
HPC Connections

Knowing, Growing, Sharing, and Serving

February 17 Newsletter
Volume 17, Issue 2



A message from Reverend Sharlyn

A reflection on life ...

Vanities of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. Ecclesiastes 1:2



As most of you know I spent the past two weeks in North Carolina clearing out my dad's apartment. It was an act of love, although it was also, sometimes a blessing, and at other times, an overwhelming job. I threw away so many things he had saved for such a long time. Letters, files, pictures, memorabilia that was interesting to see but nothing I would look at again. Most pictures were ones we all have. Yet it felt strange to throw away so much of what had accumulated for years. There were many VHS tapes with movies my dad and his wife had recorded and enjoyed watching many times. Yet, they were thrown out - all eight trash bags full. Furniture was given away to friends or a Christian organization. A treasured bedroom set was sold for nearly nothing.

In the end, I drove off with his car packed with a few things to keep, leaving an empty apartment where a life had been lived for eight years. My dad was a good cook and until he felt so bad that he could not do it anymore, he enjoyed cooking and inviting friends to eat with him. He certainly enjoyed television, the thing that helped him pass time when he could not do much of anything else. Upstairs he looked at his computer, caught up with family on Facebook, watched many videos from YouTube - video's on airplanes (which were his first and life-long love. He was a

pilot), and video's on dogs and on dancing (both of which he enjoyed a great deal).

As more and more of his life was cleared away - either taken to be used by someone else or taken to the dumpster - I began to have an empty feeling inside. It seems wrong somehow to just do away with 88 and a half years of a life lived. The Teacher, who writes in Ecclesiastes, says all is vanity. The NIV translates it as "meaningless." All is meaningless. What he really means (and says) is that generations come and go and while we all do basically the same things in life - in the end, it is still gone. Wiped away for the next generation to start over. Its like a vapor that rises up and then can just be blown away with one little puff.

Kind of depressing, isn't it? But really, it shouldn't be. We are blessed in our lives with so many good things. And truthfully, our lives and memories of what was good, lives on in the next generation. Yes, things will change and be new and eventually, my dad (and even you and me) will be a name someone sees on a tombstone with the dates of our lives etched there. But they will know we were here and that to those close to us we made a difference. We hope we make a difference for good.

The point is, accumulation of stuff is not what is the most meaningful. It is here for a moment and tossed out in the end. But it is the relationships, the love, the passion, the joy and the struggles that we have in life - those are the meaningful things about our human experience. The other is Stuff. Meaningless Stuff. There are good lessons here if we are willing to learn from them. There is nothing wrong with keeping things that mean something to us, but it is important to remember that the best treasures we have in life are the relationships we build and keep. For those treasures will live on forever with those whom we have loved and been loved by. May we build lives that are full of meaningful treasures as we love one another. It is love that goes with us into the Kingdom and lives on there, and here on earth as well. Jesus said "where your heart is, there also is your treasure." Matthew 6:21

Reverend Sharlyn

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be Sunday February 12th following worship. Please plan to stay after worship. We will also have a pot luck after the meeting. We ask you bring a dish to pass. A great time of fellowship will be had by all.

Happy
Anniversary



Congratulations with many hugs goes out to

Don & Doris Colegrove who will be celebrating 59 years of
marriage on February 16th.

You will have to share your secret to a successful marriage.

Information from our bulletins and calendar as well as
special projects and disaster relief can be found on our
website at www.hollypc.org



**In Loving Memory of Margaret Rainey
Born on May 10, 1936 - January 17, 2017**

*"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.
"Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."*



February 2017

Regular Weekly Events

Sunday

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

Monday

- 7:30 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday thru Thursday

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

Wednesday

- 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch
- 7:00 pm Presbyterian Men's Bible Study

Schedule of Additional Events

- Feb 2 7:00 pm AYSO
- Feb 5 10:00 am Fellowship Team Meeting
- 10:00 am Special Session meeting in the Gathering Place
- Communion Sunday
- Installation of Elders
- Bake Sale
- Feb 7 **Team Meetings**
- Information Technology 6:30pm-7:30pm
- Worship 6:30pm-7:30pm
- Personnel 6:45pm-7:30pm
- Christian Education 7:30pm-8:30pm
- Feb 8 1:00 pm Grief Support Group
- Feb 12 12:00 pm Congregational Meeting and Potluck
- Feb 14 **Team Meetings**
- Finance 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- Care 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm
- Outreach 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

- Feb 15 Newsletter deadline Articles Due
 - Feb 18 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
 - Feb 19 12:00 pm Healthy Check up
 - Feb 21 7:00 pm Session Meeting
 - Feb 22 1:00 pm Grief Support Group
 - Feb 24 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Baby Pantry
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A Word from Pastor Shaun

Now with Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year's celebration being over what is the next thing you will be doing? Will it be the exciting game of watching ice melting on your drive way or seeing how many layers you have to put on to shovel the snow from your drive way?



Or maybe you are going to put on your most comfortable clothes and sit around the living or maybe not even get out of bed and watch Netflix all weekend long. Or if you are lucky maybe you could clean out the fridge and find some holiday treasure that was once a cheese ball but now looks like a moldy and hairy science project.

Instead bundle up and grab a friend or your spouse and flop down in the snow and make snow angels or build a snow man. Or if that doesn't work for you fill up spray bottles of different colors of food coloring and use the snow as your canvas to the world.

Regardless of what you do get out and enjoy the winter weather and grab a friend and have some fun.

Shaun

From your Finance Team

Per Capita Payment Due

Our per capita apportionment of \$2,564.66 is due to the presbytery by February 15. This payment, which is more than the average amount we collect for a Sunday offering, comes right after we have just paid our annual building and worker's compensation insurance bills. This creates a major cash flow issue for your treasurer. If you would contribute your

portion of the per capita payment (\$26.17 per member), it would help out a lot. We know that not everyone is able to do this, but are hoping that if we each give what we can, we will be able to cover a decent portion of the bill.

Gratefully,
Vicki Lyles

Finance Team Financial Update

Income December \$ 9,119.31 YTD \$136,310.94

Expenses December \$10,347.51 YTD \$139,538.03

Thanks,
Finance Team
Bob Killewald, Vicki Lyles, Laura Parker and Carrie Duncanson

From the Lions' Den

During meetings of our presbytery in 2016, we engaged in a series of informal "holy conversations," focused on the questions of identity ("Who are we?"), vocation ("What are we called to do?"), and partnership ("With whom are we called to do it?"). The questions prompted lively and creative responses, and engaged us in ways we have not been engaged before.

As we look to 2017, our Coordinating Team has endorsed a plan to build on these conversations. That plan focuses on four essential functions: Vision, Mission, Equipping, and Gathering.



As a "Visioning" community in 2017, we will work toward the goal of embracing a positive, compelling, and transformative vision for our presbytery.

To accomplish this, a moderator's task force will be assembled to broaden and extend the holy conversations begun last year to include the

whole presbytery. An important part of this function will be continuing our conversations about race, diversity, and inclusion.

Details of the plan will be shared at the March Presbytery meeting, but I would like to share a brief preview here.

Our "Mission Coordination" plan has the goal of developing a more **missional presbytery and missional congregations**. We will consider how best to organize our presbytery to build mission capacity, facilitate mission networks among churches of the presbytery, and expand mission opportunities in the presbytery. We also hope to establish a disaster response plan to respond effectively to unexpected crises in our bounds.

Our "Equipping" function will focus on how to **build servant-leader capacity in congregations for the mission of God's people**. In addition to the equipping time at presbytery meetings, we hope to promote regular training and educational events between meetings in a variety of areas, including an annual high quality continuing education event for pastoral leaders.

Last, but not least, the "Gathering" of our presbytery in 2017 will emphasize that the presbytery is a set of ongoing, mutual, connectional relationships. Our goal will be to **continue to make presbytery meetings value-added experiences**. We will keep on gathering around the three movements of worship, equipping, and governance. Plus, we will add a fourth - sending - that will underscore the importance of presbyters in bringing our vision, mission, and equipping functions to their congregations.

There are exciting plans for 2017, including a meeting at Alma College in June focusing on stewardship as well as a visit from our General Assembly Co-moderator Denise Anderson in September. I am convinced that 2017 will be a watershed in the life of our presbytery as God transforms us more and more into a vital, connected community joining Christ's mission in the world.

Faithfully,

Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter
dsaperstein@presbylh.org

Christian Education

Adult Sunday School The Adult Sunday School class meets on Sundays at 9:30 am in the

Community Room. We are starting a new study of the Jewish background of Jesus. All adults and high school students are welcome to be part of this class and join the discussions. (Small treats provided; bring your own coffee or water.)



Wednesday Lunch Bunch Bible Study- Each Wednesday at noon. We will be studying Luke. You are welcome to join us. Please bring a little something for your lunch! A good time of learning and fellowship. If you have any questions see Charlee Litten.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study We will be taking a break and getting back with you in February or March.

Presbyterian Men's Bible Study Wednesday's at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Gathering Place. This is a class led class. Please join us. Each week we discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. It is a good learning time and fellowship as well.

Grief Support Group

The grief support group will meet every other week on Wednesday. For February, we will meet on the 8th and 22nd at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Even if you have not lost a loved one, but have a life changes you are struggling with, or if you just feel the need to be with others for support, please join us! This group will be led by Reverend Sharlyn and Elder Linda Burns, our Stephen Minister.

Information Technology Team

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

Care Team

Quote:

To often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which has the potential to turn a life around.

by Les Buscaglia



**Praying for our church family & friends. .
Concerns**

- For those serving, or who have served, in military service.
- Strength, renewal, and healing for: Cecilia Borema (Margaret Rainey's granddaughter), Celia (CC) Pettit, Pete & Fran Olson, Laura Parker and Joe (her brother), Caroline Lucido (Brian Parker's sister), Sandi, Alisha Sollund, and Darlene (friends of Carrie Duncanson), Donna Miller, Terry & Julie Parish & Angel Vliet, Peggy Ranger, Barb Brown, Bob Killewald, Paul Burnett (friend of Cathie Killewald), Tom Schettling.
- For peace and comfort for the families of Margaret Rainey, Don Winglemire, and Sawyer Kivari.
- Prayers for our members who are home bound or in care facilities.
- For our country and world peace in a time of trouble.
- Pray for your church and both our pastors that we will do God's will.
- Our new President, Donald Trump, that God's will be done.

IN OUR PRESBYTERY AND MISSIONARIES PLEASE PRAY

- The Rev. Cathy Chang and family serving in the Philippines, Michael and Rachel Ludwig serving in Niger, Colby and Sarah Keefer & family in Ypsilanti (Athletes in Action), and Allen and Deedee Iobst & family in Spain.
- Kathy Grimes, Comm. Ruling Elder of Elkton Chandler and Kinde First continues treatment for breast cancer.
- For peace and comfort for the family and parishioners of Saginaw Second in the passing of Elder Hans Schmidt on 12/30/16.

Healthy Check up will be Sunday February 19th Nurses Karen and Char will be available to check your

- blood pressure
- oxygen rate
- glucose check

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, Judy Studer, Ellen Paulson, Lisa Martin, Charlene Clement and Emily Martin.

Outreach Team

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 Judy Studer or Cathie Killewald if you are interested in supporting this ministry.



UPCOMING DATES:

Friday, February 10th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, February 18th 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Friday, February 24th 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

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

- Boys pants (2T, 3T, 4T, 5T)
- Boys shirts (2T, 3T, 4T, 5T)
- Boys PJ's (2T, 3T, 4T, 5T)

We are in need of baby wash, wipes, diaper cream and Kleenex.

Any donations can be placed in the crib in the narthex, or financial donations can be placed in the offering plate with a notation or envelope marked "Baby Pantry". Thank you for your generous support.

If you feel called to this ministry or just want to see what it is about please see Judy Studer or Cathie Killewald.

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

Prayer requests from our families

- New families to the community that are struggling to make it. They appreciate the help we give them. They are in need of a better job or a job to keep their family going.
- 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.

Thank you,

Judy Studer, Cathie Killewald, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash and Reisa Hamilton.

Property Team

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.

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

Thank you.

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

Worship Team

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. Open positions include substitutes and monthly positions for worship leader, ushers, greeters, and communion servers (must be an Elder of the church of serve Communion).



If this sounds like something that interests you see Linda Burns for details.

Worship Team
Linda Burns
Vicki Lyles
Gordie Bradshaw

Support our Missionaries

Jobst Family picture 2015
Josiah Phoebe, Thomas,
Deedee and Allen from Left to Right

[Newsletter link:January](#)



Keefe Family picture December 2016

Colby and Sarah Keefe
and family



The Outreach Team-- Reisa Hamilton,
Laura Parker, Jennifer Chanter, Donna DeNise, Kenzie Nash, James Lyles.

Fellowship Team

- Fellowship Team meeting will be on Sunday

February 5th at 10:00am in the back of the Fellowship Hall.



- Bake Sale returns on Sunday February 5th. Come hungry that day!
- We will be hosting a pot luck on Sunday February 12th after the Annual Meeting. Please bring a dish to pass and your table service.

If you have any questions, please see one of us below. Thank you.

Fellowship Team

Margaret Perry, Beth Dryer, Donna Miller, Colleen Spring, Roberta Single, Cathie Killewald, Elizabeth Kici, Judy Studer, Fran Olson and Mary Renico.

Personnel Team

Charlee Litten, Jennifer Chanter, Judy Studer, Dale Huffman

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)

HPC Christmas - Adopt a Family

In the Beginning Baby Pantry

Forgotten Harvest Food Pantry
Holly, Mi

Friend with Needs

Our 2017 Session

Class of 2017

Margaret Perry	Fellowship Team	(810) 735-7692
Karen Haneline	Care Team	(248) 894-3489

Class of 2018

Reisa Hamilton	Outreach	(248) 766-7719
Charlee Litten	Personnel Team	(810) 694-0095
Ellen Paulson	Clerk	(248) 320-0375
Sara Pettit	Technology Team	(810) 730-8357
Linda Burns	Worship Team	(586) 482-3091

Class of 2019

Bob Killewald	Finance Team	(248) 310-2410
Randy Cook	Property Team	(221) 221-9044
	Christian Ed	

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)
