

EXPRESSIONS

CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC(USA)

HILLS AND VALLEYS



On July 24th, Le Tour De France wrapped up. The world's greatest cyclists raced 2000 miles over mountains and through cities for a chance at glory. It was especially amazing to watch these riders conquer French mountains with only the strength of their legs to propel them.

We had some folks graciously give us a set of bikes recently. We were very grateful for this since we were already considering purchasing a set. We have had a lot of fun and it has helped me in my quest to shave a few pounds. I, however, will not be joining the Tour De France any time soon. I think I would do okay if the whole Tour was downhill or flat. The hard part is going up the hills and, in Northern Michigan, we have plenty of hills. Someone told me that there is a 600 foot difference in elevation between Bellaire and Mancelona. Here, in Northern Michigan, it seems like we are always either heading uphill or down.

I think it is the same with church life. There are times when you can just coast and take it easy, like biking downhill. There are other times, however, that require exertion and strain. Biking up a steep hill can be grueling and no fun, but there is a wonderful sense of satisfaction when you finally crest the hill.

Do you recall how Paul began his letter to the Philippians? He promises them in the beginning of the letter that the Lord 'who began a good work in [the Philippian Church] would be faithful to complete it.'

What an exciting promise to hear! It should fill our hearts with joy to know that this wonderful promise extends to Church in the Hills as well. In his mercy, the Lord has faithfully guided this Church to where we are today, and we can rely on his steadfast assurance that he is not done with us yet. I have a firm belief that the Lord has started this good work and he will be faithful to complete it!

Completing this work may not be easy. We are currently in an uphill time in which we are required to exert ourselves a bit more than we are used to. Our name says it all – Church in the Hills. You can't get to where we are without doing some climbing, and I believe we can't get to where we are going without doing a bit more. Until the Church can find its next pastor, we should all look and see what we can do to chip in and help out. In doing this, we can be sustained by the knowledge that God is within us giving us the will and strength to do our best.

Things aren't always easy, and sometimes there are steep hills to climb. I am fully persuaded that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and a dedication to his will, we can stand united in the blessed work here at Church in the Hills.

Corey

FROM THE BENCH



Record high temperatures and the fact that our swim raft has a sign that says “Comfort” (reference to former owners) brings awareness of my own comfort level. During hot humid weather my tolerance for the weather is low. But swimming out towards that raft is very comforting and comfortable. Perhaps many of you also have comfort levels that fluctuate depending on weather, circumstances, and surroundings.

I find that true in church also. I know I exceeded one listener’s comfort level when she told me after church that the music was generally pleasing, but “This morning’s prelude sounded like a sick cat screeching on a fence.” I always know when unfamiliar hymns have been selected because I am assured of a negative response from at least one person. Choristers are equally, although courteously blunt. “You expected us to walk **and** sing about test tubes, loud sounding cymbals, earth, and all stars at the same time????”

For many of us, myself included, church is probably a place we come to for comfort. We like greeting friends on Sunday mornings, seeing children scrubbed up in their “best bib and tucker”, hearing reassuring words from the liturgist and pastor, and singing (we hope) familiar hymns. That’s not always the case. Sometimes we’re surrounded by strangers, the children have chosen to be absent, the Bible passages are either depressing or hard to comprehend, the Pastor’s words seem a little “off” and lord knows what Dorothy has chosen to play on the organ this Sunday. Our comfort level has dropped several notches.

Nevertheless, I believe it’s important to keep coming, to keep seeking - whatever it is that we didn’t find or experience last week. I’m not sure we’re always supposed to be comfortable in church. Discomfort can help us re-think something in our lives, look at a relationship in a new way, at least try to sing notes that we’ve never heard before while reading a foreign text at the same time. Think of all this as a challenge to our co-ordination, thought processes, and good humor. Feel victorious when some of those challenges have been met, be of good courage and go forth into the world renewed and invigorated. Surely that will bring comfort.

Dorothy Clore, Music Director

AUGUST GREETERS

August 7—Dave and MaryAnn McBeth

August 14—Dave and Carol Gregory

August 21—Mary Ann Waara & Grace
Landis

August 28—Grant and Jean Rowe

Greeters should be at the church at
9:30 a.m. If you cannot be at the
Service of Worship on the Sunday you
are to be the greeters. Please call
Cindy Overby at 533-6001

AUGUST HEAD USHERS

August 7—Jeff Braden

August 14—Sharon Frey

August 21—Edena Williams

August 28—Edena Williams

If you cannot be at the service of Worship
On the Sunday you are to be the usher,
Please call Maureen Stenback at 544-6522

AUGUST LITURGIST

August 7—Duane Ferris

August 14 —Dick Garcia

August 21—Rex Luxton

August 28—Connie Garcia

If you cannot be at the service of
Worship on the Sunday you are to be
the liturgist. Please call Maureen
Stenback at 544-6555

**DEACON ON CALL THE MONTH OF
AUGUST IS EDENA WILLIAMS
YOU CAN
REACH HER AT 533-8598**

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



Jacob McManus	8-5
Bob Clore	8-5
Gloria Weiss	8-6
Don Havenstein	8-9
Shirley Hetzel	8-12
Leslie Marcus	8-20
John Edleman	8-21
Joseph Henley	8-27
Bruce Dickinson	8-31



Grant and Jean Rowe	8-2
Rex and Dorothy Luxton	8-5
Ted and Joy Whittlesey	8-6
John and Danelle Brostrom	8-6
Tom and Sarah Juntune	8-10
Dale and Nancy Hanson	8-12
Allyn and Mac Wright	8-18
Bob and Susie Stinson	8-18
Truman and Linda Bicum	8-19
Dave and Dianne VanHuysen	8-20
Bill and Maureen Stenback	8-26
Dr John and Nancy Edleman	8-29
Burt and Sharon Moeke	8-31

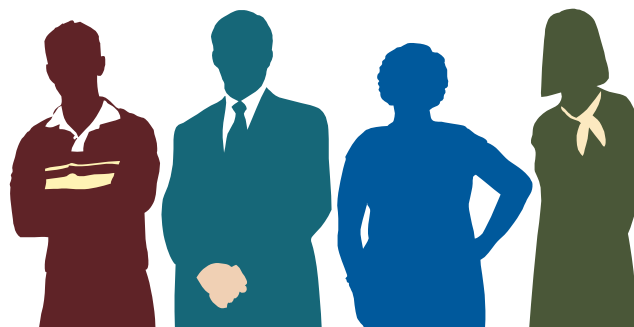
Ladies!

Are you looking for something to keep your hands busy while you're relaxing in the shade? We have been given a new batch of Yarn. (Mary Ann Estes donated it) It's in the closet across from pastor's office. It's time to start making hats, scarves, mitten and shawls for Christmas. Let's get those crochet hooks and knitting needles clicking.

Deacon Edena Williams

HELP WANTED!

Church in the Hills is looking for a volunteer Webmaster and a volunteer Audio/Visual Coordinator. No experience is necessary. If you have a spare hour every week, you can operate a computer, and check email, then you have all the tools for this ministry! We will provide all the training that you need. For more information check with Tom Frey or Corey.



Nominating COMMITTEE

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) wants to keep you as well-informed as possible throughout our work, and we will be providing you with whatever reports we can in newsletters. We are meeting regularly and doing our best to fulfill the faith you've put in us to locate and nominate a Pastor.

For those who may not be familiar with the Pastor Nominating process, here is a brief explanation of our duties, responsibilities and procedures:

- Complete a Church Information Form (CIF), which describes our church and what our church is seeking in a Pastor.
- Submit the CIF to the Session and Presbytery for approval.
- Submit the approved CIF to Presbyterian Church USA National Office (PCUSA) as the official job posting.
- Receive inquiries/Applications. They will come from: PCUSA - matches they believe might fit, self-referred applications, names given to us by individuals in or outside of the church.
- Discuss each application and seek advice from the Presbytery as needed.
- Request more information from candidates we are interested in.
- Interview candidates we are interested in.
- Check references.
- Once we have selected a Pastor we believe is right for our church, submit their name and information to our congregation.
- Call a congregational meeting immediately following the service where the candidate preaches for the entire congregation. The congregation votes on both the candidate and the financial package

that will be presented to the candidate.

Once a Pastor and financial package have been agreed upon by the church and the Pastor, the PNC has completed its duties. However, we will join the congregation in helping the Pastor settle in.

This is not a short process, and we must maintain complete confidentiality about specific names and locations. But please be assured that every name or suggestion submitted by any member of the congregation (in writing and signed) to any member of the PNC will be considered.

You have shown us your trust by electing us. We will do our best to reward that trust. Please keep us and our work in your prayers.

Your PNC Nominating Committee (Dick Garcia, Don Hoyt, Ron Lynch, Carol McLeod, Mary Ann Waara, Jerry Walsworth and Ted Whittlesey).



Reaching Out . . . Helping Others

Church in the Hills continues to be present in the lives of so many people throughout the world! From our blessing and financial assistance to Tianne Cole as she continues her training for missionary work with mothers and babies in Africa to supporting the Moms and Tots center in Ellsworth.

From collecting backpacks and supplies for children in Antrim County to the \$625 we gathered to send to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program for flooding and tornado victims in the South. From supporting Don, Kathy and Rachell in their medical mission work in Piedras Negras, Mexico to our support of Kathy and Joe Angi, missionaries in Budapest, Hungary. From the support we give to farmers in South America by purchasing Fair Trade coffee to the Community Meals we serve monthly – we are showing God’s love to others in our community, our nation and the world – thank you for responding to His call! Mary Ann Waara, Elder for Missions

BACKPACKS PROJECT



Backpacks and Supplies Needed

We are continuing to collect backpacks and supplies throughout the month of August. Our goal is to put them together on August 14th and the 21st. They will need to be

taken to schools before Labor Day so children can have them as soon as school starts. Anyone interested in helping put them together or deliver them to schools please see Mary Ann Waara for more information. Last year we assembled 225 backpacks and gave them to schools in Alba, Bellaire, Central Lake, Elk Rapids, Ellsworth, Mancelona and Rapid City. We also sent some to Alaska and Mexico! Our hope is to put even more together this year. Below is a list of supplies:

Backpacks
Single Subject Notebooks
Loose leaf Paper
Pens and Pencils
Folders
**Thank you for your help and support with
this project!**



Flowers

It seems there is some confusion on how to go about giving flowers for Sunday Services. We have a sign up sheet so we know you are planning on giving flowers . It is up to you to buy the flowers and bring them with

you to church on Sunday or order them from Cottage Floral of Bellaire. The owner Cindy Banwell has a key and will deliver them to the church for you but you must let her know . Martha Harris is in charge of flowers and if you need more information you can get hold of her at 533-6105. We do buy the rose for the new babies in the congregation



DEACONS NEWS

Our last Community meal was a great success. We are pleased with the cookout. The turnout was one of the best ever with over eighty attending. Anyone interested in helping at any time with the meal please see one of the Deacons.

With the changes going on in the church we are trying to see that all the Deacons have a flock and help with any needs they might have. We are also trying to set up a type of calling tree to notify members of illnesses and deaths.

We are going to announce a new “ANGEL” in August.

Three of the Deacons will be replaced at the first of the year. We are looking for anyone

interested in serving as a Deacon for the next three years. Personally speaking, it has been a rewarding time for me in knowing that God’s work can be done in the congregation and in the community by anyone willing to give of their time. If you feel you might be interested, please contact any one of the Deacons.

Peace in Christ

Carol Gregory



*A
Message
from Pastor
Andrew*

Dear Friends,
“As we are settling into our new home in East Lansing, we can’t help but think of how welcome, loved, and supported we were in all of our time in Bellaire. Thank you most sincerely from our family for all of the cards and well wishes we continue to receive from our wonderful friends and family in Bellaire. You continue to be in our prayers as we again ask for yours. The send offs from CITH were special moments that we will always treasure in our hearts. Many blessings to you all from our family. Grace and peace from Andrew, Rachell, Denali, and Bryce.”

Andrew, Rachell, Denali and Bryce
Pomerville
1137 Teakwood Circle
Haslett, MI 48840

The Peoples Church
200 West Grand River Ave.
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-332-5073
apomerville@thepeopleschurch.com



Special thanks are due to Duane Ferris for inventorying both sheds and also to Connie Garcia, Dave Gregory and Paul DeLange (and grandsons), who were then able to dispose of a large trailer-load of unneeded or damaged “stuff.” In general, the new shed contains church decorations as well as the mower and frequently used tools. The old shed (whose roof was repaired by Dave) is more for storage.

Other activities include investigating a dividing door and new flooring in the Sunday school area as well as the purchase of 2 lighter portable tables for meetings.

PC(USA)’S NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The PC(USA) is governed by a constitutional Form of Government (FoG). The current FoG was created in 1983, when the “northern” and “southern” branches of the Presbyterian Church united to become the

PC(USA). In the less than 30 years of its existence, the FoG has become much more a manual of regulations than a constitution.

For the last five years, a task force has worked diligently to create a document that brings the church’s form of government back to its historical basis as a constitutional entity and allows congregations more local control in their ministry. (The US Constitution was actually based on the Presbyterian form of government.) The new FoG was approved by a majority of the presbyteries and went into effect July 10. Long-time Presbyterians, by the way, will see the return of some familiar terminology and concepts that they may not even know had been changed in 1983.

The new document has three parts:

Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, with three chapters (“The Mission of the Church,” “The Church and its Confessions,” and “Principles of Order and Government”);

The Form of Government, with six chapters (“Congregations and Their Membership,” “Ordered Ministry, Commissioning, and Certification,” “Councils of the Church,” “The Church and Civil Authority,” “Ecumenicity and Union,” and “Interpreting and Amending the Constitution”); and

Advisory Handbook for Councils for the Development of Policies and Procedures, with guides for Sessions, Presbyteries, Synods, and the General Assembly to use, as each group revises its

by-laws and “Manual of Administrative Operations.”

The session of Church in the Hills has appointed Elder Juntune to begin the process of creating a Manual of Operations and updating its by-laws. The revised by-laws will be brought before the congregation for approval.

There are numerous resources available at <http://oga.pcusa.org/formofgovernment>, and you are encouraged to read all of them. Among them are these two quotes:

*In the power of the Spirit, Jesus Christ draws worshiping communities and individual believers into the sovereign activity of the triune God at all times and places. As the Church seeks reform and fresh direction, it looks to Jesus Christ who goes ahead of us and calls us to follow him.
(Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, 1.0401)*

and

“[The new FoG]... contains broad governing and theological principles and emphasizes function over structure. ... [Church bodies at all levels] will have the opportunity to tailor mission and ministry to fit their own particular contexts and challenges.”

News from the Finance Committee

Statements of giving (as of 6/30/11) were recently mailed. If you have any questions regarding your statement please call Cindy at the CITH’s Office. Additional Statements

as of 11/30/11, will be mailed in order to help with your year-end planning. If at any time, you have a question regarding the record of your giving, Cindy would be happy to give you that update.

The Finance Committee Needs Volunteers-
The Book of Order G-10.0401.d. *Requires* “A full financial review of all books and records relating to finances once each year by a public accountant or public accounting firm or a committee of members versed in accounting procedures. Such auditors should not be related to the treasurer (or treasurers). Terminology in this section is meant to provide general guidance and is not intended to require or not require specific audit procedures or practices as understood within the professional accounting community.”

Last year the CITH’s had a full CPA review. This year we intend to utilize a “committee of members” in an overview approach. No particular skills are needed, however a tendency toward asking questions is appreciated.

Therefore the Finance Committee seeks two or more volunteers to participate in a review of the functions of:

1. Check Authorization/Writing for a random week (1/2 hr. with Cindy at your convenience).
2. A review of basic monthly financial reports and walk through a random month’s activity (what comprised the expenses that month) in each line item of the budget for a random month (1/2 hr. with Cindy and a Member of the Finance Committee).

3. Review separation of duties/internal controls in the regard to: A. witnessing one week's collection/counting and depositing of giving (without access to specific gifting). (5 min. after a church service and 1 hr. at the bank on the next Monday).

B. Witnessing the reconciliation of the bank statement circa the first of the month. (1/2 hr. with Cindy and a Member of the Finance Com.).

Time Commitment: Approximately 4 hrs. maximum.

4. Meet to formulate and Communicate the Overview Committee's findings and Recommendations .

Again no particular skills are needed –you will witness how your church finances are handled and any questions will be answered.

If you are interested in helping us with this review please contact any member of the Finance Committee.

Respectfully Submitted , Fred Harris - the Finance Committee Members are: Cindy Overby-Secretary, Ted Whittlesey -Elder, Member, Fred Harris-Elder, Member, Dale Hanson-Member, Mike Card, Member and Mac Wright-Member.



The Cherry Capital Men's Chorus on Tuesday July 12th was a big success; we had over 100 people in attendance.

What a terrific night! We owe a big thanks to our underwriters Pat Martin, Marv and Berneil Olson, Beverly Baker and Ermil Jones. If you weren't able to come please join us for the other concerts at Church in the Hills this summer. The next concert will be **Sunday August 14, at 3:00 p.m.** the **Ionia Community Band** will present a lively **"Music from the Stage"** performance, with Andrew MacFarland, director. Only a few days later on **Thursday, August 18, at 7:00 p.m.** we have a **"A History of Jazz" concert with Bill Sears, Sax, and Steve Stargardt, Piano.** In October we have a 4th concert **The Sweet Adeline's Chorus at 7:30 pm on Saturday October 8.** Tickets of \$10/adult and \$5/students are available from the church office, Dorothy Clore or any chorister.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO MEET

The church Nominating Committee will be meeting in August to put together a slate of nominees to be elected at our Congregational Meeting on September 25, 2011. They will choose three Elders for the Class of 2014, three Deacons for the Class of 2014 and one Deacon to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2013.

The committee is soliciting suggestions from the congregation. If you have someone you would like to recommend, contact any member of the Nominating Committee. Members of the committee are Maureen Stenback, Bob Schaefer, Rex Luxton, Bob Drudge, Dee Lynch, Ardith Peters and Carol Gregory.

AUGUST 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 1:00 p.m. Deacon meeting	3 Corey 8-1 3:30 p.m. Choir	4 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap 10:15 a.m. Building Committee	5 Corey 8-2 10:30 a.m. Sermon Preview Study	6
7 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	8	9	10 Corey 8-1 3:30 p.m. Choir	11 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap	12 Corey 8-2 10:30 a.m. Sermon Preview Study	13
14 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 3:00 p.m. Ionia band Concert	15	16	17 Corey 8-1 3:30 p.m. Choir	18 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap 7:00 p.m. "History of Jazz" Concert	19 Corey 8-2 10:30 a.m. Sermon Preview Study	20
21. 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	22	23 1:00 pm. Book Group Bellaire Library	24 Corey 8-1 3:30 p.m. Choir	25 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap	26 Corey 8-2 10:30 a.m. Sermon Preview Study	27
28 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	29	30	31 Corey 8-1 9:00 am Session 3:30 p.m. Choir			

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 10:00 a.m.

Children’s Program: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 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.)**

COREY LECUREUX

231-544-7130

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
<u>Sarah Juntune</u>	<u>Facilities</u>	<u>533-9403</u>
Dorothy Clore	Choir/Organist	331-6587
Edena Williams	PW of CITH	533-8598

Reverend Mr. Donald E. Gordon, Pastor Emeritus

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AUGUST 2011