

Kirk News

Feb–March 2012 • Issue 220

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



Kirk in the Hills

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Family Service

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

Christian Education Hour

10:00 a.m. Adults and Children

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Reminder: Annual Celebration of Kirk Life

On Wednesday, February 1, reports of the life and work of the congregation will be presented at the annual Celebration of Kirk Life congregational gathering. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 p.m. for those with prior dinner reservations.

Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday, February 22 for a special Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Lenten Study Program



Our 2012 Lenten Study Program will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning February 29 and running through March 28. We will study Christian spirituality using a book by Rev. Marjorie Thompson called, *Exploring the Way*. Ms. Thompson will also be our guest preacher on Sunday, March 25. See the full article on page 7 for more information



Resignation of Dr. Keith Provost

It is with regret that we report the news that Dr. Keith Provost is resigning his position as temporary stated supply pastor, to have time to take care of elderly family members with health concerns. His last Sunday with us will be February 12 when he will preach at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. A farewell reception will be held during the coffee hour on Sunday, February 12. Contributions to a farewell presentation to Keith may be made through the Kirk Office. We are grateful for Keith's time with us and wish him well for the days ahead.





Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship

*Family service in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.;
traditional service at 11:00 a.m.*

- February 5 Rev. C. Tate
- February 12 Dr. Provost
- February 19 Dr. Pritchard
- February 22 Ash Wednesday
Rev. C. Tate and Dr. Pritchard
- February 26 Dr. Pritchard
- March 4 Rev. C. Tate
- March 11 Dr. Pritchard
- March 18 Youth Sunday
- March 25 Rev. Marjorie Thompson

Looking Ahead...

- April 1 Palm Sunday Dr. Pritchard
- April 5 Maundy Thursday Rev. C. Tate
(communion service at 7:00 p.m.)
- April 6 Good Friday Dr. Pritchard
(solemn service at 1:00 p.m.)
- April 8 Easter Sunday Dr. Pritchard
(services at 6:45, 7:00, 9:00 and
11:00 a.m.)

Cedarholm Chapel Communion

*A brief service of Holy Communion, with
meditation, at 8:00 a.m. on the first Sunday
of every month*

- February 5 Rev. C. Tate
- March 4 Rev. C. Tate

Taizé Service

Due to the Celebration of Kirk Life on
Wednesday, February 1, the Taizé worship
service will not take place.



Maundy Thursday Service



Easter Sunday Service



Officers, Pastors and People

By Dr. Norman M. Pritchard, Pastor

New Officers Elected

2012 got off to a good start with the Annual Meeting of the congregation, ably chaired by Rev. Carol Tate in my absence. The congregation elected a fine slate of officers to the Deacons, Trustees and Session, promising fine leadership for the next three years. We welcome our new officers to their ministry.

Dr. Keith Provost

Members will have heard by now that Session has received, with regret, the resignation of Dr. Keith Provost, our Temporary Supply Pastor. Keith stated that the pressure of health concerns in his wider family requires him to have more time available to assist with their needs. He had hoped to remain with us until the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for Missional Renewal had completed its work and presented a candidate to the congregation, however this now proves to be impossible and Session has accepted Keith's resignation.

We will farewell him at a reception between services on Sunday, February 12 when we will have an opportunity to thank him for his ministry. I keep joking with Keith that he has redefined the meaning of the word 'temporary' in his position description, but that, in itself, is a mark of his faithfulness and willingness to be of service to the Kirk. As we thank Keith for his ministry among us, my colleagues and I will seek to fill the gaps his leaving causes as best we can.

Worship Highlights

There are several special features of the worship calendar to note in the coming weeks. We will acknowledge Scout Sunday on February 5, farewell Dr. Provost on February 12, and welcome the Choir of Alma College to our Communion service on the first Sunday of Lent, February 26.

In March, we will welcome another fine class of new members at the second service on March 11, enjoy another Youth Sunday on March 18 and commission a new group of Stephen Ministers on March 25.

All of which takes us almost completely through Lent - Palm Sunday is April 1, and the start of Holy Week. This is a spiritually significant time of year and our worship observances offer us rich opportunities to deepen and develop our faith.

Since last year's decision to allow time for the redevelopment of the St. Andrew's service, meetings have been held to explore possibilities and express the various modes of worship an alternative service might offer. No final decision has been arrived at to date and the work continues with a serious commitment to find an alternative worship form that will meet a real need within the congregation and beyond.

New Member Class

Those of you who have joined the Kirk in recent years may well remember the way we had too much information about the Kirk to impart in too little time, and even that was only scratching the surface on most topics! Conscious of that, we had been working to devise a more satisfactory format for our new member orientation that will allow us to do justice to the richness of our faith and Presbyterian heritage, and the rich ministry offerings that this congregation enjoys.

There is currently a new member class in session and the program for this will stretch over seven Sundays as part of the Passport to Faith program between services. We believe this will allow a more realistic sharing of information with participants and give opportunity for attendees to develop relationships with one another in the class and with pastors and other Congregational leaders taking part in the program.

The content of the program is outlined on page 6 of this issue of the *Kirk News* and if any Kirk members, whether recently admitted to membership or not, wish to explore any of the topics offered in the class, they are welcome to do so, even on a one-off basis! Check @ *The Kirk* to learn where the class is meeting and simply turn up - everyone is welcome!

I can't emphasize strongly enough that we intend these classes to be exploratory, and hope that people know they can attend without obligation. The classes explain the basics of church membership and any of the pastors is always willing to speak with anyone who is interested in exploring church membership.





Music

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Neighborhood Concert Series

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra Neighborhood Concert Series at the Kirk continues with a concert on Saturday, February 4 at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary featuring works by Mozart, including his *Fourth Violin Concerto*, featuring Taiwanese violin sensation Cho-Liang Lin, both as soloist and conductor. The series continues at the Kirk on Saturday, March 10, with violinist Joseph Silverstein leading the orchestra in works by Beethoven and Mozart.

Tickets are \$25 and available through the DSO box office (not through the Kirk music office) by calling (313) 576-5111 or online at www.dso.org. The DSO Neighborhood Series has been enthusiastically received, with all concerts selling out well in advance including the January concert at the Kirk, so if you are planning to attend either of the concerts at the Kirk purchase your tickets early!



Conspirare in Concert

The five-time, Grammy-nominated chamber choir Conspirare will be heard in concert in the Kirk sanctuary on Sunday, March 4 at 3:00 p.m. under the direction of its artistic director Dr. Craig Hella Johnson. Kirk Director of Music Glenn Miller and Chancel Choir staff singer Nicole Greenidge are both members of this critically-acclaimed and award-winning ensemble. Tickets for the concert are \$35 preferred seating, \$25 general admission, and \$10 for students (with ID), and go on sale February 1 through the music office. Buy your tickets early as there is great interest in the regional choral community surrounding this concert – we expect it to be a sell-out.



As a part of Conspirare's residency at the Kirk during the weekend, there will be an open rehearsal on Saturday, March 3 from 1:30 to 4:45 p.m. in the sanctuary for the public, both musicians and non-musicians alike. Johnson is regarded as one of the greatest American choral conductors of our time, and to experience him working with singers is truly inspirational, as he has a most unique gift in communicating to others what music, art and the greater community are all about. His insights speak to humanity – not just musicians – in a most profound and insightful way, so come for all or part of the open rehearsal.



Looking ahead –

Palm Sunday, April 1, 4:00 p.m.
Annual Holy Week Organ and Voice Concert
presented by Glenn Miller and Chancel Choir soloists

Good Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
A Choral Meditation on the Passion of Christ
presented by the Chancel Choir

Sunday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.
The Annual Spring Choir Festival
presented by the Youth Choirs and the Chancel Choir





Children, Youth & Families

Youth Sunday – March 18



By Rev. Tres Adams

On Sunday, March 18, the youth will be leading both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services in our annual Youth Sunday. Young people from our youth choirs, youth string ensemble, Mid High and Senior High youth groups, and Confirmation program will lead us in the hearing of God's Word and the worship of Christ through their gifts, talents and skills. We look forward to having you join us on that Sunday in particular as we show our support and encouragement for our youth in their faith journeys. This will be a wonderful experience for all involved, as his children lead us in the worship of our Lord!

Youth Groups

By Kevin Krawczyk

Amazing things are happening in our youth groups. The Senior Highs are well on their way to planning their mission trip to Puerto Rico this summer. They have been busy with fundraisers and learning some Spanish vocabulary. On Sunday, February 5 our Senior Highs will have a Super Bowl Party in the Youth Room. Everyone in grades 9-12 is welcome. Our Senior High Winter Retreat will take place March 2-3. Details about this trip will arrive closer to the date.

The Mid Highs will be very busy the next few months preparing for their summer mission trip to the Pittsburgh Project. On Saturday, February 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., our annual Souper Bowl of Soup fundraiser (sponsored by Men of the Kirk) takes place in the refectory. All Kirk members are welcome to join in this supportive and fun event. Wednesday, February 8 is our sledding/pizza party, followed by a lock-in and Nerf war in March.

The winter months are a great time to join us for Youth Group. As always we look forward to meeting new people. If you are unsure about getting involved or have a question, please contact me any time at kkrawczyk@kirkinthehills.org.



Mark Your Calendars!



Vacation Bible School
August 13-17
Registration begins in April!



Congregation News

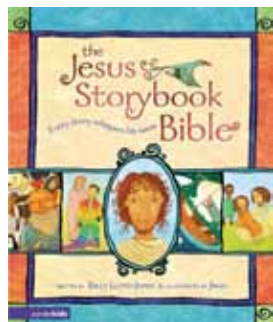
Celebrating Lent?

By Kelly Shriver

During the Season of Lent, we might associate “celebration” with Palm Sunday, Easter, or even Fat Tuesday, but we rarely think of Lent as a time of “celebration.” Instead, Lent tends to take on a somber, heavy quality, which might seem a bit difficult to integrate into the busy lives of our children and families.

This Lent, I would encourage you and your family to bring “celebration” to this season. As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, here are a few ideas for how your family can spend time together celebrating Lent:

- Look for the color purple around the Kirk on Sunday. During Lent, we use purple to remind ourselves that Jesus is our King.
- Make pretzels* or hot cross buns, which are two traditional Lenten treats. The icing on the buns and the shape of the pretzel both remind us of the role of the cross during Lent.
- Instead of giving something up for Lent, add something! Take time each day to pray or read a story from your *Jesus Storybook Bible* as a family.
- Encourage your children to do extra chores and use the proceeds to participate in our Sunday School Lenten Book Collection.
- Come to our Family Easter Celebration on Palm Sunday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m.



Lent is a serious time of the year, and preparing our minds and hearts for Holy Week is a necessary and important task. However, this year, include a little “celebration” in your preparation as you walk with your family through the Lenten season.

* A recipe for pretzels is available in the 2nd Floor Abbey Lounge. Pick up a copy and make pretzels with your family during Lent.

New Member Class Comes to Adult Education Hour!

The New Member Information Class has transformed into a seven-week series that is open to prospective members as well as current members interested in learning more about our church and faith. The series follows this format:

- Class 1: How We Worship – explains the sacraments and the liturgical year. Have you ever wondered about the colors found on the pulpit and the minister’s sashes? What does it mean to follow the lectionary? Join us for answers to these questions and more!
- Class 2: What it Means to be Presbyterian
- Class 3: The Reformed Tradition
- Class 4: Education, Being a Presbyterian and You – explains the importance of education in the Reformed tradition; introduces some of the Bible studies, classes and book studies currently offered.
- Class 5: Stewardship and Mission at the Kirk – explains where we are at work in our community and across the world, as well as what we hope to do.
- Class 6: Pastoral Care – focuses on the needs of the congregation and benevolent activities at the Kirk. Learn about the Care Team, Alzheimer’s group, Prayer Cordon, Deacons and Stephen Ministers.
- Class 7: Time with Dr. Norman Pritchard and Rev. Carol Tate



On a Sunday shortly after the final class, new member admission takes place at one of the services, followed by a reception in Heritage Hall.

To register for the next seven-week session, contact Kathe Cameron at (248) 626-2515, ext. 126 or kcameron@kirkinthehills.org.





Passport 2 Faith: 2 Hours Together Lenten Study Program

Join us in one of the classes below at 10:10 a.m. each Sunday. There is something for everyone!



History of the Bible: How Our Biblical Canon Was Formed, led by Robert Beck

Sundays through February 26
10:10-10:50 a.m. in the St. Andrew's Room

Book Study, Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Faith in Your Kids, led by Susan Krawczyk

Sundays through February 26
10:10-10:50 a.m. in the Bride's Room
(3rd floor, Kirk House)

A Book Study/Discussion Group for Young Adults, led by various Kirk Members

Sundays through June
10:10-10:50 a.m. in Abbey 31

Feasting on the Word: A Lectionary-based Bible Study, led by Tom & Doris Holt

Sundays, September through June
10:10-10:50 a.m. in Abbey 34

Between Services Bible Study, led by Bill Robinson

Sundays, September through June
10:15 a.m. in Abbey 29

The Daily News and The Good News: A Discussion Group, led by various Kirk Members

Sundays (all year)
10:15 a.m. in the Upper Room

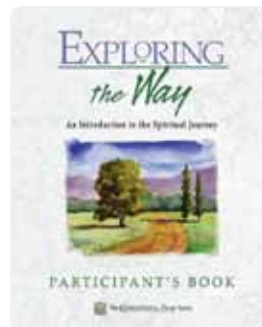
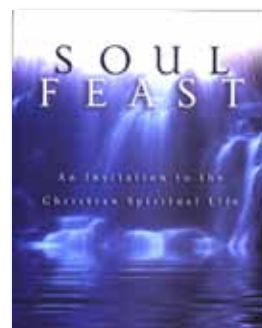
Are You Ready to Take a Spiritual Journey?

If you are looking for deeper meaning in your faith, a deeper sense of purpose, and a greater sense of destiny in your life, our study for this Lenten season will be an inspiring experience. We will study Christian spirituality using a book by Rev. Marjorie Thompson. Wherever we are on our spiritual journey, this study will help us come to a deeper understanding of God and see more clearly how God is redeeming and healing humanity. It will help us experience and be a part of what God is about, in our lives and in our world.

Ms. Thompson has spent her ministry in writing and teaching about Christian spirituality. She has written two books, *Soul Feast* and *Exploring the Way* and is currently director of Pathways Center for Congregational Spirituality. Marjorie was educated at Swarthmore College and McCormick Theological Seminary. She was also a research fellow in the study of spirituality at Yale Divinity School.

As a highlight of our Lenten study, Thompson will join us at the Kirk the weekend of March 23-25 to present a lecture on Christian spirituality and to lead us in a Saturday in-house retreat which will include in-depth study sessions, a luncheon, and a Service of Communion. She will also preach at our Sunday morning services.

The Lenten studies will be held on Wednesday evenings, February 29 through March 28. More detailed information will be coming soon.



Lou Gordon Retires

Lou Gordon, long-time sexton of Kirk in the Hills, retired on January 31, 2012. Lou started working at the Kirk in September of 1985: her service of more than 26 years is longer than any other employee! She was well known and appreciated by many members. In addition to performing a variety of duties as a sexton, Lou's specialty was in the detail cleaning, such as the brass and other metals, and she kept the pew racks filled with envelopes and information. Please join us in wishing her a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Best Wishes!



Kirk Day of Service

Kirk Day of Service is a fellowship of women who continue a long tradition of support for organizations such as Kirk Tutors (knitting hats for children and decorating/providing cookies for their annual Christmas party) and Beaumont Hospital NICU. They also provide sewing and an afghan ministry in which the women create fleece afghans for chronically-ill Kirk members and Presbyterian Village residents.

Recently this group prepared fleece afghans for The Well of Mercy in Chicago, a newly-opened ministry that offers a residential home environment to single and pregnant mothers who courageously choose life for their unborn children and who need shelter, education, emotional support and spiritual guidance to build a poverty-free future for their families.



At press time we received this Christmas photo from Earl Holt, President of Good Shepherd Orphanage in Haiti. A message from the children and staff was included: "We are truly blessed by God at the Good Shepherd Orphanage because you love us. Your visit(s) let us know that we are not forsaken, forgotten or abandoned. Thank you for being so good to us."

Stephen Ministry: Christ Caring for People through People



Stephen Ministry provides one-on-one caring and supportive relationships, grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. We all experience difficult times in life. Having someone to care, listen, and share God's love can help us cope with the confusion, stress, or loneliness we may be experiencing.

A Stephen Minister is...

- A child of God who walks beside a hurting person
- A caring Christian friend who really listens
- A Kirk member and lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care

A Stephen Minister is not a counselor, a problem-solver or a casual visitor.

Who can Stephen Ministry help?

Anyone who is experiencing a life transition, hospitalization, illness, disability, bereavement, childbirth, divorce, job loss, retirement, career crisis, relocation, a spiritual crisis, or loneliness.

Stephen Ministry is always confidential. A Stephen Minister will not tell others about conversations or even acknowledge that a person is receiving care.

How does the referral process work?

- Our Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator (Laura Ambrose) learns about this need for care – from the pastor, the person, or a friend, always with the person's permission.
- Laura talks with the person about Stephen Ministry.
- With the person's permission, Laura assigns a Stephen Minister to meet on a weekly basis with the person.

If you are hurting and in need of Christian care please contact Laura Ambrose at (248) 952-5186.



Board of Deacons

Christmas Recap

It's 2012. Wait, what happened to 2011?! December 2011 was a whirlwind of activity for the Deacons, delivering over 40 Christmas cactus plants to homebound and hospitalized members along with a CD of the Carol Festival featuring our youth choirs. The recipients were appreciative to be remembered during this busy and blessed season.

In addition, the Deacons want to thank Kirk members and friends for their generous donations towards the 2011 Adopt-a-Family program. Donations this year exceeded \$15,300. We were able to assist numerous families through the following organizations: The Salvation Army, Judson Center, Grace Centers of Hope, Baldwin Center, Bethany Christian Services and A Place of Refuge. Your donations helped us to provide clothing, toys, food, gas cards, and household items for struggling families. Additionally, 121 books were purchased and donated to Bethany Christian Services as gifts for foster children.

Our goal for the Christmas Season was to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families in our community and we were able to do that with your help - and we thank you!

Health Ministry

Health Ministry has been busy keeping Kirk members informed about health-related topics and providing health services. In November, the Visiting Nurse Association gave over 30 flu immunizations to the congregation. In December, we stressed safe snow shoveling and winter activities. In January, we reviewed the top ten most common New Year resolutions. February will be nutrition month concentrating on the program *Aim for a Healthy Weight* using tools such as a body mass index and tips to weight loss success. March will be a self-guided tour through the inside of our beautiful church. As you walk, take in the beauty and history of the Kirk while getting a bit of exercise. We will continue taking blood pressure readings on the second Sunday of the month. We will keep you posted with ways to stay healthy.

Open Door Volunteers

Open Door Volunteers greet guests at the Kirk sanctuary door each weekday from 10:00 a.m.-noon, and 2:00-4:00 p.m. They make it possible to have the Kirk open weekdays for members, guests, and visitors seeking time to come in to pray or to visit. Our volunteers are at a table in the narthex to greet them. We need many more volunteers who can give two hours on their chosen days to keep the Kirk open to the public. This is a wonderful quiet time to bring a book, needlework or any deskwork while you wait for a visitor. We can't do this without willing volunteers and we are seeking more members to offer their help. Please contact Crystal Thomas at (248) 926-9737 to volunteer. Anyone can do this and you will be making a big difference.



Parish Register

Deaths

Grace L. Bond
Jean Miles
Dorothy E. (Dottie) Ellis
Donald VanEvery
Blanche E. "Penney" Buhler
Linda S. Lott
Fred Shaw

Marriages

Kyle R. Derkacz and
Eva C. Aylesworth
Justin J. Ripley and
Aimee B. Vella

Baptisms

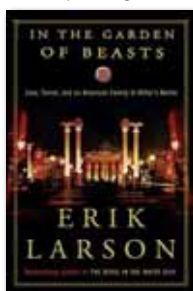
Johanna C. N. Mitchell
Jennifer Maslowsky
Brynn C. Piceu
Elliot A. Sachs
Michaela H. Maddox



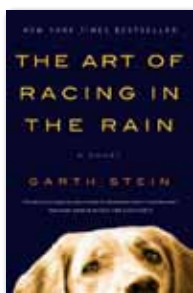
Small Groups

Book-of-the-Month Club

The only thing better than curling up with a good book on a winter day is having the chance to gather with other book lovers to discuss the book! The Book-of-the-Month Club offers you the opportunity to beat the winter blahs. Join us on Thursday, February 16 at noon in Abbey 27 to discuss Erik Larson's *In The Garden of Beasts*. The book tells the story of William Dodd, America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany. Seeing history through the experiences and reflections of Dodd, his wife and daughter will provide a wonderful springboard for our discussion! Newcomers are always very welcome, so get the book, invite a friend, and join us!



The March book selection is Garth Stein's *The Art of Running in the Rain*. "Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver...a heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life...as only a dog could tell it." Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 15 at noon, and plan to come!

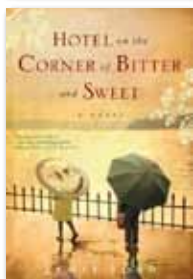


Sneak peek:

Thursday, April 19 - *Friday Night Knitting Club*

Thursday, May 17 - *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*.

Please note: Books for the Book-of-the-Month Club discussions can be pre-ordered by contacting the Adult Ministry Office at amc@kirkinthehills.org or (248) 626-2515, ext. 117.



Trinity Stitchers



The Trinity Stitchers gathered on Tuesday, December 6 for an evening of Christmas cheer and fun in beautiful downtown Rochester. In addition, the group stopped in at a local yarn shop to get ideas for future projects. The group has been busy making shawls and blankets for members who are no longer able to attend church, as well as baby blankets for little ones being baptized at the Kirk. Our upcoming meetings are Tuesday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 27 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and again from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Kirk (pick the time that works best for your schedule). Please join us and share in this caring ministry by knitting, crocheting, writing notes, donating yarn, providing financial support, and praying for the recipients of the shawls and blankets. We truly appreciate the congregation's support. Contact Susan File at skfile@comcast.net or (248) 760-5025 with questions or for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Film & Fellowship

Film & Fellowship small group meets monthly to view a current movie; then gathers to enjoy a light meal and fellowship afterwards. The group is open to Kirk members and friends whether couples or singles. Some months we meet first for a meal then view the film depending on the movie times. We are seeking new members so please join us. A message will be sent several days ahead regarding the exact film, place, and time. If you are interested in this group, please contact Joan Cheng at (248) 788-3796 or jhcheng@pol.net.





Barnabas Small Group

Looking for a weekly Bible study in a small group setting? The Barnabas group would love to welcome you! The group meets most Monday nights at Dave & Nancy Lau's home from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Gatherings include time for dessert, fellowship and study. Currently the group is reading and discussing the Book of Acts. No prior Bible study experience is needed - just bring your Bible and a heart for learning! Please call the Laus for details and directions: (248) 645-1895.

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

Every Saturday morning for the past 15 years or so, several men from the Kirk have met for breakfast and Bible study at the Orchard Grill in Keego Harbor. We start at 7:30 a.m., order our food, and then together answer study guide questions from one of the books in the Bible. Right now we are about to finish I and II Timothy.

In a reference to Proverbs 27:12, we believe that iron sharpens iron. We also recognize the value of mutual encouragement from friends you have grown to trust and love. We sense there is an ever-moving and ever-so-delicate balance between traditional understanding of what our faith is and how God continually reshapes our thinking as we turn to the Bible for guidance and clarity on the issues of our day.

Although we began this group with all men from the Kirk, we have expanded as some of us have brought our friends. All Kirk men are invited to join in this rich fellowship. Just show up next Saturday at 7:30 a.m., or contact Sam Clark with any questions.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another... Hebrews 10:24-25

Kirk Seniors



February Luncheon - On Tuesday, February 21, David and Lin-Lin Chock will be our speakers. They enjoyed an interesting trip to Patagonia and will show us some of the wonderful sights of this country. Patagonia is a region located in Argentina and Chile, steeped in history. The name Patagonia comes from the word patagón used by Magellan in 1520 to describe the native people that his expedition thought to be giants. It is now believed the Patagons were actually Tehuelches with an average height of 5'11" compared to the 5'1" average for Spaniards of the time. Doesn't that sound like an interesting place? Come and learn about an area many of us will probably never visit. Join the seniors for this program and lunch. Please make checks payable to *Kirk Seniors* for \$12 to reach the Kirk by Thursday, February 16.

March Luncheon - On Tuesday, March 20 we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with accordion music by our own Kirk sexton, Lee Neubeck. We all love the Irish tunes and this will be great fun. Be sure to make your reservations for the celebration of the green. Please make checks payable to *Kirk Seniors* for \$12 to reach the Kirk by Thursday, March 15.



Exercise Class for Seniors

Join us at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday and Friday mornings in Heritage Hall for a great exercise class! Our instructor, Pon Fisher, is highly trained and certified by American Fitness in Senior Fitness, Aerobics, CPR, Pilates, Spin, Step, Tai Chi, and Yoga. Each class has varying movements and never becomes routine or boring. Exercise in this class will help with balance, strength, the heart, knee replacement, and arthritis to name only a few benefits. You do not have to be a Kirk member or a senior to join us. Try one class for free - you will feel great afterwards.





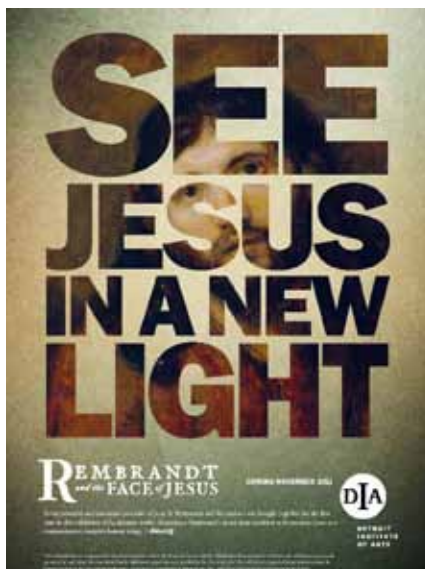
Women of the Kirk

Winter Gathering – Saturday, February 4

Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus at the DIA

Each February, Women’s Ministry Council plans a Winter Gathering dinner and program. This year we thought that we would do something different. Join other women of the Kirk as we head together to the Detroit Institute of Arts on Saturday, February 4 for a preview of this fascinating exhibition. We will carpool from the Kirk and plan to have lunch in Detroit (exact times to be announced).

Seven powerful and emotional portraits of Jesus by Dutch master painter Rembrandt van Rijn and his students are brought together for the first time in this exhibition of 64 intimate works. Experience Rembrandt’s break from traditional seventeenth-century representations of Jesus as he portrays him as a compassionate, complex human being. Please email Cathy Payton for more information: whoop108@comcast.net.



Detroit Institute of Arts, member preview mailer

Blanket Fund

Each year during the month of February, Women of the Kirk sponsors participation in the Church World Service Blankets Plus Fund Drive. For more than 60 years, Church World Service has helped those who have been affected by disaster as well as those in need of a warm place to lay their head. A donation of \$5 will buy a specially designed blanket to be used in disaster relief areas around the world. The blanket is designed to keep victims both warm and dry.

Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future. Besides blankets, other resources provided are tools, tents, emergency supplies, and literacy training. In addition to the Blankets Plus Fund, Church World Service sponsors the CROP Hunger Walk, which the Kirk also participates in each year.

Please consider donating \$5 per blanket to help those less fortunate than ourselves. During the month of February there will be envelopes in the pew racks and in the literature racks if you wish to donate.



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+**

Women of the Kirk Annual Retreat – Changes!

Saturday/Sunday – April 14–15

Let Your Life Speak

After careful thought, the retreat committee has decided to revise our weekend retreat. We are planning to have a thought-provoking and reflective retreat on April 14–15 (only one night) at the Weber Center in Adrian. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, spend the night at this great facility (private baths/double rooms – meals included), worship together on Sunday morning and leave for home before noon on Sunday. All for the cost of \$115!

Our retreat is being planned with the input of our new associate pastor, Rev. Carol Tate, who will be providing the content of our sessions. The theme for this year’s retreat is *Let Your Life Speak*. This year’s retreat will be reflective in its approach and will hopefully bring out the best that God has given us. We’re counting on your presence, so plan early to join us at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan...a short distance from the Kirk and well worth the trip. If you would be interested in helping with the retreat, please contact chairpersons Phyllis Mazure at (248) 299-5361, phylmazure@aol.com or Jayne Dodge at (248) 626-7142, lowellandjayne@gmail.com.





Beatitudes Bible Study Group – Trip to Gleaners

By Davetta Horner



How are you called to respond when you hear that one in five children in our country go to bed hungry each night, or that 100% of the 467 children who attend Pontiac's Rogers Elementary School in Auburn Hills are part of the Federal Food Assistance Program? This school building is located just ten miles from Kirk in the Hills.

These statistics and this information rang in the ears and touched the hearts of a few women from the Confessing the Beatitudes Bible Study Group led by Rev. Carol Tate. They worked at Gleaners in Pontiac on Tuesday morning, December 20, 2011 and in two hours they prepared 657 weekend food packets for school-age children. One of the on-site joys was that they were partnered with a small group of students (and moms) from two Bloomfield Hills Schools (Conant Elementary School and Bloomfield Hills Middle School). Cooperatively, in assembly line fashion, they stood beside and across from each other at a long table and put five items of food into plastic bags: a box of Cheerios, a can of corn, a can of applesauce and two cans of beef stew.

As we move forward in the year(s) ahead, we will be thinking about how we might make greater contributions to the local and global issue of hunger among God's people with mission projects such as this one.

What was on your plate this past weekend?

Men of the Kirk

Men's Breakfast Series



Each Friday at 7:00 a.m. in the St. Andrew's Room. Men and women members, family and friends are invited to attend.

Souper Bowl of Soup Challenge

Saturday, February 4 from 5:30–7:00 p.m. in the refectory



Blood Drive

Monday, February 6 from 2:00–8:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall



Details on these events can be found on the Kirk website and in the weekly publication, *@ The Kirk*.

Kirk

Our Faith in Action

By Sydrena Epstein

Broadway on the Lake

The Legacy Giving Auction Committee hopes you will join us on Saturday, May 5 for *Broadway on the Lake*, an evening of fine dining (prepared by Chef and Kirk member Jack Leone) with a performance of Broadway show tunes presented by the Michigan Opera Theatre. The major focus of the event will be a live and silent auction of many interesting and fun auction articles.

We are currently looking for items to include in the auction – perhaps you have something you would like to donate. There are many possibilities – theatre tickets, airline tickets, gift certificates, jewelry, estate pieces, gift baskets, and sports memorabilia. We have already received offers of vacation homes, personal services, art pieces, a child's painted step stool, knit coat (hand-made with your choice of yarn), boys bicycles, gift baskets, and more. Hopefully this has piqued your interest.

The event is being held to bring awareness about Legacy Giving and to raise money for the Kirk's Current Ministries Endowment Fund. If you have any questions or wish to offer an item for the auction, please contact Sydrena Epstein at (248) 646-1910 or sydrena@comcast.net.

Confirmation Program

The purpose of the Kirk's Confirmation Program is to educate young people about our faith, our history and our Reformed Theology, and to instill spiritual disciplines. The program is open to boys and girls entering grade nine or higher.

“As the world pushes and pulls our young people in all different directions, knowing who they are and whose

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



they are as well as becoming versed in the spiritual disciplines gives our children the spiritual awareness and the vital tools they will need to help them make their relationship with Christ the priority in their lives,” said Rev. Tres Adams, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families Ministry.

Participants in the program are challenged to attend 27 Sundays of classes taught by an amazing team of well-prepared teachers. Additionally, the confirmands are asked to attend a three-day retreat, be involved in service projects, attend a special dinner with Session, and have a pastoral interview.

Parents of the confirmands play a crucial role as well. They understand that the faith they want their children to have, they must also have. Parents are also asked to attend a class that is conveniently held at the same time as the confirmation class. Parents of the confirmands also act as chaperones for the retreat and service projects, as drivers to and from the various events, and most importantly, as examples of Christians committed to their faith.

The current program began in September 2011 and will conclude in May. On May 20 – Confirmation Sunday – the students will be confirmed as members of Kirk in the Hills during the Sunday worship service. What a proud day this will be for them, their parents, and our Kirk community.

Grief Workshops

The loss of a loved one is one of the most, if not the most, traumatic experience you will encounter in your lifetime. While people often say in sympathy, “I understand what you are going through,” every individual is different.

To help with the personal grief process, the Board of Deacons at the Kirk has been sponsoring an eight-week program entitled *From Grief to New Hope* for several years now, which is available to Kirk members as well as friends.

Each week, a speaker addresses a subject related to dealing with the effects of the grieving process. Immediately following the lecture, attendees break up into smaller groups, going with a facilitator to discuss the lecture and process the information. Each of the small groups is made up of those with a similar loss (such as the loss of a spouse, parent, child, or sibling).

Often participants are reluctant to attend in the beginning but find that by the end of the program, they feel more encouraged to face the future and realize that they are not alone in their feelings.

The next eight-week program is scheduled to begin on Thursday, March 15. If you would like more information or know someone who might benefit from this program, please call (248) 626-2515, ext. 126.



Outreach and Mission

The Holy Land – An Open Bible

By Sam Clark

Dateline: Tuesday, November 8, 2011, Tel Aviv. The non-stop flight from Philadelphia was nearly over. Fourteen Kirk members and friends were about to join 17 Russians from the Central Baptist Church in Moscow for a week-long tour of Israel. As we peeked out of the plane and crossed the eastern Mediterranean shoreline at Tel Aviv, our minds and hearts were filled with anticipation about really being present in the Holy Land. Then it struck me that regardless of what I would see and do over the next week, it was important to remember that this relatively small country is the land, the parcel of real estate, which God selected for revealing himself to the world... and to all mankind. I would need to evaluate each individual experience in light of this truth. We would indeed be setting foot on holy ground.

Two days later I awoke realizing that the country is virtually an open Bible, giving testament to anyone who will see and listen that Jesus lived and walked here. It calls to all who come, to see and believe (John 20:24-31). Better than reading about events that happened long ago, travelers are able to visit actual locations and see for themselves.

Please stay tuned to future editions of the *Kirk News* where other members of our travel team will be sharing their reflections as well.



Ministry With Pontiac: Dragons in Pontiac

On Wednesday, November 9, 2011, the Kirk's Ministry with Pontiac transformed the gymnasium at Jefferson/Whittier Elementary School in Pontiac into a full-service movie theater complete with popcorn and juice boxes. Over 160 students and their families enjoyed *How to Train Your Dragon*. It was a lively evening and many lucky participants received free DVDs in a drawing. Ten Kirk volunteers kindly gave their time to make the evening possible and were rewarded with many thanks and smiles as the delighted families departed at the end of the show.

Kirk Tutors – Christmas Party

By Martha Sorge



On Thursday, December 15, 2011, volunteers from Kirk Tutors and their students enjoyed a Christmas celebration at the Kirk to celebrate the season and the relationships they enjoy. The afternoon began with a wonderful visit and message given to the children by Rev. Tres Adams. The planning for this event began months in advance with the involvement of many groups at the Kirk. Two different knitting groups made hats and scarves for the children, and volunteers from Kirk Day of Service spent hours baking and decorating beautiful Christmas cookies. There were donations of balloons, clothing items and a very generous donation of new books for the students. The party began with pizza and Nancy Lau's famous Jello jigglers! After an exciting game of bingo the winners had a chance to shop for their prizes from the items that were donated. The party concluded with our own Kirk Tutor, Dave Falvay, playing his trombone and all of us singing Christmas carols.



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