



HPC Connections

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving



February 2016

Reflections from Reverend Sharlyn
... From Ashes to Death - The Journey Begins



Once again, on February 10th we will observe

Ash Wednesday with the imposition of the ashes. The sign of the cross is marked on our foreheads with the ashes as we hear the somber reminder: "You are dust and to dust you shall return." Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality.

Lent is a desert experience - a wilderness journey we choose to take each year, as we set out on the path towards the cross. Have you noticed how a vacation trip might begin with one or two pieces of luggage, yet by the time you leave to return home, you have even more stuff than when you started? When I went to Mexico, I had one large suitcase and a carry on to take with me. But when I was on the return flight, I had my large suitcase (overstuffed), plus my carry on bag, plus a huge sack packed with pottery I had bought. (That was in the day when there weren't so many rules about bags.) That seems to be the way typical trips go, doesn't it? We usually come home with a lot more than what we started with.

But the journey of Lent is (hopefully) the opposite. We start on the Lenten journey with all the baggage we have packed onto ourselves throughout the past year - like the guilt we carry for some things we have not repented of. (In some cases we are not even aware that we need to repent.) These are very heavy bags - the baggage of stiff-necked refusal to forgive; of needlessly carrying a grudge; of stubbornly pointing a finger of blame at others and being unwilling to look at our own fault. In many cases these are heavy bags of self-loathing that get heavier as time drags on. Our lives are so busy that we often go through the day without giving much thought to how heavy that luggage is getting. We don't realize how depleted of energy we have become; Or, how thirsty we are for the life-giving living water of the Spirit.

The journey of Lent is a lonely walk through the wilderness. Yes, we know we are walking the path where others walk too - some ahead of us, some behind us. In many ways, however, it does seem that we are alone because it is our own baggage we are carrying - not someone else's. Yours is different from mine. No one but me can

work on my stuff.

Yet, as lonely as this journey might seem, we are not alone because Christ walks with us. Lent is a time to set aside some of the crazy, chaotic busyness; it is time to slow down, to cut out some things if we can, and to examine all that baggage as we walk with Jesus. We talk to him about each thing. We hold it up to look closely at just what it is that is weighing us down. Is it something we realize we need to ask forgiveness for? Something we need to hand over to Him? Is it a hurt or a grudge we've held onto, something that extending forgiveness and grace to another would cause our load (and theirs) to be significantly lighter? Can you see how a Lenten journey could end up with carrying a much lighter load by the time we get to the end?

The *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* says: "The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die. Trusting in the "accomplished fact" of Christ's resurrection, however, we listen for the word of God in the time-honored stories of the church's Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem, and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of *metanoia* ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross."

Lent is about dying. We go from ashes to death - dying to self as we hand over our baggage to Christ. In our dying, we rise to new life, once again.

Originally, the season of Lent was spent preparing new converts for baptism on Easter Day - the Day of Resurrection. May this Lenten journey of ours lead us from ashes to death (dying to self) to a renewal of our own baptismal vows as we celebrate new life in Christ on Easter Day.

*"All who are in Christ are a new creation.
The old life is past and a new life has begun!"
(Paraphrased from 2 Cor. 5:17)*

A Word...Pastor Shaun

Youth Group is looking for adult volunteers! No experience is needed nor do you have to plan anything! Just come and be yourself any Sunday from 6 pm to 8 pm. We have a flexible schedule built around a rotation of Bible Study, Service, and Fun.



If you are interested look for the Youth Group clipboard in the Narthex and sign your name and telephone number next to a date. Or contact me at 586-292-8772 or email to pastor shaun@hollpc.org.

*Thanks,
Pastor Shaun*

IMPORTANT NOTICE. . .The Congregational Meeting

will be held on Sunday February 21st following Worship. annual Reports will be available in the narthex by February 14th for your review. Members will be voting on church business and terms of call. Anyone is welcome to attend and observe.

We strongly urge you to stay and attend this important event.





January 2016 POTLUCK





Holly Presbyterian Church

HPC Tidings

Believe. It's what we do.



February 2016

Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 am Fellowship and Coffee
- 11:00 am Worship
- 3:00 pm AA
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm TFC

Monday

- 7:30 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday thru Thursday

- 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Friends with Needs Outreach

Wednesday

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch

7:00 pm Presbyterian Men's Bible Study

7:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Schedule of Additional Events

- Feb 2 Team Meeting For:
6:30 pm Information Technology (60 mins)
7:00 pm Personnel (30 mins)
7:30 pm Christian Education (60 mins)
- Feb 4 7:00 pm AYSO Community Room
- Feb 7 10:00 am Fellowship Team meeting
- Feb 9 Team Meeting For:
6:30 pm Finance (60 mins)
7:00 pm Care (30 mins)
7:30 pm Outreach (60 mins)
7:30 pm Property (60 mins)
- Feb 10 Ash Wednesday
6:15 pm Soup Supper & Service with Comm.
- Feb 12 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
- Feb 14 Bake Sale
- Feb 16 7:00 pm Session meeting
- Feb 20 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Baby Pantry
- Feb 21 Healthy check up
Congregation Meeting - Following Worship
- Feb 26 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry

Finance Team Update

Per capita update:

Our budget calls for \$1100 of the total \$2418



cost of per capita to be reimbursed by our members (the cost this year is \$26/member). The entire bill is due February 15. Please consider contributing to this cost if you are able. You can note "per capita" on the memo line of your check, or make a notation on the "other" line of your offering envelope. This money goes to the Presbytery, and helps pay for the cost of running the Presbytery and Synod. Thank you for any help you can provide in covering this cost.

Electronic Giving - It's so easy. Give it a try.

Go to www.hollypc.org, scroll to the bottom of the page "electronic online giving", and click on "give now". You will be directed to the Presbyterian Mission Exchange Website: it will show Holly Presbyterian Church. Choose either one time or recurring. Put in the amount, day of week, start date and end date. The rest is your information (i.e. name, address, credit or debit card information_____). Then press give now. You did it!!

Note: Presbyterian Mission Exchange sends you by email a notification of each contribution you make. Keep these for your records for tax purposes.

Thanks,

Finance Team

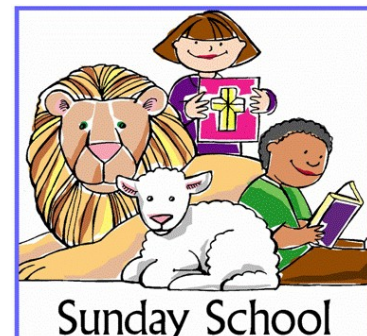
Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Laura Parker and Christine Cook.

Christian Ed Team Update

Adult Sunday School-

Barbara Brown is leading this group in a study of the New Testament. This class meets Sunday at 9:30 am.

TFC (Teens for Christ) -



will be meeting Sunday evenings at 6:00pm -8:00pm. Through the end of the year, we are doing a new study, Echo the Story, that will allow teens to discover meaning and a personal identity in the Bible narrative through conversations, meditation, and creativity. If you have questions, please see Shaun Hardimon.

Wednesday Lunch Bunch-Wednesday at Noon. We are currently studying the Psalms. All are welcome to to join us. Bring a little something for lunch! A good time of fellowship and learning. If you have any questions, please see Charlee Litten.

Presbyterian Men's Bible Study Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall upstairs. The current study is based on select scripture reading followed by discussion. The class is led by Randy Cook.

Upcoming Women's Bible Study

Please join our next Women's Bible Study beginning January 13th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The study is a Presbyterian Women's study entitled 'Come to the Waters' by Judy Record Fletcher. This study will be led by Laura Parker and Christine Cook.

Please call, e-mail or speak to Christine if you have any questions. cmcook2375@yahoo.com or 248-343-4157.

From the Lion's Den

The ongoing water crisis in Flint has brought a major community in our presbytery into the national spotlight. The Presbytery of Lake Huron is currently facilitating a response through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program (PDA) with local churches and ongoing public and private relief efforts. We have taken steps to insure that by the end of the week the following actions will be underway:



- An initial emergency response grant from PDA of \$7500 to be distributed by the presbytery to assist local efforts to develop long term responses and spiritual care;
- A numbered account with PDA to receive designated gifts from Presbyterians across the country to aid in the response;
- An assessment team from PDA on the field to evaluate and advise local churches and the presbytery regarding ongoing strategies.

Information regarding all of these will be sent out to our email list as soon as details become known. Meanwhile, please pray for the health and safety of the people of Flint, and for the ongoing community response of our Presbyterian churches and their local partners.

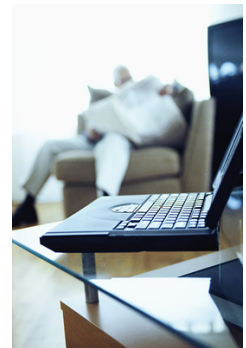
The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program is one of the most highly respected of private religious relief organizations. They work with both public and private agencies to coordinate disaster response through the VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) cooperative, relying on local Presbyterians representatives on community response teams. Unlike other agencies which leave as quickly as they come, PDA is especially oriented towards long-term attention to spiritual and physical needs and not merely the "first wave" of a crisis. More information about PDA and VOAD can be found at pda.pcusa.org and nvoad.org.

The work of PDA is funded through individual donations and through the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering received each year at Easter.

Dan Saperstein
Executive Presbyter

Information Technology Team

The Information Technology Team members are Walt Brown, Jim Lyles, and Brian Parker.



Care Team Update

QUOTE

"To strengthen the muscles of your heart, the best exercise is lifting someone else's spirit whenever you can"

Prayers of Concern



- For those serving, or who have served, in military service.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Burnell Jenkins (brother of Joan Davis), Barbara & Owen Hallberg (Dr. Teryl LaFalce's mother and stepfather), Jimmy Duncanson (son), Todd Duncanson (husband) of Carrie Duncanson, Randy & Missy Doyon, William Woodard (grandson of Fred Gates), Bob Nelson (Linda Burns brother), Mandie and Josh Banks, prayers for our members who are homebound, baby Celia Pettit, Vicki Harron Barton (Linda Coale's friend), Peggy Ranger, Maxine Bolyea, Ed & Barbara Wells, Terry & Julie Parish and Angel Vliet, Fran Olson and Beth Krauss.
- Peace, strength, and comfort for the family of Bill Renico and for comfort and God's peace of the loss of Vicki Harron Barton (Linda Coale's Friend)
- For Flint residents and the water crisis.

Prayers of Concern at Presbytery of Lake Huron

- Bruce Graham, husband of the Rev. Linda Graham, Pastor of Cass City Fraser fell Dec. 24th. He is home now but it is anticipated that it will be a potentially lengthy recovery period.
- The Rev. Tom Brackbill (Alma First) and wife Pam as they deal with all that encompasses Pam's diagnosis of younger onset Alzheimer's disease. Pam is under the care of Masonic Pathways.
- The Rev. Cathy Chang and family have completed their training but are now traveling to various churches for financial and prayer support. You can follow them on their new blog atskype: cchang.jlopez
- Ben Offrink, son of the Rev. Jim Offrick is doing very well in his battle with cancer. He and his family still need prayers and are very grateful for the support and love shown to them.
- Michael and Rachel Ludwig, our Mission Co-Workers who are serving in Niger.
- Elder Sally Pomeroy (Croswell-First) who had surgery for cancer on December 1st. The prognosis is very positive. Please pray as she recovers.

Nurse Karen will be in on Sunday, February 21st after worship. Nurse

Karen will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate

Get your vitals checked and be in charge of your wellness!

Note: These screenings are not intended to be a substitute for your doctor's care. Results are strictly for your information, and is not medical advice.

Care Team

Karen Haneline, Loretta Weiss, Beth Dryer, Linda Burns, Jennifer Chanter, Jan Bradshaw.

Property Team Update

We are a smoke-free property. No smoking on the Grounds or in the Building at HPC.

Building Safety

A reminder to all to check the building for unlocked doors, water, or anything that could be pertinent to the building. It would be appreciated. We could easily prevent disasters.

Thank you,

Property Team

Lori Goldsmith, Randy Cook, Broady Cook, Gerry Jackson, Tim Burns, Tom Schettling and Ellen Paulson.



Worship Team Update

Weekly Attendance

Don't forget to fill out the blue fellowship book for our record keeping of your weekly attendance. Not only is the entry used for important data the church needs to collect for accounting purposes but it is used to learn visitors names, address corrections, etc. Thank you.

Also,

Worship is in need of volunteers for the next several months. Open positions include substitutes for worship leader, ushers, greeters, and Communion servers (must be an Elder of the church to serve Communion). If this sounds like something that interests you see Linda Burns for details.

Worship Team

Linda Burns

Vicki Lyles

Gordie Bradshaw



Fellowship Team Update



Fellowship Team will have a meeting on February 7th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee Hour sign up for the month of February 2016

Dates	Treats	Set up	Clean up
2/7	Fran Pelton	Fran Pelto	Fran Pelton

2/14	Fran Olson Beth Dryer Colleen Spring	Fran Olson Beth Dryer Colleen Spring	Fran Olson Beth Dryer Colleen Spring Donna DeNise
2/21	Donna DeNise		

2/28 **No one has signed up so far. Please sign up today!**
We need two people for each position.

If you can help, please sign up today! Fellowship and Coffee is something we all enjoy!

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, February 10th 6:15 pm - Soup Supper Service and Communion. Please sign up in the narthex to bring something for the supper.

Sunday, February 14th after Worship we will be having a Bake Sale.

Save up now for all the goodies!



Outreach Team Update

In The Beginning News!



We are looking for **new** volunteers for the Baby Pantry Team. 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.

UPCOMING DATES:

Friday, Feb 12th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, Jan 20th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Friday, Jan 26nd, 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Items we need include: We are low on many clothing sizes:

- Girls pants (12-18 mo, 24 mo, 2T)
- Girls shirts (3T, 4T)
- Boys PJ's (18-24 mo, 2T, 3T, 4T)

We are in need of Diapers size 4 and 6 as well as wipes. Kleenex, wipes, ointment, lotion, body wash & diaper rash cream are an ongoing need. If you feel called to this ministry please see Laura Parker.

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

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 families expecting new arrivals this year. May they experience healthy pregnancies and safe deliveries.
- Pray for those parents who are not getting enough hours on their work schedules.
- Pray for those parents who are seeking work.

Supporting our Missionaries



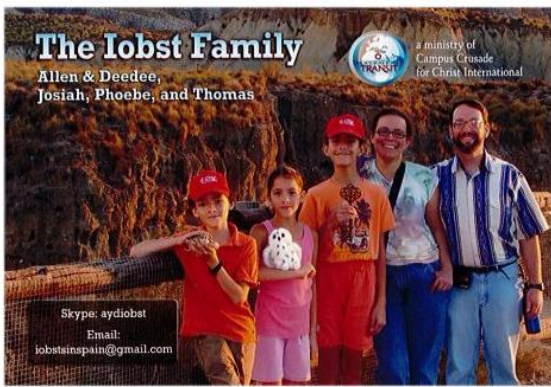
Colby and Sarah Keefer, Univ. of Mich. Athletes in Action who continue to reach college athletes in the name of Christ.

[Keefer Link](#)
[Keefer January 2016 Newsletter](#)

Operation Transit!

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

[Iobst Link](#)
[Iobst January 2016 Newsletter](#)



Update-- They will pay for these services as well.

OLSHA Action Agency needs help in these areas: Handymen, Housekeepers, Office Volunteers, Minor Home Repairs, Heavy Housekeeping. If you can help, please contact Marie Verheyen at 248-209-2671 or

MARIEV@olhsa.org with questions and to sign up. Detail are up on our bulletin board.

The Outreach Team

Laura Parker, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash, James Lyles.

Personnel Team News

Needed: March 15th -18th and 22nd - 24th

Volunteer to answer phone while Sherry is gone on her cruise. Must be available 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please contact Sherry or Pastor Sharlyn at 248-634-9494.



We welcome Eric Mowery to our staff at Holly Presbyterian Church.

Eric will be working in the Nursery each Sunday so if you get a chance poke your head in the Nursery and say HELLO.

ERIC MOWERY...I am a 23 year old graduate student at the University of Michigan Flint. I am working to obtain my doctorate in Physical Therapy. I am the oldest of 4 children, a brother age 19 and two sisters ages 16 and 10. In my spare time I try to be as active as possible, participating in basketball, soccer, and softball leagues. I also coach baseball at Fenton

High School.

We are extremely excited to have Eric as a member of our staff.

Our church has many teams that not only accomplish awesome tasks, but have great fellowship and laughter. Please consider joining one of our teams.

Charlee Litten, Jennifer Chanter, Judy Studer, Dale Huffman, Margaret Perry

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- Easter Baskets
Pontiac, Mi

HPC Christmas - Adopt a Family

In the Beginning Baby Pantry

Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry
Holly, Mi

Friend with Needs Outreach

School Supplies-Holly Area Youth Assistance
School Supplies for Haiti

Our 2016 Session

Class of 2016

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

Class of 2017

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

Class of 2018

Charlee Litten	Personnel Team	(810) 694-0095
Ellen Paulson	Clerk	(248) 320-0375
Walt Brown	Technology Team	(810) 629-1618
Linda Burns	Worship Team	(586) 482-3091
Minister: The Rev. Dr. Sharlyn DeHaven Gates		(248)369-8893(h), (620) 423-2671(c)
Associate Pastor: Shaun Hardimon		(810)635.0586(h) (586)292.8772(c)

See whats happening on our social sites.

