

October 2011

Words from Your Interim Pastor

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. I Corinthians 12:27

This Body of Christ - Memorial Presbyterian Church, Midland

Membership . . . Ministry . . . Mission . . . Money . . .

Someone asked me, after three months, what I thought about Memorial Presbyterian Church. I confess I have been so busy just trying to know everything I can about Memorial, busy getting to know as many of you as I can, where the meeting rooms are located, and which are the best places to eat, that I really hadn't thought about what I think about Memorial Church. But almost immediately the following words came to mind

Membership – What a great diverse, active, caring, serving, group of people God has gathered into this community of faith. I have been warmly welcomed, entertained and dined, greeted kindly on Sundays by the membership and challenged to bring the best I have to offer in support of what the membership of Memorial Presbyterian Church is doing. When I think of Midland Memorial, I think of the membership.

Ministries – A long continuum of care list of members and non-members who are visited, contacted and prayed for by the Deacons; choirs and bell choirs; youth off to Montreat and running Café Montreat; support for community outreach programs; Grief Care; Christ Care Groups; and the list goes on. Memorial Presbyterian Church is a church in ministry.

Mission - I saw a presentation about the Christian College you support in Bethlehem, Palestine; posters of your mission outreach in Uganda; people streaming in to Memorial to receive kind words and needed food; serving meals at the East Side Soup Kitchen in Saginaw; the noisy children's Two-Coins-A-Meal Offering; dollars given to support local care giving organizations and your affiliated Missionary, Nanette Sawyer from Wicker Park Grace in Chicago. Memorial Presbyterian Church is on a Mission of Christ Care giving.

Money - Yes, I have seen the figures. The Sanctuary and the Christian Education Building and dollars to maintain it, gifts from past money. Also some dollars from the past designated for mission and for ministry. Yes, Memorial Presbyterian Church has money, but . . .

. . . besides the beautiful buildings, which are gifts from the past, the truth is, that being the Church, providing opportunities for worship and study; programs for children, youth and adults; offering Pastoral Care in times of great joy and great distress, takes new money, our money.

Yes, Memorial Presbyterian Church has money from the past, controlled by the wishes of people from the past. Almost everything Memorial Presbyterian Church does now, what the membership does in ministry and mission, all of that only happens because of the money that is given today, money that is given by us.

Does this surprise you? It surprised me. I did not know how very much every good thing that happens because of Midland Memorial Presbyterian Church can only happen because of the money that is given now in thanksgiving to God and for all God's good gifts to us.

Memorial has a great past. The present and future belong entirely to us. What we give in time and money will determine the kind of church Memorial Presbyterian is. I pray Memorial will continue to be known for its membership, ministries, mission and the money given by good people to make good and Godly things happen in Midland and far beyond.

Faithfully, David Robertson, Interim Pastor

Thank you again for your gracious hospitality and warm welcome. Please continue to invite me out or come to see me in the office, so I can know more and more of you in a personal way.

Looking Forward to 2012 – Our Financial Support for the Coming Year

ONLY by adding + OUR gifts to the gifts from the Past

ONLY by OUR giving in 2012 can Memorial Presbyterian Church carry on its Ministries

Our giving in 2012 will empower our new pastor to lead us into a new time in the life of our church. *Past* gifts have ensured us a place for worship and study. Only *our Present* gifts can fund our future

Building on the Past Together with New Pastoral Leadership We will carry on the Ministry and Mission of Memorial Church in 2012.

October 23 - **Stewardship Sunday 2012:** Stewardship Campaign materials will be made available after each worship service.

October 30 - **Commitment Sunday:** Commitment cards returned will be blessed and special honor will be given for the generous gifts from the past that have supported Memorial Presbyterian Church.

November 6 - **Loyalty Sunday:** All Commitment cards returned will be blessed and a special time of thanksgiving will be offered in gratitude for those who responded in faith.

Every gift of any amount, which is a faithful thank you to God for God's gifts to us, is a blessed gift. 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 is faithful, never more or less than what you have. It is fair, the same percent from every person.

If everyone who gave in 2011, and is blessed to be able to give in 2012, gave 1% more. We would meet our Budget Goal and be able to help more people.

If every member who did not give in 2011 gave \$5 a week we could develop a new outreach to our seniors and our youth.

The Future of Memorial Presbyterian Church is in our hands.

Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Update:

The PNC's work of reviewing resumes continues in earnest. The team has been meeting weekly to review and rank a very large number applications. This phase of the committee's effort is expected to continue to insure the most qualified candidates have been reviewed. Requests for sample sermons will follow along with phone interviews. Members of the PNC and our congregation are reaching out to their contacts around the country to assist in building our selection pool. If you have any suggestions for possible candidates, please let one of the PNC members know. Your PNC members include: Ben Brookens, Cindy Block, Sally Bowen, Linda Drimalla, Mary Ann Gilbert, John Kennett, Tom O'Brien, Tracé Rashid, Cheryl VanderWeele, and John Waechter.

What's Happening Behind That Wall?



Many have asked this or similar questions. Workers have removed the wooden flooring and the concrete platforms from the chancel. They removed the exterior windows and will be replacing them soon, installed steel lintels in the rear walls of the chancel, and are removing masonry to prepare for the new organ facades. Soon they will begin construction of special closets above the ambulatory floor that will become the newer organ chambers. They will prepare openings between the attic spaces and the organ chambers for the airways, and add electrical service throughout the installation. A new floor will be installed and when the wall comes down sometime in October we will have much to celebrate! Thanks to Dave Morrison for providing the accompanying photograph.

Fund Provides Community Support

The Session by recommendation of its Advance Concepts Committee affirmed the grant application of Midland Community Cancer Services. A grant of \$15,000 has been designated to the Maria Mencia Cancer Caregivers Support Network Fund. The Fund will direct training for volunteers in support of caregivers among community cancer patients. Susan (Bradford) Dusseau is Executive Director of Midland Community Cancer Services.



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

Prayer Request:

For *Brian Spence* in his deployment as a paramedic for emergency relief and rescue in areas stricken by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Sympathy

To Maxine Russell and family in the passing of her mother, August 5, 2011.

To Logan Dempsey and family in the passing of his birth mother Melissa Andrea (Hulbert) Hernandez, Aug. 5.

To Chad and Kyrsten Floyd and family in the passing of Chad's grandmother, August 8.

To Mike and Julie Hays and family in the passing of Mike's brother, Phil, August 24.

To the family and friends of former Memorial Presbyterian Church member Arthur Rathjen, August 27.

To the family and friends of Martin Massa, August 29.

To *Ron and Pam Sackett* and family in the passing of Ron's mother, September 8, in Waynesville, Ohio.

To the family and friends of Roberta R. (Bobbie) Allen, former member, September 13, in La Jolla, California.

To the family and friends of the Reverend David Abbott, former member and honorably retired within the PC(USA), September 16, in Royal Oak.

Sympathy Cards

Notes of sympathy regarding the passing of the Reverend David Abbott may be directed to his mother; former MPC member, Mrs. Warren Abbott (Miriam); 4501 Shannon Lake Drive, #240; Tallahassee, Florida; 32309.

Congratulations

To Bob and Ruby Iwamasa on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, August 5.

To Alex Fisher and Ashley Wirtz on the birth of their son, Marcus Alexander, on August 11. Grandparents are Carolyn and Rick Owen and Kirk and Sarah Fisher.

To Gray Gorton on the celebration of his 88th birthday, August 12.

To Gray and Jane Gorton on the celebration of their 64th wedding anniversary, August 16.

To Scott and Nicole Kelly on the birth of their daughter, Sian Dior Kelly, August 22. Also welcoming Sian Dior are her brothers Bishop and Fisher. Grandparents are Burnett and Beverly Kelly.

To Ed and Ruth Goss on the celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary, August 27.

To Fred Miller on his baptism and membership within the church, both celebrated on Sunday, August 28.

To Fred and Debra Miller on the celebration of baptism for their children, Allison Jane and Thomas Fredrick Miller, August 28.

To Don and Shirley Rulf on the celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary, August 27.

To *Charles Miner* on the birth of his grandson, Thomas Miner-Whitaker, August 24.

To *Russ and Chris Dickinson* on their 40th wedding anniversary, August 28.

To Haskell and Joy Shelton on their 50th wedding anniversary, August 30.

To *Jean Hillman* on her 80th birthday, August 31.

To Wendell and Barbara Meyer on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, September 3.

To the Reverend Lucy Waechter Webb on her ordination as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., September 4. The Memorial and Special Gifts Committee on behalf of the Session and congregation presented to the Reverend Lucy Waechter Webb a pulpit robe on the occasion of her ordination. The robe was worn during the Service of Ordination.

To Anna Quayle on her 88th birthday, September 8.

To *Richard and Alyce Hummel* on their 60th wedding anniversary, September 8.

To *Mark and Ashley Potts* on the recognition of the baptism of their son *Henry Daniel Scudder Potts* in worship on September 18.

To *Robert and Beth (Molzahn) Haller* on the baptism of their daughter Ainsley Elizabeth Haller in worship on September 18.

To *Nicholas Kutima Oriedo* on his baptism in worship on September 18.

To the *Reverend Cathy Chang* on her birthday, on September 18.

To the following third graders who received their Bibles on September 18th. Ethan Thomas Dastick, Joshua Michael Doty, Joseph Jackson, Matthew S. Jones, William W. Jones, Lindsey Garner Smith, Tanner Jon Squires and Skylar L. Witte.

To *Ruth Sheffield* on her 94th birthday, September 19.

To *John Waechter* on his 60th birthday, September 29.

In the News . . .

Rich Wells is recently named Vice-President and Site Director of Dow Chemical Company Michigan Operations.

David Ramaker was recently elected Treasurer of the Michigan Banking Association.

Mary Jackson (1976-77), Ken Harding (late) (1977-78), Eileen Starks (late) (1992-94), Dan Cline (2003-2006) and David Ramaker (2006-2009 and 2010-present) are among the honorees for the special event *ART-COLORS-LIFE* sponsored by the Midland Center for the Arts on September 10. Each serves or served as Chairperson of the Board of Directors during the Center's history.

Brittany Lewis was appointed to an internship in the office of State Senator John Moolenaar during 2011-2012.

Brittany is a sophomore at Michigan State University and the daughter of Tony and Wendy Lewis.

John DuBois was recognized as an Assistant Coach for the Bullock Creek High School Varsity Football Team and as a SWAT officer for Midland Police.

Abby Mayton has received her P.A.-C degree and certification from Central Michigan University. She joins the MidMichigan Physicians Group of MidMichigan Health as Physician's Assistant in Hematology and Oncology.

Judith McDowell serves as Community Coordinator for the 2011 CROP Walk for the Hungry, October 2.

Clinton Alan Randall celebrated his ordination and installation as Pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church in Newton Grove, North Carolina on Sunday, August 21. As part of worship, a pulpit robe was presented to Clinton by the Reverend Mayton as a gift from the Memorial and Special Gifts Committee on behalf of the Session and congregation of Memorial Presbyterian Church. Clinton is the son of Randy and Mary Randall.

Meghan Donald is recipient of the Bernard F. and Melissa Anne Bailey Family Fund Scholarship administered by MidMichigan Health. Meghan is the daughter of Robert and Virginia Donald.

The South Building of the new Business Process Services Center of the Dow Chemical Company has been dedicated and named for the late *Carl A. Gerstacker*. Carl served as Chairman of the Board, 1960-1976.

Dr. Mark Manary, founder of the Peanut Butter Project, is featured as *Greatest Person of the Day* on the Huffington Post Internet News Service. The article is: *Dr. Mark Manary Treats Malawi's Malnourished Kids*. Mark is the son of Gloria Manary.

Christopher McDonald celebrated the rank of Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America at a Court of Honor held on August 18, 2011. Chris is a member of Troop 765 of Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Dalton Allan was a Michigan All-Star Team member in the American Regions Mathematics League Competition at the University of Iowa. The team placed first nationally in the field of 69 teams in Division B. Dalton is the son of David and Tracey Allan.

Cameron Lippoldt is named Michigan PGA Junior Tour Player of the Year in the 13-15 year old age group. Cameron is the son of Adrienne Wiley and Scott Lippoldt.

Dr. Robert W. Klomparens celebrates his 30-year anniversary in orthodontics practice, beginning his practice in Midland in 1981.

Steven B. Church has earned his BBA degree from Northwood University. He is the son of John and Carol Church and the grandson of Hannah B. Church.

Bill Schmidt has been announced a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan.

Robert Granstra celebrates his 40th Anniversary of career employment with Phillips Medical, September 13.

Lynne King and David King were among the musicians participating in *ARTS . . . COLORS . . . LIFE*, the 40th Season Celebration of Midland Center for the Arts, September 10.

Pete Jennings participated in Cancer Services *100 Holes of Golf* on September 13, raising for the agency \$8,000 in pledges.

Becca Tointon is featured as a *Live United All-Star* in the 2011 United Way Campaign trading card deck of 18 cards. Becca (card #1) leads the community drive for collection and distribution of prom gowns during the spring season.

Staff News

The new office hours of Lisa Renas, Financial Administrator, will be 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Gratitude and Anticipation

Thank you for your generous responses. You are a loving congregation and community of faith. The recognition through the Readers' Choice sponsored by Midland Daily News is meant to be shared. By the encouragement of staff colleagues, the grace of the church community and the influence of mentors among many neighbors and friends, we have accomplished much for which I am most grateful.

Leo Buscaglia writes,

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

My life and ministry continue to grow because of the care I receive. This setting is my "field of dreams." By God's Spirit, the field for harvest will expand.

With abundant blessing, *Wally*

New Members Welcomed

We welcome new members in the life of the church. They are:



Christine Jean Medaugh and Kyle Wayne Medaugh: 4410 Swede Avenue; Midland, MI 48642 734-260-2255; 517-449-9266 Chrissy and Kyle celebrate their memberships by Transfer of Letters of Memberships from First Presbyterian Church in Lansing. Chrissy is a medical student at Michigan State University. Kyle is an engineer with Hemlock Semiconductor. An addition (a boy) to their family is expected this month. Kyle served as a Deacon within First Church, Lansing.



Elizabeth Ladonna Villines: 2200 Cleveland Avenue, #2307; Midland, Michigan 48640; 989-492-1765 "E.V." celebrates her membership by Reaffirmation of Faith. Her faith background includes worship and service within the Assembly of God faith community in Kansas City, Missouri. She is the sister of Memorial Presbyterian Church member John Waechter. She worships regularly within the 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship fellowship.



Shannon Lyn Oriedo: 1310 Ashly Court; Midland, Michigan 48640; 989-839-2755 Shannon celebrates her membership by Reaffirmation of Faith. Her faith journey includes service and worship within St. Mary's Parish in Bay City. She is the spouse of Dr. Vincent Oreido. Shannon is employed by MidMichigan Medical Center as a Physical Therapist Assistant. Her children are Skylar Witte (age 8) and Logan Witte (age 6).

Nicholas Kutima Oriedo: 1310 Ashly Court; Midland, Michigan 48640; 989-839-2755 Nick celebrates his membership by Profession of Faith and Baptism. He is the son of Dr. Vincent Oriedo. Nick is a senior at H. H. Dow High School where is active in athletics as well as academic studies. He provides leadership as a senior within the Senior High Program "Full

House" of the Presbyterian Youth Connection at Memorial Presbyterian Church. He participates in the Montreat Summer Youth Conference and in mission trips. He works currently part-time at Meijers.

Our new members will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, October 2, during the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Outreach Committee of the Board of Deacons provides two scholarships for students attending Dar al-Kalima College in Bethlehem, Palestine.

The 2011-2012 recipients are: Alia Ibrahim of the Aida Refugee Camp in the field of Contemporary Fine Arts; and Nizar Lama of Bethlehem in the field of Tourism Studies.

The scholarship program is a consequence of the relationship enjoyed between Bright Stars of Bethlehem and Memorial Presbyterian Church through its Bethlehem Partnership Committee. The mission of Bright Stars of Bethlehem is to "assure that Christianity survives and thrives in the Middle East." Specifically, the Memorial Presbyterian Church Bethlehem Partnership Committee through the benevolence of the Advance Concepts Committee and the Outreach Committee "supports the efforts of Dar al-Kalima College and related programs of Christmas Lutheran Church of Bethlehem, Palestine to strengthen ecumenically oriented programs serving the community including Bethlehem." Dar al-Kalima College, founded in 2005, is the first Christian college in the Middle East to offer advanced training in arts, multi-media communications, music, and tourism studies. Friends interested in the ministry are invited to contact Doug VanHala or Pam Sackett, representatives to the Bethlehem Partnership Committee from the Outreach Committee of the Board of Deacons. The scholarships are provided through the benevolence of the congregation in its financial pledge to the church's ministries.



Presbyterian Women News

Circle 3 meets Wednesday, October 12, from Noon to 2:00 p.m. at King's Daughters.

Circle 2 meets Wednesday, October 19, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the

Parlor. **Lesson Two:** "Greatly Honored Are the Mourners!" from the study guide, "Confessing the Beatitudes" We begin with refreshments and then move onto a very short meeting, followed by our study lesson. All women of the church are invited to attend. New members are always welcome. If you have questions or need a ride, call Gloria Manary at 837-2314 or Katie Talcott at 835-9635.

Presbyterian Women Seek Nominees: If you would like to suggest a woman for a Presbyterian Women's honorarium, nominations are being received until Monday, October 10. Women are chosen for their dedication, use of talent and commitment in carrying on the work of the Presbyterian organization. If you have a name to submit, please contact Marilyn Findlay at 631-2003 or leave a message in the Presbyterian Women moderator's box in the Resource Room.

Calling Women of All Ages: Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. for dessert and a special program called *Church Lady² Inspirational Leadership*. Hear about 2 extraordinary women of Midland County; Maggie Cunningham and Memorial Presbyterian Church's own Dorothy Langdon Yates. Both are strong women of faith. Bring your daughters, mothers, granddaughters, aunts and friends. Childcare will be provided.

Presbyterian Women in Lake Huron

Presbytery: Fall Gathering is Saturday, October 15, 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 5151 Lennon road in Flint. (corner of Linden and Lennon, behind Kohl's Department store.

Panel discussion: "Violence in our Society" (WNEM-tv5, Tia Ewing, Rossaline Brown and the army from YWCA). After lunch a worship service and Communion is led by Rev. Deseree Lawson.

Mission Project: "Purse Ministry" Bring a handbag (new or gently used) containing personal items a woman can use when entering a women's shelter. Some suggestions: comb, hairbrush, tissue packets, toothpaste, dental floss, small mirror, lotions, wet wipes, soap, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, writing pad, envelopes, stamps, pencils, pens, roll of coins or small bills.

Cost for lunch and program is \$8. Register by October 7. Contact Joanne Clever at 989-832-2895.

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 Church ladies in the kitchen.



This is our **106th** 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 offerings received by the national Thank Offering go to health ministries. Our local missions include H.E.L.P. Food Pantry, Midland Area Homes, Open Door, Shelter House and many others.

Reservations for the dinner will be taken on Sundays beginning October 16 after all the worship services in the Allen Street lobby or call the reception desk during the week beginning October 17. Reservations should be made only for those eating IN the Fellowship Hall. There are no take-out meals except for the planned shut-ins. Dinner time workers are invited to eat in the Small Dining Room, but no reservations are required. There will be a donation basket in the Small Dining Room and outside Fellowship Hall.

There will be a short program after each meal. Watch for further information in following weeks.

NO childcare 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 8 and Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

Volunteers needed: This is a great time to join the helping hands that are needed to make this dinner so much fun and be part of this mission giving. We need volunteers to make relishes and pies. A sign-up poster is in the Allen Street lobby. Please sign up early.

We appreciate everyone's willingness to serve. We look forward to seeing you on one of these scrumptious nights.

Dinner Invitation

Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church will hold its annual *Red Beans and Rice Drive-By Dinner* on Monday, October 3, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the church, 5501 Jefferson Avenue. Proceeds benefit medical relief to Haiti Cost is \$7. Take-out orders only. Reservations needed by calling Buells at 835-4542 or Frames at 631-9551.

Presbyterian Women Rummage Sale

On Sunday, October 2, starting at 1:00

p.m. at the Rodd Street drive-thru, unload your good used clothing, toys, linens, household items, electronics, furniture, tools, dishes, books, glassware, footwear, jewelry, seasonal

items, and any other goodies. (Please do not bring any hazardous materials such as paint or gardening chemicals.) You will be met by Memorial's own Boy Scout troop who will remove the items from your car and give you a 2011 tax sheet. We also need hangers and bags.

Calling all volunteers! We need sorters, cashiers and other crew members. You may sign up on the poster in the Allen Street lobby. Please pray for our team as we go about God's business and raise money to support many worthwhile organizations. Please contact Ann Rothman at 835-4902 with questions.

Ingathering: Sunday, October 2; 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Big Sorting Day: Monday, October 3; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Salad Luncheon; Noon – 1:00 p.m.)

Sale Day: Tuesday, October 4; Noon – 7:00 p.m.

Half-Price Sale Day: Wednesday, October 5; Noon – 6:00 p.m.

\$2-a-Bag Sale Day: Thursday, October 6; 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Hope to see you there! ~ Rummage Sale Team

Greenhoe Library

In Merry old England a long time ago, King James I gathered 50 or so, middle aged men of varying persuasions, to put together a book we all know. We celebrate its 400th anniversary with our library showcase display, including news clippings, the Christian History Magazine, and a DVD on The Making of the King James Bible. Happy 400th birthday to the King James Version of the Bible 1611 – 2011. Still a best seller after 400 years.

Tuesdays:

October 4: 11:00 a.m., Library Board Meeting in the Colonial Room

October 11, 18 and 25: 9:30 a.m., library workdays

Eastside Soup Kitchen

Wednesday, October 19

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.

Social Concerns and Outreach Provide Mission Opportunity

The Social Concerns Committee of Session and the Outreach Committee of the Board of Deacons will sponsor an Empty Bowls Lunch to benefit the Open Door ministry at Memorial Church in early 2012. The meal occasion to be held following worship services on a selected Sunday will symbolize our care for the homeless. Local artisans will create bowls to symbolize our love in giving. A simple meal will be prepared to support a presentation of the mission of the Open Door in Midland. We appreciate the coordination of Joanne Clever on behalf of the Social Concerns Committee for the event. Marcia Leach serves as Chairperson of the Social Concerns Committee. Heather Brubaker serves as Chairperson of the Outreach Committee.

All Saints' Remembrance Planned

On Sunday, October 30, during our 10:45 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary, we shall provide remembrance of the lives of those who have entered the eternal kingdom since November 1, 2010. These lives include loved ones for whom we celebrated the Witness to the Resurrection through the ministry of Memorial Presbyterian Church. We shall also include additional loved ones by request of family members within the congregation. To include a particular life remembrance, please submit to the church office before October 25, 2011, the loved one's name, date of birth, and date of death. We are including only those who have entered the eternal kingdom since November 1, 2010. Thank you for your interest and consideration.

Installation Invitation

The Reverend Dr. Rhonda Myers will be installed as Pastor of Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church in Midland on Sunday, October 16, at 3:00 p.m. at Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Cathy Chang, Associate Pastor, will serve on the Commission on behalf of the Presbytery of Lake Huron. Church members and friends are invited to attend this special event.

Harvest Dinner

First Presbyterian Church, Beaverton
Thursday, October 13
4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Reflection of 9/11

Ten years ago, I was living in Flushing, Queens, with a view of then-Shea Stadium and the Manhattan skyline. Granted from that distance, my skyline view was "in miniature" with events of 9/11 looming large in all of our hearts and minds. Tuesday, 9/11 overshadowed other personal circumstances: one week before 9/11, I was downsized from my job as a management consultant; a week after 9/11 was my birthday. Like many of us, I felt compelled to serve but not sure where to start. Appeals for time, money, prayers, even clean for first responders, weighed on our consciences -- so many ways to get involved in those earliest days and months after 9/11. Individuals and communities were responding to this tragedy by finding ways to serve their fellow citizens, whoever they were.

Days after 9/11 with the restoration of phone service, a phone call came from Milwaukee, Wisconsin through Alewa, the regular cab driver from my last project as a management consultant. Through a brief but tender conversation, he inquired about me and my brother attending New York University. Based on our friendship, I had already experienced him as a loving Egyptian Muslim father and husband. His religion allowed him to act in compassion, in contrast to fear from men who claimed responsibility for the attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

One month after 9/11 through outplacement services, I learned about a unique opportunity to serve the business community. Other professionals were asking the same questions "What next?" for their professions, but also for the sake of the city. Through their contagious spirit of service, I joined them at "Restart Central" in lower Manhattan, an organization which matched up the needs of small and mid-sized businesses, with donations from individuals and larger corporations. Struggling with their unemployment concerns, these same professionals stepped up to serve others with basic needs like office equipment, office space, and a listening ear.

Ten years later, many of us have changed and been changed through all kinds of circumstances especially in the aftermath of 9/11- and I am no exception. Through all of these circumstances, I look to the God whose steadfast love is unchanging, and beckons us to serve one another with courage and compassion, whoever we are.

The Reverend Cathy Chang

Music Series Invitation

Nicholas Schmelter, Artistic Director at First Congregational Church in Saginaw, invites members and friends to the *Friends of Music* series at First Congregational Church, 403 South Jefferson in Saginaw. The second program in the series on Sunday, October 23, at 4:00 p.m., is *An Early Music Ingathering*, a performance by Northern Renaissance (early music instruments) directed by Dr. Eric Nisula. Dr. Steven Egler serves as Artist in Residence at First Congregational Church. The third program in the series on Friday, October 28, at 12:15 p.m., is *For the Beauty of the Earth*, texts and tunes celebrating the harvest season, Nicholas Schmelter, Organist.

Neighborhood Benefits from Outreach

Jennifer Parks, Executive Director of Midland County Habitat for Humanity, writes:

Thank you for all of your help and support of our 2011 Neighborhood Revitalization Project. The wonderful prayer, delicious lunch, and all the volunteers were essential to our project. We could not have done the work we did on 21 homes and impacted the lives of 60 Midland residents without your help and support. Our mission states that Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and with people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with God's people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which people can live and grow into all that God intended. We feel that the work we accomplished during the Neighborhood Revitalization was a perfect example of the mission of Habitat for Humanity in action. Thank you for your help and support of the 2011 Neighborhood Revitalization Project. We look forward to working with you again in the future.

We are grateful to Nancy Kuper, Coordinator of the lunch preparation and distribution; to the Reverend Cathy Chang for her prayer offering at the site; and to the Outreach Committee of the Board of Deacons, Heather Brubaker, Chair, for its financial support. The site of the 2011 Project was the Fournie Park neighborhood.

Friday Night Voyagers

Friday night Voyagers will meet in Fellowship Hall October 14, beginning with hors d'oeuvres and punch at 5:30 p.m. A potluck supper follows at 6:00 p.m. The program for this evening is being developed and will be announced in a future issue of Great Things Are Happening.

Voyagers is a group of couples and singles which meets on the second Friday of each month September through May for a meal---usually potluck---and program selected from ideas generated by the group. All are welcome. Participants are asked to bring their own tableware, a dish to share, \$1 per person to help defray expenses and an item for the H.E.L.P. Food Pantry. Skippers for the evening are Katie and Thayre Talcott. If you would like to attend but have not been called, please contact them at 835-9635 for a reservation.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem Offers Gifts

Beth Nelson Chase, Vice-President of Bright Stars of Bethlehem, on her visit to Midland on September 13, offered the gifts of photographs, books, and DVD's to the Greenhoe Library for the enjoyment of the congregation and its friends. These artifacts record the breadth of Christian ministry expanding in the Middle East through Dar al-Kalima College in Bethlehem. Choir robes and music equipment donated through the benevolence of the Memorial Presbyterian Church Session through the Advance Concepts Committee are noted. We thank Linda Ryden and Pam Sackett for their hospitality on behalf of the Memorial Presbyterian Church Bethlehem Partnership Committee. A special presentation of the ministry and its regional impact was offered by Ms. Nelson Chase to the Memorial Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons.

Adult Ministry:

October Opportunities for Spiritual Growth

Welcome to the new program year for adult ministry! For more information about these or any other opportunities, please contact Rev. Cathy Chang at cathyc@mempres.org or 989-835-6759.

New Opportunities:



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

NEW! Spiritual Autobiography: Meets once a month to discuss various spiritual memoirs and their relevance to your faith journey. Join us on the third Tuesdays of each month at Rev. Cathy Chang's home, size limited to 10 people, starting **November 15, 7-9 p.m.** **NOTE: First meeting will be held Tuesday, October 18, 4:30-6 pm in the Parlor. Bring your favorite memoirs!** Call or email Rev. Cathy Chang for reservations.

Sunday Mornings



Contemporary Issues: Using "The Thoughtful Christian" curriculum, participate in lively discussion about seven deadly sins. Join us in the Parlor, Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

The Present Word: Topical Bible study using the same-named PC(USA) curriculum. This year's focus is 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, 9:45 a.m.

Weekdays



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. Meets Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. in Choir Room 208.

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 early November.

Monthly Opportunities



Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study: Using this year's "Confessing the Beatitudes" study, women are invited to meet on third Wednesday of each month, starting September 21, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor or at Kings' Daughters, second Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.

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.

CROP Hunger Walk



Have you ever been hungry? If you know you are going to be able to eat some time soon, it's not that bad. But, if you don't know whether you will be

able to eat at all, or even worse, if you don't know if you will be able to feed your hungry children, that's crushing!

We can do something to help. **The Midland Area Crop Hunger Walk is coming October 2 and we need you!** We need people to walk. We need people to sponsor our walkers. We need *each* of you. Together, step by step we can make a difference in the lives of hungry people in Midland and around the world.

See Randi Kawakita or Judy McDowell to join the Memorial Presbyterian Church CROP Team. Together we are ending hunger - one step at a time. Please join us!

You can also support the Crop Walk through online giving at www.cropwalkonline.org/midlandmi. Simply click on the "Donate" button, then on "I Want to Support a Team", then choose "Memorial Presbyterian Church" and "Donate Now". Any amount is appreciated and will make a difference! If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Neithamer at 839-2140.

Holiday Grief Recovery

Held on Wednesdays beginning November 9, 2011 through January 4, 2012, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. held in the church Parlor. Please call the church office to sign up for the sessions. The facilitator is Nan Spence.

A Note of Thanks



. . . from The Casserole Club of the Congregational Care Committee! Scottie Cross, Cynthia McMahan and Patty Schmidt would like to thank all who have contributed to our

Casserole Club or meal Delivery. These kind food donations provide meals to our home from the hospital and short term shut in folks. If you would like to contribute a casserole for the freezer or be on the list to deliver a meal please call Patty Schmidt at 839-0475.

Children's Ministry

Sacraments Class: Congratulations to Joseph Jackson, Kaylee Jackson, Presleigh Kelley, Allison Miller and Shota Nishida who attended the two part Sacraments Class in September. These children, led by the Reverend. Cathy Chang, learned and participated in activities about the sacrament of baptism and the sacrament of communion. Please congratulate them on Sunday, October 2 as they present the communion elements.

Family Fellowship: It is a pizza dinner with a harvest party twist! All are welcome on Friday, October 14th from 6:00 pm till 8:00 pm. RSVP to Diana or Wendy and meet us in the Parlor with a dish to pass.

Movin' Up: Team Brookens and Team Lewis are ready to take to the roads with all you 4th and 5th graders who are ready for a little fun, food and fellowship! Join us on October 9th for our annual Thanksgiving Food Scavenger Hunt. We will meet in room 116 for a quick lunch and then we are off on an adventure. Dress for the weather and RSVP to Wendy or Diana. Hope to see you for our kick-off event!

Registration: Thank you to everyone who showed up at the Christian Education Celebration in September and registered your child(ren). If you have not filled out a registration form yet, please stop by the table outside of room 116 and fill one out.

Childcare: Childcare is available for all church-related programs. Requests can be made to the Children's Ministry Office.

Bible BLAST: It is time for us to pull out our SPARK story Bibles and bring them on Sunday's. We will be starting our first story rotation on Sunday, October 2nd. Be sure to join us and see where this adventure will lead. If you do not have a SPARK story Bible yet please contact Wendy or Diana to make sure you are ready for an awesome year of exciting adventures.

Please pick up a complete Children's Ministry Newsletter outside of Room 116.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Sunday School will start on Sunday October 2 at 9:50 a.m. High school students will meet at Café Montreat and middle school students will meet in room 110 (which is located between the nursery and the custodian office).

Fall Retreats: Full House Fall Retreat will be Friday, October 14 through Sunday, October 16. We will depart for Camp Westminster at 9:30 p.m. on Friday from Memorial Presbyterian Church and return on Sunday around 3:00 p.m. We will have time for reflection, growth, laughter, and most importantly fun. The cost is \$20 per person and the deadline for registration is Sunday, October 2.

Thursday Night Live Fall Retreat is Friday, November 4 to Saturday, November 5. We will depart to Double JJ Resort for a day of fun and growth. The cost is \$10 per person and will cover transportation, lodging, and food. A Medical Health Form is required to attend this event.

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

Spring Break Mission Trip Spring Break Mission Trip will be a bit different than what we have done in the past. We will focus more on our own mission. We will go on a backpack trip in the Appalachian Mountains. This is a week-long trip with physical and mental challenges and spiritual growth. We will depart on Saturday, March 31 and return on Saturday, April 7. If you are interested, please contact Patrick Kirts by October 16.

We Welcome You!

We welcome friends and neighbors to Memorial Presbyterian Church. We are grateful for the many gifts of faith and service enjoyed through our expression of hospitality.

On Sunday mornings, as you enter the church, you will find members to greet you and offer directions to our services of worship, education opportunities, and other events. During this month, special occasions include World Communion Sunday on October 2. On October 30, we shall include in our worship our remembrance of saints, our loved ones who have passed into the eternal kingdom since November 1, 2010.

Three worship services are offered on Sunday morning. The 8:00 a.m. worship service in Fellowship Hall welcomes participants desiring a traditional service in an informal setting. The 9:00 a.m. service welcomes all ages to the Assembly Room where contemporary music and visual presentations enhance the worship experience. The 10:45 a.m. worship service celebrates the Word of God proclaimed in a traditional style complemented by the Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary. This service includes a Children's Time and an invitation to children to Bible Blast, a program of worship and education especially designed for children.

Membership opportunities abound within Memorial Presbyterian Church. We welcome new members by Profession of Faith and Baptism; Reaffirmation of Faith; or Transfer of Letter of Membership. We invite your expression of interest through the Ministry of Friendship in worship or through personal conversation with a pastor or member of staff.

We look forward to greeting you! Thank you for your interest in the ministries of Memorial Presbyterian Church, a *House of Prayer for All People*.

www.mempres.org

Wallace H. Mayton, III, Associate Pastor