



Memorial Presbyterian Church

Grapevine

Monthly Newsletter
August 2010

“ . . . Which Welcomes All People ”

J. David Pierce, Pastor

***Memorial Presbyterian Church is called to be a Christ-centered caring community,
which welcomes all people.***

(The first line of the Mission Statement of Memorial Presbyterian Church)

At the end of Luke's Gospel we find these words: *“And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation’* (Luke 16:15). We who worship at Memorial Presbyterian Church could interpret these words to mean that we are urged to take the love of Christ into every person's world.

- . . . take it to those who grew up in the faith and who are deeply moved by carefully written liturgy and traditional worship experiences;
- . . . take it to those who find the Holy Spirit mysteriously moving their hearts in the midst of worship surrounded with contemporary Christian music;
- . . . take it to those who find God's presence within a more intimate and small group setting where worship feels like belonging to a family;
- . . . take it to those who live in places, like Uganda, where in the midst of poverty the riches of God's love compel them to dance and sing for hours at a time;
- . . . take it to those who live in rural communities, like Beaverton, where Christ can be felt within the familiar smiles and the expected hugs of neighbors;
- . . . take it to those who are young adults in large cities, like Chicago, where some have previously left the institutional church as irrelevant or hurtful;
- . . . take it to those who are behind walls of oppression, like in Bethlehem, where children still receive the compassionate gifts of music and education;
- . . . take it to those who we will never meet or truly know, but who are connected to us through the many mission offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Thank you for your continued support of our mission to demonstrate the Kingdom of God to the world—at our different worship services, 10:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 8:00 a.m. —and through our direct mission involvements in Uganda, Beaverton, Wicker Park Grace in Chicago, as well as through the Bethlehem Project and other mission outreaches so generously supported by our congregation.

No doubt, God will call us to continue “our welcome of all people” in new ways!



Prayers

Care through Prayer for our loved ones in the Armed Forces:

Chaplain Major Timothy S. Moermond, United States Air Force; Lt. Col. David B. Misner, MD, United States Army; David Johnson, National Guard; Captain Mike Dumas, United States Air Force; Captain Jeffrey VanSickle, United States Army; Cadet Michael VanSickle, United States Military Academy; Major Tom Kapla, United States Army; Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Carothers, United States Air Force; Private Second Class Bryce E. Tunnell, United States Army; Col. Harry Tunnell, United States Army; Sergeant Michael Miner, United States Army; Second Lieutenant Justin Mishler, United States Army; SPC William S. Milford, United States Army; Ensign Maggie Holbein, United States Navy; Chaplain – Cpt. David Kelley, United States Army Reserve

Sympathy

Sympathy to Patrick and Jennifer Kirts and family in the passing of Patrick's aunt, Mary Donna (Kirts) Brent, June 15, 2010, in Springfield, Illinois.

Sympathy to Robert (Bob) Bridge and family in the passing of his daughter Mary (Bridge) Pomranky, June 22, 2010. Mary's sister is Roberta (Bobbi) Bridge Bush.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Winifred (Winnie) VandenBerg, June 27, 2010.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Gilbert Ward, June 27, 2010.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Priscilla Gorman, July 15, 2010, in Novi, Michigan.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Margaret Z. Cook on the celebration of her 90th birthday, June 25.

Congratulations to David and Jenny Pierce on the celebration of their 38th wedding anniversary, July 15, 2010.

Congratulations to Chelsea Irish and Josh Peplinski on the birth of their son James Hunter Peplinski, July 3, 2010. Great-grandparents are Carolyn and Jim Mitchell.

Congratulations to Bud Frasch on the celebration of his 90th birthday, July 21, 2010.

Congratulations to John Thomas Schehl and Hillary Munoz on the birth of their daughter Izabella Grace Schehl on June 15, 2010. Grandparents are John R. Schehl and Susan (Church) Schehl. Great-Grandmother is Hannah Baker Church.

Congratulations to Hannah Baker Schehl on the birth of her daughter Adrianna Louanna Schehl on June 24, 2010. Grandparents are John R. Schehl and Susan (Church) Schehl. Great-Grandmother is Hannah Baker Church.

Congratulations to Sara (Furst) and Ryan Armbruster on the birth of their son Afton Xavier Armbruster, July 3, 2010, in Castle Rock, Colorado. Grandparents are Dale and Kay Furst.

Memorial Gathering Planned

Friends of Hugh A. Starks are invited to an informal gathering with his family on Saturday, August 14, 2010, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Starks retreat at 6909 West Harbor Way (M-109) in Glen Arbor, Michigan. Directions are available through the church office.

In the News

Arnie Huntress and *Wayne Barrett* are among the featured instrumentalists for the 101st season of the Chemical City Band. Concerts are performed weekly on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Central Park in the Ted Nicholson Band Shell (Central School Auditorium in case of inclement weather). *Charlie Gildart* is remembered as "most loyal fan."

Rachael Elaine Communale served as Salutatorian of the Class of 2010 at Ipswich High School, Ipswich, Massachusetts. She is the daughter of *Richard* and *Kathy (Onan) Communale* and the granddaughter of *Elaine Onan*. Rachael will attend Cornell University.

Rachael Communale, granddaughter of *Elaine Onan*, is a featured violinist and Concertmaster for the Youth Repertory Orchestra at the New England Conservatory.

Eleanor J. Carothers has been named *Golden Soror of the Year* at the 79th Conference of the Great Lakes Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Eleanor is a life member of the Mu Alpha Omega Chapter in Midland. The Chapter won the Great Lakes Regional Award for its work in community outreach.

Adam Wolok and *Pierce Morley* and members of the Midland Lacrosse Club's grade 3-4 team won the recent Cranbrook LAX Jam Tournament. Adam is the son of *Jeff* and *Linda Wolok*. Pierce is the son of *Peter* and *Susan (Dent) Morley* and the grandson of *Nancy Dent*.

Lynne King, *Marcelle Herman*, *Stephanie Spence*, and *Guy Lynch* performed in the Camerata Singers presentation of *Bach Rocks!* on June 20, 2010, in the Sanctuary. The program was directed by *Jim Hohmeyer*. The Camerata Singers is sponsored by the Music Society of the Midland Center for the Arts.

Bobbie Arnold, *Gretchen Pretty*, *Mildred Putnam*, *Ruby Iwamasa*, *Judy Campbell*, and *Susan Putnam* are members of the Steering Committee for the *Women of Midland County Exhibit* planned for the Doan History Center in 2011.

Cameron Lippoldt won his age division in the Trusted Choice "Big I" State Qualifying Tournament at the Flushing Valley Golf Course. He will compete in the State Tournament on July 12 at Fortress Golf Course in Frankenmuth. Cameron is the son of *Adrienne Wiley* and *Scott Lippoldt*.

Nick Lyons represented Wolverine Bank as an instructor of personal finance for the students of Saint Brigid's School during the 2009-2010 school year.

Kim McMahan is among Midland Public School teachers who invited Spanish-speaking Great Lakes Loons players into the classroom. Kim is the Spanish teacher for Adams Elementary School.

Jeremy Brookens is a member of the championship grade 3-4 community lacrosse team. He is the son of *Diana* and *Todd Brookens* and the grandson of *Ron* and *Jan Brookens*.

Scott Neithamer and *Ben Brookens* with members of the Midland Fusion '93 (White) Soccer Team won the Michigan Youth Soccer League's U-17 Division. Scott is the son of *David* and *Elizabeth Neithamer* and the grandson of *Jeanette Neithamer*. Ben is the son of *Todd* and *Diana Brookens* and the grandson of *Ron* and *Jan Brookens*.

Scott Neithamer, *Michael Finn*, *Boris Gilson* and *Coach Dave Neithamer* celebrate the championship of the Midland Fusion '93 White Premier Boys' Soccer Team in the Petoskey Invitational U-17 Division.

The Reverend Wallace H. Mayton, III is one of the three recipients of the Midland Area Community Foundation, to be selected for the Giving Tree Award Recipients from the community of volunteers. "Reverend Mayton has repeatedly assisted the foundation in its efforts to connect with our local spiritual community as well as volunteering time to help with a variety of foundation projects. He serves on the cultural awareness committee. Wally recently assisted in helping to form and implement the foundation's Community Needs Survey."

Justin Huntress competed in the annual Math Olympics at Saginaw Valley State University. As a Level One participant for H. H. Dow High School, he and teammates earned first place. In the statewide Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, he earned ranking among the top 200 students. He is the son of *Kristie Sherrell* and *Michael Huntress* and the grandson of *Arnie* and *Betty Huntress*.

Katie Brinklow and *Patrick Kirts* will serve as Delegates to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University, July 19-24. They will participate in the event with other youth and adult representatives from churches in the Presbytery of Lake Huron. Katie is the daughter of *Doug* and *Sue Brinklow*.

Michael Dumas, United States Air Force, has received his promotion to Captain. Mike is the son-in-law of *David* and *Cady Ramaker*.

Cameron Lippoldt has attained the goal of playing on 100 different professional golf courses at age 13. Cameron began his golf career at age 4. He is the son of *Scott Lippoldt* and *Adrienne Wiley*.

Cameron Lippoldt won the State Championship for the 13-year-old men's division at the Riverwood State Junior Golf Tournament in Mount Pleasant. *Chaz Babin* placed third in the same division. *Conor Babin* placed second in the 12-year-old men's division. Cameron is the son of *Adrienne Wiley* and *Scott Lippoldt*. Chaz and Conor are the sons of *Jeff* and *Kay Babin*.

Gray and *Jane Gorton* announce the high school graduations of two grandchildren. They are *Libby Liane Gorton*, a 2010 graduate of Midland High School, and *Alex Gray Gorton*, a 2010 graduate of DeWitt High School. Both will be enrolled at Michigan State University.

Dr. Laura Currin Salter, Ph.D., granddaughter of *Ced* and *Betty Currin* received her M.D. degree from Ring's College of University College of London, England with distinction in Special Studies, Medical Science, and Clinical Practices. Upon completion of her M.D. degree course, she begins practice at North Middlesex Hospital and professorship at University College of London. Her parents are *Glenn* and *Gail Currin*.

Neighborhood Project Invites Service

August 9-13, are the dates of the 2010 Neighborhood Revitalization Project sponsored by Midland County Habitat for Humanity and Dow Chemical Company, Michigan Division. The selected neighborhood is Fournie Park in Midland. On Monday, August 9, Memorial Presbyterian Church will provide lunches, morning and afternoon snacks for 125 - 150 volunteers. Nancy Kuper serves as Volunteer Coordinator for the meal preparation. Please sign up at the Allen Street desk to volunteer to help prepare the lunches.



Start Your Ovens!!!

We need cookies for 125 - 150 workers. If you can help by baking some cookies, please bring them to the church before August 9th and

place them in the freezer in the main kitchen. Please mark them for Habitat. Thank you for your help. If you have questions please call Nancy Kuper at 835-9505.



Operation Fun Welcomes New N.M.F.C. Leadership

Alison Ginter, Program Coordinator of the Greater Midland Community Centers, has been named new Executive Director of North Midland Family Center (N.M.F.C). Alison will enjoy a working relationship with Operation Fun Director Nathan Kade. In 2010, Operation Fun begins a new partnership of support and administration that includes Memorial Presbyterian Church, North Midland Family Center, and Mills Township. Members of the congregation and friends are invited to visit the Operation Fun site at Mills Township Park on weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., through August 13.

Music Ministry

Standing in the choir room one Thursday evening, preparing for the Chancel Choir rehearsal, I thought about the people who would soon arrive. Workers, retirees, introverts, and comedians: everyone in the choir is a unique gift, surely.

What makes them leave the house on a cold and snowy night and come to choir rehearsal?

I suspect each person has different reasons, but I'm sure a few would be common to most.

We have a lot of fun, every week. Rehearsals are intensive, but we always find room for a good laugh or two. Or more.

And, there is something holy about bringing thirty different people together with music. It's an almost magical "whole-is-greater-than-the-sum-of-the-parts" phenomenon.

It's also a safe and friendly family, the Chancel Choir. We pray for one another, for our friends and family members, and we well understand that singing can make a person feel pretty vulnerable. We're careful to be positive and affirming.

Come join us, please. It's such a wonderful thing, and a simple willingness to sing is honestly the only requirement. You will get lots of applause the first time you come, and we will seat you next to a helpful and ultra-supportive buddy.



Alma College Picnic Invitation

Friends of Alma College are invited to the eleventh annual Alumni and Friends Cook-Out at Plymouth Park in Midland, Shelter A, on Tuesday, August 10, 2010, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Prospective students and their families are also invited. For reservations, call 1-800-291-1312, extension 2, or e-mail alumnihouse@alma.edu. Hamburgers, brauts, and table settings will be provided!

Presbyterian Women

August Events:

Horizons Bible Study Overview will be Wednesday, August 18 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A light supper will be served, followed by the presentation led by the Reverend Cathy Chang. The topic of the year's study is "Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today." Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming Events:

The Fall Gathering will be September 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Dessert and beverages will be served, followed by a program. The program will be presented by Stacey Smyczynski of the Mode House. The Mode House is a teaching environment for young women 17-25 years of age. It is a program designed to teach and support young women to learn the basic living skills that they will need to live successfully and productively in their community. Please join us to learn more about this excellent program. Everyone is welcome.

Circles, Bible Study and other groups will begin again in September. Watch the September Grapevine.

Summer Activities for Youth Offered

The ROCK Youth Center offers among its summer activities Pool Parties at Plymouth Pool. On three occasions – June 24, July 29, and August 26 – high school youth are invited to a free swim and refreshments at Plymouth Park. The event is hosted by the ROCK Youth Center and by Midland Area Partnership for Drug Free Youth. Memorial Presbyterian Church participates in sponsorship of the events through the benevolent outreach of the Board of Deacons.

Prayer Walk Invitation

Eagle Village will sponsor its annual Prayer Walk on its campus on August 17, 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. For information or directions to the campus in Hersey, Michigan call Lisa Spaugh, 231-832-6589. Eagle Village provides residential treatment for children and youth within the State of Michigan.

Memorial Gifts Enhance Landscape

The Memorial and Special Gifts Committee of Session has used designated gifts to the church to establish landscape memorials. The new garden at the corner of Ashman Street and Reardon Street incorporates the existing Peace Pole. The plantings surrounding the flowering trees along the Reardon Street driveway are dedicated through gifts from family and friends to Bob Martin. It was Bob's wish that features be added to our landscape as his memorial. We appreciate these additions and the leadership of the Landscape Team of Judy Dean, Scottie Cross, Connie Frye, and Nancy Kuper in implementing the projects. Landscape projects are directed under the guidance of Ivan Wood and the Board of Trustees.



Special Gift Attracts Attention

Members and friends using the Allen Street parking lot may notice new plantings along the storage building in the center of the parking lot. The grasses are a gift to the congregation from Phil and Ann Fitak, neighbors in the community. We thank Judy Dean and Scottie Cross for their initiative in implementing this landscape project. Funding for the additions to our grounds is a giving opportunity of the Dale Thomas Dean Memorial Landscape Fund. New gifts to the Memorial Fund are invited.

Hospitality Extended to Music Students

Dr. Adrienne Wiley and two graduate students in piano pedagogy at Central Michigan University hosted a piano mini-camp in July. The students are Loretta Lanning and Joy Morin. They write,

We are extremely thankful for the opportunity to hold our piano mini-camp in the church's facilities. The set-up for the event was handled well by the custodial staff, and all of our requests for equipment were negotiated with ease. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to hold our event at Memorial Church! We could not have had better facilities or instruments to work with. Thank you again for your willingness to host our event.

Dr. Adrienne Wiley serves as Professor of Piano and Pedagogy at Central Michigan University.

Safe Child Policy: Safety and Security for Children, Youth and Adults

Each Sunday morning, caregivers tend to toddlers and infants while their parents worship in the Assembly Room and Sanctuary. At Vacation Bible School, youth and adults volunteer in various capacities. Adult chaperones travel to Montreat for a weeklong camp experience, in addition to mission trips and other youth ministry events.

Here at Memorial Presbyterian Church, the staff and volunteers take seriously the need to create a safe and secure environment for our children and youth ministries. All employees and volunteers with children and youth ministries are required to read the Safe Child policy and fill out applications. All youth who are 17 and younger, must fill out personal information forms. Adults who are 18 years old and older, must submit appropriate paperwork for a criminal background check.

During the June Session meeting, the elders and pastors affirmed our existing Safe Child policy, with two major revisions. Here is a summary of the existing policy:

1. Adults who have been convicted of either sexual or physical abuse should not

volunteer services in any church sponsored activity or program for children, youth, or vulnerable adults.

2. Adults who have been violated physically or sexually need the love and acceptance of this church. In particular, being a past victim of abuse does not specifically exclude individuals from service in children or youth ministry. It is however our hope that any previously violated adults who are considering working with children or youth, have therapeutically resolved any issues in their past which might negatively impact their work as a volunteer. If these issues are resolved, we offer commendation. If they are not, we pray they will accept our willingness to help by connecting them with a pastor.
3. Individuals involved with the children and youth ministries should observe the "two person/open door" rule which requires an adult working with children or youth to be accompanied by a partner or to provide visual access to the room.
4. Individuals involved with children and youth ministries should immediately report suspected or inappropriate behaviors to their supervisor.

Below are two revisions to the policy:

1. Inclusion of staff members who can receive information about any suspected abuse or inappropriate behaviors. Now staff members include the Co-Directors of Children's Ministry and the Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministries.
2. Role of the Christian Education Committee and their review of this policy. This committee consists of program staff members and chairs of the Children's, Youth and Adult Ministry Teams. Every three years, this committee will review the policy and submit their recommendations to Session.

Bethlehem Partnership

We are bound through commitment, love and prayers. We recently received this update from our friend, Dr. Nuha Khourf. She is dean of the college where we sponsor these students.

We delight in sharing knowledge of our students and their academic success. We share in loss and sorrow as we learn of their personal challenges and family tragedy. God will continue to offer presence and healing.

Salaam from Bethlehem. I hope that all is well with you. Here is an update on the students you have sponsored.

Taghreed al-Azzeh, who has graduated, found employment in the city of Hebron with an NGO that works with youth and trains them to do films. She also works on a free lance basis doing films for the Ministry of youth and sports on issues of concern to youth. However, a big tragedy has hit her family very recently, since her father was hit by a truck and was instantly killed. Please pray for the family.

Reem Atiyeh has not graduated yet, but will be doing so next semester.

The two students who received scholarships are:

Shaima' Kanan, who is a first year music performance student (voice). She is specializing in oriental music.

Rula Abu Saada is a Contemporary Fine Arts Student. She is a first year student and last semester has gotten the highest point average in the college.

As for the music program and the new campus, we should be moving by August 2010 to begin the new academic year. We are putting the specifications for the bid now to purchase the music lab that you have supported and when all is in place we will send a report and pictures. I thank you for the support that you have extended and we look forward to continued partnership.

*Sincerely,
Dr. Nuha Khoury, Dean,
Dar al-Kalima College*

Greenhoe Library

Summer is moving along and hopefully you have had time to visit the Greenhoe Library. There are loads of good books and magazines. Check them out!



Eagle Village Offers New Program

Eagle Village announces the inauguration of *Changing Lanes To Change Lives: Youth Intervention Program*. The program will focus on youth and families in the areas of self-discovery, behavior modification, anger management, and life skill development. Referrals from individuals and families are accepted. For information on the program and its benefits, contact Deb Hill at Eagle Village, 231-832-7298. (www.eaglevillage.org) Eagle Village is located in Hersey, Michigan.

LOOK
**Special
Service Times!**

- ✚ **Sunday, September 5, 2010** – One Service only at **10:45 a.m.** in the Sanctuary
- ✚ **Monday, September 6, 2010** – Church building and office closed in observance of Labor Day
- ✚ **Sunday, September 12, 2010** – One Service only at **10:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary – **Fall Festival**

We Welcome You

The summer season provides opportunity for rest, renewal, and retreat. As we continue to anticipate the start of a new program year, we make preparations for exciting ministries and programs. One of our greatest excitements is our invitation to membership.

We continue to greet friends and neighbors. During August, our Sunday worship services gather at 9:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room and at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The early service features a contemporary music ministry and informal setting for worship. Our traditional Sanctuary service features special music in addition to hymns supported both by piano and organ. The sermon message in each service is consistent with the chosen lectionary Biblical texts for the dates.

We invite those interested in membership within the congregation to indicate interest through the Sunday worship Ministry of Friendship. Our pastors also welcome conversation. Contact may also be made through the church office on weekdays, 835-6759, or by e-mail messages. Addresses are available on our church web site, www.mempres.org.

Our mission includes a strong welcoming ministry. We hope our invitation to friendship and service among us is evident.

We remind visitors of the friendship gift bags available during our Sunday worship services. Please identify yourself as a new friend to a service or greeting host or hostess upon arrival.

We welcome you!

The Bertha E. R. Strosacker
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