

The Messenger

November 2009 Volume 61, Number 11



The Season of Thanksgiving

Even though few of us are harvesting crops, this time of year stirs within us a need to prepare for the long winter. Bringing in the harvest for use and storage would cause people to be filled with thanksgiving for the abundance. Last Sunday, I had my grandsons pick our last apple tree. After picking, we were astonished at how many apples we had.

We need to be astonished at the abundance we have around us. God has been faithful fulfilling the promises that God is for us, God is with us, and God is among us. In our community of faith at First Presbyterian Church of Flint, God is making His will known among us. You can see God's presence in the faces of our children, youth, and those at the Neighborhood Breakfast. You can hear God's word at our Bible studies. You can feel God's power in our worship.

We are surrounded with abundance. Our only response is thanksgiving. Living a life of gratitude keeps life in the right perspective. All is a gift from God. Even the hard times come as gifts. Being thankful at all times actually transforms the difficult times. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who led an underground seminary in Germany during WWII, says, "If we do not give thanks daily for the fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience... if on the contrary we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measures and riches which are there for all of us in Jesus Christ... The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow day to day as God pleases."

In this season of thanksgiving let us, daily, offer our thanks and praise to God. The more thankful we are, the more joy we will experience. On **Sunday, November 22nd**, our service will emphasize **Harvest, Thanksgiving, and Stewardship**. You cannot separate these blessings. The harvest calls us to be thankful; as thankful people, we become good stewards. Our stewardship theme this year is **The Joy of Giving**. Participate with us. Be engaged in Christ's love. Your heart will be filled with gratitude, and you will experience the joy of giving.

~ John L. Musgrave

Engaged by Christ's love to invite, worship, nurture, and serve.

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POINTS OF INTEREST

Worship: Sundays, 9:30am

Website: www.fpcf.org

Radio Broadcast: Sundays, 9:30am,
WSNL 600am

Church Office Closed

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 26th** and **Friday, November 27th**. Have a happy and safe holiday.

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on **November 1st!**

Church Register

Baptisms

Liam Ross Trouten, son of Ross David and Jennifer Patrice (Lange) Trouten on September 27, 2009
Cole Thomas Gwaltney, son of Kevin Alan and Cortney Lyn (Turner) Gwaltney on October 18, 2009
Jace Michael Bishop, son of Timothy Michael and Melissa Lynn (Nowak) Bishop on October 18, 2009
Lillian Jean Havrilla, daughter of Andrew Robert Havrilla and Melissa Margaret Verrell

Deaths

Hazel Swartzell of Flint (mother of Bobbi Schoolfield) deceased on September 28, 2009
Eileen Nichols (mother of Bob) deceased on September 28, 2009
Mary Box of Beaverton, OH (mother of Kathy Schumann) deceased on September 29, 2009
Harold M. Benson of Naples, FL. (father of Richard) deceased on September 4, 2009
Harper Scott of Flint (father of Van) deceased on October 14, 2009
Norma Bruton of Flint (wife of Norbert Mercier) deceased on October 22, 2009
Karen Vecchi (sister of Carol Kinloch) deceased on October 23, 2009
Melville Gardner of Port Huron (husband of Doris Gardner) deceased on October 26, 2009
Dorothy Doxey of West Brand (sister of Edythe Wessel) deceased on October 26, 2009

Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. Michael French (Sara Perez) on October 3, 2009 in the Sanctuary
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Layman (Amy Applebee) on October 10, 2009 in the Sanctuary
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Flint, Jr. (Christina Pina) on October 17, 2009 in the Sanctuary
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Burke, Jr. (Ricki Ann McLaughlin) on October 24, 2009 in the Sanctuary

Gifts

To the Memorial Fund in memory of **Norman Hardenburg** by Rob and Rosemary Lutz, Donald and Helen Boyd, the Flint Travel Club, Marcia Van Ness, Wanda Azelton, Jerald and Frances Orser, Leola Matts, Jean Matts, John Neil, Ronald and Marjorie Schram, Bill and Elaine Carpenter, Douglas and Mary Horton, Robert and Betty Gibson, Almeda Hunter, Barbara Hardenburg, Jeanette Crutchfield, James and Judith Kessel, and Robert and Kathleen Nyman; in memory of **Ruth Cordell** by Joseph and Patricia Higgins; in memory of **Orpha and John Brooks** by the Flint Antique Club; in memory of **Samuel Jacob**

by Carrie and Jim Nietert, Larry Root, and Collins and Blaha, P.C.; in memory of **Nelda Rawlings** by Julius Snider and Irene Hanson; in memory of **Aileen Hebert** (mother of Marcia Webb) by Kim and Cindy McPheeters and James and Harriet Lay; in memory of **Samuel Jacob** by Michael and Susan Dingman, Dean and Debra Frick, Alexander and Lisa Grossi, Gerald and Betty Hancock, Keith and Debra Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. William Joseph, Andrew and Jolene Kruse, Lois and Craig Mengel, Suzanne Patek, David and Jeanette Smith, Dorothy Tamraz, Michael and Nancy Vance, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Vance, and Marsha Gonzales; in honor of the **50th Wedding Anniversary of Dave and Linda Smith** by Joseph and Patricia Higgins.

To the Deacon's Breakfast Fund in memory of **Kelsoe (Kelly) Schadle** by Frances Daniels, Jane Mahalic, Diane Callahan, Mary Jane Dunworth, Edwin and Nancy Luke, Ruth Schadle, Mary and Joe Roseberry, Don and Evelyn Green, Patsy Bauer, Sylvia Bellairs, American Legion Post 413, Wilaine Northway, Herman and Mary Kuehn, The Quinlan family, Mary Jean Lamberson-Allard and Clyde Allard, David Jeremy, Art and Avis Makuch, Phyllis Shreve Bower, Beverly Smithson, and Janice Hayes.

To the Children's Music Enrichment Fund in memory of **Jim Cook** by his family.

To the Congregational Care Fund in memory of **Nelda Rawlings** by Bernie Price, Sharlene Rawlings, Lola Manner, Helen Potter, Ruth Foster, Nancy and Ted Morse, Russ Kwarciany and Don Giesen, Dianna and Jim Johnston, Mary Christian, Marty and Sherry Vailes, Kathleen Plasha, Dick and Mary Jo Handwerker, Peter and Gayle Harris, Richard and MaryAnn Olson, Kimberly Dorow, Jerry and Sally Wilkinson, Linda Gibbs, Patricia Cooper and Family, and Willa Gardner.

To the McKinney Deacon's Fund in memory of **Aileen Hebert** (mother of Marcia Webb) by The Lynn Webb Family.

To the Music Fund in memory of **Kelsoe (Kelly) Schadle** by Darleen Yaskanin; in memory of **Samuel Jacob** by Esther Jacob.

To the Geholz Christian Counseling Ministry Fund in memory of **Andy Avant** by Kathleen Robinson.

To the Bishop Class Stained Glass Window Fund in memory of **Harold Benson** by the Bishop Class, Orie Ross, and John and Dorothy Stout; in memory of **Raymond Whiting** by John and Dorothy Stout.

Deacon's Chicken Dinner

On November 8 from 11:30am-2:30pm, join us for a chicken dinner at the Masonic Temple. Cost is \$9.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children (3-12yrs), and children under 3 eat free. You may purchase tickets from a Deacon, at the church office or at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings. Tickets will also be sold at the door. Proceeds will help to support the Deacon's Sunday Breakfast Program. We also are in need of volunteers! If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

MFA Plans Handbell Conference

Our Concert Handbell Choir will serve as hosts for a regional handbell festival at our church the weekend of February 20th. Nationally known professional handbell director Susan Berry will lead this Genesee County event. Watch for more information.

Seasonal Flu Clinic

Rescheduled for November 22nd from 8:30am-12:30pm. The Flu Clinic will be open in the Narthex to individuals 9 years of age and older. Bring ID and Medicare or health insurance card. Cost is covered by Medicare and many other health insurance plans. If not covered, cost is \$28 for flu shots and \$45 for pneumonia. The H1N1 vaccine is not available at this time.

Neighborhood Thanksgiving Dinner

On Tuesday, November 24th, be a participant in this memory-making holiday meal! A variety of roles are available. You may join a set-up team, server line, or clean-up/reset crew. We begin at 3:00pm and serve from 4:00-6:00pm. We anticipate clean-up completion by 7:00pm. Please call the church office at 810-234-8673 to volunteer or with questions.

Worship Mission

Sunday Morning Worship

November 1, 2009

All Saints' Day
Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44
"Unbind Him!"
John L. Musgrave

November 8, 2009

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17;
Hebrews 9:24-28;
Mark 12:38-44
"Humbly Giving All to God"
John L. Musgrave

November 15, 2009

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 1:4-20; Hebrews
10:11-14; 19-25; Mark 13:1-8
"Christ's Great Offering"
John L. Musgrave

November 22, 2009

Stewardship Sunday
Christ the King
2 Samuel 23:1-7; Revelation
1:4b-8; John 19:33-37
"Christ Rules"
John L. Musgrave

November 29, 2009

1st Sunday in Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessal-
onians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
Paul Ytterrock

November Usher Team

Head Usher: Don Green; Usher Team: Sharon Bellinger, Andrew Bradley, Ed Bradley, James Bradley, Kathy Bradley, Linda Charney, Evelyn Green, Micki Hoffman, Richard Hughes, Sue Hughes, Gail Hutchison, Robert Keel, Nancy Newman, Jerry Scholten, Graham Whipple and Yvonne Wismer

Music and Fine Arts

Feast of Carols
December 13

This annual community concert is regarded as a must attend event. Join the choirs, organ, Concert Handbells and Festival Orchestra as they spice up the Christmas season - sprinkled with a generous amount of congregational caroling. Bring the whole family and invite a friend.

Genesee Valley Youth Chorale continues to build enthusiasm and excellence. The chorale's first appearance was October 25 at the Swartz Creek United Methodist Church where they received enthusiastic and appreciative response. The chorale looks forward to singing in our worship services on November 15th. You will be inspired by the enthusiasm and musical excellence of GVYC.



A New Beginning

The Messenger has served us well over the years, supplying necessary information about events and happenings taking place in our church family; but times bring about changes in the way we share and receive such information. Courier, smoke signal, printing press, postal service, telegraph, telephone, carrier pigeon, radio, shortwave radio, CB radio, television, internet, e-mail, e-vites, texting, tweeting . . . the way we share and receive information is ever changing. Change happens, but there is always information that still has to be disseminated so that people know *what's what, where's where, how's how, when's when, and who's who!* While this is the final edition of *The Messenger* as we have known it for the past years, this is not the end of our church family sharing and receiving necessary information about events and happenings!

As it now stands, the internet is the most efficient and effective way for our congregation to share and gather information. We have a superb website (www.fpcf.org) that has more information—not to mention a growing collection of photo galleries—than the printed *Messenger* has ever or would ever be able to support! The vitals . . . what, where, how, when, and who . . . can be found for events and happenings taking place in our congregation. There you will also find additional information that goes beyond just the facts but supports our growth together as a family of faith. The website also supplies us with sermons, ministry information, a history of the congregation, blogs and other avenues for feedback and communication, as well as a member's area that can be used as a social networking site! Check it out and make use of what is offered there.

Yes, change happens, and of course information still needs to be made available; so to that end we will begin sending out a weekly email to all members who supply us with their email address (a safe estimate is that 95% of our members have email addresses!). This new publication, entitled *First Glimpse*, will supply you with the vital information about events and happenings and will also link you to the website and other sites that may be related to the events and stories found in *First Glimpse*. Watch for it beginning Friday, November 6.

We understand that there are some of our members and friends who have no access to the internet and are unable to join us in Sunday worship but would like to stay connected with their church family here at First Presbyterian Church of Flint. We appreciate your commitment and would like to hear from you so that we may continue to supply you with the information you so desire! Please, if you are in this situation—with no internet access and unable to join with us for worship on Sunday mornings—please, contact the church office. Feel free to ask for me, Paul Ytterrock. We are committed to you and want to understand your situation so that we might maintain our ties with you and you with us. God has called us together . . . the very body of Christ . . . so together we

will work to minister to and with one another so that the world around us might see what great love God has as they witness how we care for and love one another.

Effective means of communication change, but what never changes is the need for us to speak together and to come together—in the Sanctuary, in the hallways and classrooms, in one another's homes, via letters and telephones and email and texts and tweets! We hope to hear from you and if possible to see you soon! May God bless you as you continue to reach out with God's love to bless others.

Working with you for Christ,
Paul Ytterrock

Music and Fine Arts

John Calvin Writes of Music

Among other things fit to recreate man and give him pleasure, music is either first or one of the principal. And we must value it as a gift of God...

God himself omits no sweet melody, no sad and grave strain to draw us to himself, though we lie like stones...

The object of music is God and God's creation. The glory of God and the elevation of humanity are music's goal, and the inspired Psalms are its means. Since it is the goodness of God emanating through the universe that makes us sing, God ought to be the center of our thoughts and feelings when we sing. Seriousness, harmony and joy must characterize our songs to God.

New Spiritual Enrichment Opportunity

Returning this week! Celebration of Discipline –Richard Foster's classic book, *Celebration of Discipline* is a guide to growth and is aptly subtitled *The Path to Spiritual Growth*. Foster starts, "Superficiality is the curse of our age . . . the desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for *deep* people" (italics mine). In this class we will explore the classical disciplines using Foster's book as our guide. You are invited to come and learn these God-ordained ways to place yourself before God so that you might be transformed by God, so that together we might grow to become a people of *depth*. This class is held at 11:00am in the Chapel and led by Paul Ytterrock.

XYZ Upcoming Trips

Forbidden Christmas at the Gem Theatre Thursday, December 10th

Join us for Lunch at the Traffic Jam & Snug and on to the Gem Theatre for the play, "Forbidden Christmas". This play includes spoofs of Broadway's greatest shows & performers. From The Phantom of the Opera to The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, no show is immune from the comedic parody of the Forbidden company! For the holidays, **Forbidden Christmas** adds spoofs of celebrities and holiday favorites such as Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Cher, Britney Spears, and more - all singing your favorite holiday numbers. And don't worry - you don't have to be a Broadway aficionado to get the jokes. The show is top-notch quality fun, even if you don't know the tunes! Cost is \$89, which includes transportation, lunch and the show. Reservations due by **November 12th**. **Your payment is your reservation.** Make check payable to First Presbyterian and mail to the attention of Lee Doll.

Toledo Glass Tour Thursday, February 18th

Join us for a great day. We will head to Toledo and have lunch on your own at the Original Tony Packo's, then on to the Toledo Glass Pavilion Museum where you will take a self-guided tour and enjoy a glass blowing demonstration, then on to the Libbey Glass Factory outlet. Cost is \$49.00 which includes transportation and admission to the museum. Reservation due by February 4th - **Your payment is your reservation.** Make check payable to First Presbyterian and mail to the attention of Lee Doll.

Nashville Show Trip April 25 - May 1, 2010

Join us for a great trip. We are headed to Nashville where we will see two great shows: The Grand Ole Opry and Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theater; take a guided tour of Nashville, visit the Country Music Hall of Fame, Loretta Lynn's Ranch and ride on the Delta Flatboats and much more. Cost is \$579.00 per person/double occupancy. This include transportation, six nights lodging, six breakfasts and four dinners, two shows, dinner party with entertainment, admission to venues and much more. A \$75.00 deposit is required for your reservation. Final payment is due **February 17, 2010**. **Your payment is your reservation.** Make check payable to First Presbyterian and mail to the attention of Lee Doll.

Women's Ministry

Women's Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 5

11:00am to 1:00pm

In the Narthex

Cost \$12 - Limited Seating

Reservations accepted beginning **Sunday, November 15** at the Welcome Desk or by calling 810.234.8673

Fabulous Fiber

You've heard of it, but you're still not certain you understand what it is and what it does.

Sometimes called roughage, fiber is the indigestible portion of plant foods that pushes food through the digestive system; absorbing water; and easing elimination. It is found in fruits and vegetables, legumes, and whole grains. There are two types of fiber, insoluble which doesn't dissolve in water; and soluble which does. Fiber intake helps with digestion, controlling cholesterol levels, and losing weight.

Examples of insoluble fiber include whole wheat flour, wheat bran, nuts, and many vegetables. Oats, peas, beans, apples, citrus fruits, carrots, and barley are good examples of soluble fiber. The five most fiber rich foods, according to the Linus Pauling Institute, are: 1. Legumes 2. Wheat bran 3. Prunes 4. Asian pear 5. Quinoa.

The Institute of Medicine recommends that women age 50 and younger eat at least 25 grams of fiber daily and men the same age, eat 38 grams. For those 51 years plus, 21 grams for women and 30 for men, should be eaten daily.

Tips to increase your daily fiber intake:

- Make small changes at a time
 - Eat whole fruits versus juices
 - Replace white bread, pasta, and rice with their whole grain counterparts
 - Snack on raw vegetables like carrots and celery
- Add a little crushed bran cereal or unprocessed wheat bran to breads, muffins, casseroles, cakes, and cookies.

You won't notice these changes and yet they'll be oh-so-good-for-you!

Sources: *Wikipedia* and the American Cancer Society

Children's Ministry

Acolyte training is for ALL children in 4th, 5th and 6th Grade

Sunday, November 1st from 9:45-10:45am in Room 312

Sunday, November 8th from 9:45-10:45am in Room 312



This class will use *The Acolyte's Book: a Basic Guide for the Church Acolyte Complete with Certificate* by Hoyt L.

Hickman, along with other Acolyte resources compiled by Children's Ministry. This is a hands on course designed to help each participant become comfortable with carrying the "Light of Christ."

The first Sunday we will focus on:

- ♦ What is an Acolyte?
- ♦ Duties of an Acolyte
- ♦ Disciplines of an Acolyte

The second Sunday we will talk about:

- ♦ Being prepared (nerves, excitement)
- ♦ Special times of the year (liturgical colors)
- ♦ Practicing and talking about the lighting/processing/ vestments/wick/extinguish

We will also have a time together that we can put what we have learned into practice before the first time we participate in 'real' corporate worship by carrying the "Light of Christ." Even if you have participated in the past, we encourage ALL 4th-6th graders to be a part of these important sessions. Children in 4th, 5th and 6th grade may leave the Sanctuary after the children's message on **November 1st** and **November 8th** and go directly to room 312.

Each child will receive a very special Acolyte pin and 2 Bible Bucks the first time they participate by carrying the "Light of Christ" in the Sanctuary!

Stewardship

Stewardship Sunday is **November 22nd**. All children Kindergarten through 6th grade will be learning about what being a good steward means. Stewardship education begins with the understanding that God is the source of all that exists. We will explore how we are part of what God has brought into our lives and around us. We will talk about time, talent and treasure and how it relates to our lives. Each child will have an opportunity to independently pray about stewardship, complete a "My Promises to God" form and light a candle signifying their commitment.

There will be no "BEE" Helpful Service Squad on Wednesday, November 25th, 2009.

Bible Buck Party

Mark your calendars and bring your bucks because it is time for the Bible Buck Party on **Sunday, November 29th** 10:45am-12:00pm

November Rotation Title: **Abraham and Sarah**



3rd Grade Bible Education Class at First Presbyterian
Sunday, November 15th from 9:45-10:45am in Room 309
Sunday, November 22nd from 9:45-10:45am in Room 309
Sunday, November 29th from 9:45-10:45am in Room 309
Sunday, December 6th from 9:45-10:45am in Room 309

This special third grade class will give a basic overview of the Bible, how to use your Bible, Bible characters, the books of the Bible, great events in the Bible and the life and death of Christ. The Bible is God's Word revealed and it helps us know God and to understand how God wants us to live in relationships with others and with Him. This class will teach the fundamentals of using the Bible and help the children learn how Scripture is important in their daily lives. All 3rd grade students will leave the Sanctuary after the children's message and meet in room 309 on the dates listed above. As a gift from God, 3rd graders will also receive their very own Bible and be celebrated during worship service. We are proud to offer the NIRV Kid's Study Bible by ZonderKidz. Please contact Jaime Powell with any questions you may have 810-234-8673 x 248. You won't want to miss this class so...race up to Room 309 on **Sunday November 15th** at 9:45!

Memory Tree Ornaments

Star ornaments are available for purchase for Advent and Christmas of 2009. Ornaments are \$15 and can be personalized with a name and date. They may be hung on the Memory Tree beginning the first week of Advent and /or purchased as gifts. You may purchase an ornament at the Welcome Desk or by contacting Frankie Bonner or Lee Doll at 810-234-8673.

October Worship and Meetings

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Contemplative Service, Wednesdays, 6:30pm, Chapel
Sunday Family Worship, Sundays, 9:30am, Sanctuary

BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP

Adult Church School, Sundays, 11:00am
Adult Education Class, Mondays, 10:30am, RM 129
Bee Helpful Service Squad, Wednesdays, 6:15pm, Rm 312
College and Career, Mondays, 7:00pm, Pipe Green Room
Children's Education, Sundays, 10:45am, Rm 312
Jr. High Girls, Wednesdays, 6:30pm, Pipe
Men's Ministry Bible Study, Saturdays, 8:00am, Rm 129
Sarah Circle, Thursday, November 5, 12:00pm, Offsite
Women's Bible Study, Mondays, 10:00am, Offsite
Women's Bible Study, Mondays, 7:00pm, Rm 129
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30am, Rm 129
Women's Bible Study, Thursdays, 9:15am, RM 211
Women's Bible Study, Thursdays, 9:45am, Rm 207
Youth Church School, Sundays, 10:45am, Pipe

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Acolyte Training, Sundays, November 1 & 8, 9:45am, RM 312
Bible Buck Party, Sunday, November 29, 10:45am, RM 312
Deacon's Chicken Dinner, Sunday, November 8, 11:15am, Offsite
Flu Clinic, Sunday, November 22, 8:30am, Narthex
Neighborhood Thanksgiving Dinner, Tuesday, November 24,
4:00pm, PH
Salem Housing, Saturday, November 14, 8:30am, Offsite

MEETINGS

Administration Team, Monday, November 16, 5:00pm, MP
Budget Team, Monday, November 2, 4, & 5, 4:00pm, MP
Chancel Choir Council, Tuesday, November 3, 5:00pm, OCR
Children's Ministry, Thursday, November 19, 6:00pm, CRR
Comm. Task Force, Monday, November 2, 16, 30, 4:00pm, OCR
Computer Tech. Team, Monday, November 9, 5:00pm, OCR
Congregational Care, Tuesday, November 10, 4:00pm, OCR
Deacon's Team, Tuesday, November 10, 6:30pm, Rm 129

Grief Support, Tuesday, November 10, 1:30pm, MP
Health Council, Tuesday, November 10, 6:00pm, OCR
Kitchen Task Force Team, Thursdays, November 5, 12 & 19,
1:00pm, OCR
MFA Team, Tuesday, November 10, 4:30pm, MP
Session, Tuesday, November 24, 6:00pm, Rm 129
Trustee Board, Tuesday, November 17, 5:00pm, Rm 129
Trustee B & G, Tuesday, November 17, 5:30pm, Rm 129
Trustee Finance, Tuesday, November 17, 5:30pm, Rm 129
Women's Ministry Team, Tuesday, November 3, 6:30pm, MP

Youth Ministry

Sundays

Neighborhood Breakfast, 8:00am. Help serve the community on Sunday mornings.

Worship, 9:30am – Join our wonderful community of believers by worshipping with us each Sunday morning.

Good Morning Pipers! Join us at 10:45am in the Pipe. We will have music, videos, games and mixers.

Educational Hour will begin at 11:00am. Sr. High-Pipe Green Room; Jr. High-Pipe class room.

Sunday Night Pipe meets every Sunday from 7:00-8:30pm. We have worship, food, mixers and a challenging lesson each week. Join us for a great time in a safe atmosphere.

Midweek

Pipe Praise Band: Sr. High meets on Tuesdays in the Pipe at 6:15pm. Jr. High meets on Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

Jr. High Ladies Small Group meets on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Pipe Green Room with Janeen Reigle.

Youth Volunteer Meeting: November 8th, 5:30-6:30pm in the Pipe Green Room.

Youth Team Meeting: December 6th from 4:00-5:30pm in the Pipe Green Room.

Events

Salem Housing-Saturday, November 14th from 8:30am – 12:00pm. It is a great time to serve others by cleaning, painting or home repair. Join us!

Neighborhood Thanksgiving Dinner: Volunteer to serve others on November 24th beginning at 3:00pm.

Non-Perishable Food Challenge

Attention all Bible Study and Sunday School Classes!

Beginning on November 1, 2009, we will have a non perishable food classroom challenge. Bring your food each time your class meets in the month of November. Bins will be placed in your classroom to receive your donations. On November 22, the winner will be announced. Let the contest begin! All donations will be given to Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministries.

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COMMUNITY MINISTRY: LISA HORNE

Life's Beginnings and Endings

Life is full of new beginnings, which means that it is full of endings. Sometimes the endings and even the beginnings are very painful, sometimes joyful, in most instances, they are a mixture of both. All of us in this area are experiencing endings and beginnings. We have seen the ending of the prosperous, bustling community of the 1950's. We are seeing the emergence of new beginnings in the buildings and restaurants downtown. Less prominent but more important are the people, people who do the service work of the various ministries of churches like ours, and organizations like Salem Housing. These efforts have drawn national attention. Recently, the New York Times included an article about Flint, more specifically about three people who live in Flint, Mr. Harry Ryan, Ms. Rose Barber, and Mr. Andre Jones and what they are doing in their neighborhood. Here are some quotes from that article:

[The article describes a garden.] *"On one side of the fertile lot stands an abandoned house, stripped long ago for scrap. But on this lot, surrounded by desertion in the north end of Flint, the toughest city in America, collard greens sprout in verdant surprise. Although the broccoli and turnips and snap peas have been picked, it is best to wait until deep autumn for the greens, says the garden's keeper, Harry Ryan.*

"Rose Barber, 56, [a neighbor of Mr. Ryan's] offered to help. Then came Andre Jones [another neighbor, who single-handedly started shoveling] uncovering long stretches of sidewalk, which had disappeared under inches of soil, weeds and neglect.

"East Piper Avenue has its sidewalk back, along with a vegetable garden, a grassy expanse where a children's playground will be built, and, close to one of those abutting abandoned

houses, a mix-and-match orchard of 18 young fruit trees. "But the garden could not contain their growing sense of pride in their community. Soon they were mowing front lawns all along East Piper Avenue—for free, and without permission. 'We just cut everybody's property, even if they were sitting on the front porch,' he [Mr. Ryan] says."

"Today the ever-expanding garden continues to feed people. [Mr. Ryan and Ms. Barber would leave bags of fresh vegetables at the doors of people who needed food.] Front lawns are still mowed, though now by neighborhood children paid through a county grant. Ms. Barber still works the garden, and Mr. Jones has expanded his sidewalk mission to the cross street of Verdun."

"As for Mr. Ryan, he is working on a plan to build a power-generating windmill in the garden." (For the complete article go to nytimes.com/2009/10/19/us/19land.html)

The Babylonians were about to devastate Judah and take its people into captivity when God told Jeremiah to buy land as a tangible expression of His promise that He would not abandon His people. They would return. There was hope. Whether we are experiencing a painful ending of the kind of community we used to know, a relationship, a job, our health, or some other loss, it's vital that we remember that God has not abandoned us. He has sent us Christ, who, in the ending of his ministry on earth, offers us the beginning of eternal life. Even with that, in our human frailty, we may need something tangible. So, just as He sent Jeremiah to Jews, He sends us Mr. Ryans, Ms. Barbers, and Mr. Jones'. Whatever our pain, fear, or loss, if we seek, we will find somewhere or in someone a tangible expression of God's love reminding us—there is hope.

~ Andy Armstrong,

director of the Gerholz Center

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