



# *Holly Presbyterian Church Newsletter*

January 2015

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



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## ***New Beginnings***

*"See ... I am about to do a new thing; now it*

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**BOILER FUND  
BAKE SALE!  
NO BAKE SALE IN  
JANUARY !!**

The Ladies are taking a break this month this month. No meeting or Bake Sale.

In February, Fellowship Meeting will be on Sunday, February 1st at 10am and Bake Sale on Sunday February 8th.

[Adopt-A-Family  
Christmas  
Outreach Project](#)

*springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert."*

*~ Isaiah 43:19 (NRSV)*

As I write this article for the January 2015 newsletter, it is difficult to get my mind around what I just wrote ... January 2015! The new year really is here!

I love the new year. I love what it stands for ... something new, like a new beginning to things that may have not been so successful last year. Many people make New Year's resolutions, trying to get themselves motivated for getting healthier, losing weight, exercising or perhaps doing something around the house that might be a better, more organized approach than it has been in the past.

The trouble with those resolutions is that they seem to start with enthusiasm but before you know it we've gone back to our old ways. They say you have to do something faithfully for a good six weeks before it becomes a regular habit. Many of us don't make it that far!

What I've been thinking of is that passage from Paul that says "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). And Jesus said "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

So I'm thinking whatever it is we want to change, it is really important to pray about it; first to ask God if it is what God is leading us to do; and second, to turn it over to the One through whom all things are possible. We are weak, but he is strong!

But, have you noticed that even God seems to have new plans as time goes on? Look at what God said through the prophet, Isaiah. "*I am about to do a new thing*" (Isaiah 43).



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone in our church for being the generous God loving people you are. We were able to make two families Christmas a lot brighter thru our Baby Pantry a lot nicer due to your generous donations.

Perhaps the best New Year's resolution would be for us to ask God to show us God's plan for something new, and then present ourselves to Him, offering our lives in a willingness to be a vessel through which God can accomplish His new vision.

That, my friends, would be a grand start to the new year, don't you think? Shall we, as a congregation, make that part of our 2015 resolution?

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us!\*

Peace, Grace, Joy and Love to You All!

GET YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED



Sunday, January 11th after worship. Nurse Karen will be available to check your blood pressure. This is great, because you know you ate way too much turkey! Have your blood pressure checked to make sure yours is okay.

Reverend Sharlyn



*Reflections from Pastor Shaun. . .*

What is your New Year's resolution? Lose weight, exercise, or clean out your house to make room for the new Christmas gifts you and your family received during the holiday season? Well, I have an easy way to make these items have a new life. Give them to one of the many groups or agencies helping people and their family's year around with their need in their lives.

When you generously give remember this scripture from Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV).

*"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the*

Our Missionary Updates. . .



Univ. of Michigan Athletes in Action missionaries, Colby and Sarah Keefer, continue to reach college athletes in the name of Christ.

To catch up with them and their latest news click the link below.

[Keefer November Newsletter](#)



## OPERATION TRANSIT!

CRU missionaries, Allen and DeeDee Iobst, continue to reach people in the name of Christ and distribute bibles.

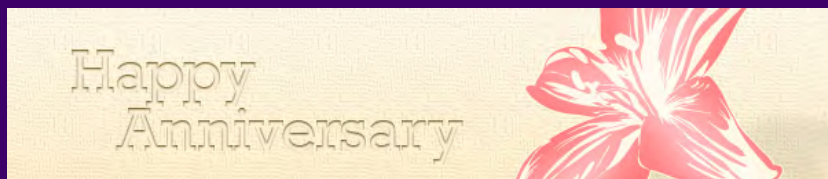
*hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

God Bless -Shaun



Happy Birthday to these Children of God!

Jan 1	Haley Day
Jan 1	Ryan Day
Jan 6	Tim Bird
Jan 15	Donna Miller
Jan 17	Rick Perry
Jan 2	Kim Felch
Jan 25	Rachel Sparling



Jan 2	Helen & Jeff McNamara, 39 Years
Jan 16	Donna Denise, 22 Years

May God continue to bless your marriage!



## Finance Team Update

The Finance Team is working on the upcoming budget for 2015, and appreciates the pledges and commitments made of time, talents & resources made by the HPC Family.

To catch up with them and their latest news click the link below.

[Campus Crusade for Christ Operation Transit Website](#)

[Iobst December Newsletter](#)

Thank you for your faithful support of ministries that we all love.

Year-to-date  
(November 31st, 2014) Income/Expenses  
Holly Presbyterian Church Financial Summary:

Income- Nov \$9920.23 YTD \$122,261.85

Expenses-Nov\$10,267.23 YTD\$122,652.61



## ***Sunday School & Study Opportunities!***

**The Gathering Place for Kids**  
**Now meets during worship following the children's sermon!**



Our kids program uses the Spark Activate Faith curriculum and is a Workshop Rotation modeled classroom where our kids get to explore their faith through, art, science, cooking, computers, games, stories, music & drama!

[Register your family and Check it out!](http://hollypc.sparksondayschool.org)  
<http://hollypc.sparksondayschool.org>

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014-2015**  
**Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am**  
*(Child Care provided)*

"Comparative Religions" is our current topic. What do the basic tenants of the world's five major religions and philosophies have in common? We will be studying the way these markedly different belief systems have set up their moral codes, showing the great number of

similarities, and a number of the differences between them, and looking at how each of the systems currently influences the actions of nations on the world stage.

### **MEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Come out on Wednesday's at 7:00pm for the Men's Bible Study. This is a great time of fellowship and learning. Randy Cook is leading. Great things are happening! Be a part of it.

### **WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH!** **Weekly at 12:00 noon**

The Lunch Bunch meets at noon on Wednesday for an informal Bible study. Charlee Litten is the leader for this study and does a great job of helping look at the scriptures in new ways and with great joy and humor! Everyone is welcome to attend when ever they are able, just bring your bible if you have one (We have loaners too!) and little something for your lunch! We will be starting to study the women of the Bible.

## *January Calendar of Events*



- Jan 2 OFFICE OPEN
- Jan 3 SESSION RETREAT 9:00-3:00PM at Vivian's Via Rosa Retreat House in Waterford.
- Jan 4 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am  
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am  
WORSHIP 11:00am

AA 3:00PM  
 PRIVATE EVENT 1:00PM-6:00PM  
 Jan 5 AA & ALANON 7:30PM  
 Jan 6 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
 Jan 7 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
 LUNCH BUNCH 12pm-1pm  
 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7pm  
 Jan 8 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
 AYSO 7pm  
 Jan 9 BABY PANTRY 10am-12pm  
 Jan 11 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am  
 FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am  
 WORSHIP 11:00am  
 DEDICATION OF OUR NEW AV SYSTEM & NEW CARPET  
 IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
 BAKE SALE  
 BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED BY NURSE KAREN  
 AA 3:00PM  
 Jan 12 AA & ALANON 7:30PM  
 Jan 13 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
 TEAM PARTY NIGHT 6:30PM  
 Jan 14 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
 LUNCH BUNCH 12pm-1pm  
 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7pm  
 Jan 15 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
 \*\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE\*\*  
 Jan 17 BABY PANTRY 10am-2pm  
 Jan 18 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am  
 FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am  
 WORSHIP 11:00am  
 AA 3:00PM  
 Jan 19 AA & ALANON 7:30PM  
 Jan 20 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
 SESSION 7pm  
 Jan 21 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
 LUNCH BUNCH 12pm-1pm  
 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7pm  
 Jan 22 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
 Jan 23 BABY PANTRY 10am-12pm

- Jan 25 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am  
FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE 10:30am  
WORSHIP 11:00am  
AA 3:00PM
- Jan 26 AA & ALANON 7:30PM
- Jan 27 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm
- Jan 28 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm  
LUNCH BUNCH 12pm-1pm  
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7pm
- Jan 29 FRIENDS WITH NEEDS OUTREACH 12pm-4pm

## *Praying for our church family . . .*

### *Prayers of Concern*

- For those serving or who have served us and our country in military service.
- For all those who are in nursing homes, shut in, or seeking comfort and healing.
- For Raelene Morgan, Brian Palmero, Maxine Bolyea, Kennedy Todd, Jaymi Whalen, Pamela Lender, Ron Mikulak, Beth Krauss, Rev. Mark Knisley, Dan Nash, Dan Goodearl, Jim DeHaven, Fred Gates, Marjorie Smith, Connie "C.J" Brummeler, Sharon Lowes, Jerry Litten, the family of Shannon Cook, Harriett Striggow, LeAnn Book, Jennifer Chanter, Jan Owens, Beatrice Johnston, Claudia Morton.

### *Prayers of Joy*

- We give thanks for the joy of finally having our AV System up and running after several years of working on this project! What a joy to have this gift for the enhancement to our worship. To God be the glory!
- For new carpet in the Fellowship Hall





## ***Prayer Requests from the Lake Huron Presbytery:***

- Elder Vicky Bright (Sandusky) and her family. Her daughter Jessica, son-in-law Chris Sampson and their two daughters lost their home to a fire last week. They were unharmed but sadly this is the second fire in five years that has happened to them. Ongoing, Vicky's son Kris Noble, was in a very serious accident this summer and while he's doing as well as expected at this point, he still has a long journey to a full recovery ahead of him.
- Ben & Shelby Offrink, son and daughter in-law of the Rev. Jim Offink (HR) Ben has had a relapse of Hodgkin's lymphoma and is receiving chemotherapy. Shelby has been battling cancer for quite awhile and now battling the very painful pancreatitis. Shelby and Ben have two young daughters.
- Gwen & John Haspels Mission Co-Workers, who were injured earlier this month, when their car was attacked by armed bandits on a rural road in Ethopia.
- Elder Peggy Ronk, Commissioned Ruler of Breckenridge-Emerson, and her family. Both Peggy and various close family members of hers are experiencing significant health issues.



## **Order Scrip for the New Year!**

**Order January 4 - Delivery January 11**

We receive a small profit from the sale of each card, which goes toward our everyday expenses. The church should net approximately \$500 this year from this easy fundraiser.

In addition to the gas, grocery, and restaurant cards that most of us order throughout the year, there are also gift cards available for many major retail stores, amazon.com, and iTunes.

Look at the complete list of cards available by  
[Clicking Here](#)

If you do not feel comfortable using a computer, talk to Christine Cook or Vicki Lyles and we can let you know if what you want is available.  
Thank you for your support!!

## VG'S SHARE PROGRAM!



VG's grocery store has a new program that will replace the Community Share Points Program we are familiar with now. Please click on the link below to see how you can participate going forward. If you have further questions please see Jan Bradshaw.

[Click Here!](#)

Property Team Update:  
*Change is a process, not an event.*



The progress we have experienced in regards to our facility this past year has been an immense blessing. We have seen the new carpeting in the Fellowship Hall, a refreshed surface on our serving counter, and our new audio visual system is up and running in the Sanctuary! Come to church soon and see all the great

progress! Thanks to everyone who has helped with these projects!

## ***Session Retreat & Elder Training***



Our annual session retreat and elder training is Jan 3rd, 2015 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at Vivian's Via Rosa Retreat House in Waterford. This is open to all ruling elders; both those currently serving on session, and those not currently on session. If you are not on session but would like to attend please let Rev. Sharlyn by December 30th, 2014. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch.

## **Annual Reports Due Soon!**



***Yes, it is that time of year again!***

***Annual reports need to be turned in by January 15th.***

If you lead a Team on session or lead a group in the church you are expected to submit a written report of the year's activities.

All reports must be submitted to our office manager, Sherry, via email in

a word document. Please do not use creative fonts or colors.  
Keep it sweet & simple!

***Don't forget to have fun with your family too.***



## SCHWANS CARES FUNDRAISER!

We are taking part in a new fundraising opportunity, providing members & friends a chance to support the ministries and facilities of HPC by purchasing food through the Schwans Food Service. You will be able to order online or by phone, and have the groceries delivered directly to your home. The church will receive 20% of any orders placed between November 28th and January 4th at: Our church's custom fundraiser page by [clicking here](#) or by calling 1-855-870-7208 and reference Campaign ID 17288 *Electronic Gift Certificates can be purchased as well, with 40% revenue back to the church!* Instruction sheets are inserted inside the catalogs located on the narthex table. An additional 5% will come back to the church for any orders that those participating place through November 28, 2015. Instruction sheets are inserted inside the catalogs located on the narthex table.

## In The Beginning News!



**We are looking for new volunteers for the Baby Pantry Team for 2015! Giving your time or resources to this wonderful outreach ministry will bless you in so many ways! Contact Laura Parker if you are interested in supporting this ministry.**

***Prayer requests from our families***

- Pray for all those in difficult relationships, struggling with emotional and physical abuse, and self doubt. May they be comforted by the love of Christ.
- Pray for young families facing custody conflicts - may they find peace and resolution.
- Pray for those parents who are not getting enough hours on their work schedules.
- Pray for those parents who are seeking work.

**UPCOMING DATES:**      Fri. Jan. 9, 10am - 12pm  
                                  Sat. Jan. 17, 10am - 2pm  
                                  Fri. Jan. 23, 10am - 12pm

***Items we need include: Kleenex, wipes, lotions, baby wash & diaper rash cream!***

If you feel called to this ministry please see a Judy Studer, Christine Cook, or Laura Parker.

*"And he took the Children in his arms, put His hands on them and blessed them."  
 Mark 10:16*

### For Your Information. . .

- If you have something that you would like included in the newsletter please submit it to the church office by the 15th of the month prior. Thanks!
- If you are not receiving the Email Newsletter and other e-updates and would like to, please call the office at 248-634-9494 and we would be happy to add your email to our list!
- If you have had a change of phone, email or mailing address in the past year, we would like to know so that we can make sure everyone's contact information is current in our database.

**Supporting Missions . . .**



**The Keefer Family-Athletes in Action**  
Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor, Mi

**The Iobst Family- Operations Transit**  
Algeciras, Spain  
(Both Working Under Campus Crusade for Christ)

**Grace Centers of Hope**  
Pontiac, Mi

**Ennis Foundation**  
Pontiac, Mi

**HPC Christmas - Adopt a Family**

**In the Beginning Baby Pantry**

**Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry**  
Holly, Mi

## YOUR 2015 SESSION

### **Class of 2015**

Charlee Litten	Personnel	(810) 694-0095
Dessalee Cook	Worship	(248) 634-5680
Jim Lyles	Clerk	(248) 634-4610
Walt Brown	Technology	(810) 869-4883

### **Class of 2016**

Christine Cook	Christian Education	(248) 887-2012
Lori Goldsmith	Property	(810) 397-9722
Bob Killewald	Finance	(248) 310-2410

### **Class of 2017**

Laura Parker	Outreach	(248) 245-5348
Margaret Perry	Fellowship	(810) 735-7692
Karen Haneline	Care	(248) 894-3489

**Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn Gates**

248.369.8893(h)

620.423.2671(c)

**Assoc. Pastor: Shaun Hardimon**

810.635.0586(h)

586.292.8772(c)