

EXPRESSIONS

CHURCH IN THE HILLS (USA)

“The Journey is Almost Over – What’s Next?”

Each year we finish the Lenten journey with the sprint to Easter that is Holy Week. We begin the week with the joy and subsequent guilt that comes from welcoming Christ with such loving words before turning on him in sin. From there we reflect on the events of the passion that are explained and justified by the grace we experience in the resurrection. It is a week fraught with pain and joy, hurt and comfort.

Our own spiritual journeys mirror this dichotomy. From day to day, week to week, even hour to hour, we might experience the rapturous joy that comes in the hope of Christ while feeling the equally crushing effects of sin in our world. It is a rollercoaster that takes so much concentration and resolve to ride – and it does not end on Easter. We are purposeful this time of year in our desire to understand the need for Christ’s death in order to experience his resurrection. Yet we are called to be in tune with this balance daily.

While writing this morning, I am reading the newspaper commenting on so much destruction, pain, and conflict in our world – from Egypt, to Libya, to Japan, to our backyard. It breaks my heart to realize such tragedy continues to exist around me, even when I see glimpses of joy and grace in the midst. On the darkened morning of his death, Jesus’ crucifixion stood paradoxically as the sign of hope in an otherwise aimlessly tragic world. Somehow, death shone out as an example of life.

As bearers of this same cross, we are charged to go into our world demonstrating this hope that does not come by our own hands, but only through the mercy of God’s forgiveness. Grace is possible, and we are given the opportunity by the Holy Spirit to be messengers of peace, purity, and unity in the world through our lives of faith.

Go to the cross unafraid of the brokenness, and leave the cross unaware of hopelessness. Believe in God’s desire for peace, hope, and justice for all people, in all places, and in all times.

Grace and peace to you all,

Pastor Andrew



FROM THE BENCH



I have been thinking about this article for a week and a half; no inspiration has been forthcoming. My husband says, "Write about giving up duck hunting for Lent. Andrew will think it's funny." True, but a rather frivolous approach to both the season and this newsletter. I pass on that idea.

I try free-association: spring...flowers...my entry for the Alden Posy Patch the year my friend shamed me into submitting something. I am so not a gardener. I took a cement block, filled it with dirt. On one side I stuck popsicle sticks with signs that read "Nothing" in various languages. On the other side I planted thyme and included a refrigerator magnet that showed a woman staring out her window with a cup of coffee in her hand. My sign for that side read, "I've got the thyme, but the words just aren't coming up." I took children's alphabet blocks and glued ones that spelled "Writer's Block" on the front of the cement block....Still no idea for this article but I've finished paragraph two.

It occurs to me that not only writers but all of us get blocked at various times in our lives. We have periods where we wander around in our own personal wildernesses - sometimes lasting for forty or more days, sometimes much shorter in duration. At one of the Lifelong Learning classes in Traverse City I heard the presenter say she was in a "holding pattern." She had finished one project, perhaps it was a long career, and didn't know what she was going to do next. Her husband told her she does this about every ten years and she guessed he was right. She seemed to need this time in her life to just pause, figure out what to do next, and eventually move on.

I can relate. I feel guilty about inertia, worry that I'm going to miss an imposed deadline, clutch at various "straws" hoping to figure out what I'm supposed to do - or write about. But now, as dawn breaks outside my study window (a room my husband refers to as "Command Central" and where I currently cannot command up even an idea) I think I'm okay. In addition to the "giving up" part of Lent, these forty days give us permission to move more slowly, to take more deep breaths, to sit and listen to whatever "still small voice" is around us, and wait for guidance to come. The promise of Easter gives me hope for things both large and small. Maybe I'll have a better idea for a column by the deadline for the *May* newsletter.

Dorothy Clore, Music Director

APRIL GREETERS

April 3—Dick and Connie Garcia
April 10—Bob and Ardith Peters
April 17—Dick and Connie Garcia
April 24—8:30 **Need volunteer**
10:30 am—Rita Drudge & Sharon Frey
Greeters should be at the church at
10:00 a.m. If you cannot be at the
Service of Worship on the Sunday you
are to be the greeter, please call
Cindy Overby 533-6001

APRIL USHERS

April 3—Sharon Frey
April 10—Jeff Braden
April 17—Deb Braden
April 24-8:30—Olga Cairns
10:30 —Bob Drudge

APRIL LITURGISTS

April 3—Duane Ferris
April 10—Sue Clovis
April 17—Danelle Brostrom
April 24—8:30—Maureen Stenback
10:30—Maureen Stenback
If you cannot be at the service of
Worship on the Sunday you are to
be the liturgist, please call
Maureen Stenback (544-6522)

Please keep Donna Lesperance in your
prayers. . Donna has had a hip
replacement and is recovering for the next
4 to 6 weeks in an extended care facility in
Florida.

Dorothy DeSpelder passed into the hands
of the Lord on Monday March 14, with
Bruce at her side. Please pray for the family
especially Bruce who has been in the
hospital with pneumonia. The funeral
service will be at Church in the Hills on
Saturday April 9, at 1:00.
Rev. Duane Ferris will officiate

DEACONS

Class of 2011

Carol Gregory	533-8138
Edena Williams	533-8598
Don Hoyt	989-614-0798

Class of 2012

Martha Harris	533-6105
Lewis Lesperance	322-2893
Millie Serrine	544-8047

Class of 2013

Garnett Anderson	322-6007
Jeff Braden	544-1685



Paul and Doris DeLange	4-11
Don and Ann Havenstein	4-14
Bud and Irma Hierlihy	4-21
Jack and Marge Glyshaw	4-29



Gene Selden	4-1
Joy Whittlesey	4-6
Susie Stinson	4-10
Rachell Pomerville	4-12
Jari Poll	4-13
Deb Braden	4-15
Walter Joachim	4-17
Joe Bostater	4-19
Bruce DeSpelder	4-19
Bonnie Kershner	4-21
Fred Harris	4-28
Marilyn Green	4-29

S H A R E

GOD'S

B O U N T Y

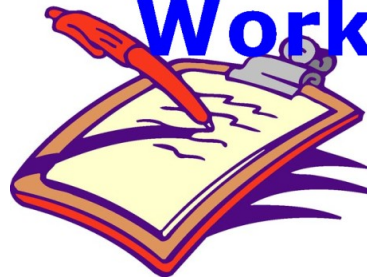
2011 SPECIAL OFFERING
One Great Hour of Sharing
 will be collected on

April 17 and 24. This offering is distributed throughout the world for Presbyterian Hunger Programs(36%), Disaster Assistance(32%) and Self-Development of people (32%).

This year's theme is **"Sharing Brings Joy"**
 "The point is this; the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the

one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 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. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." (2 Cor. 9:6-9)

Your Ultimate Gift Workshop



This workshop is an opportunity for members of the Antrim County community to make informed decisions about their end- of-life care while they are healthy, of sound mind and far removed from crisis.

Saturday: April 30, 2011 from 9:00 am-4:00p.m

**At: Church in the Hills
 6401 Shanty Creek Road,
 Bellaire Michigan**

**To Register: Call Cheri Hoffman
 (231)547-7659**

**The workshop is open to anyone over 18
 from Antrim County
 (There will be no registration at the door)**

PRAYER REQUEST

April 2011

Family of Dorothy DeSpelder

Family of Dick Schorfhaar

Sarah Gaynor

Ermil Jones

Chris Nightengale

Henry Brown

Dale Walsworth

Michael Lynch

Donna Lesperance

Dale Hanson

Cathy Cramer

Sue Williams

Ann Nagel

Michelle Lewis

Muriel Twigg

Doreen Stover

Drew McNeill

Dawn Lukins

Norma Christenson

Kayla Stover

Tracie Lord

Melissa Foley

Jason Wohlert

Vi Mc Adam

Barry Schorfhaar

Gordon Grinwis

Tina Lynn Plaisance

Peg O'Dean

Jean McClelland

Michelle Bell

Margie Law

Ed Blugerman

Margie Miedema

Jen Miller

Ron and Cindy Vassiloff

Paul Williams

Promise Garchow

Kelli Cassis

Betty Van Antwerp

Chuck Anderson

Michael, Leah, Molly

Eileen Hefferman

If you have any prayer request, joys, or concerns which you would like shared with the congregation, please write them in the prayer book in the narthex or pass them along to the church office at 533-6001 or e-mail to churchinthehills@charterinternet.com Request will be held for one month and will then need to be renewed if desired.



The Church in the Hills website committee sends out approximately 74 e-mails notifying members of Sermon Postings, illness of members, and Funeral services. Some have indicated they would like to be on this Information notification list. If you would like to be on this list please e-mail Tom Frey at--- Frey95@charter.net just say put me on Church in the Hills Information notification list.



REACHING OUT HELPING OTHERS

Our Missions Committee has been busy making "outreach" plans for the coming year. Lent is a perfect time to think about the sacrifice our Lord made for each of us and in what way we can sacrifice to help others. Don and Kathy Hoyt and Rachell Pomerville started this season of sacrifice by giving their time and energy while on a mission trip to Mexico. They came back knowing they gave to others in need of assistance and will be sharing ideas for ways

our congregation can also help. Tom and Sarah Juntune returned from their trip to Palestine and have encouraged our congregation to become involved in the building of a play structure for children in Zababdeh - the only Christian village in the Northern West Bank. Knowing that the children of that village have only the streets to play in touched each of us. Our Presbytery has asked churches to donate money to help with the financial needs this project will require. Our Missions Committee is sending \$500 with the hope that other churches will match our donation and add to the fund. Locally we continue to support the Bellaire Community Meal once a month, the Food Pantry and the Bellaire Youth Center. On April 16th we will sponsor another "Mom to Mom" Sale in the Elementary School Gym. The positive effect this event had on our community last December has led us to sacrifice our time and energy this month to plan and organize another event to help others. Looking ahead to future activities it's not too soon to start cleaning out your closets. We will sponsor another "Clothing Giveaway/Exchange" on May 14th. Clothes will be collected the first week in May. I would encourage each of you to look through your Spring and Summer Clothes – do you have anything you could "give up" to help someone else? There are many ways to reach out and there are so many needs in other parts of the world and in our own

community. Thank you for all of the ways you help .

Mary Ann Waara, Elder for Missions



The **Finance Committee** comprised of Pastor Andrew , Cindy Overby-Secretary, Fred Harris-Elder , Ted Whittlesey -Elder, Dale Hanson-Member and Mike Card-Member **is seeking two additional members from the congregation.** Please consider this opportunity to serve in support of our worship and fellowship. No special skills are required. It would mean only one meeting per month (as available) and assisting with the counting of the collection once or twice each month (as available). We utilize two people in the counting of the collection each Sunday and frankly some Sundays we run short of counters. If interested or if you have questions contact any of the Finance Committee members. We need these

important positions filled ASAP- if you are away at this time and are possibly interested please call Fred Harris 231 392 1275. Thank You!



WOMENS
BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club has had a **CHANGE OF LOCATION**. The women are now meeting at the **BELLAIRE LIBRARY** starting in **April**.

Everybody is welcome to attend, even if you haven't read the book. We will be discussing the book When Evil Came to Good Hart by Mardi Link. This is another unsolved "Up North" murder account. **Please meet at 1:00 p.m. on April 26.**



Mom to Mom Spring Sale

The Mom to Mom Spring sale will be April 16, at the Bellaire Elementary Gym from 10-2 pm.

This event is sponsored by Church in the

Hills. There will be up to 15 vendors selling very gently used infant thru adult clothes, toys, books, bikes, furniture and more. This is a great chance to do some Spring Shopping. If you need more information or would like to be a participant/vendor in this sale please call Mary Ann Waara for more information (350-0067) or e-mail her at maryannwaara@yahoo.com



Saturday April 30 is our P.W. Spring Gathering at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Gaylord from 9-3 p.m. We need your reservation and \$5.00 for lunch by April 10. There will also be \$2.00 due at the door. Please come and join us, meet new friends and hear an interesting speaker.

Sarah Juntune is being installed as the new P.W. Moderator of Mackinac so please come and support her.

We still need you to save your change for the Least Coin (which goes to needy Women and Children). You can also bring or

send with us gently used clothing and household items. These will go to the Gaylord church's Caring Closet. Hope you can join us.

Edena Williams

Church in the Hills will be selling Easter Lilies from Cottage Floral until April 12. Look for the order form in the bulletin, they are \$13.00 this year for a 6-9 bloom plant.



There will be a luncheon and discussion after church on May 1, for potential new members. A baby sister will be provided. Please RSVP to Cindy (533-6001) at the church if you would like to attend.

Scripture Readings for April

April 3

Psalm 115, Matthew 19:16-30

Sermon "This Isn't a Metaphor"

April 10

1 Kings 19:11-18, Matthew 16:24-28

Sermon "We Carry the Cross Together"

April 17

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Matthew 21:1-17

April 24

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Matthew 28:1-10

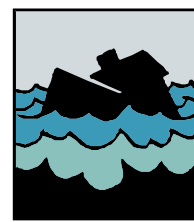
"SPRING SPRUCE UP"

MAY 7, 2011

On Saturday, May 7, from 9-12 A.M. we will have our annual "spruce-up" of the church grounds. We will clean up the flower beds, trim shrubs (if necessary) and straighten up the storage sheds. Everyone is welcome. Bring gloves and tools.

Coffee and donuts will be served.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the kitchen bulletin board. If you have questions call Elder Schaefer at 377-7848.



**Relief for
Japan
You Can Help**

Although there are many avenues for help, two church-supported means are by generously supporting the Fellowship of the Least Coin and by assembling Hygiene Kits (or providing funds for others to make them).

Fellowship of the Least Coin. This worldwide mission organization is headquartered in Japan, and they are actively at work providing necessities to the victims. Our Fellowship of the Least Coin offering will be presented at the PW Women's Spring Gathering on April 30. Although the original focus was for women around the world to contribute the least coin of their local currency, we'll be glad to

take larger coins or even “quiet money” to represent CitH. A few FLC banks will be available for take home, but feel free to use jars or envelopes, etc. Please have your contributions at the church by Thursday, April 28.

Disaster Relief Hygiene Kits: For each kit, you need:

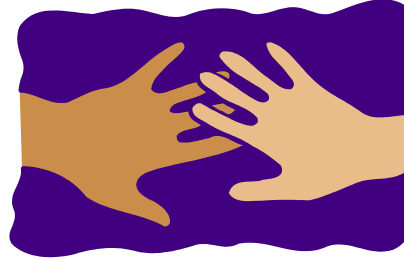
- One hand towel approximately 16” x 28”
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of bath size soap in its wrapper
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with zipper closure; remove excess air from bag, and seal. (Toothpaste with extended expiration dates will be shipped by CWS in quantity along with the kits.)

Another possibility is to collect multiples of the items and have a “kit-assembling” party on Tuesday evening, April 27, at 6:30 PM. “Togetherness in Mission” can be a lot of fun. Let Mary Ann Waara or one of the Mission Committee people know if you’re interested.

Please have completed kits here by May 1, for shipment that week.

HELPING



HANDS

Building helpers and ideas needed

We are trying to put together a list of people who have various skills (or who know outside sources) and are willing to help when a need arises.

If you are able to help with (or advise on) any of the following, please email me.

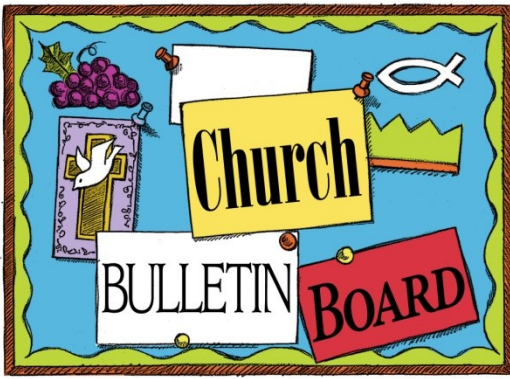
Heating / AC	Plumbing
Structural	Roof and gutters
Electrical	AV-equipment
Carpentry / structural	Dry-wall
Flooring / carpeting	Recycling
Organizing / Inventory	Decorating
Cleaning refrigerators	
Cleaning out cabinets	

Also, if you have any visions about better utilization of church spaces, please send them along also, to

juntune@charter.net

Thanks so much. Sarah J.

April Tea Special: Organic Green Tea will be available for \$2.75 a box (normally \$3.50). We have ordered a tea sampler pack and will be serving a different kind of Fair Trade tea each week for the next couple of months. Let us know which flavors you’d like us to order for sale.



Check the Bulletin Boards. Thank-you's and

personal notes/pictures will be posted on the board going downstairs. The bulletin board in the upstairs hall will continue to have announcements, collection envelopes for UPCs and stamps, and sign-up sheets. Hand-outs will soon be found in a display near the veterans' plaque.

Pancake Breakfast



Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the Men's Rap Group – 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday, April 17. Please join the congregation for a free breakfast before worship on Palm Sunday! Kids and families are welcome and encouraged to come. We could still use volunteers to assist with the cooking and serving. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Andrew at pastor@churchinthehills.net or call the church office at 533-6001.



For Maundy Thursday this year, we will be hosting a dinner and worship service in the undercroft using the Last Supper/arrest verses interspersed with hymns while sharing in this potluck meal. The event will be held from 6:30-7:30. Please bring a dish to pass (A-L – Main Course, M-R – salad or side, S-Z – desert). This unique worship service will include communion. Please bring a friend or neighbor.



GOOD FRIDAY

Community Good Friday Service to be held at the Bellaire Community United Methodist Church at 7:00 pm on April 22. We will worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ from other denominations in Bellaire. Everyone is invited! If you are interested in singing in the ecumenical choir, please plan on arriving at 6:00 pm.

APRIL 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 Pastor Sabbath	2
3 10:30 Worship Service	4	5 9:00 am Sermon preview 7:00 pm Mission	6 3:00 pm Youth Group 3:30 pm Choir	7 9:00 am Men's Rap 10:15 am Finance 3:15 Youth Group	8 Pastor Sabbath	9
10 10:30 Worship Service	11	12 9:00 am Sermon preview	13 9:00 am Session 12:30 Deacons 3:00 pm Youth Group 3:30 pm Choir	14 9:00 am Men's Rap 3:15 Youth Group	15 Pastor Sabbath	16 10-2 Mom to Mom Sale Bellaire Elementary School
17 9:15-10:15 Pancake Breakfast 10:30 Worship Service	18	19 9:00 am Sermon preview	20 3:00 pm Youth Group 3:30 pm Choir	21 9:00 am Men's Rap 3:15 Youth Group 6:30 Maundy Thursday Potluck	22 7:00 pm Good Friday Service Bellaire Community. United Methodist Church	23
24 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 worship 10:30 worship	25	26 9:00 am Sermon preview 1:00 Book Club Bellaire Library	27 3:00 pm Youth Group 3:30 pm Choir	28 9:00 am Men's Rap 3:15 Youth Group	29 Pastor Sabbath	30 9-4 Ultimate Gift workshop 9-3 PW Spring Gathering in Gaylord

CHURCH IN THE HILLS

A Presbyterian Community of

Faith and Friendship in Christ

6401 Shanty Creek Rd Bellaire, MI 49615

Phone: 231-533-6001

OFFICE E-MAIL:

Office@churchinthehills.net

WEBSITE

www.churchinthehills.org

Service of Worship: Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Children's Program: 10:30 a.m. Sunday

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (12-1 Lunch)

Secretary Cindy Overby

Church in the Hills is a member of the

Presbytery of Mackinac

The Synod of the Covenant

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Reverend Andrew Pomerville

231-350-1186

pastor@churchinthehills.net

Clerk of Session: Dottie Schaefer 377-7848

Class of 2011

Bob Schaefer Personnel/grounds 377-7848

Fred Harris Finance 533-6105

Sue Schorfhaar Worship/prayer 533-5071

Class of 2012

Cynthia Tschudy C. Education 544-6167

Ted Whittlesey Finance 377-9304

Mary Ann Waara Mission 533-9340

Class of 2013

Jean Rowe Membership 533-8131

Maureen Stenback Worship 544-6522

Sarah Juntune Facilities 533-9403

Dorothy Clore Choir/Organist 331-6587

Edena Williams PW of CITH 533-8598

Reverend Mr. Donald E. Gordon, Pastor Emeritus

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