

Kirk News

Summer 2011 • Issue 216

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



Kirk in the Hills

Summer Worship Services

(June 19 – September 4)

9:15 a.m. Garden Service

11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Worship Service

Summer Sunday School

9:15 a.m. For Ages 4 – 3rd Grade

Nursery provided from
9:00 a.m. – noon

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What a Summer Ahead!

The Kirk will be bustling with activities this summer! There's something for everyone, and plenty of opportunities to share in the life and fellowship of the Kirk (see key events listed below):

- Vacation Bible School – page 3
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Worship This Summer

Summer Garden Service – 9:15 a.m.

June 19 – September 4

Columbarium Garden (*In case of rain, the service will be held in the sanctuary.*)

Sanctuary Service – 11:00 a.m.

St. Andrew's Service – resumes on
Sunday, September 11

**Cedarholm Chapel Communion
Service – 8:00 a.m.**

June 5, July 3 and August 7



Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Congregation of Kirk in the Hills is called for Sunday, June 5, 2011 following the close of the first sanctuary worship service to ask the congregation to approve the granting of an easement across Kirk property to allow installation of new electrical service required to power and complete the new HVAC installation at Kirk in the Hills.



Changes in the PC(USA)

By Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor

Members and friends will have seen reports in the media this past week that the Presbyterian Church (USA) has changed its ordination standards.

While most news outlets have reported the issue as saying that the Presbyterian Church (USA) has approved the ordination of gays and lesbians, in fact what the decision entails is the replacing of wording that laid down standards of behavior, expressly including sexual behavior, for all aspiring candidates (whether heterosexual or homosexual) with broader language which could be regarded as more demanding but could equally produce the change as reported. It is expected that some presbyteries and/or congregations will take the latter interpretation and move to ordain gay persons.

The original language said,

Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

The new language reads,

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

The issue of the ordination of gay persons has been debated in the church for over 30 years. It is not a liberal versus conservative divide. People of deep sincerity and mature biblical faith have taken stands on both sides of the issue. Some commentators think that the vote reflects a desire to end this debate and focus on other challenges facing the church. I am encouraged to see that advocacy groups on both sides of this debate have affirmed their intention to respect those who disagree with them, and work to preserve the unity of the church.

There are people within the Kirk on both sides of this issue also; I hope they will be equally respectful of those who disagree with them and understand the need to maintain their commitment to the church and continue to believe that the Holy Spirit will guide the church into all truth, as Jesus has promised. (John 16:13) Recognizing that "God alone is Lord of the conscience," the PC(USA) respects and indeed welcomes divergent viewpoints as long as they do not deny the basic tenets of the Christian faith.

However this change works out in the church at large, it is important to understand that the decision on whom to call as a pastor or associate pastor, and whom to elect as Elder or Deacon, will remain with the local congregation.

Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly has said, "... So if a church doesn't want to have a gay minister, no one is going to force that on them, or a gay elder ... It really is up to the discretion of the local examining body."

I ask you all to pray for the church and its leaders, pastoral and lay, at congregational, presbytery and General Assembly levels, asking God to raise up the women and men God is calling to ordained service in the church, and to use them to lead the church well in fulfilling God's mission to the world; and all for the praise and glory of God's name.



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Children, Youth & Families

Children, Youth and Families Ministry – A Full Summer Ahead!

By Rev. Tres Adams

Summer is finally here! And what a summer it is for Children, Youth and Families at the Kirk! Between the Mid High mission trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the Senior High mission trip to Jacksonville, Florida, Camp Hosanna and Vacation Bible School, CY&FM will definitely be deepening faith, serving others, and fostering fellowship this summer! We will also be working this summer to gear up for the new and improved Confirmation program that gets underway in September. We are blessed to have an excited and enthusiastic group of ninth graders and their very supportive parents involved. The parents, along with a growing number of mentors, have made the decision to fulfill their baptismal vows to raise our children in the Christian faith!

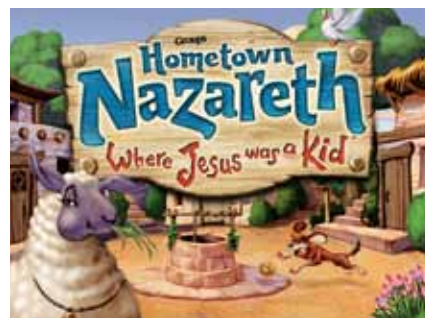
As the summer rolls on, please be sure to continue to pray for and encourage our children, our parents, our grandparents, our mentors, and our Sunday School and Confirmation teachers as they live out God's call on their lives. The commitment that they are making this summer and into the fall is to be commended.

If you would like to join in on any of these wonderful parts of Christ's ministry here at the Kirk, please don't hesitate to contact the Children, Youth, and Families Ministry Office. Information is available on our website or by calling (248) 626-2515, ext. 121. We can always use your enthusiasm and talents!

Go B-a-a-ack in Time!

Vacation Bible School
Monday, August 15 –
Friday, August 19
9:00 a.m.–Noon

Bring the whole flock to *Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid!*



Everyone knows what it's like to hear your mom tell stories from your childhood. Can you imagine the kinds of stories Mary could tell? This summer the Children, Youth and Families Ministry at Kirk in the Hills takes our kids back to *Hometown Nazareth*, where they'll stand up for their faith among people who doubt that the carpenter's son is really God's son.

Each day children will explore authentic marketplace shops, visit Jesus' mom, Mary, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as they discover more about Jesus' childhood. These experiences make God's word come alive with new meaning for all who participate!

NEW THIS YEAR: We've extended the schedule to five days! Each day has a special Bible point designed to help kids realize that Jesus was a kid, just like them, making it easier for them to relate to his life here on earth. The hometown theme comes alive with games, activities, stories and crafts. Back by popular demand is our evening barbeque on Thursday, August 18.

Children ages four (4) and older (as of August 1) are welcome. There are program tracks for four-year-olds and those entering grades K-6 in the fall of 2011. You do not have to be a member of Kirk in the Hills to participate in VBS! What a great opportunity to bring a friend into the life of the Kirk.

Fees are \$15 for the first child, \$10 for the second child, \$5 for the third child, or \$35 for a family of four or more (immediate family only). Visit kirkinthehills.org for more information and to download a registration form, or call the Kirk VBS hotline at (248) 626-2515, ext. 383.

Summer Sunday School

By Rev. Linda Cochran

What a delight to be kicking off our Summer Sunday School on Sunday, June 19 for children ages four through those entering third grade this fall. Following the Word for Children each week at the 9:15 a.m. Garden Service, the children will retreat with a teacher and youth helper to the grassy space on the east side of the garden. There they will share in stories, activities and games. During the last hymn the children will return to join their families.



Summer Teaching Volunteers are Needed!

Each week a simple lesson will be prepared for a volunteer teacher to share with the children at our 9:15 a.m. Garden Service. All of the supplies needed to teach the lesson will be available Sunday morning in the Children Youth and Families Ministry Office. Soft blankets, balls, hula hoops, bubbles and other fun supplies will become a great interactive teaching resource each week! Please sign up by contacting the Children Youth and Families Ministry Office or Rev. Linda Cochran.

Note: Nursery and Toddler Care will be provided each week in Abbey 24.

Youth Group Highlights



Thank you for your support of the Senior High Car Wash. We raised almost \$900 to support our Summer Mission Trip to Jacksonville, Florida!



Members of our Mid High Youth Group served dinner and visited with guest families from South Oakland Shelter.

The Kirk Preschool Expresses Gratitude to All

Our final days of the 2010-2011 school year have come to a close. Our families joined us for a brief musical program followed by a fun family picnic complete with face painting and games – the perfect way to celebrate the growth of each child enrolled in our program this past year.



We'd like to thank all the parents, Kirk members and staff who have volunteered their time and talents to our program over this past year. We'd like to extend a special thank you to Rev. Tres Adams, our Bible storyteller. The children looked forward to meeting Tres in the sanctuary monthly for stories and prayers. A heartfelt thank you also goes out to our board members. Under the leadership of Gretchen Jakubiak (Board Chairperson), this group worked behind the scenes to ensure the success of our program. We thank Gretchen and the following board members for their commitment and dedication to maintaining a preschool program that truly is *rooted and grounded in God's love*: Judy Hutchinson (Treasurer), Tres Adams (Pastoral Advisor), Anne Faglie, Sarah Jankowski, Jennifer Lelli, Kate McShane, Laurie MacMichael, Cindy Murdough, Jan Peronis, and Lynda Wilds. We'd also like to thank our stellar teaching and enrichment staff for providing an outstanding year for our preschoolers – filled with fun, creative learning experiences and most importantly, their love and warmth. We are blessed to have the involvement of so many talented and loving people. The Preschool wishes you all a safe and happy summer!

Limited Openings for Fall 2011 at Kirk in the Hills Preschool

Please help Kirk in the Hills Preschool by spreading the word to your family, friends and neighbors that we have a few openings in our 3-year-old (2 or 3 days), 4-year-old (3 or 4 days) and Parent/Toddler classes for the fall of 2011. The Preschool is well known for its loving, Christian environment, well educated teachers and varied enrichment offerings. In addition to the classes above, the Preschool offers a Jr. Kindergarten and extended day classes, including Lunch and Learn and Spanish.

For more information, please contact Pauline Jackson, Preschool Director, at (248) 626-2515, ext 132.

Thank You, Volunteers!

We are blessed to have so many people support the Children, Youth and Families Ministry at the Kirk! You have given your time and talents to many young people, nurturing their faith and guiding them in their walk with Christ. Thank you for your great dedication in support of our young people during the 2010-2011 school year!

Nursery

Ali Buczek
Rene Bushey
Jodi Fletcher
Ann Manning
Olivia Rock
Lawrence Varley
Marianne Varley

Preschool

Denise Devlin
Laura Fretter
Jennifer Konkal
Darby McEvilly
Kitty Williams
Vivian Yousif

Kindergarten/First Grade

Suzanne Artzberger
Kathy Coe
Amy Davis
Gretchen Jakubiak
Brian Sliwinski
Stephanie Sliwinski

Explorers: Second/Third Grade

Jim Devlin
Anne Lawter-Faglie
Ann Hartzell
Julie Holtan
Laura Sale
Leslie Schneider
Carolyn Wells

Explorers: Fourth/Fifth Grade

Denise Devlin
Rosemary Emerson
Clark Harris
David Lau
Dan Llope
Ginny Llope
Kim Lyon
Wendy Myers
Lynda Schrenk Vitali

Journeys of Faith

Steve Black
Kevin Brinks
Sue Ann Elder
Jennifer Fickel
Bob Hunsberger
Jan Luttenberger
Anne Mularoni
Hanna Parrow
Bill Robinson
Lauren Timmer
Linda Weitzel

Journeys Team

Deb Black
Marie Burke
Amy Hoglund
Pam Wilmot

High School Breakfast Club

Adam Devlin
Tim Kenum

Club 45

Joan Pritchard

Mid High Youth Group

Emily Belcher
Rudy Borland
Katie Dittus
Meloney Lau
Gene Timmer

High School Youth Group

Claire Devlin
Nick Devlin
Susan File
Jonathan Lau

Teaching Assistants

Audra Artzberger
Karolyn Buescher
Katherine Chappell
Nora Faulkner
Andrew Hoisington

Shepherds

Joel Fickel
Ann Hartzell
Mike Luttenberger
Brian Sliwinski

Electronic Check-In

Sue Ann Elder
Todd Emerson
Dawn Harimoto
Nancy Lau
Anne Mularoni
Randy Pappal
Jeff Reitmeyer
John Rock
Jim Wells

Room Planners and Ministry Support

Nancy Borland
Rosemary Emerson
Glenda Herb
Denise Leighton
Barbara Littleton
Ginny Llope
Dulane Whinnery Mitchell
Stephanie Sliwinski
Carolyn Wells
Dottie Withrow

Family Easter Celebration

Amy Davis
Sue Gelbach
Gretchen Jakubiak
Diana Marsh
Wee Kirker Moms

Please know that we have worked hard to maintain an accurate list of volunteers. Our sincerest apologies to anyone we may have missed. We ask that you bring any errors to our attention so that we can be sure to affirm everyone who has been a vital part of this ministry!

Backpack Project 2011

Help children less fortunate begin their school year with a smile!

Every year, through the generous support from Kirk members, the youth of the Kirk gather together in the fall to stuff brand new backpacks with fresh new school supplies! The filled backpacks are then given to children in the Pontiac area - with hopes of providing some joy, excitement, and needed supplies to begin their school year on a positive note.

Help us continue this wonderful tradition! Our goal once again is to supply 200 backpacks, each filled with pencils, paper, crayons, rulers, glue sticks, and more. Your donation dollars will enable us to purchase the needed supplies, make certain each backpack is equal and complete, and provide a meaningful outreach project for our youth.

Donation envelopes are available Sundays during the coffee hour, in all Kirk literature racks, and in the sanctuary pews. Envelopes may be given to an usher, delivered to the Kirk Office, or mailed to the Kirk. Please indicate *Backpack Project* on your envelope.

For more information, please contact the Children, Youth and Families Ministry Office at (248) 626-2515, ext. 121. Thanks for your faithful support!

Kirk Office Summer Hours

June 20 - September 2

Mon.-Thurs.: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Our receptionist will be on duty during these hours. The building will be closed on most Wednesday evenings.

The office will be closed on Monday, July 4 and Monday, September 5.



Music News



Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, June 11-26

The Seventeenth Annual Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival will present concerts in the Kirk refectory on Thursday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 17 at 10:45 a.m. and Thursday, June 23 at 7:30 p.m. The Festival opens on Saturday, June 11 at 8:00 p.m. at the Seligman Performing Arts Center, Detroit Country Day Upper School and continues for two weeks with concerts at the Kirk, St. Hugo of the Hills Roman Catholic Church and Temple Beth El.

Recognized by the *New York Times* as one of the leading chamber music festivals in the nation today, this year's festival will include performances by pianists Jeremy Denk and James Tocco, cellist Andrés Díaz and the Grammy award winning ensemble eighth blackbird. Details about the entire festival schedule and tickets are available at www.greatlakeschambermusic.org.



Chorister for a Day a Resounding Success

Nearly fifty girls and boys attended the annual Chorister for a Day event on Wednesday, May 4. Along with members of the Young Children's Choir who will be graduating into the Junior Girls' and Treble Boys' Choirs in the fall, friends of choristers currently involved in the program also attended. The event included rehearsals with the choristers, a snack and a climb of the Kirk tower to see the bells. A great time was had by all!



Annual Spring Choir Festival

Congratulations to our choristers for the splendid job they did in the Eleventh Annual Spring Choir Festival on Sunday, May 1.

Children's Bells of Blessing

In conjunction with the World Carillon Congress, plans are to rededicate the Children's Bells of Blessing at the west entrance to the Kirk Abbey on Sunday, June 26 following morning worship (more details to follow in @ *The Kirk*). A recent renovation to bring the mechanical and electrical mechanism up to current technology and improved reliability was made possible by a special endowment for the preservation of this rare instrument. We will now be able to program songs, hymns and seasonal tunes – on any schedule – via a small laptop computer which controls the twelve bell glockenspiel. Previously, we were restricted to six preselected hymns. Glockenspiels are often found in Europe, and occasionally have moving figures, which serve as entertainment in old world city squares. Ours depicts Christ blessing figures of children who process across the portal. This restoration will now enhance our Kirk life and the children's ministry.



Summer Carillon Series

The Annual Summer Carillon Series announces its 2011 schedule; recitals are presented on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and noon following the morning worship services. All are welcome to attend these free events and stroll the gardens while enjoying beautiful music from a wide array of international artists.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| June 12 | Dennis Curry
(Kirk in the Hills) |
| June 19 | Geert D'hollander
(Antwerp Cathedral and Ghent Town Hall) |
| June 26 | Jo Haazen
(St. Petersburg, Russia)
and Olesya Rostovskaya
(Moscow) |
| June 26–July 2 | World Carillon Congress |
| July 3 | Koen and Florian Van Assche (Belgium) |
| July 10 | Eddy Mariën (Mechlen, Belgium) and Thomas Lee (University of Pennsylvania) |
| July 17 | Toru Takao (Japan) and Kasia Piastowska (Poland) |
| July 24 | Stefano Colletti
(Douai, France) |
| September 4 | Dennis Curry
(Kirk in the Hills) |



Carillon Congress – The World Is Coming to the Kirk!

On Sunday, June 26 and Monday, June 27, the Kirk will host the largest gathering of carillon-neurs on record. There will be visitors from every continent (except Antarctica), and we have planned a joyous celebration. The World Carillon Federation (WCF) will visit every carillon in Michigan after the kick-off at the Kirk. Ten years ago we hosted the Guild of Carillonneurs in North American (GCNA) congress, celebrating former Kirk Organist and Carillonneur Dr. Frederick Marriott's centennial; everyone had such a great time, they wanted to return to celebrate the GCNA's 75th anniversary. We start with festive morning services followed by carillon recitalists from Russia and Belgium. There will be many presentations, student advancements and guest recitals, exhibits, great food and entertainment. The schedule offers many opportunities to express our warm welcome and hospitality again to our visitors. All Kirk members, neighbors, friends and families are cordially invited to the recitals and docent tours, as well as a neighborhood Open House on Sunday afternoon, June 26. Frank and Evelyn Cadicamo are spearheading the food and hospitality events, asking for volunteers to help with registration, food service, and other duties. A Good Humor Ice Cream truck (with its bell!) will even be stopping by. A full schedule for the entire week's events is listed below and can be found on the Kirk website. We are indeed fortunate to have the world's finest and largest carillon, and are glad we can share it with the world.



Sunday, June 26

9:15 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m.

Kirk in the Hills

Outdoor Garden service
Recital by Jo Haazen, Mechelen, Belgium
Rededication of the Children's Bells of Blessing
Festival service
Recital by Olesya Rostovskaya, Moscow, Russia
Recital by Michigan congress hosts and full peal
Ice cream social
Plus student recitals at 5:00 and 5:45 p.m.

Monday, June 27

12:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

Kirk in the Hills

New music for the carillon
Jef Denyn Recital by Jo Haazen, Mechelen, Belgium
Recital by Geert D'hollander, Antwerp, Belgium
Plus student recitals at 10:30 and 11:15 a.m., 3:00 and 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, June 28

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Wednesday, June 29

St. Hugo of the Hills

Thursday, June 30

Detroit and Grosse Pointe

Friday, July 1

Christ Church Cranbrook

Saturday, July 2

Michigan State University & Grand Valley State University

This is an opportunity to hear every carillon in Michigan! For the complete schedule of performances and events, visit the Kirk website at www.kirkinthehills.org.



Congregation News

Legacy Giving

Legacy Giving Auction – The Financial Development Oversight Committee will hold an auction to benefit our Current Ministries Endowment Fund. A committee has been formed and will organize the auction for May 2012 (both live and silent). If you are interested in being on this committee, please call Sydrena Epstein, chairperson, at (248) 646-1910 or e-mail her at sydrena@comcast.net.



Mom2Mom Sale – If you would be interested in helping with a Mom2Mom Sale (to be held this fall), please call Jayne Dodge at the Kirk Office (ext. 305). The proceeds from this sale will benefit the Youth Ministry Endowment Fund. If you have items that you would like to donate to the Kirk for this sale, let Jayne know and she will contact you as the date gets closer. We do not have the facility to store items at this time. Jayne can also be reached at legacygiving@kirkinthehills.org.

Endowments – a Theological Issue

Throughout the Kirk's history the commitment by members of their time, talent and treasure has been the catalyst for the spiritual energy needed to drive our ministry. We want to build on that heritage and pass it on even bigger and better to those who will follow us. Is this the right time for you to create a legacy?

Endowment gifts are not primarily a financial issue, they are a theological issue. When a person creates an endowment gift to the church it makes it possible to perpetuate that person's faith and trust in God. Giving beyond a person's death declares to the generations to come that person's faith in God. Endowment gifts are theological statements which prove a person's belief that we are never ultimately proprietors, owners - we are always only stewards, lifetime guardians entrusted by God to use wisely what God has placed in our hands to use. For this reason, a person's bequest to the church is the final expression of the magnitude of that person's faith. Faith in God is not only an earthly issue; it is also an eternal issue.

If this is the right time for you to learn how an endowment gift fits into your estate planning, contact Jayne Dodge at (248) 626-2515, ext. 305 or by e-mail at legacygiving@kirkinthehills.org for more information. Certain types of legacy giving strategies have tax advantages.

(Portions taken from "Creating Endowments for Congregations: Pros and Cons," by Robert W. Bohl, Pastor, Village Presbyterian Church.)

Henry C. and Celeste L. Hall Endowment Fund

For over 50 years, Henry and Celeste Hall volunteered at our church and supported each other while serving as Elder, Trustee, Deacon, as Men and Women of the Kirk and teaching Sunday School. They were serious students of the Bible and set time aside each day for private study.

Henry and Celeste were very gentle people and loved children. The Kirk was their home and they believed the hope of the world, the future of our nation and the welfare of our community all depended on the inspired Christian education of our sons and daughters. In 1970, Dr. Harold DeWindt wrote: "Henry Hall never reared children of his own, yet for more than a third of a generation he has been sensitive to the spiritual needs of the sixth grade children in the Kirk Sunday School."

When Henry and Celeste passed away they had made provisions for the Kirk in their will. The Henry C. and Celeste L. Hall Endowment Fund was initiated to further the Christian education of children and youth of our church. Because of their thoughtful and generous decision, Christian education at Kirk in the Hills will be provided for future generations. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6)."

Don't forget to remember the Kirk in your will. For more information about endowments, special gifts or memorials, please contact Jayne Dodge at (248) 626-2515, ext. 305 or at legacygiving@kirkinthehills.org.

HVAC Update – June 2011

The wet weather has hampered some of the outdoor work needed for the new HVAC systems, but the Trustees are pleased to report that the work at the sanctuary end of the building is in the final stages. The completion of this work will be close to the date we expected. Some finish work and decorating will take a bit longer, but the system will be functional.

Work on the refectory system continues in the planning stages. Geothermal wells will be dug, but the exact location for a few of the wells is still in question. The new electrical service is also still in the planning. It's possible that by the time this is printed, most of the work will have begun.

If you have any questions, please check with Jayne Zellers, Business Manager or one of the trustees. We remind you once again that this project is funded partially by the Endowment Funds given to the Kirk by friends and members who cared enough to remember the Kirk with special gifts or in their wills.



Your Dedicated Deacons

Easter Lily Delivery

Following the last service on Easter Sunday the Deacons gathered to pick up and deliver Easter lilies to 43 appreciative homebound Kirk members.



Transportation to Sunday Worship Services

The Deacons are providing rides to church for those in need of transportation on Sunday morning. If you or anyone you know is having difficulty getting to church, please contact John Ris at (586) 306-8891 or Yvonne Rundell at (248) 214-6718. We want you to be a part of the service as much as you want to be there!

Courtesy Cart

Again this year, for those in need of assistance from the parking lot to the church door, the Deacons will be providing courtesy cart rides from your car to the sanctuary. Look for the golf cart in the northeast parking lot each Sunday from spring through fall.



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 will meet through the summer 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.

Women with Memories Brunch

Women with Memories is a ministry for women whose spouses have passed on. If you are a widow, you are invited to join us. We welcome recent widows or those who have been a widow for a long time. On Sunday, June 5 at 12:30 p.m. in the St. Andrew's Room, join us for brunch and fellowship. There is no fee and no need to bring anything, unless it is a friend. Please RSVP to one of the following: Ann Larkin (248) 879-2207, Jan VanTilburg (248) 988-8883 or Nancy Geisling (248) 338-1535.

From Grief to New Hope

The loss of a loved one is often traumatic and leaves survivors with feelings of being overwhelmed, isolated, and possibly abandoned or angry because it seems that no one truly understands their loss.

The Deacons will be sponsoring a continuing education Grief Workshop Series in the fall. This series of four workshops is presented by Cathy Clough, director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. The series is intended for those individuals who have attended previous grief workshops either here at the Kirk or elsewhere. The workshops help participants understand grief and help those grieving move forward with a sense of hope.

The workshops will be held on Wednesdays (September 7, October 5, November 2 and December 7) in the St. Andrew's Room from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The workshops are free and open to Kirk members, families, friends and the wider community. You may register by calling the Kirk at (248) 626-2515, ext. 126 or by email at deacons@kirkinthehills.org.

Mary Meissner's 100th Birthday



Mary Meissner, born on April 14, 1911 and Kirk member since 1982, recently celebrated her 100th birthday!

Small Groups



Parish Register

Deaths

H. Frances Holloway
Dr. William Maddock

Baptisms

Morgan O'Hara
Lucas Nixon

Church Officer Nominations

Please help in the selection of the leadership of your church.

The Church Officer Nominating Committee is now 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.

Nomination forms can be found in the church literature racks. The completed form may be turned in to the Kirk Office. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Rock, Chair of the Church Officer Nominating Committee, at rockgnc@aol.com or (248) 499-6357.

Book of the Month Club

Summer is such a great time to read – come and join our discussions! As this issue of *Kirk News* goes to print, summer book selections and meeting details are still being finalized, so please check the Kirk website and @ *The Kirk* announcements for current details. Snow birds ... this is your chance to join a small group while you're in the area. Otherwise busy ladies find summer is a great opportunity to plug in to this small group offering. So, be looking for Book of the Month Club updates, and know that this group would love to include YOU!

Looking to September, save the dates of Wednesday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m. or Thursday, September 22 at noon for the first fall meeting of the Book of the Month Club!

A Perspective on Small Groups

By Phyllis Mazure, Small Group Leader & Participant

Small groups at the Kirk are growing with the love of Christ and the sharing of the gospel! This does not mean that small groups focus solely on study of the Bible, but also the sharing of fellowship and love; these can happen through participation in service projects, a book study or even a physical activity.



Do you know that on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays, you can join a Kirk exercise group? Participants “connect” in weekly sessions and enjoy great opportunities for discussions during and after exercise. Great workouts for body and soul!

Bible studies and book reviews offer opportunities to strengthen our minds and spirits. When we study the Bible (THE source of ethics and Christ-like living), we are filled with the joy of learning – not only from the written word but also from one another. Questions arise that cannot be easily answered but trigger further study ... challenging our faith to grow.

We're also strengthening participation in service projects, both within and beyond the Kirk. In addition to the service-oriented small groups in the Kirk, several small groups are including a service aspect to their purpose. There is an increasing awareness of and calling to be involved in mission opportunities at the Kirk!

We are blessed at the Kirk with a high degree of energy and creativity ... our small groups certainly exemplify that! Don't miss out – join a small group!

Kirk Docents

The Kirk Docents conduct tours for groups who wish to see our beautiful church. We started out as members interested in the history of the Kirk and we all love sharing it with others. If you are interested in becoming a docent, please contact Crystal Thomas at (248) 926-9737. Training is available as needed. We'd love to have you join us!



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

By Sydrena Epstein

Men of the Kirk

June - the month in which we honor our fathers on Father's Day - seems like an appropriate time to acknowledge the Men of the Kirk and all that they do for our church and local community.

Almost every Friday morning from September through May, bright and early at 7:00 a.m., the Men of the Kirk come together in fellowship for breakfast and an opportunity to hear interesting speakers on a variety of topics (see *highlights on page 13*). Whether you work or are retired, this early breakfast is a great start to your day.

In February, the day before the big Super Bowl game and with the help of our Kirk young people, they sponsor the Souper Bowl of Soup. This involves a soup competition and football skills challenge. The funds raised help support the summer Mid High mission trip to Pittsburgh.

Two other events providing a service to the community are the Annual Red Cross Blood Drive (see *page 13*) and Adopt-A-Road, where Kirk families get together to clean up a stretch of Long Lake Road.

Each year, the Men of the Kirk recognize one man as Man of the Year, based on outstanding service to the Kirk over the years. In January, Jim Devlin was honored as Man of the Year for 2010.

Stewardship can be displayed in many ways as is evident through all that the Men of the Kirk contribute ... time, talent and treasure.

Memorial Teas

Very few events in our lives can duplicate the grief we encounter with the loss of a loved one. Along with the burden of dealing with this loss, you have the added responsibility of planning a funeral and/or memorial service.

One function of the Board of Deacons is to help ease this burden through the preparation and serving of a Memorial Tea Reception following a funeral or memorial service at the Kirk.

For a nominal fee, there are two types of teas that can be provided - a simple tea with sweets, coffee and tea; or a fancy tea with tea sandwiches, pastries and occasional fruits and cheeses. Some families have even requested sit-down luncheons. All of this is handled by the Deacons with the help of the Kirk caterer. The Deacons handle the details including serving, set-up and clean-up, leaving nothing for the family to worry about.

Depending on the size of the reception, teas can be held in the refectory, Heritage Hall or the Fireside Room - all locations providing the family with a lovely, relaxed setting in which they can greet relatives and friends. Tables are set with the Kirk's beautiful silver service and lace tablecloths. Flowers that have been sent in memory of the deceased adorn the room along with photo memories.

The comment so often heard by those in attendance is how much it was appreciated and how lovely everything was. The Kirk Deacons ... dedicating their time in stewardship.



Kirk Seniors

June Luncheon - On Tuesday, June 21, the Kirk Seniors luncheon will make you nostalgic. Bill Hart, professor of math at Macomb Community College and a big band trumpeter, will entertain us with Big Band Memories. He played with Tommy Dorsey and other groups who toured and performed in the Detroit area. He will talk about the band leaders of our day and his experience as a musician with the bands. Join us for a lively luncheon with delicious food and fellowship. Please make checks payable to *Kirk Seniors* for \$12 to reach the Kirk by Thursday, June 16.

July Luncheon - On Tuesday, July 19, join us for a fun time with a delicious lunch and fellowship (specific program to be announced). Please make checks payable to *Kirk Seniors* for \$12 to reach the Kirk by Thursday, July 14.

Kirk Seniors will not have an August Luncheon. See all of you on Tuesday, September 20.



Women of the Kirk

Women of the Kirk Annual Potluck Picnic

Nothing beats a great picnic! All women are invited to the Women of the Kirk Annual Potluck Picnic. This year, as last year, we will be holding our picnic at the Kirk on the Fireside Room Terrace on Wednesday, June 15 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Dust off that recipe that everyone raves about and bring it for all of us to make a fuss over! Suggestions are: main course salad, pasta dishes, fruit salads, breads & rolls, and, of course, fabulous desserts! Plan to make a quantity for about six to nine people. Bottled water would be very much welcomed.

RSVP to amc@kirkinthehills.org or (248) 626-2515, ext. 330 and let us know what type of food you plan to bring or if you have any questions. Please join us!

Save the Date!

Women of the Kirk Fall Gathering will be held on Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the refectory. Cost for dinner and program will be \$18. The speaker will be Rev. Carol Tate, our new Associate Pastor for Adult Ministry.

Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study – See You in the Fall!

The Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study takes the summer off, but we will be reconvening on Thursday, September 22 at 9:30 a.m. to begin a 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.

Men of the Kirk

Saturday Men's Breakfast Group

By Sam Clark

On the second Saturday of each month a handful of men from the Kirk pick up a van full of food boxes from Focus Hope and deliver them to the elderly residents of an apartment building in downtown Detroit. Over the years some wonderful relationships have formed. Recently, with some tips from Reggie McNeal (Missional Leadership Specialist) as the guys have delivered their food, they have begun to ask, "How can we ask God to bless you today?" Some of the answers are both profound and touching. They are shared here so that they might be an encouragement to members and friends of the Kirk.

- "Thanks for my children, dear friends and good health."
- "My mom is suffering from cancer."
- "Can we pray the Lord's Prayer together?"
- "Thanks for life. God is so good!"
- "I've been suffering from diabetes."
- "My daughter is a pastor. Thank God for family and community."
- "I'm having pacemaker surgery next week. Please pray for me."

From our food delivery team it is very clear who is receiving the real blessing here. We are. Thanks be to God! For more information about this group please contact Sam Clark at (248) 433-3476.

Men's Retreat 2011 – New Time, New Venue, New Format

Friday, October 14 – Saturday, October 15

We're moving from the depths of winter to the warmth and color of fall. We're moving closer to home and the comfortable venue of the Columbiere Conference Center in nearby Clarkston. We're engaging heart and mind with studies and discussion led by Dr. Pritchard around the video presentation of Bill Hybel's book, *The Power of a Whisper: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond*.

Not everything has changed, though. Same good fun, great fellowship, plenty of food and, of course, the challenge of bowling. The Men's Retreat gives men of the Kirk the chance to enjoy one another, laugh at the pastor's feeble attempts at bowling, and stretch the mind and spirit with some serious faith-enriching study and enrichment, leading to a moving, personal service of Holy Communion. More details to follow, but mark your calendars now!



Friday Men's Breakfasts Speaker Series

The 2010–2011 Friday Men's Breakfast Speaker Series concluded for the season on May 20 with a presentation by Dr. Pritchard. We extend special thanks to Steven Briggs for his leadership in bringing such excellent speakers to the Kirk all season long! The series will resume in the fall on Friday, September 9 at 7:00 a.m.

Recent Highlights

by Al Sobey



April 29 – Russ Russell, Forgotten Harvest

We had fewer people at this breakfast than usual – fewer than the speaker Russ Russell and his topic, Forgotten Harvest, justified. Feeding the hungry is a critical problem now and certain to get more serious as we slowly recover from the 2008 recession.

Forgotten Harvest's services to the poor and hungry are important in this community as well as in the remainder of the Detroit Metropolitan area. Based on an impressive logistic system that many companies could emulate, they get food from more than 130 grocery stores, merchandisers etc. at no cost except pickup and delivery to their processing centers. This is food that has been damaged physically or is not suitable for retail sales – but still good and healthy. Last year 20 million pounds of such food was donated to Forgotten Harvest.

They do not deliver the food directly to those that need their help (their planning indicates that one in five people in the metropolitan area face hunger daily); they work with the cooperation of existing soup kitchens and similar organizations that provide food for the needy.

This is the kind of activity which well warrants additional support and an operation that many other urban regions should emulate.

May 7 – John Swatosh, Suburban Mobile Authority for Regional Transit

John W. Swatosh, Deputy General Manager of Demonstration for SMART (The Suburban Mobile Authority for Regional Transit) presented a concise overview of the status of SMART Transit, its plans and problems. He described the history of public transit in the Detroit region (the first publicly owned large city transit), why it is important as well as its future ambitions and problems. He is an advocate of new transit technologies (they just acquired several modern hybrid articulated buses). His major concerns include the potential loss of state support (approximately 24% of SMART's recent income).

John emphasized how important providing a responsible level of integrated public transit is for the Detroit region. It is necessary for those who do not have other forms of economic transportation to access work, schools, stores, etc. He made the case that effective public transit benefits all – even those who seldom, if ever, use its services. It makes it possible for people (with or without personal vehicles) to get to jobs needed to support themselves. They in turn provide the services that many of us use.

The benefits of maintaining effective public transit in the Detroit region deserves further discussion.

John provided copies of background materials for SMART and the Regional Transit Coordinating Council that included important details beyond the information he could provide in the time allotted for the presentation.

Red Cross Blood Drives

Dates: Monday, June 6
Monday, August 8

Time: 2:00–8:00 p.m.

Place: Refectory

Sponsored by: Men of the Kirk



This summer we have the opportunity to help two of the Kirk's senior high students earn a scholarship from the American Red Cross. The senior high students selected this year are Ashley Bezrutch (June) and Samantha Klein (August). These students will help with the blood drives by making phone calls to Kirk members and other eligible people whose names are provided by the Red Cross.

Call Ian Dittus at (248) 318-1596 for more information and to book an appointment.



Outreach & Mission



Camp Hosanna 2011

Monday–Thursday, July 11–28, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

A Congregational Mission: Our Camp Hosanna

Camp Hosanna is a large undertaking, which in its scope and in the investment of our congregational resources, truly does belong to all of us. The Kirk's Ministry with Pontiac hopes that every Kirk member will participate in the ownership and joy of Camp Hosanna. There are many ways to be involved:

- Be a committed prayer partner for camp planners, staff and children.
- Come to the \$35.42 Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 5
- Support one camper for one day through a donation of \$35.42. Gifts of any amount are truly appreciated, and can be made any time (checks may be made payable to *Kirk in the Hills – Camp Hosanna*).
- Volunteer! There are many openings, Monday–Thursday, July 11–28. Call or email Glenda Herb, (248) 334-8338 or glherb@comcast.net.
- Help bring the circus to town. Join in *Cirque Amongus* – Friday, July 22. Call or email Glenda Herb, (248) 334-8388 or glherb@comcast.net.
- Make a gift of new or gently used books for the Camp Hosanna library, reading levels grades K-6. Popular chapter books with pictures are especially needed.
- Come and bring all your friends to eat at our Burger King fundraiser, Sunday, June 26, Maple and Telegraph, 5:00–8:00 p.m.
- Come and See! You can visit almost any day. Two special events you will especially enjoy are the *Cirque Amongus* performance the afternoon of Friday, July 22, and the camp closing program the afternoon of Thursday, July 28. Call Barbara Littleton at (248) 682-0568 for details.

The \$35.42 Coffee Hour – Sunday, June 5

What is a \$35.42 Coffee Hour? This is a coffee hour hosted by Ministry with Pontiac to help support Camp Hosanna. \$35.42 is the cost of one day for one child at this camp, committed to excellence in academic enrichment and Christian education. You can help by joining Ministry with Pontiac on Sunday, June 5 for refreshments and to learn more about Camp Hosanna. Consider becoming a prayer partner to encourage camp planners, staff and campers – this is a key ingredient in delivering the quality experience of this program. If you can, please make a financial contribution to Camp Hosanna. Every gift of any amount will help provide this very much needed opportunity for the children. Remember, \$35.42 will sponsor one child for one day. Checks may be made out to *Kirk in the Hills – Camp Hosanna* and can be brought to the coffee hour or to the Kirk Office at any time.

Mission Hamper Book Collection for Camp Hosanna

Please help Camp Hosanna by choosing to donate new or gently used books for the Camp Hosanna Library. Books are used throughout the program and each child selects ten books to keep at the end of camp. Books for grade levels K-6 and chapter books with pictures are especially needed. So grab a box and dig through your bookshelves or head to the local bookstore to help with this great camp. You may leave book donations in the Mission Hampers located in the refectory foyer or the Tower of the Apostles near the sanctuary any time during the month of June – feel free to bring them to the \$35.42 Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 5. Books will be collected from the Mission Hamper locations on Sunday, June 26.



Ministry with Pontiac

Moos, Baahs, Oinks and More!



On Friday, April 29, Upland Hills Farm made an encore visit to Jefferson/Whittier Elementary School in Pontiac thanks to the Kirk's Ministry with Pontiac (MWP) Committee. Over 400 children in grades K-3 were delighted by the farm animals and their babies. Aside from the pure joy of petting many warm and fuzzy creatures, the children learned how to milk a cow and shear a sheep. By passing and shaking a glass of milk the children also learned how butter was made.

It was exciting to see the children have such a wonderful time. The school gymnasium was filled with laughter and happiness for this special day. The farm had come to the "city kids" and was warmly received.

On Saturday, May 21, Jefferson/Whittier children and their families had the opportunity to visit the Detroit Zoo with the MWP volunteers. The children visited the animals and learned about their habitats. There was much excitement about the new baby zebra, Jimmy.

CROP Hunger Walk Volunteers!

It is not too early to start thinking about CROP Hunger Walk this fall on Sunday, October 2! Please email Lynne Carpenter at lcarpent03@gmail.com with your interest in helping with the planning as well as walking to raise money for Church World Services. See you in October!



Kirk Trip to Israel – November 7-16



Sergey Zolotarevsky, pastor at Central Baptist Church in Moscow, has renewed his invitation to join some folks from his church for a trip to Israel scheduled for November 7-16.

Here are the basics:

- Arrive in Tel Aviv on Tuesday, November 8
- Tour the Galilean region – two days
- Tour the Jerusalem area – two days
- Tour the Dead Sea area – two days
- Total cost estimate per person – \$2,500

Travel around Israel will be via tour bus. Hotel accommodations are expected to be tourist level. In addition to touring, we will visit a Baptist Village near Tel Aviv and a center for people recovering from addiction. More details about the actual itinerary are available on our website at kirkinthehills.org.

Sergey shared with us that between our churches we need at least 30 people for the above costs (while in Israel) to work out. The bus will seat up to 50. He estimates there are 15 or so people from his church so far, so we could accommodate as many as 35 and as few as 15 from the Kirk.

At the time of this writing we are still in the early stages of planning for this amazing opportunity to join with our Russian brothers and sisters on a tour of the Holy Land. However, feeling a sense of urgency because of ever-changing cost of fuel and therefore airline tickets, we are moving quickly to finalize our traveler list.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Bob O'Hara at (248) 474-8799 or Sam Clark at (248) 433-3476.



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William L. Adams III	Associate Pastor
Keith O. Provost	Temporary Supply
Glenn A. Miller	Director of Music
Linda Cochran	Director of Christian Ed.
Pauline Jackson	Director of Preschool

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