



**November 2011**

### **Stewardship!!!**

**Past + Present + You = A Vision for Our Future**

From Your Interim Pastor:

You know, and I know, the word stewardship means – MONEY! Of course, stewardship means much more than money. God has given us the power, the ability, the responsibility to be stewards of God's creation, to take care of the earth and one another. But stewardship does mean money.

We have time and talent to share, but the thing most of us have the most of, the best way we have to regularly and faithfully give thanks to God for all our blessings, is money.

The truth is, for all the blessings Memorial Presbyterian Church enjoys from generous past gifts of money, without our money, without our gifts, tithes and offerings in 2012, Memorial Church cannot continue to serve us, our children, youth and community.

We are deeply grateful for the designated gifts from the past, which help sustain the life of Memorial Presbyterian Church. We are committed to add our critical "PLUS" in present giving in order to make possible the regular worship, pastoral care, education and mission efforts of Memorial Church.

Only our present pledges, offerings and gifts make possible what happens for us on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Only what we give now, what we share of God's gifts to us makes the life and ministry of our church possible. These words from the Apostle Paul speak to what I believe is possible for you and this church.

*"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." II Corinthians 9:8*

Every gift of any amount is a faithful thank you to God for God's gifts to us, it is a blessed gift.

In a tight economy when many are hard pressed, if we have been blessed, been gifted, we are empowered to be good stewards of Christ, to **share abundantly in every good work.**

If everyone who gave in 2011, and is blessed to be able to give in 2012, gave 1% more, about \$2 a week more, we would meet our budget goal and be able to help more people. If every member who did not give in 2011 were able to give \$5 a week we could develop a new outreach to our seniors and our youth.

Building on the past, PLUS our gifts in 2012, together with new leadership that will soon come to us, we can be faithful stewards of God's blessings.

Blessed to be part of your faithful ministry,  
David Robertson, Interim Pastor

*Note:* Proportionate giving is faithful and fair; a percent of what God has given us. A Biblical tithe or 10% is a goal or a modern tithe (in light of taxes) of 5% or begin at 1%. It's faithful, never more or less than what you have. It's fair, the same percent from every person.



## Prayers

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

Chaplain Major Timothy S. Moermond, United States Air Force; 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; Chaplain – Major David Kelley, United States Army Reserve; Dustin Risk, United States Army; Ty Joseph Sackett, First Lieutenant United States Army Reserves; Lance Corporal Matthew Morrison, United States Marines

## Sympathy

To the family and friends of former MPC member Miriam Adelaide Abbott, October 10 in Tallahassee, Florida.

To Katherine Branson in the passing of her brother-in-law, Keith Ward, October 12 in Midland.

To Michael and Tina Hoy in the passing of Mike's stepfather, Jack Colton, October 14.

To Chris and Pat Dean and family in the passing of Chris' mother in Cincinnati.

To Tawny Ryan Nelb on the passing of her mother, Glenna Frank Waldman Wintersteen, September 21.

To former MPC member Joan Perry and family in the passing of her son, Joel, September 29, in Iraq (non-military). Expressions of care and sympathy may be offered to Joan at her home address. It is: 631 Wild Dunes Circle; Wilmington, NC; 28411.

To Katie (Hodges) and Joe Tonnos in the passing of Katie's birth grandmother.

## Congratulations

To *Bill Eyre* on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, September 25.

To *Steve and Virginia Bales* on the adoption of a new grandson, *Kaedyn Bales*, September 22. Parents are Elizabeth (Dyste) and Aaron Bales

To *Anne Hampton* on the celebration of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, Sept. 10.

To *Eleanor Kramer* on the celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Sept. 28.

To Scott Raymond Litle and Heather Marie Jones on their wedding, October 15, at Apple Mountain.

To Brian George and Lauren Plourde on their wedding, October 22, in Powhatan, Virginia. The groom is the son of Barry and Joanne George.

To Carrie (Sackett) and Josh Yatch on the birth of their son, *Cole David Yatch*, October 12, in Minneapolis. Grandparents are Ron and Pam Sackett and Joe and Laura Yatch.

To Kyle and Christine Medaugh on the birth of their son Patrick Henry Medaugh, October 15.

To Jim and Diane Borin on the birth of their granddaughter *Lucy Jayne Wallaker*, October 7, in Louisville, Kentucky. Parents are Breanne (Borin) and Doug Wallaker. Also welcoming Lucy are siblings Lilly and Isaac.

To *Joseph Jackson, Presleigh Kelley, Kaylee Jackson, and Allison Miller* on their completion of the 2011 Sacraments Class. Joey and Kaylee are the children of Tom and Christy Jackson. Presleigh is the daughter of David and Dixie Kelley. Ally is the daughter of Fred and Debra Miller.

To *Ced and Betty Currin* on the celebration of their 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, September 20.

To Bill Kennett on the celebration of his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday, September 30.

## New Address

Patrick and Jennifer Kirts and Tate; 714 West Buttles Street; Midland, Michigan 48640. Patrick serves the church as Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry.

### **In the News . . .**

*Ashley Bromley* and *Katie Engwis* are included among the honorees through the Readers' Choice of Midland Daily News published September 18.

*Sue Waechter* was elected to the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Lake Huron, Class of 2014.

*Linda Ryden* will participate in a travel tour to Bethlehem and Palestine sponsored by Bright Stars of Bethlehem, November 11-19. The MPC Board of Deacons provides two graduate scholarships annually to Dar al-Kalima College in Bethlehem.

*Tammy Hayhoe* participated in the dedication of a new courtyard fountain at Bickford Cottage as memorial tribute to her mother Harriett E. Brown.

*David King*, *Lynne King*, and *Susie Polito* appeared in the cast of *Scratch*, the Musical, September 28-29, in the Little Theater of Midland Center for the Arts.

*Jackson Goethe*, *Carl (Chilly) Smith*, and *Laurie Smith* were medalists in the Harbor Springs Coastal Crawl, August 7, in Little Traverse Bay.

*The Reverend Catherine S. Chang*, Associate Pastor, participated in the 2011 Leadership Midland program sponsored by Midland Area Chamber of Commerce, October 6-8.

*Chris Tointon* was recognized as a 2009 Rising Star by Junior Achievement of Central Michigan at the Rising Star Gala, October 5.

*Cathy Guisewite*, cartoonist and daughter of former Memorial Presbyterian Church members Bill and Ann Guisewite, was featured in a special program at the Midland Center for the Arts sponsored by the *Voices: Extraordinary Women of Midland County* exhibit of the Midland County Historical Society, October 7.

*Ashley Garchow* and *Chris Tointon* were among the presenters for the 2011 Leadership Midland program, October 6-8.

*The Reverend George and Jeanette Gillette*, Dick and Scottie Cross, *Doug and Janis VanHala*, *Marcia Leach*, *Mark and Stephanie Spence*, *Dale and Esther Emeott*, *Carol Macartney*, *Wendy Lewis* and *Cynthia Burt* represented Memorial Presbyterian Church at the *Circle of Caring* Luncheon hosted by the Toni and Trish House, October 20.

*Eric Brubaker* and Members First Credit Union have been honored as *Volunteer of the Year* by Junior Achievement of Central Michigan.

*Barbara Sumi* is featured in the journal *IDEA* of Northwood University for her 31 years of service as Professor and for her gift of talents directed to the Midland Center for the Arts, to the NU Players, and to the Fun Auction Day (FAD) of Northwood University. Barbara presently serves as Chair of the Accounting Department at Northwood. *Susie Polito* is Director of the NU Players theater group.

*Bill Smith*, son of Steve and Carole Smith, has been named among the *40 Under 40*, Southeast Michigan's "best and brightest," for 2011 by *Crain's Detroit Business*. Bill is an architect with Kraemer Design Group, PLC.

Scott Withrow recorded a hole-in-one on the Midland Country Club course on September 28.

Zach Wells finished first at the Midland County Cross Country Meet, October 15. Kallie Dent finished second in the girls' division. Both compete for H.H. Dow High School. Zach is the son of Rich and Trudy Wells. Kallie is the daughter of Stan and Sharon Dent and the granddaughter of Nancy Dent.

During the weekend of October 14, Megan Dastick, Abigail and Elinor Hnizda, Presleigh Kelley, Lindsey and Haley Smith, and Abby Tointon participated with the American Girl Fashion Show which was held at the Midland Center for the Arts.

*Ashley Smith*, daughter of John and Lisa Smith, and *Stephanie Spence* are cast members in the Midland Center for the Arts production of the musical *ANNIE*, October 22-23, and October 29-30.

*Maggie Craig*, daughter of John and Jackie Craig, was elected to the 2011 H. H. Dow High School Homecoming Court.

Cady Ramaker has been appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to the Michigan Long-Term Care Supports and Services Advisory Commission.

Chad Floyd has been named to the President's List by Delta College. Paul Block has been named to the Vice-President's List for the spring/summer semester.

## Welcome to New Members

We welcome new members. They are:

Cynthia (Cyndi) Breault; 302 Buchanan Drive; Midland, Michigan 48642; 989-486-3615

Cyndi celebrates her membership by Reaffirmation of Faith. Cyndi returns to Memorial and the community of faith in which she was baptized as a child. She is the daughter of Marge Kelly. Cyndi is recently retired.

William Robert and Ashley Rae Garchow; 4917 Sturgeon Creek Parkway; Midland, Michigan 48640 989-245-2148; Bill and Ashley both celebrate their membership by Reaffirmation of Faith. Bill's faith background is the Roman Catholic community. He is a graduate of Alma College. Bill serves as an attorney with Currie Kendall PLC. Ashley's faith background is Roman Catholic and non-denominational communities. Ashley serves as an attorney with Cline Close Dyer, PLC. Bill and Ashley anticipate an addition to their family in December. Bill serves in the community as a Board Director for North Midland Family Center. Ashley is a former Board Director and Officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters in the Heart of Michigan and currently serves as Board Director for Family and Children's Services.

Persons interested in membership are invited to contact a pastor or member of staff or express interest through the Ministry of Friendship during worship. We welcome you!

## Organ Update



For reasons beyond our control (but perfectly understandable) the arrival and installation of our new pipe organ has been delayed about six weeks. It is understandable because so many different people, companies and churches are involved. Letourneau has an instrument that is finished in its assembly shop, ready to be shipped to its new home which has hit a few snags as it prepares. Because the large assembly area at Letourneau is consumed with this instrument, they cannot begin to assemble our instrument. We will provide further updates as they become available. Meanwhile, work continues preparing our Chancel. Plasterers are busy filling holes and

rebuilding walls. They finished a few pillars and their work is stunning--those surfaces look 100% undisturbed. Electricians are preparing to provide the organ with electrical and data service.

Our Sanctuary sound system is under close scrutiny these days: new technology promises improvement and Bob Granstra, our audio/visual supervisor is working closely with a vendor to make those improvements a reality for us. As we try different speaker systems you will see members of the staff listening critically. If you have comments or assessments on a particular Sunday morning, see our Director of Music and the Arts Guy Lynch.

Christmas with the Chancel Choir: College students returning home, incoming relatives who are singers or regular congregation members who wish to join with the Chancel Choir for our Christmas Eve service at 11:00 p.m. are all welcome. Look for a rehearsal schedule soon. We would love to have you!

## Friday Night Voyagers



Friday Night Voyagers will meet for dinner and a program on November 11 (that's 11-11-11) in Fellowship Hall. The presentation "History of the Saginaw River Rear Range Lighthouse" will be presented by Don Comtois, President and longtime member of the Saginaw River Marine Historical Society. (Ever wonder about the name "Rear Range?") He will be accompanied by three associates from the society who are in the learning phase of making similar presentations.

A social gathering with appetizers begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Attendees should bring their own table service, a dish to pass, a \$1 per person donation and an item for the H.E.L.P. Food Pantry. A basket for the food pantry items will be present in the Allen Street lobby.

The speaker contact person is Barbara Vanciu. Skippers for the evening are John and Ginny Jossi; committee members are Joe and Willi Bevirt, Betty Nixon, Margie Phillips, Bill and Beth Schmidt, Doris Feagley and Betty Chenoweth.

Friday Night Voyagers is a fellowship of couples and singles meeting on the second Friday of each month, September through May, for a meal and a program. The group is open to the entire church as well as guests. If you would like to attend, but are not a regular member of voyagers, please contact Ginny Jossi at 631-5157 to make a reservation or for more information.

## Thank Offering Dinner

The turkeys are coming! The turkeys are coming! Yes, Tuesday, November 8 and Wednesday, November 9, the turkeys will meet their maker, with the aid of the Memorial Presbyterian ladies in the kitchen. This is our **106<sup>th</sup>** Thank Offering Dinner. The Thank Offering dinner is not just about the great food. It is spirited by your generous donations that go directly to local and national missions. At least 40% of the offering received by the national Thank Offering goes to health ministries. Our local missions include H.E.L.P, Midland Area Homes, Open Door, Shelter House and many others.

Reservations are being taken after each of the worship services in the Allen Street lobby or call the reception desk no later than the morning of November 7. Reservations should be made only for those eating IN the Fellowship Hall. There are no take-out meals except for the planned shut-ins.

The dinner workers are invited to eat in the Small Dining Room, but no reservations are required.

A donation basket will be in the Small Dining Room and outside Fellowship Hall. After each meal enjoy a short program provided by Guy Lynch. No childcare is available as children are welcome and encouraged to be part of this family dinner.

Come and enjoy this long tradition of great food and fellowship. **Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 8th and Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

This is a great time to join with the many helping hands that are needed to make this dinner so much fun and be part of this mission giving. A sign-up poster for workers is in the Allen Street lobby. **We need volunteers to make relishes, jello and pies. There will be a sign up for this as well.** There is still time to sign up.

We appreciate everyone's willingness to serve. We look forward to seeing you at one of these scrumptious dinners and seeing stewardship in action with shared time, talents or donations.

### Poinsettia Tree

It is Poinsettia Time again. The tree will be in the Sanctuary in December. If you wish to honor or remember an individual, you may do so by enclosing a donation and filling out this form which must be returned to the church office by Monday, November 28. If you have questions, please call Nancy Kuper at 835-9505.



**Donor Name:**

**Individual(s) in honor of those still living:**

**Individual(s) in memory of those who have died:**

**\$ Amount of Contribution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to MPC/Poinsettia and return this form and contribution to the church office by Monday, November 28. Thank you!**

## Adult Ministry: November Opportunities

**Thanksgiving Outreach:** In the spirit of gratitude for God's blessings and serving our neighbors in need, we are collecting food and personal items for Thanksgiving baskets for the Midland County Emergency Food Network. **For one week, Sunday, November 6 through November 13**, participants of all Adult Ministry classes are invited to drop off one of many items in designated boxes in the Cherry Room, Colonial Room and Parlor. **Stay tuned for more details about what you can donate to the baskets!**

**Sunday, November 20:** Most Adult Ministry classes will not meet. Everyone is highly encouraged to attend the Congregational Meeting and Alternative Gift Fair.


**Sunday Mornings . . . Weekdays . . . Monthly Events:** check out the new and ongoing opportunities for your spiritual formation. For more information about these or any other opportunities, please contact Reverend Cathy Chang at [cathyc@mempres.org](mailto:cathyc@mempres.org) or 989-835-6759.

### Monthly Events

**NEW! Spiritual Autobiography:** Meets once a month to discuss spiritual memoirs and relevance to your faith journey. Join us on the third Tuesday of each month in the **Colonial Room**, size limited to 10 people, starting **November 15 at 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.** **Space is still available. Note: change of time and location.** Our first book selection is "*Blue Velvet: Repainting the Christian Faith*" by Rob Bell. Call or email Reverend Cathy Chang for reservations at 835-6759 or [cathyc@mempres.org](mailto:cathyc@mempres.org).

**Parent-2-Parent:** Informal discussion for parents or parents-to-be of children of all ages, as we discuss faithful and faith-filled ways to nurture our children. This group only meets only on the **second Sunday** of each month. Join us beginning **Sunday, November 13** at 9:45 a.m. in Room 205. **Note:** You can get there by taking the stairs near the kitchen outside Assembly Room or through the door in the Sanctuary alcove with the harpsichord – *it's the blue room with floral couch*, across from Cherry Room.

### Sunday Mornings

 **NEW! E100 aka Introduction to the Bible:** This next year, you will read and learn key passages of the Old and New Testament, through lectures and discussion. This class is **specialy designed** for people who are unfamiliar with the Bible and have not regularly participated in Bible study. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Cherry Room.



**Contemporary Issues:** Using "The Thoughtful Christian" curriculum, participate in lively discussion about "Seven Deadly Sins and their Corresponding Virtues." Join us in the Parlor, Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

**The Present Word:** Bible study focused on special themes. This year's focus is "*Tradition and Wisdom*" guided by the following questions: Where do we look today for the resources that may produce a well-instructed heart? Who are those most vulnerable around us? What is the role of the faithful in coming to their assistance? Join us in the Colonial Room, Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.

### Weekdays

**Weekly Bible Study:** Meets Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. in the Colonial Room: participants will study "*The God Who Cares and Knows You*" a Bible study based on the book of John, through mid- November. **Note:** Study will resume in mid-January.



**Women's Bible Study:** Weekly Bible study based on lectionary passages often preached for the upcoming Sunday worship service, using "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum. This study meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in Choir Room 208.

### Adult Ministry Team: Join Our Team

Your Adult Ministry Team is hard at work, as they review and envision opportunities for all adults at Memorial Presbyterian Church. The team consists of Dave Molzahn, chair; Jim Dempsey, Ginny Donald, Mary Ann Gilbert, George Gillette, and John Smith. Share your ideas and opinions with them or better yet, join our team as we serve Christ's church together.

## Scholarship Recipient Announced

Memorial Presbyterian Church, through the Joseph W. and Marjorie Carson Britton Memorial Scholarship Fund, provides annual scholarships to students at Delta College, Northwood University, and Saginaw Valley State University.

The recipient in 2011-12 at SVSU is Marissa Hartwig. Marissa writes:

*I am from Midland and attended Midland High School. I am excited to be at SVSU to earn a degree with a major in occupational therapy. I plan a minor in sociology. The degree program is five years. I am very honored to receive the Scholarship. It will be very helpful toward my education goals. Thank you for your kind donation.*

Marissa was selected through the Scholarships and Development Communications Department of SVSU and the SVSU Foundation.

## Youth and Young Adult Ministry

**TNL Fall Retreat:** Thursday Night Live Fall Retreat is Friday, November 4 to Saturday, November 5. We will depart for Double JJ Resort for a day of fun and growth. The cost for the retreat is \$10 per person to cover transportation, lodging, and food. A medical health form is required to attend this event.

**Full House Raking:** Full House will rake leaves at the Shelter House on Sunday, November 6. We will depart at 4:00 p.m. and return at 7:00 p.m. Please dress appropriately and bring a rake.

**Confirmation Class:** The start of Confirmation Class 2012 is fast approaching. Confirmation Class is intended for those students in eighth grade. If you have an eighth grade student or someone who has not completed Confirmation and wish to have them included in our Confirmation Class 2012, please contact Patrick Kirts or Reverend Cathy Chang. There is a parent only meeting on Sunday, December 4 with Confirmation class starting on Sunday, January 8.

**Holiday Schedule:** No Thursday Night Live (TNL) on Thursday, November 24. No Sunday School or Full House on Sunday, November 27 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Thank Offering Dinner Help:** The youth have been asked to help with clean-up at the Thank Offering dinner on Wednesday, November 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We will meet in Fellowship Hall. Help from you will make clean-up go quickly.

## Children's Ministry

**Bible BLAST:** We will continue our SPARK rotation Sunday School on November 6, 13 and 20. The children will learn about The First Sin. During this rotation the children will participate in workshops which include cooking, Bible Games and Science. The will children learn that even though we sin and disobey, God loves us and forgives us. This workshop will reinforce many concepts from our last rotation on creation such as all that God created was good. If you would like to help on this spiritual journey just let Diana or Wendy know! Extra hands are always welcome!

**Movin' Up:** On Sunday, October 9 Movin' Up met for a little friendly competition to see who could collect the most food and personal items for the Thanksgiving Baskets program. It was a beautiful fall afternoon as Team 1 comprised of Abigail Hnizda and Abby Tointon and Team 2 of Megan Dastick and Adelina Wolok set off. They went door to door and in the end both teams did remarkably well. Many in our community will benefit from their hard work. Way to go!!

**Upside Down:** Movin' Up fourth and fifth graders head off to SpringHill Camps on November 4 through 6. They will enjoy a weekend of fellowship and spiritual growth as they learn how Jesus turned the idea of an earthy Kingdom upside down and instead built a Kingdom based on humility and service. All will engage in small group study and high energy praise and worship. Please keep the chaperones and children in your prayers.

**Family Fellowship:** All are invited on Friday, November 11 as we celebrate our annual Blessings Party. Families are encouraged to arrive at 5:45 p.m. Parents meet in the parlor for some light refreshment and engaging conversation prior to a catered meal. Your children may be dropped off in room 116, where they will enjoy a kid friendly meal followed by activities and games designed by our wonderful caregivers. In order to plan, RSVP's are required. Please let Diana or Wendy know your family will attend.

**Cherub Choir:** Have your child's fall activities wrapped up? Would they be interested in singing during the holiday season? You may contact Guy Lynch who will prepare the children for this wonderful season ahead. Children rehearse on Wednesday's from 4:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. and will sing at two services on Sunday, December 11.

## Rummage Sale Results

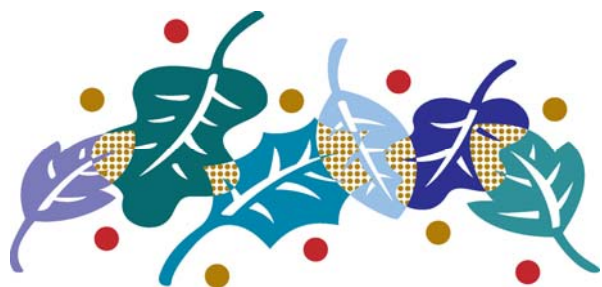
A HUGE thank you to all of you who helped in so many ways to make this sale successful. The total receipts for this sale were \$5,121.81!! Great Job!! This would not happen without all the people who take the time to sort out and bring us their unneeded items, the hardworking sorters on Sunday and Monday, the cashiers, the security workers, and the clean-up crew. What a great congregation this is. The funds resulting from the rummage sales and the Thank Offering Dinners support over 40 organizations that provide food, clothing, housing, educational funds and more to people in need.

"Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."  
Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)

**Quilt drawing:** The drawing for the quilt displayed behind the sign- up poster was won by Marge Haskell. Congratulations Marge!

Just one more note of interest, more than a week after the sale an unsigned note was delivered to the Church c/o the rummage sale team. One of our customers discovered she had brought home an item she had not paid for, so she mailed us a dime. This person spent 44 cents to send us a dime. This is a level of honesty not seen every day. Both our customers and our workers are awesome!!

Thanks to all of you from the rummage sale team.



## Church Women United

**Who:** National Church Women United  
**What:** World Community Day with guest speaker  
**When:** Friday, November 4, 2011  
**Where:** St. Brigid Catholic Church, corner of Ashman and Larken Streets downtown.  
**Why:** Living Our Faith, Unlocking Action  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. Bible Study  
9:15 a.m. Fellowship/Refreshments  
9:45 a.m. Business Meeting  
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration

To arrange childcare or ask questions please contact Jan Sutherland at 835-1962.

## Comfort and Healing during the Holidays:

### *The Memorial Presbyterian Church Grief Recovery Group*

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays can be an especially difficult time for people experiencing loss. Grief can be triggered by the death or serious illness of a loved one or friend, divorce, loss of a job, painful childhood associations with the holidays, or other special circumstances.

Each winter holiday season the Congregational Care Committee of the Board of Deacons sponsors a special ministry of support and healing for those who are grieving. People with all types of loss are welcome --whether their grief is recent or prolonged. This group is open to both the church family and the community.

This year's grief recovery group will begin Wednesday, November 9. The group will meet on consecutive Wednesday evenings through January 4, 2012 from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the Parlor. (Group members will decide whether to meet the weeks of Christmas and New Year's). Topics covered will include:

- the nature of the grief process
- coping with holidays and anniversaries
- recognizing and validating losses
- coping with anger and depression
- grief and one's relationship with God
- guilt and forgiveness
- redefining self.

The group is gently facilitated by Nan Spence, a licensed counselor with a degree in theology, who has herself experienced loss. There is no charge to participate, but group size is limited. New members are welcome through the second group meeting. For more information about the group call Nan at 989-791-7879. Please sign up by calling the church at 835-6759 weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## Coming in December: Service of Comfort and Hope

*Divine Light for Emotional and Spiritual Pain*  
Join us for a special Christmas worship service open to the community on Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the church parlor.

### **Service of Comfort and Hope: Divine Light for Emotional and Spiritual Pain**

A special Christmas worship occasion is open to the community on Sunday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the Church Parlor.

## A Glimpse of Memorial Presbyterian Church History

For over 40 years, Memorial Presbyterian Church has hosted the Happy Diners' program of Senior Services of Midland County. The program began with a vision implemented by the late Elizabeth Martin, church member and Deacon. The October issue of *Senior Independence News* included a "winning essay" on Happy Diners written by a current participant Lou Buchanan. She writes:

*Moving to Midland in my late 50's, I was fortunate to have found several groups to keep me busy. My husband had several other outlets in his life so I looked for activities to fill in for me when I reach the big . . . 65. I am happy to have found our center . . . Happy Diners . . . and it is just that . . . our center. Through the years, the friends I have met at Happy Diners are special. We have shared heartaches and happiness with special support from those with years of experience. We have seen many relatives and friends depart from this life and see new grandchildren and great-grandchildren come along. For the most part, we count our blessings along with the group of friends who continually come to Happy Diners. I have learned to play euchre, pinochle, and in turn helped teach others. The craft group founded at Happy Diners allowed many to stay busy and be productive by donating over 300 items to the hospital and local community agencies. The knowledge we attain from the Senior Newspaper, along with speakers, allow us to keep up with many items concerning seniors . . . health, living facilities, government agencies, entertainment, and trips. Becoming a widow, Happy Diners has created a feeling of "home away from home." It takes away some of the loneliness with the "happy" friendships of so many wonderful people . . . women and men. It's nice to have friends to dine with, and the food saves many of us from cooking while giving us the nutrients needed. Happy Diners gives many of us a reason to get up cheerfully and come to the place we have grown to love and know. Welcoming the next prospective member to Happy Diners allows me a chance to give back what was given to me . . . friendship, knowledge and what is always needed . . . that little feeling of belonging. Happy Diners is special.*

Memorial Presbyterian Church welcomes Happy Diners to our Assembly Room on weekday mornings.

## Eastside Soup Kitchen Wednesday, November 16

Memorial Presbyterian Church volunteers help at the soup kitchen on the third Wednesday of each month. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Nancy Richey at 835-7058. We leave the church at 8:45 a.m. for Saginaw and return at approximately 1:00 p.m.

## Fall Visitation Includes Gifts

The Congregational Care Committee of the Board of Deacons sponsored a fall visitation season for special friends in the congregation. The creation of pumpkin gourds was coordinated by Scottie Cross and Irene Broekhuizen. The table decorations enjoyed the artistic talents of a team that includes Nancy Kuper, Nancy Richey, Patti Schmidt, Dorothy Smith, Cynthia McMahan, Judy Dean, and Miriam Harter. The church visitors were members of the Board of Deacons.



## Fall Season Changes Landscape

As the fall plantings of mums replace the spring and summer flowers, we renew our appreciation for the Landscaping Team of Judy Dean and Scottie Cross for their design and "hands-on" work. The Landscaping Fund is a memorial gift in honor of Dale T. Dean by his family. Donations are invited. Also, the recruitment of additional "hands" for the work of creating the beautiful seasonal settings is always active. The landscape announces our welcome to the community and our neighbors.



## Friends in Grief Continues Education

Dale Emeott and the Reverend George Gillette share the coordination of continuing education and support for volunteers in the Friends in Grief program. On October 10, Ms. Kelly France, Bereavement Coordinator for MidMichigan Home Care, was the featured speaker. Joanne George reported on her volunteer work in the ministry of the Grief Recovery Series of Stephen Ministry sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee of the Board of Deacons.

## Thanksgiving Prayer

We are thankful, God, this Thanksgiving Day  
For all the blessings sent our way  
We pray for every family large or small  
We ask Thee to care for them all.

For all our loved ones far away  
Dear God, keep them safe we pray  
May they know they are not forgotten  
On this Thanksgiving Day.

We give thanks for the miracles we receive  
Forgive us for being so blind we do not see  
Give us a new awareness of everything  
And for the joy to our life that you bring.

Dear God, we are thankful to you  
For the many things that you do  
We ask for Thy guidance along our way  
As we pray this Thanksgiving Day.



## Sunday, November 6, 2011 Daylight Saving Time Ends

Don't forget to turn your  
clocks back one hour at  
2:00 a.m.

Change your batteries in  
your smoke alarms.



## Sharing Tree

Watch for the Christmas trees  
with the Sharing tree tags,  
which will appear in November.  
Trees will be located in the  
Narthex, Fellowship Hall and  
the Allen Street lobby.

Please choose one or several  
tags!!! Wrap the gift as directed  
on the tag. Bring your gift to  
church on Sharing Tree Ingathering Sunday,  
December 11. If you cannot attend church on  
Ingathering Sunday, your gift may be brought  
to the church office before December 11. The  
gifts will be distributed to Blessed Sacrament  
on Monday, December 12.

### Please help by following the instructions below:

- 1) **Attach the tag by securely taping to the gift box or bag. Do not tie the tag to the gift bag.**
- 2) No candy or food.
- 3) Do not monogram gifts.
- 4) You are welcome to include a Christmas card if you wish.
- 5) Bring your Sharing Tree gift to Ingathering Sunday on December 11. Remember, if you cannot attend church on Ingathering Sunday, you may bring your gift to the church office prior to December 11.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## November Calendar at a Glance!!

### Thank Offering Dinner

Tuesday, November 8 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, November 9 6:00 p.m.

### Kent S. Dennis Memorial Concert

Sunday, November 13 7:00 p.m.

### One Worship Service only 10:45 a.m.

**Alternative Gifts Fair** 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Congregational Meeting** 11:45 a.m.

**Alternative Gifts Fair** 12:30 pm – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 20

### Midland Community Thanksgiving Service at Trinity Lutheran

Wednesday, November 23 7:30 p.m.

### Office Closed (Thanksgiving)

Thursday, November 24

Friday, November 25



## Looking Ahead to December



The **Hanging of the Greens** is a great opportunity to help decorate Memorial for those wonderful seasons of Advent and Christmas. Come to the church by 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30. Lasagna meal will be provided so come join the fun right before All-Committee Night. It's a great family tradition!

**The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** is on Sunday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All our choirs will offer carols of the season following nine readings of the prophecy of Christ and its fulfillment. Best to arrive early that morning!  
**There will be no 8:00 a.m. Worship Service.**

## Holiday Calendar at a Glance!!

### First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 27 Three Services

### Hanging of the Greens and Lasagna Dinner

Wednesday, November 30 5:30 p.m.

### Second Sunday of Advent – Communion

Sunday, December 4 Three Services

### Project Blue Light Service

Sunday, December 4 6:00 p.m.

### All Committee Night

Wednesday, December 7 7:00 p.m.

### Nine Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

Saturday, December 10 10:00 a.m.

### Third Sunday of Advent - two services only

### Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

### Sharing Tree Ingathering

### No 8:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, December 11 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

### Christmas Eve Choir Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, December 17 10:00 a.m.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent – three services

### 10:45 a.m. – A Caroling Worship Service

Sunday, December 18

### Service of Comfort and Hope

Sunday, December 18 7:00 p.m.

### Church Office Closed

Friday, December 23 Noon to 4:30 p.m.

### Children's Impromptu Candlelight Pageant

Saturday, December 24 5:00 p.m.

### Christmas Candlelight Service of Meditation

Saturday, December 24 8:00 p.m.

### Christmas Candlelight Meditation with the Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 24 11:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25 10:45 a.m. only

### Church Office and Building Closed

Monday, December 26

## We Welcome You!

### Welcome to Memorial

We welcome our friends and neighbors! During the month of November, the Presbyterian Women will celebrate the harvest of praise through the annual Thank Offering dinners, Tuesday, November 8 and Wednesday, November 9. The dinner events offer a reminder of our blessings as well the opportunity to share our blessings with others.

The Grief Recovery group renews for the winter holiday season. We are grateful for the leadership and service of Ms. Nan Spence as facilitator for the weekly series of support, healing, and encouragement. The group ministry is free of charge to members of the congregation and friends in the community. This group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 until 8:45 beginning November 9, 2011 through January 12, 2012. Please call the church office to register.

We continue our welcome to the Reverend Dr. David Robertson in his service as Interim Pastor. His leadership through the stewardship season is a testimony to his faith and his experience in pastoral ministry.

Our invitation to membership is open. Membership may be celebrated through Profession of Faith and Baptism; Reaffirmation of Faith, if previously baptized; or Transfer of Letter of Membership from another congregation. Please confirm your interest through the Ministry of Friendship during Sunday worship or by contact with the church office or a member of staff.

Thanksgiving abounds. Our friendships and our relationships within family, church, and community testify to the good news we proclaim. *My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.* Psalm 145:21

Wallace H. Mayton, III, Associate Pastor