

Kirk News

September 2011 • Issue 217

Kirk in the Hills is a Christ-centered Community Called to Deepen Faith, Serve Others, and Foster Fellowship



Kirk in the Hills

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Learning Opportunities this Fall!

September brings cooler weather, the return home of many families from summer travels, and time for adults, youth and children to learn more about our faith through special offerings this fall here at the Kirk. Mark your calendar now with these kick-off dates:

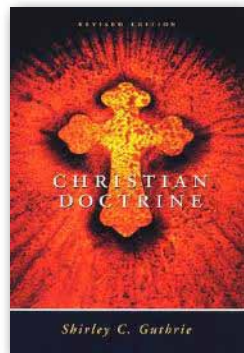
Sunday, September 18 – New Sunday School Curriculum

Our children and youth will enjoy a brand new curriculum this fall called *Feasting on the Word*, a scripturally-based curriculum rooted in Reformed theology. Each week, children and adults will be immersed in the same scripture passage that the pastors will be preaching from the pulpit, allowing children and adults to be on the same page – literally and spiritually. For more details, see the full article on page 14.



FEASTING
on the WORD.

Wednesday, September 21 – An Essential Conversation about Reformed Theology



Why is Reformed theology important? What are our core beliefs? We will follow our popular Wonderful Wednesdays format and offer a fall study using the book, *Christian Doctrine* by Shirley Guthrie, Jr. Learn more about Reformed theology and what it tells us about our faith. Discussions will be led by Rev. Carol Tate on Wednesdays from 4:45-5:45 p.m. and from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5:00-7:00 p.m., perfect for those attending either of the discussions – or for those families with children in our Wednesday evening choir programs. For more details, see the full article on page 3.

Installation of The Reverend Carol A. Tate

Our Associate Pastor for Adult Ministry was approved for installation by the Committee on Ministry at its August meeting. Rev. Carol Tate's installation is scheduled for Sunday, September 11 at the 11:00 a.m. sanctuary service.





Ready for Fall!

By Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor



Where did the summer go? Well, at the Kirk it went the way of recent summers – full of great events, meaningful mission trips and mission projects and careful planning for the fall. We had a great World Carillon Congress and Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival in June, lively youth mission trips to Pittsburgh, PA, and Jacksonville, FL (and just ask Kevin or Tres how lively they were!), a wonderful Camp Hosanna in July, an over-subscribed Vacation Bible School in August (sadly, we did not have enough volunteers to meet the demand for places) and a great Choir Camp in August.

In addition, we were delighted that Rev. Carol Tate joined us and, just as we went to press, Rev. Kelly Shriver was appointed to take over for Rev. Linda Cochran as Sunday School Director. We welcome Carol and Kelly to their new ministries and pray God's blessing on them as they settle in.

Carol had been called by the congregation back in April but a number of prior commitments including her work in the D.Min. program at Austin Theological Seminary, delayed her arrival until August 1. We are glad our wait is over and look forward very much to her leadership in the area of adult ministry.

Kelly Shriver has had a lifelong involvement in the Presbyterian Church having been brought up in First Presbyterian, Spokane, WA. She has served as a Junior and Senior High Youth Director in Berhane Hiwot Eritrean Church, in Seattle, WA, as the Senior High in Ministry Intern in University Presbyterian, Seattle, WA, and as the adult education administrator in the First Presbyterian Church, Bellevue, WA, for two years. She has just graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary where her course included a concentration on curriculum development and Women's Studies. Kelly is passionate that Sunday School programs interact with and help to resource family life, and we look forward to seeing how that develops at the Kirk.

One other great development over the summer was when the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning project came sufficiently close to completion as to allow us to enjoy it in the sanctuary. There is still electrical work to be finalized, pending Detroit Edison's resolution of some legal issues, but thanks to a generator, the new system offers a comfortable worship environment for Sunday worship and, at least as important, weddings and memorial services. Services of that type regularly bring many visitors to the Kirk and it is now great to be able to offer a comfortable worship environment over the summer months. Thanks to everyone who helped make this improvement a reality.

A follow-on benefit is the return of Heritage Hall for congregational usage. It had been without a ceiling for two years and the hall has been unusable since January of this year, but now it is available again, with an attractive new dropped ceiling, Tiffany-style chandeliers and an integrated audiovisual capability. The period of construction placed a necessary constraint on a number of congregational activities and while we are grateful for everyone's understanding, we are even more grateful to have Heritage Hall back in use.

Lots of exciting new programs are in the works for this fall, and you can read many of the details in this issue of *Kirk News*. One of many that pastors and musicians are looking forward to is called *Feasting on the Word* and integrates Christian education for all ages, from kindergarten through adult, with the themes of Sunday worship week by week. Keeping everyone at the Kirk on the same page (literally the same Bible page!) each Sunday will not only sharpen the focus of our spiritual life it will, we are hopeful, stimulate some very interesting conversations over Sunday brunch!

I'm delighted to share with the congregation what has been a recurring experience over the summer as people visited a worship service, attended a wedding, or came for an interview to prepare for their wedding. Again and again, people have commented on how warm and friendly the congregation is and how welcome they have felt in our midst. We have always known that the beauty of our facility was complemented by the warmth of the Christian fellowship we enjoy together, and it is good to know that that is being generously shared with visitors. That is an important aspect of our ministry together, and thanks to all who support in this way.

Lots of great things ahead of us this fall – see you in church!



Congregation News

Parish Register

Deaths

John A. Mundell Jr.

Rex E. Holton

Lois Gamble

Marriages

Beau G. Bortel & Julie A. Parks

Mitchell B. Louch & Courtney E.

Harfoot

Andrew S. Grimm & Nicole A.

Matisse

James H. Predium II & Deanna

K. Balsler

Bradley A. Beesley & Kristen N.

Kenny

Andrew G. Getsoian & Elizabeth G.

Ranney

Eric J. Fowler & Sara E. Follbaum

Eric M. Mahoney & Erika L. Crady

Baptisms

Helen Justine Parrow

Brett Nicholas Zuhlke

Connor James Leslie

Shaunnah Elizabeth Yeihey

Lily Caroline Cicco

Brett Alexander Coburn

Benjamin Ferrari McLeod

Wonderful Wednesdays Return to the Kirk Beginning September 21

Reformed Theology: An Essential Conversation

Just what is theology anyway? Why does it matter? Why is Reformed theology important? Where does it come from? What does it tell us about our faith?

If you have questions about Reformed theology, join in a conversation to learn more about it. This will be our study for Wonderful Wednesdays this fall. The conversation will cover the essentials of Reformed theology and why it is important to Presbyterians and other reformed faiths. Come and participate in discussions led by Rev. Carol Tate, our new Associate Pastor for Adult Ministry.

The source for our study is the book *Christian Doctrine* by Shirley Guthrie, Jr., a long-time professor at Columbia Theological Seminary. *Christian Doctrine* has been a standard text on Reformed theology for over 30 years, and is still used as an introductory book to the topic of theology. Its wide acceptance and use in adult study groups and by beginning students in seminaries demonstrate that it communicates Reformed theology in terms that are easy to understand.

Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays this fall. They will enrich our knowledge, deepen our faith, provide fellowship, and nourish us spiritually and physically. Even if you have a thorough understanding of Reformed theology, join in this conversation and share your knowledge with the group.

Beginning September 21, discussions will be held from 4:45-5:45 p.m. and from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for those with prior reservations. Childcare will be provided.

Look for more information in upcoming issues of @ *The Kirk*.

Pictorial Directory

Membership ministry is sponsoring the new Kirk Pictorial Directory, and it won't be complete without a picture of you and your family. If you have not already scheduled an appointment to have your family picture taken, please do so as soon as possible by calling (800) 866-2263 or scheduling online at www.signup.olanmills.com. An online appointment is quick and easy!



There is no charge for a sitting fee and every participating family will receive a free pictorial church directory, plus a \$25 portrait gift certificate to use if you chose to purchase any pictures. You are not obligated to purchase anything.

For additional information, please contact Emily Belcher at (248) 762-4783 or ekbelcher@sbcglobal.net.

Is Your Information Up to Date?

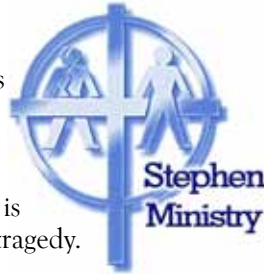
Please take a moment to let us know if your email, home address or phone number, cell phone or office phone number has recently changed. We are constantly updating our database so please email Karin Hartwig at khartwig@kirkinthehills.org with any changes. Thank you!



Sharing Love as a Stephen Minister

Training Offered January 2012

Stephen Ministry is our congregation's one-to-one care-giving ministry. God works through Stephen Ministers to plant a seed of hope and healing in a person whose life is difficult because of some crisis or tragedy.



What do Stephen Ministers Do?

They listen, explore feelings, pray, share Christ's love, maintain confidentiality, and attend to the care-giving process and leave the results to God. They care for people who are grieving, in a crisis, hospitalized, divorcing, in need of long-term care, experiencing job loss, and many other difficult times in life.

How do I become a Stephen Minister?

Training to become a Stephen Minister will begin in January 2012 here at the Kirk. Stephen Ministry training will equip you so that you can show God's mercy, care and compassion to another who is hurting. Is God calling you to find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister?

To learn more about Stephen Ministry or if you are in need of a Stephen Minister please contact Nancy Lau at (248) 645-1895 or the Adult Ministry Office at (248) 626-2515.

Church Officer Nominations

Please help by taking part in the selection of the leadership of your church. The Church Officer Nominating Committee is seeking names to consider for nomination for service as Elders, Deacons and Trustees. The Committee seeks suggestions of persons who are members of the congregation, regular in worship, active in the program life of the Kirk, generous in support of our ministry and faithful in their life and witness to the gospel. There are three different easy ways to submit names of nominees. Nomination forms can be found in the church literature racks. The completed forms may be turned in to the Front Office. You may email your suggestions to Carol Rock, Chairman of the Church Officer Nominating Committee, at rockgnc@aol.com, or call Carol at (248) 499-6357.

Health Ministry

Self-Guided Walking Tour

The Health Ministry is promoting walking by sponsoring the Second Annual Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Kirk Gardens on Sunday, September 18. The Self-Guided Walking Tour maps will be available throughout the morning, so get some exercise and enjoy the Kirk Gardens during our beautiful fall weather!



Walking is the number one participation sport worldwide. It is easy to do; there is no trick to walking. It does not require any special skills, advanced conditioning, special equipment or clothing. All you need is a good pair of walking shoes, comfortable clothing, and you are all set.

Hippocrates said, "Walking is man's best medicine," which is still appropriate today.

Walking:

- Burns almost as many calories as jogging
- Eases back pains
- Slims your waist
- Lowers blood pressure
- Reduces levels of bad cholesterol
- Reduces heart attack risk
- Enhances stamina & energy
- Lessens anxiety and tension
- Improves muscle tone
- Is easy on your joints
- Reduces appetite
- Increases aerobic capacity
- Can be done in short bouts
- Helps you sleep better
- Can be done when you are traveling
- Slows down osteoporosis (bone loss)
- Gives you an opportunity to socialize with family and friends

Birth Announcements

Each Sunday the pastors share with the congregation news of the death of a member of the Kirk family with the arrangements for a funeral or memorial service if these are known.

We would also like to share the news of any new arrivals in the Kirk family and invite new parents (or grandparents) to call the Kirk office and give Karen Leonard, Assistant to the Pastor, the news of a birth for inclusion in the service. We will announce these in the service also.



Your Dedicated Deacons: Grief Support

The Congregational Care Committee recently completed another eight-week workshop for Kirk members and those in the greater community who have lost a loved one through death. Due to the success of our past Grief Workshops, the Deacons plan to offer this program again in 2012.

For those who have already completed the eight-week workshop, a continuing education course will be offered this fall, running from September through December. The program, offered in the evening on the first Wednesday of each month, is designed to help these people sustain their grief recovery and new hope through the holiday season. For further information, please call the church office.

Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support Group

Did you know that one in four caregivers for ill or elderly relatives or friends said in a survey that they suffer from depression? The Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support Group is a safe and confidential place to share feelings and get information that will support you as you care for someone with dementia. We continue to meet this fall on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Please feel free to contact Laura Ambrose with any questions at (248) 952-5186.

Mom-To-Mom Sale

The Mom-to-Mom Sale will be held on Saturday, October 1 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the refectory, and we are looking for some assistance! We need both volunteers and donations of gently-used baby/child items.

Volunteer opportunities include five assistants for setup on Friday, September 30 from 5:45-9:00 p.m. and eight volunteers on Saturday, October 1 from 7:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Whether part of the day or all day, we would love to have your help. Donated items should be dropped off at the Kirk on Friday, September 30 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. We cannot take donations prior to Friday evening due to space constraints. High school students who need community service hours are welcome to volunteer. Please contact Andrea Yakima to sign up at (248) 364-4267 or ajyakima@gmail.com. The proceeds from this Mom-To-Mom Sale will go towards the Children, Youth and Families Ministry Endowment Fund. Thank you!



Kirk Seniors



September Luncheon – On Tuesday, September 20 our luncheon will be a Birthday Party to celebrate ten years since Kirk Seniors was formed. We have had many good times over the years, lots of interesting trips and great speakers. Join us for this happy celebration, lunch and fellowship. Bring a friend. Please make checks payable to *Kirk Seniors* for \$12 to reach the Kirk by Thursday, September 15.



October Luncheon – On Tuesday, October 18 our luncheon will be a time to celebrate Oktoberfest. Join us for a rousing good time! Please make checks payable to *Kirk Seniors* for \$12 to reach the Kirk by Thursday, October 13.

Kirk Seniors Exercise Class – This is the tenth year for our exercise class with our very professional teacher, Pon Fischer. After the Heritage Hall renovations, we will be moving back to that location on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. We plan to have an open house for all who would like to check us out (call the Front Office at (248) 626-2515 for more information). Everyone knows how important exercise is to the well-being of body and mind, so why not come and join us? The welcome mat is out!



Small Groups

Breaking News About Small Groups!

By Nancy Lau and Bob Heuer

The Kirk's Small Group Ministry begins a new chapter as we welcome Rev. Carol Tate and as Bob Heuer steps forward to be the new coordinator for small groups. The blessing of having both Carol and



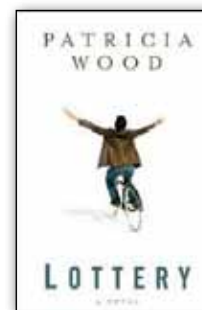
Bob involved is a wonderful affirmation of God's abundant provision! Current leaders of small groups have been busy updating information about their groups: name and purpose, meeting schedule, contact information, list of attendees, etc. The leaders have also shared personal reflections about their small groups. Here is what one person had to say about their small group:

"Can small groups make a difference? Transform lives? Become little Christian communities? Well, this one did: One of the Kirk's small groups was meeting earlier this year and a member came in after class began - distraught. She needed to be out of her home that day in order to save a much-needed home sale from collapsing. Volunteer movers were coming to the house in a couple of hours, but there was far too much for them to sort through and pack or dispose of before nightfall. Could anyone help? All had other plans for that afternoon, but most put them temporarily aside to lend a hand. Well, many hands made light work and the vital mission was accomplished, with thanksgiving and gratitude abounding."

It has been so exciting to see what God has accomplished within the Kirk's Small Group Ministry, and more is possible! There is a spot for you within a small group, either in a current group or one waiting for Carol and Bob to help you begin - won't you join us?!

Book of the Month Club

Calling all readers! The Book of the Month Club will gather for its September meeting on Thursday, September 22 at noon in Abbey 27, and we would love for you to join the conversation! The selection for September is Patricia Wood's *The Lottery* and is available for purchase in the Adult Ministry Office. *The Lottery* is told through the life of Perry Crandall, who wins the Washington State Lottery, resulting in a wave of attention from his so-called friends. Compounding the challenge that most lottery winners experience in distinguishing their friends from the leeches, Perry has an IQ of 76...but his unique innocence and optimism serve him well.



For those of you who like to look ahead, the book for October once again allows us to time-travel for a cultural experience: Jim Fergus' *One Thousand White Women*, a novel about the 1875 treaty between Ulysses S. Grant and Little Wolf, chief of the Cheyenne nation, seeking brides for the Cheyenne.



The Book of the Month Club is a small group that sincerely invites you to come see what we're all about - ladies, if you love to read and enjoy gathering with other readers, then this small group is for you! See you on Thursday, September 22!

Barnabas Home Bible Study

After enjoying the book of Matthew, the group has chosen to study Acts. The early Christians lived in a world hostile to Jesus and his followers yet coming to know and believe in the risen Christ changed lives...changed the world. (Could studying how early believers experienced having their faith truly rock their world open our hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to do the same today?) The Barnabas Group will resume its weekly Monday night meetings on September 12, and we invite you to join us! We meet most Mondays from 7:30-9:00 at the home of Nancy and Dave Lau - please call for details and directions at (248) 645-1895.

The Barnabas Group includes people who are new to Bible study as well as some who have been at this for years, and we all benefit from learning together. As one participant says, "As we enjoy fellowship, pray together and study scripture together, I imagine this might be very close to what the gatherings of the early church must have been. It's amazing how the friendships grow into more of a family feeling even when a day has been way too busy; I know going to our Bible study will refill my cup." Newcomers are always very welcome, but Monday, September 12 would be a perfect time to begin!

Lott Home Bible Study

The Lott Bible Study continues a weekly study of first and second Samuel on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join at any time. If you are interested or have questions, please call Linda Lott at (248) 258-6633.



Pink Ribbon Sisters

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with cancer, please invite them to join the Pink Ribbon Sisters for an evening of fellowship and prayer. The September meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the home of Julie Wright. Friends and members are welcome. Our mission is to help and support each other through sharing, inspiration, prayer and education. Please call Julie Wright at (248) 952-5306 for more information and to RSVP.



Trinity Stitchers

By Susan File

It may have been hot this summer, but that didn't stop the Trinity Stitchers from gathering and stitching! In July the group met at Jan Van Tilburg's home for a day of food, fellowship, and fun (see photo and *Our Faith in Action* article on page 9). Much was accomplished and our stock of baby baptismal blankets is growing.

This is a ministry where one can contribute individually or collectively with the group. Join us on Tuesday, September 27 in Abbey 27 from 1:00-3:00 p.m., 5:00-7:00 p.m., or both (as some do)! We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. A special field trip will be planned for the November/December meetings on Tuesday, December 6. Stay tuned for the details and mark your calendars...knitting experience not required!

For further information and ways to become involved in the ministry, please contact Susan File at (248) 760-5025 or skfile@comcast.net.

Women of the Kirk

Women of the Kirk Fall Gathering

The date is set and we are expecting to fill the refectory! On Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. we will gather for fellowship, dinner and enjoy getting to know Rev. Carol Tate. Carol's message is titled *Ministry...Moving...Michigan*.

Plan to attend and invite your family and friends to join you. Reservations are made by bringing an \$18 check payable to *Women of the Kirk* to the Front Office. Your check is your reservation. The registration deadline is Sunday, September 25. Questions? Contact Susie Reynolds, (248) 396-0808 or reynolds214@hotmail.com or Beth Kerr, (248) 396-6986 or bkerr316@aol.com.



Save the Dates

Advent by Candlelight - Enjoy a beautiful evening at the beginning of the Advent season with other Women of the Kirk (members and friends) in the refectory on Tuesday, November 29 or Thursday, December 1. More details and how to register as a hostess or guest will be in the next issue of *Kirk News*. If you would like to help with this event, please call Grace Guthrie at (248) 879-1124 or Jayne Zellers at (248) 626-2515, ext. 110.

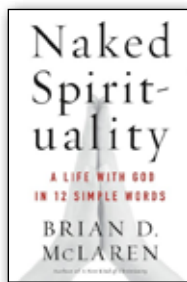
Annual Women's Retreat - We will be heading back to the Weber Center in Adrian for our annual retreat, April 13-15, 2012. The retreat will begin around 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening and conclude at noon on Sunday. A great speaker, fellowship with other women (members and friends) and our annual Agape Feast will top our agenda for the weekend. It was about 7 years ago that we first visited the Weber Center. Rooms with private baths/double occupancy and all meals will be available for those wishing to stay Friday and Saturday night. There will be availability for those who can only stay for one night. If you would like to help with our retreat, please call Jayne Dodge at (248) 626-7142 or Phyllis Mazure at (248) 299-5361.

Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study resumes on Thursday, September 22 at 9:30 a.m. in Abbey 28. We'll begin our study by Beth Moore, *Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent*. No prior Bible study experience is necessary, just a thirst to learn more about our Lord through a study of his word. Please contact Laura Ambrose at (248) 952-5186 with questions.



Wee Kirker Moms



Wee Kirker Moms meets on Fridays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and will kick off the fall season Bible/book study on Friday, September 16. The study will begin with *Naked Spirituality* by Brian McLaren. If you plan to attend, please purchase the book on your own before the first meeting. This group is blessed to meet with Dr. Pritchard and engage in some deep and moving discussions. All are welcome - no Wee Kirker necessary. However, if you have one, childcare is provided. For more information, contact Jan Pedersen at jmpeder123@yahoo.com.



Men of the Kirk

Men's Retreat 2011: October 14-15

By Jim Devlin, MOK Board President



Our venue this year is Colombiere Conference Center in nearby Clarkston. Enjoy hearty fellowship with a laser biblical focus. The Friday evening bowling event remains and includes the hearty celebrations of our best and worst (mine) performances.

There are two new Saturday activities this year for early risers: Pilates exercise and hymn singing basics. Both forty-five minute classes are designed for the interested novice and include fun instruction by two mystery guests.

Norman Pritchard will engage us after Saturday breakfast with studies and discussion around the video presentation of Bill Hybel's book, *The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond*.

We are considering a golf outing to precede the retreat at Shepherd's Hollow Golf Club, located adjacent to the Colombiere campus. Golf is optional for those attending. All men are invited to golf, even those unable to attend the retreat. Tee times will begin around noon on Friday, October 14. The cost to golf is approximately \$45. Retreat attendees will have time to check in, take a shower and relax before the retreat activities begin.

Final cost will depend on participation - these numbers are very close:

- Double room occupancy with sink and communal showers - \$105
- Single room occupancy with bathroom - \$135
- Saturday only participation - \$50
- Golf - \$45

Includes:

- Light dinner Friday (starts at 5:30 p.m. - arrive as your schedule allows)
- Breakfast and lunch on Saturday
- Pilates and hymn singing classes
- Main program and materials
- Holy Communion

We will adjourn at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 15. Registration forms can be found in the information racks located throughout the Kirk.

Friday Men's Breakfast Series

By Chip Tallinger

The Friday Men's Breakfast Series resumes on September 9. Hundreds to be fed! Our Pastor will inspire! Lives will be rebuilt! Denominations will be explored! PTS cures discovered! Hospitality enjoyed! Politicians held accountable! Electric cars previewed!

Get a jump start on your day and hear some excellent speakers while enjoying some fellowship. Breakfast is \$10 and fellowship starts at 7:00 a.m. in the newly-renovated Heritage Hall. Plan to be with us and bring a friend. No reservations are required and all are welcome!



Whether you're a regular, or if we haven't seen you in awhile, you won't want to miss our fall lineup! Kicking off the series over the first few weeks are a great group of interesting, informative and thought-provoking individuals that promise to get your brain in gear while sharing great food and fellowship.

September 9 - Rev. Tres Adams, Kirk in the Hills; *Benchmarking at The Kirk?*

September 16 - Bruce Calderwood, VP of Buildings, Health & Safety at Detroit Rescue Mission; *Rebuilding the Inner City, One Life at a Time*

September 23 - Rev. Chris Yaw, St. David's Episcopal Church; *Are Denominations Dead? The Future of Christianity in America*

September 30 - Fuzzy Manning, CEO of PTS Treatment, LLC; *Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome: Causes and Cures*

The roster continues to grow each week. You can stay up-to-date on the speaker lineup by visiting kirkinthehills.org.

From time to time, women have been interested in a particular speaker and have attended the breakfast. They received a warm welcome! The Men's Breakfast Series is open to all members, family, and friends of the Kirk.

Kirk

Our Faith in Action

Because you give, with God's help, we can do great things.

By Sydrena Epstein

Trinity Stitches

Trinity Stitches, formed about one year ago, took its name after a knitting pattern by the same name and also because the members liked the biblical reference.

The group meets monthly to knit/crochet shawls and lap robes to give to Kirk members and friends of the Kirk who may be suffering through difficult times. These handcrafted items are a symbol of love and caring and can be a source of comfort just knowing that someone is caring and praying for them. The ladies are also knitting baby blankets and, beginning this fall, will give one to each child baptized at the Kirk. All finished products bear a label saying "Prayerfully made for you by the Trinity Stitches."

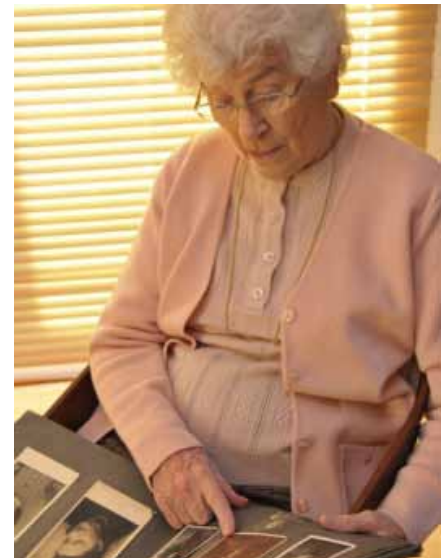


There are approximately 8-10 members that come to the meetings with about 3-4 others who knit at home, sending in their finished product. Trinity Stitches is an independent ministry; the members provide and pay for their own yarn. While they do this willingly and with love, they would gratefully appreciate any contributions to help with yarn purchases; even coupons for Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores are helpful.

If you like to knit or crochet and would like to join this group for fellowship and refreshments, please see article on page 7 or contact Susan File at skfile@comcast.net or (248) 760-5025 for more information. Stewardship - a gift of time, talent and treasure.



Women with Memories



This is a group that no one looks forward to belonging to. The common thread shared by Women with Memories is that all have had spouses who have passed on - some recently, some years ago. But in this group, many have found the support and understanding of others in the same position and many friendships have been developed.

The group, inspired by Crystal Thomas, may include 20-30 ladies at any given time. Their purpose is strictly social, meeting three to four times a year over coffee, tea, lunch or a potluck just to chat. The gatherings are friendly and supportive and the women help each other out in many ways, at times just providing the name of a handyman or a service person. Meetings rotate in members' homes as well as at the Kirk.

Ann Hartzell has described Women with Memories as a group of very alive, wonderful women who are facing their "new reality - their new normal."

If you or someone you know has lost a spouse and have not been contacted by a member of Women with Memories, please call the Kirk Office for more information.



Music News

Choirs to Begin New Season on Wednesday, September 7

Excitement is in the air as the Kirk Choirs gear up for a new season of singing.

All individuals are invited and encouraged to participate in the Kirk Choir School.

The choirs include:

Young Children's Choir

Vickie Wills, Director
Ages 4 through Grade 2
Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 4:45-5:30 p.m.

Junior Girls Choir

Glenn Miller, Director
Grades 2-5
Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 4:45-5:30 p.m.

Intermediate Girls Choir

Glenn Miller and Nicole Greenidge, Directors
Grades 6-8
Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Treble Boys Choir

Glenn Miller, Director
Grade 2 to voice change
Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 5:45-7:00 p.m.

Senior Boys & Girls

Glenn Miller, Director
Boys - voice change through grade 12
Girls - Grades 9-12
Rehearsals: Sundays, 10:10-10:50 a.m.
and/or Thursdays, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir

Glenn Miller, Director
By Audition
Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m./
Sundays, 8:00 a.m. - service

Come see what all the excitement is about by calling Glenn Miller at (248) 626-2515, ext. 109 for more information.



Music Staff Note

We are very pleased to announce that Bob Libcke, longtime member of the Kirk, has been hired to work with the Music Department as Music Manager. Bob began working in June and will be responsible for many of the administrative aspects of the music program.

Bob is himself an orchestral horn player and has a strong attachment to music at the Kirk. He brings a great deal of experience to the administrative aspects of this position: since 1985 he has been an orchestral administrator serving ensembles including the Detroit Symphony, the New American Chamber Orchestra and the Southern Great Lakes Symphony. At the DSO, Bob was responsible for touring and residency programs, a skill we hope to utilize at the Kirk.

We are grateful for the talents Bob brings to his work and know that he will be able to support the growing music program, as it reaches even greater success.





Organist David Briggs Returns to the Kirk – Sunday, October 2



World-renowned organist David Briggs is returning to the Kirk on Sunday, October 2 for a recital at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Featured in the performance will be Mr. Briggs' transcription of the monumental "Symphony No. 3" by Gustav Mahler, who is regarded as one of the leading Austrian composers and conductors of the early twentieth century. The year 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Mahler, and in commemoration of this Mr. Briggs has been touring Europe and North America performing his own transcriptions of Mahler's works in leading venues. Briggs is one of the most active recitalists in the organ world today, with an average of six trans-Atlantic tours annually.

Briggs studied organ with Jean Langlais in Paris. The first British winner of the Tournemire Prize at the St Albans International Improvisation Competition, he also won the first prize in the International Improvisation Competition at Paisley. At the age of seventeen he obtained his FRCO (Fellow of the Royal College of Organists) diploma, winning the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Briggs is Organist Emeritus of Gloucester Cathedral, where he directed the music for eight years. While at Gloucester, he oversaw the complete rebuilding of the cathedral organ by Nicholson, and directed the Three Choirs Festivals, conducting some of the UK's finest professional orchestras, notably the Philharmonia. David's schedule includes more than 50 concerts a year. Recent engagements in Europe include the Royal Albert Hall, Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral in London; Notre Dame de Paris; Symphony Hall, Birmingham; King's College, Cambridge; Bath Abbey; Cologne Cathedral, Germany; Sibelius Hall, Lahti, Finland; and Manchester's Bridgewater Hall.

Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students and are available by calling the Music Office at (248) 626-2515 ext. 108.

Coffee Concert – Sunday, October 16



Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 16 at 12:15 p.m. for a special event at the Kirk. As a way to raise funds for the Kirk Choir School, Nicole Greenidge, Glenn Miller, and several other friends will be presenting a coffee concert featuring an appropriate work by J. S. Bach – "The Coffee Cantata" (BWV 211). Schweigt stille, plaudert nicht (Be still, stop chattering), also known as "The Coffee Cantata" is a secular cantata written by Bach between 1732 and 1734. Although classified as a cantata, it is essentially a miniature comic opera.

This humorous work (sung in English), tells the story of a young girl who has to have her coffee (a new beverage in Bach's time), and her father's attempts at getting her to stop drinking it! The cantata's libretto (written by Christian Friedrich Henrici) features lines such as "If I can't drink my bowl of coffee three times daily, then in my torment, I will shrivel up like a piece of roast goat" – a sentiment that would likely have been appreciated by the patrons of Zimmerman's Coffee House in Leipzig, where Bach's Collegium Musicum, founded by Georg Philipp Telemann in 1702, would have originally performed the work.

Presented in an informal setting in the refectory, the Junior Choristers will be waiting on concert patrons with coffee, tea, and pastries to add to the enjoyment of the event. Tickets are \$50 and are available in the Music Office or by calling (248) 626-2515, ext. 108.



Kirk Choristers Attend Royal School of Church Music Camp



Four Kirk choristers (three members of the Treble Boys' choir and one member of the Senior Boys' and Girls' Choir) attended the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Camp in Wilkes-Barre, PA in July. Utilizing St. Stephen's

Church and King's College, over 180 choristers from across the United States prepared music for Evensong, Compline and Eucharist. Works included: "Let the People Praise Thee" by William Mathias; "Bogoroditse Devo #6" (sung in Russian) by Sergei Rachmaninoff; and a Kirk choir favorite - "Messe Solennelle" (sung in Latin and Greek) by Louis Vierne. Under the direction of Richard Tanner (former Director of Music of the Blackburn Cathedral in Lancashire, England), the choir worked very hard, but also had plenty of fun. The choir viewed the new Harry Potter movie and used many of the themes in the movies as a basis for the lectionary. Richard Tanner also had the choir sing "Double Trouble" from *The Prisoner of Azkaban* film. The four Kirk choristers had a great time and look forward to bringing that same excitement to the Kirk choirs this season.



The Kirk was proud to host the 2011 World Carillon Congress with over 200 carillonneurs from around the world – the largest gathering of carillonneurs in history!

CROP Hunger Walk – Sunday, October 2

Registration: 1:15 p.m.
Walk: 2:00 p.m.
Routes: 1, 3 or 5 miles
Start: First United Methodist Church
1589 West Maple Rd.
Birmingham, MI 48009



WALK – RUN – DANCE – SKIP – HOP! Use whatever step you'd like to participate in this year's CROP Hunger Walk. Just put your best foot forward to help to raise money for Church World Service and local charities. CROP Hunger Walk is an event sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. CROP stands for Community Response to Overcome Poverty. This year the local charities benefiting from the walk are South Oakland Shelter, Lighthouse, Grace Centers of Hope, Friendship House, Cass Community Services and Baldwin House.

Each Sunday in September during the coffee hour look for the tables where you can sign up to participate. We need your help! Please plan to participate, have fun and help to end hunger. If you have any questions please email Lynne Carpenter at lcarpent03@gmail.com or Bobi Tallinger at bobitall@comcast.net.



Outreach & Mission

Camp Hosanna: Fortified for the New School Year

By Barbara Littleton

Along with their backpacks and lunchboxes, 58 Camp Hosanna 2011 alums head back to school this fall fortified with new strategies for successful learning, lessons and practice in what it means to follow Jesus, and great memories of wonderful new experiences. During three weeks in July, each of these 58 children received over 30 hours of academic instruction and participated in daily Bible study and worship. Lessons in Christian life skills, games and sports, assemblies and field trips rounded out the campers' days.



Camp Hosanna began in 2008 with a commitment by Kirk in the Hills and New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church to work together to provide an enriching summer program for children in Pontiac. The extraordinary generosity of Kirk members, through Outreach and Mission (funded through the Kirk's annual budget), the \$35.42 Coffee Hour, and additional individual gifts has made it possible to not only maintain a quality program but to grow the camp in breadth and depth.

All involved in Camp Hosanna are grateful to the many that stand behind it. It is a joy to write about how well this year went - and to write, too, that planning for Camp Hosanna 2012 has already begun. Watch for updates on how you can share in the work.



Ministry With Pontiac – A Fun Day at the Zoo

By Glenda Herb



Ministry With Pontiac sponsored a trip to the Detroit Zoo for 190 Jefferson/Whittier Elementary School adults and children on Saturday, May 21. It was a beautiful, sunny day as the families entered the zoo with their maps and headed off in all directions to enjoy the animals and lovely surroundings. The Ministry With Pontiac volunteers loaded wagons with water, chips, cookies and Chicken Shack chicken and rolls to serve lunch to our guests under a large, tented area. Before our guests arrived, we had many pesky peacocks checking out the luncheon tables. The families arrived smiling and hungry, but we paused for a prayer to thank God for the day, our food, and the many blessings we enjoy. It was a special day for meeting our neighbors in Pontiac and to share our time, talent and treasure with them.





Children, Youth & Families

New Program Year – New Curriculum!

By Rev. Tres Adams

The summer is ending, but the fall program year is really kicking off with Children, Youth, and Families Ministry here at the Kirk! During the summer, we bid a fond farewell to our beloved Director of Christian Education, The Rev. Linda Cochran. The search for a new Director of Christian Education has brought us The Rev. Kelly Shriver (read more about Kelly in Dr. Pritchard's column on page 2). Please join me in welcoming Kelly to the Kirk!

This fall, the Kirk will begin using a brand new curriculum called *Feasting on the Word*. This curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and is designed for most of the church, kindergarten-age children through adults, to be on the same page – literally and spiritually. *Feasting on the Word* is a scripturally-based curriculum and is rooted in Reformed theology. Each week, children and adults will be immersed in the same scripture passage that the pastors will be preaching from the pulpit.

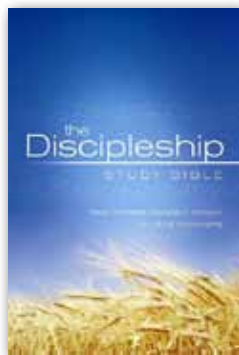
The new *Feasting on the Word* curriculum offers a change to the class/age structure. The classes formed through this curriculum are divided by both grade and age groups: Grades K–2, grades 3–4, Tweens (grades 5–6), and Youth (grades 7–8 and Sr. Highs). In the grades K–2 class, “children will explore God’s word in ways that engage their senses, their emerging skills in reading and writing, and their need to learn by doing.” The curriculum for the children in the grades 3–4 class “will encourage their love of questions and capitalize on their desire to feel competent in their academic skills.” The Tweens “will explore the biblical texts to investigate what the church teaches, wrestle with implications of Jesus’ teachings, and give voice to what they believe.” *Feasting on the Word* for the two Youth classes (grades 7–8 and the Sr. Highs) “will provide opportunities for this age group to explore their personal and communal identity in Jesus Christ through meaningful community-building experiences, engaging Bible study, and relevant learning activities.” The Confirmation Class (grade 9) as well as the simultaneous Confirmation Parents’ Class will also include elements of *Feasting on the Word*.

The Sunday School teachers and volunteers have attended training workshops to become familiar with the new curriculum, and they are filled to the brim with enthusiasm at the possibilities and promise that comes with the *Feasting on the Word* program! All that is needed now is YOU and your family, your parents, your friends, and your neighbors to join the appropriate class and be a part of the great things happening in Christian Education on Sunday mornings here at the Kirk!

Confirmation Classes Begin

The Confirmation Class of 2012 gets started with the Fall Sunday School Kickoff on September 18! The Class of 2012 includes 17 ninth graders who have made the decision to grow deeper in their faith and learn more about what it means to be a follower of Christ. This is an exciting time for these young people and their families. Along with weekly worship attendance, the confirmands will be growing in fellowship through weekly classroom attendance, a mid-year retreat, and our traditional trip to Pewabic Pottery. The parents of the confirmands will also be participating in a Sunday School class designed specifically for them at the same time. The parent class is open to all adults who wish to learn (or remember) more about the tenets of our faith. The Confirmation parents’ class will be held in Abbey 28 during the 10:00 a.m. hour.

The Confirmation program will have four rotating teachers this year who will share the responsibility of leading the confirmands’ and parents’ classes. We are excited to have Bill Robinson, Susan File, and Dave and Nancy Lau teaching and leading our confirmands and their parents each Sunday. I will also be joining the rotation as the Sunday worship schedule permits.



The confirmands will each receive a blue study Bible on that first Sunday through a generous donation in memory of Kirk member Charles Pullum. If you happen to see one of these young folks with a bright blue Bible in hand, be sure to stop and encourage them in their faith journey. The commitment of these confirmands and their parents to this Confirmation program, to their faith, and to Kirk in the Hills is to be commended.

Finally, I ask you to hold in prayer these 17 confirmands, their parents, their teachers, and this program. Pray that the Holy Spirit so enriches them in their study and in their fellowship that the seeds of faith that we have the humble privilege of planting and watering may grow, be fruitful, and multiply. All praise, honor, and glory be to our Lord and our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Sunday School Kick-Off

Fall Sunday School kicks off on Sunday, September 18! Mark your calendar now for this special Sunday and every Sunday morning as we encourage you to put God on your family's calendar first. Exciting news will soon be forthcoming about Christian Education. Stay tuned knowing that the Holy Spirit is doing tremendous things in the life of Kirk, now and in the coming weeks!



Youth Groups

By Kevin Krawczyk

I want to begin by thanking God for an amazing summer. Our mission trips were met with his safety and grace. The Senior High Youth Group made its way down to Jacksonville, Florida spending their time leading an inner-city baseball program. They also devoted their time to helping out a local church's mission in clothing the needy. We visited the Atlantic Ocean, flew in an airplane, and spent countless hours discussing our faith and Christian perspectives in an ever-changing world. The Mid High Youth Group was equally blessed on their mission trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We spent our time with a local organization called The Pittsburgh Project. Our youth cleaned up overgrown yards, installed drywall, painted, rebuilt brick pillars using masonry, removed a concrete porch, and started framing a deck. Each day included worship in the sanctuary filled with praise music and devotional reflection.

Several group outings were planned throughout the summer and embraced by our amazing youth and their parents. These included a trip to the zoo, camping and barbecues. Parents were busy planning and organizing several of these fun events, teaching their children how important it is to put God first in your life. I cannot thank them enough.

Starting the week of September 11, our youth groups will resume weekly meetings at the Kirk in the Youth Room and the newly-updated Heritage Hall. The Mid High Youth Group meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., the Senior High Youth Group meets Sundays at 4:00 p.m., and Club 45 (grades 4-5) meets Thursdays at 4:45 p.m. These groups are all wonderful opportunities for your children to gather with other Christians their age and share their faith through fellowship and discussion. Everyone is welcome to come to youth group. Even if you worship at another church, we would love to have you join us. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to call Kevin Krawczyk at (248) 626-2515 ext. 116.

Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! Psalm 107:8 ESV





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