 pm	29 Office is Closed	30 Barb Meyers Baby Shower in Fellowship Hall, 12:30—4:00

Welcome Spring!

Holly Presbyterian Church

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Holly Presbyterian Church is a community of faith in God that values peaceful, loving and just relationships in our church, families and the world.

We're on the web.
www.hollypc.org

A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

- Robert Frost

Fall Auction!

Yes, as I sit here in the office, and gaze out the window, it is very hard to imagine planning for a Fall Auc-

FUNDRAISING



tion & fund raiser! There is still snow on the ground! Lent is still-whoops guess Lent isn't that far away.. Only two weeks! Then it will be Easter and Pastor Sharlyn hasn't laid her head down in her new home yet!

So talking about something that will happen in the Fall seems a bit far fetched. However, the whole idea is to "Plan ahead" to make this a very successful and profitable endeavor for the church, and that is what is taking place now. The date hasn't been set yet, but if your crafty... and have items you would like to donate for our auction, please gather them together, so that the planning com-

mittee will have an idea as to what they will have to offer. Also we will be accepting items from distributors, such as Avon, Tupperware, Simply Tasteful, etc. If you are a distributor, and would care to donate please make sure you contact Donna Miller with your items.