

EXPRESSIONS

CHURCH IN THE HILLS (USA)

PASTOR'S 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



I am delighted to be associated with a Christ-centered church that faithfully follows Jesus' call to go into the world baptizing in Christ's name and making disciples of all people. This congregation faithfully goes forward time and again with imagination, intelligence, enthusiasm, and love through the way we love our neighbors, share the gospel, and seek to invite a deeper journey of faith for all people with our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

In the past year, CITH has seen substantial developments and growth in all areas of the church—from the increased participation in worship services, including our newly added Blessing of the Animals, Epiphany Service, Text/Table ecumenical services, all church memorial service, and healing services, to the expansive mission projects and activities, as well as the increased congregational activities and thriving youth activities. The development of our after-school Bellaire Community Youth Center has been such a blessing on the community and we look for increased support as the Center graduates from out of the direct care of the church into its own independent non-profit entity. Our Christian Education department is focused and enjoying their successful creation of a nursery age Sunday school program, while looking hopefully with an eye to the future and our continued growth. From a facilities perspective, the new roof is holding up wonderfully, our new carpet in the undercroft is outstanding, and the physical building, along with the beautifully maintained grounds, are a perfect environment for worshiping God, growing closer to Christ, and preparing the Body to go into the world in faith. This next year, the deacons are promising to continue their legacy of service while also focusing on the congregational life of the church. With their leadership, we can look to the needs of all of God's people while building a better fellowship and community with God's people.

Personally, I am forever indebted to you all for your support as I continue my doctoral work at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and University of Aberdeen, Scotland. The studies are stimulating and inspiring. This year, I will be in residence in Pittsburgh from August 15-27. I will be traveling to Scotland in January 2012, as well as August 2012 with my family. Thank you for your assistance, encouragement, and motivation as I use these studies to better inform and influence my ministry.

As I look to the future, I am inspired by our common faith and remain as optimistic as ever about the future of all of Christ's people in Antrim County and the world. I would challenge all of you

to consider where we see Church in the Hills going in the future. What is God calling us to do and to be? Think big and be willing to risk for Christ.

Recently, the pre-school that was housed in our church basement made the decision to move to the Bellaire Elementary School with the support and blessing of the school board, as well as the session. This move allows the school the chance to grow, as well as the church the opportunity to re-imagine what that space can be. I am looking to the future of our church and I firmly believe it is related to the growth of our young families here at CITH, **AS WELL AS** the ever growing retiree population in Antrim County. We are a multi-generational church that thrives on the wisdom and experience of our senior members as well as the enthusiasm and youthful invigoration of our younger families. We need to take the call to disciple these young people carefully and joyfully. We also need to recognize that there is never a retirement period from Christian discipleship. We all need the opportunities to grow, learn, study, pray, and become all the God has called us to be.

The session is actively considering numerous ideas about how to best use the space downstairs to help facilitate the growth of our children and youth programs while also providing meeting space for adult classes and committees, storage opportunities, and gathering places for the congregation. **How do you think that area can best be used? What dreams do you have for our youth programs? Does our church need to employ a Christian Education director? How do we accommodate our overflowing worship services throughout the year? What would you like to see offered for our adult discipleship classes? What are the most long term goals that you think God has for our church?**

Keep praying with me, friends, as we consider these questions and carefully listen for their answers by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Most importantly, pray about what God would have us do, not what we think we want. Our goal now and always is to love God, love one another, and reach out.

So proud to be called by God as your pastor,

Rev. Andrew Pomerville

SCRIPTURE FOR FEBRUARY

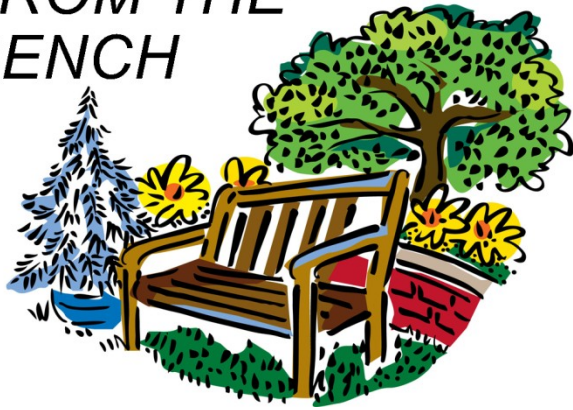
Feb 6 – Psalm 112:1-9, Acts 2:22-28 (Biblical Literacy)

Feb 13 – Exodus 4:1-17, Acts 4:1-22 (You Can't Shut Me Up)

Feb 20 – Judges 11:29-40, Acts 5:1-11 (Scariest Stewardship Lesson Ever)

Feb 27 – Psalm 131, Acts 6:1-15 (More Than Doing the Dishes)

FROM THE BENCH



In addition to Allen and Sue Brown and Bud Hierlihy who joined our choir last year, we welcome Janet Loveland to the alto section. Janet has been a summer resident of Alden all her life and we have been friends for a long time - ones who share the same birthday even. Janet remarked recently that she felt most welcomed at CITH and found the choir participation "palliative." If you are in need of such an experience (or anything else positive) do consider joining us!

I recently watched "As It is in Heaven" - a Swedish film about a conductor who is burned out on the professional circuit and returns to the small town of his youth "to listen." As one might anticipate, he gets roped into directing the church choir. I highly recommend this film to you, even if you're not a musician, because the characters and group dynamics portrayed have relevance to many circumstances. A non-musician asked me recently if the film accurately reflected a choir director's experience. It absolutely does, although each choir is unique in terms of talent and personalities. When I took some conducting

lessons my instructor told me at the first lesson, "Choir directing is 50% music and 50% psychology."

I have certainly found that true and one of the things I enjoy the most, both as a chorister and as a director, is watching how other directors cope with the unexpected, and bring the group to cohesion - all the while trying to raise the standard of musicianship. Sometimes the choristers need the choir more than the choir needs them - in terms of musical contributions only. I remember singing with one man who sang only one pitch with absolutely no variance. So in terms of our musical need for his particular "voice", there was none. However, Jesse was a talented wood-worker who had done much of the cabinetry work for the organ and was absolutely dedicated to his attendance in the choir. His life's wisdom and gentle spirit fed us all, even if his one pitch hurt our ears. Some things we just overlook.

I also sang in a choir with one man who had a fine voice, but a difficult personality - to the extent that once he threw his hymnal at a guest conductor, loudly announced, "I'm not singing for any prima donna. Come on, Betty, we're leaving." and marched out of rehearsal with his embarrassed wife in tow. This performance took the rest of us, especially the conductor, completely by surprise and we could only sit in stunned silence for a few

minutes after his exodus. Voice or no voice, at that moment the choir certainly did not need him. But, back he came, after the minister counseled him, and we had no more such outbursts.

On a more positive note, I prefer to remember much more fondly the experience of singing at the National Cathedral in Washington DC with a choir that included one woman on oxygen, dying of cancer, who valiantly made the long bus trip and sang from her chair at the end of the row where the rest of us stood. Her voice was not strong but I will remember her presence forever.

There is much more to a choir than the music. We do not expect perfect attendance, perfect pitch, or perfect anything else. I hope at least some of you will consider joining us, even on a trial basis, to see if our ministry might fit your needs. Whatever your talent or circumstances, you will certainly fit ours.

Dorothy Clore, Music Directory

GREETERS SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

Feb 6—Rachell Pomerville & Kathy Hoyt

Feb 13—Jeff and Deb Braden

Feb 20 —Walt and Dee Owens

Feb 27—Edena Williams & Marlene

Garvery

Greeter 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 at 533-6001

Deacons on Call
January and February
Don Hoyt and Garnett Anderson



Update from the Finance Committee- As we close the books on our Fiscal Year we are reminded once again that we are truly blessed to be able say, that as a congregation, we were able to support our worship and mission commitments. We **are** blessed and we feel a confidence, born in no small part, from our faith, that we will be able to continue this path for 2011.

A complete CITH 's Financial update will be found in the upcoming **2010 Annual Report** (available as part of the 1/30/11 Congregational Meeting or via contacting the CITH Office). Summarizing, in 2010, Giving (\$177,000) exceeded 2009 Giving ((\$162,000) by 9% while 2010 Expenses (\$171,000) exceeded 2009 Expenses (167,000) by less than 3%. The \$6,000 difference in 2010 Giving and Spending was devoted to replenishing the "Emergency Fund" (at \$13,000 12/31/10) which was depleted in the completion of the roof project in 2009.

Estimate of Giving 2011- as noted at our 9/26/10 Congregational Meeting-“We have been blessed in these difficult economic times and if your circumstances allow, please consider a 5% or 10% increase in your giving for 2011. Obviously circumstances vary and your support at any level is greatly appreciated. Pray on this matter and please make a commitment for 2011 giving either personally or share your estimate of planned giving for 2011” via the golden rod form or a simple confidential note to the CITH office.

We all value our CITH’s worship and fellowship opportunities. The Session is currently considering our worship and fellowship needs and asking the question-how can our facility be best used to meet those current and future needs and commitments. The first likely product of this discussion will be suggested improvements to the downstairs Sunday School area (give us a few months) . We are continually striving to meet the worship-space needs of our expanding congregation –this may be a close second on the Session’s list. The Memorial Garden idea from the Deacons, has generated lots of interest and will be advanced in 2011. I raise this issue of **our facility and our worship and fellowship needs** because our finances are structured to meet the normal mission and operating needs and to put a little aside for regular replacement/repair. The Session knows that as these facility projects take flesh that we

need to fully involve the Congregation (at this stage they are just rough ideas) and that if a project warrants congregational support, special designated fund raising (both the asking and the giving) will need to occur. A report of our CITH Finances (leaving 2010 entering 2011) would not be complete without addressing this issue.

We praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Submitted by Fred Harris, Elder on behalf of the Finance Committee including: Ted Whittlesey-Elder, Kathy Munger-Treasurer, Mike Card-Member, and Dale Hanson-Member, supported by Pastor Andrew , Cindy Overby-Secretary.

Note: The new tax law allows direct payments from your regular IRA account to your designated charity. By doing this, taxpayers will avoid the income tax charged on the withdrawal. Of course, on the other side, you will not be able to take a charitable deduction for the gift. Taxpayers should check first if this provision helps reduce their taxable income.

USHERS SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

February 6

February 13

February 20

February 27

**need help call office if
able to serve**

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

February 6 **not available at print**

February 13

February 20

February 27

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



BOARD of DEACONS

DEACONS

Class of 2011

Carol Gregory 533-8138

Edena Williams 533-8598

Don Hoyt 989-614-098

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

THANK YOU

Hi,

I am Dale Walsworth (Jerry's brother) and I would like to thank you for praying for the miracle that has happened in our family's life. The gift I was given comes from a person who made a decision to continue even in death to give.

I am now off all oxygen and home resting. Even now, whenever I think about it, my eyes still water. We will be in Jacksonville Fl. for the next 3 months for rehab. So many times you wonder why this is happening to you and why now. Jeremiah 29-11 explains it best.

Again thanks for praying for us.

Dale Walsworth

Dear friends,

I want to thank each and every one of you for your kind thoughts and prayers during my recovery from surgery. I truly know that without them all would not have gone so smoothly. I shall be forever grateful.

Nancy Edleman

Church in the Hills,

Thank you so much for your gift to Bingle Camp. We appreciate your support, prayers, and contribution to this very important ministry. Thank you for helping us in sharing the Gospel with our campers!

Ellen Axmear,

Bingle Board Secretary Treasurer



February Birthdays

Dorothy Luxton	2-2
Andrew Byerly	2-8
Larry Geresy	2-9
Dolores Jensen	2-16
Jeff Braden	2-18
James Oaklief	2-20
Adele Steele	2-21
Jean McClelland	2-23
Craig Aylworth	2-23
Misty Aylworth	2-24
Carol McLeod	2-28

Anniversary Wishes



Andrew and Tamera Byerly	2-3
William and Betty Bea Washburn	2-3

PRAYER REQUEST

February 2011

Family of Joe Baker Jr.	Bud Hierlihy
Michael Lynch	Pamela Kirts
Family of Dick Fogo	Bill Stenback
Don & Mary Ann Waara	Sharon Moeke
Margie Miedema	Michelle Lewis
Family of Marian Sterner	Dave Chouinar
Bob Brauberger Family	Jen Miller
Ron and Cindy Vassiloff	Paul Williams
Dale M. and Casey C	Marilyn Green
Laura Thiemann	Ann Nagel
Nancy Edleman	Margie Law
Doreen Stover	Muriel Twigg
Kevin and Jen McBeth	Tracie Lord
Promise Garchow	Ken Gordon
Betty Van Antwerp	Michelle Bell
Michael, Leah, Molly	Peg O'Dean
Eileen Hefferman	Bruce Laraway
Jean McCelland	Kelli Cassis
Ed and Shirley Nawrock	Jason Wohlert
Family of Elaine Wagner	Sue Williams
Chuck Anderson	Don Hostetler
Bruce and Dorothy DeSpelder	
Richard and Sue Schorfhaar	
Brenden Laditalle and Family	
The family of Eunice Power	

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



CHILI COOK- OFF

Our 2nd Annual chili Cook-off and Bread Contest is Sunday, February 13th after worship service. Come on everyone, sign up to bring a pot of your famous chili or favorite bread. Meet in the undercroft for Great Food, Great Fun and Great prizes.

WOMENS BOOK CLUB



Book Group.

The January discussion of Isadore's Secret (by Mardi Link) was one of the liveliest yet – and we still don't

agree on “who done it,” which speaks well of the book. The titles for the next few months are:

February: The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

March: Dreamers of the Day by Mary Doria Russell

April: When Evil Came to Good Hart,

another unsolved “Up North” murder account by Mardi Link

May: The Tiger's Wife, by Tea Obreht.

All are welcome to join us, even if you haven't read the book. (At least you can find out if you might want to read it.) Contact Connie Garcia (533-6588) for the place and time of the February meeting.



Recycling Information

Recycling. We want to encourage the congregation to use the BARC recycling bin beside the church for recyclables that cannot be put in the red county bins. Here's what you need to know:

- Please take all paper, metal, glass, and #1, 2, or 5 plastics to the county containers.
- Everything you put into our bin should be in a clear plastic bag – no loose items, please.
- You may bring to church all other plastics (including styrofoam), but be sure they're totally free of food and in a clear plastic bag. (If you have

styrofoam, please make it as compact as possible, and it could go in a larger colored bag.

- Electronics (batteries, cables, cell phones, CD players, old VCR tapes or DVDs, etc.) should be put in a clear plastic bag. No TVs or computer monitors (Save them for the hazardous waste pick-up this summer.)
- Clean rags should be in their own plastic bag.
- Please have things here by the last Sunday of the month, so we know whether we need to schedule a pick-up for the following week. (They come the first week of the month if requested.)

The bottom line: clean items, sorted by type (plastic, rags, electronics), and put in clear plastic bags.



Needed Facilities Committee

New “Facilities” Committee. The former Building committee has done a wonderful job of taking care of normal upkeep as well as major issues (roof, carpeting). Given the make-up of the current Session, it has fallen to me to be

responsible for the facility, and I’m both excited and apprehensive. I’m obviously not a carpenter, plumber, or electrician, but I’m not afraid of learning about such things. (I was always a “Daddy’s helper” and also designed our house.)

I’m hoping that the men who were on the previous committee will continue to help (along with some new men), and I’ve also asked a couple of women to join the group. I’d like to hear what each person sees as some short- and long-range goals and then make a priority list and a timeline. People can then focus on their areas of expertise, so that – barring emergencies – we’ll only need about one full-committee meeting a quarter. (Yeah!!)

With that in mind, I’m asking everyone who’s interested in helping with the facility bring a written list of their ideas to a very short meeting right after church on Feb. 27.

There will be only 2 items on the agenda:

- Collect those lists of ideas and everyone’s contact information. I’ll then collate all the ideas and email them to you.
- Pick a date for a full-committee meeting in March or early April, at which we can discuss the list of ideas you’ve had a chance to think about and determine some priorities as well as whose interests/abilities lie where.

This would be a great time for anyone who has ideas about the facility (as well

as its use!) to make those ideas known – and also let us know their own areas of expertise. The facility is here for all of us to enjoy and take care of.

Wish me luck!

Sarah Juntune

Beware the Ides of March!

The Facilities Committee will be the decision maker for what gets thrown away, so this is fair warning to anyone who has left things here at the church: scarves, coats, serving dishes, food, etc. We'll use the window corner in the kitchen as the collection point, so check it often and take home what is yours. March 15 will be "decision day," and unclaimed things will be given away, recycled, or tossed. The same date applies to anything in the refrigerator or freezer that does not indicate an owner and usage date. (If you wish to leave left-overs from an event for the church to use, please label them with "anyone" and the date they were opened. Open but unlabeled ketchup, pancake syrup, butter, etc. has to be tossed.) Thanks!.

Sarah Juntune



Jesus said: "With what can we compare the kingdom of God? It is like a mustard seed, which when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that birds of the air can make nests in its shade." Mark 4: 30-32

Rachell Pomerville and I were discussing what to use as a topic for the preschoolers in Sunday School after Christmas and she suggested teaching some of the Parables. She mentioned the Mustard Seed and the birds nesting in the branches. I had forgotten this Parable and reread it when I went home that day. I have been thinking about it for over a week now. What a beautiful image Jesus gives us: that our faith in God will grow and provide us with shade

and comfort, a home in which we can rest safely.

The idea that a tiny thing that no one notices can grow into something great and beautiful is something I need to remember. Our Sunday School is small. With God's help we are sowing the love of the Lord into our young ones. Small seeds, small children...but once sown those seeds grow into a great faith.

Our faith as Christians began with a tiny baby born long ago. When we trust in Jesus and his teachings we let those seeds he planted grow within us. Let us nurture those seeds in ourselves, and plant them in our children and grandchildren.

Cynthia Tschudy

Elder for Christian Education



We still need prayer shawls, and for anyone who would like to help out we just received 6 boxes of yarn. This yarn is available at the church if you would like to come by and pick some up. We are very lucky to have had this yarn donated and we also have some needles available if you need them. So if you have the time we have the supplies. Together we can fill up the Prayer Shawl box in no time.

Flower Ministry

I would like to thank each and every person responsible for buying flowers for the church chancel in 2010. We were very pleased with the sign up for flowers and we will have the sign up sheets again for this year. If you would like to supply flowers for a Sunday service please sign up and I will contact you or you may contact me at (533-6105) for any information needed for the bulletin. Again thank you for your generosity in 2010

Marty Harris

PRICELESS

I have an update on my Grandson Levi who at 9 months old was suddenly dealing with infantile seizures. He went to the neurologist on January 21 and is one of the 10% of children cured of the seizures. I am so thankful to everyone who prayed for Levi. God is wonderful and I love this congregation of fantastic people who love our Lord and prayed for Levi's healing. **Thank you, Thank you Thank you.**

CITH Secretary

Cindy Overby

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 EMAIL:

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/ground 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 2012

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

Church in the Hills

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Bellaire, Michigan 49615

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Permit No. 8

FEBRUARY 2011

FEBRUARY 2011

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 9:00 A.M. Sermon Preview	2 3:00 P.M. Youth Group 3:30 P.M. Choir	3 9:00 A.M. Men's Rap 3:15 Youth Group	4 Pastor Sabbath	5
6 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	7	8 9:00 a.m. Sermon Preview	9 3:00 p.m. Youth Group 3:30 p.m. Choir	10 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap 3:15 Youth Group	11 Pastor Sabbath	12
13 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Chili Cook-off	14	15 9:00 a.m. Sermon Preview	16 3:00 p.m. Youth Group 3:30 p.m. Choir	17 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap 3:15 Youth Group	18 Pastor Sabbath	19
20 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	21	22 9:00 a.m. Sermon Preview	23 3:00 p.m Youth Group 3:30 p.m. Choir	24 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap 10:00 C.E Meeting 3:15 Youth Group	25 Pastor Sabbath	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	28					

TEXT TO TABLE: Body Building

Scripture teaches that God gives us certain gifts to build up the Body of Christ. No gifting is more important than any other. The building of the Body also requires the unity of the Body. To what extent are we willing to experience Christ's fullness? What walls are we willing to break down to unite the Body and make its ministry truly universal?

We are once again gathering for a time of conversational worship! **Saturday, February 5th, at 6:00 p.m.** we will gather at Church in the Hills for a special time of evening prayers, music and conversation. We want you to be a part of the conversation! Would you consider bringing a song, a reading, or a prayer that you could share at the gathering? Bring anything you think will build up the the gathered!

ANYWAY

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-center:
Forgive then anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you;
Be honest anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous of you;
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best your have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

"The Paradoxical commandments," Kent M. Keith
From the Newsletter Newsletter, Feb 2011