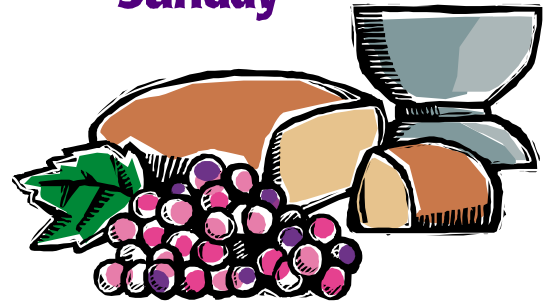


# Expressions

CHURCH IN THE HILLS, PC (USA)



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

Moderator Rev. Duane Ferris opened the meeting in prayer at 11:14 a.m. A quorum was present.

Clerk Dottie Schaefer explained the U.S. Congregational Survey in which we were asked to participate.

Maureen Stenback, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates for Elders and Deacons. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded that we cast a unanimous ballot for all of the nominees. The Motion carried. The following people were elected.

### DEACON FOR THE CLASS OF 2013

Susie Clovis

### DEACONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2014

Olga Cairns

Beverly Dickinson

Doris DeLange

Nominations were accepted from the floor for the 2012 nomination Committee. After nominations were closed, the following people were elected to the committee:

Bud Hierlihy, Dick Garcia, Paul DeLange, and Marianne McBeth

### ELDERS FOR THE CLASS OF 2014

Dale Hanson

Rex Luxton

Jerry Walsworth

Fred Harris, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave an update on the status of our finances. Fred reflected on the departure of Pastor Andrew and the recession and how it has affected our financial position. With August, revenue finally exceeded expenses. We currently have a cash balance of \$45,383.00 with nearly \$40,000 of this amount is in Designated funds.

The per capita amount for each member is \$33.33. We are obligated to pay this each year. The Finance Committee urged each member to write a separate check for this amount so that the church does not have to carry the entire burden for this obligation.

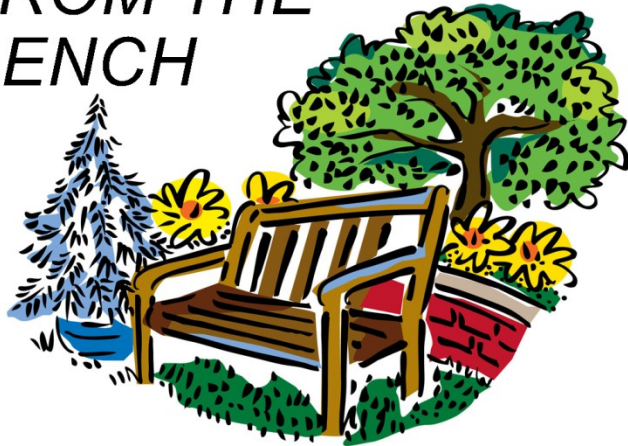
The congregation was given a detailed copy of the Finance report. A Budget will be presented at the January Congregational meeting.

Jerry Walsworth, chairman of the Pastor Nomination Committee, gave an overview of the committee work to date. They have been meeting weekly and have looked at over 80 resumes. They have been working closely with the presbytery Committee on Ministry. They asked for our continued prayers as they proceed to search for a pastor to serve our congregation.

Rev. Ferris closed the meeting in prayer at 11:47 a.m.

Dottie Schaefer, Clerk

## FROM THE BENCH



I know Fall is upon us when it is no longer light at 6:00 a.m. - so much for early-morning walks. It is easy to stay in bed longer (when one is retired) and to become complacent about and even indifferent to things like my garden. "I can always do it in the spring."

But at CITH it seems more important than ever to remain energized and forward-looking, planning ahead for the too-soon arrival of holidays, particularly Advent and Christmas, so that the music program stays vibrant and singers (and organist) well prepared. Since choristers have the last Sunday in the month as an "off" Sunday, we are presenting some special music for worship on those Sundays. In September we had two such Sundays. On the 18th, five women from our choir presented lovely music at the prelude, anthem, and offertory times. We know that sometimes this quintet might dwindle to a quartet, trio or duet, but there is also potential for expansion into an sextet, octet, and perhaps beyond. We practice at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays before the 3:30 choir rehearsal and hope you'll consider joining either our "break-out" women's group or the choir itself.

On Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed music from the Trillium Singers, a quartet of local women who gave a concert at CITH a few summers ago. We will have a "flute service" in October, and Bill Hershey's brass quintet will join us for the 1st Sunday in Advent, November 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope to feature other instrumentalists and singers throughout the year as they become available to us.

### **The Sweet Adelines are scheduled for a concert at 7:30 on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Throughout this newsletter you will find references to other on-going programs as well as new ways to participate in life at CITH. Do join us as time/energy allow and if you give in to the temptation of sleeping in, becoming complacent, please don't do it on Sunday mornings. :)

Dorothy Clore, Music Director

## OCTOBER GREETERS

October 2—Bob and Rita Drudge  
October 9—Bob and Ardith Peters  
October 16—Ron and Bonnie Kershner  
October 23—Merv and Millie Serrine  
October 30—Dennis and Jari Poll  
Greeters should be at the church at 9:30 a.m. If you cannot be at the service of Worship on the Sunday you're to be the greeters, please call Cindy Overby at 533-6001.



## OCTOBER HEAD USHERS

October 2—Olga Cairns  
October 9—Sharon Frey  
October 16—Jeff Braden  
October 23—Deb Braden  
October 30—Olga Cairns  
If you cannot be at the service of Worship on the Sunday you're to be the usher, please call Maureen Stenback at 544-6522.

## OCTOBER LITURGIST

October 2—Maureen Stenback  
October 9—Susie Hutchings  
October 16—Jean Berry  
October 23—Ralph Berry  
October 30—Marty Harris  
If you cannot be at the service of Worship on the Sunday you're to be the liturgist, please call Maureen Stenback at 544-6522.

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Garnett Anderson | 10-03 |
| Jean Rowe        | 10-08 |
| Burt Moeke       | 10-13 |
| Ted Whittlesey   | 10-13 |
| Duane Ferris     | 10-15 |
| Robert Cairns    | 10-16 |
| Kathy Hoyt       | 10-18 |
| Dick Garcia      | 10-19 |
| Mac Wright       | 10-21 |
| Lorraine Barnes  | 10-26 |
| Martha Harris    | 10-26 |
| Dennis Poll      | 10-26 |
| Allyn Wright     | 10-28 |
| Barbara Harcus   | 10-29 |
| Merv Serrine     | 10-30 |
| Sharon Moeke     | 10-31 |

**DEACONS ON CALL FOR THE MONTH OF  
OCTOBER**  
**EDENA WILLIAMS 533-8598**  
**JEFF BRADEN 544-1685**



## *Anniversaries In October*

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Robert and Rita Drudge</b>   | <b>10-5</b>  |
| <b>Darrell and Amy Christie</b> | <b>10-6</b>  |
| <b>Rick and Kathy Munger</b>    | <b>10-6</b>  |
| <b>Walter and Emily Joachim</b> | <b>10-6</b>  |
| <b>Scott and Kate McManus</b>   | <b>10-19</b> |

### Reaching Out . . . . Helping Others

As the weather gets cooler, our need for warmer clothing is greater. Our Church in the Hills Mission Committee will be holding another clothing drive in November. Clothes collected will be given away on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Forest Home Township Hall. We are especially in need of coats, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and boots. Please bring these much needed items to the Church the first week of November (November 1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>). We are also in need of volunteers to help sort and organize clothes on November 11<sup>th</sup> and additional volunteers to assist on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>. Please see Mary Ann Waara to sign up or if you have any questions call her at 350-0067.

### Mark Your Calendar

The Mission Committee is looking ahead this fall to several important events. Please mark your calendar and help us to reach out and help others:

- October 29<sup>th</sup>: “Mom to Mom Sale” from 10:00 – 2:00 sponsored by Church in the Hills at the John Rodgers Elementary School
- November 1<sup>st</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> “Clothing Drive” for the Community Clothing Exchange
- November 12<sup>th</sup>: “Community Clothing Exchange” from 10:00 – 2:00 at the Forest Home Township Building

## **UPDATING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AREA**

The Facilities and Planning Committee has been hard at work in many areas. But the one to report here is the updating of the Sunday School area.

The plans including painting the walls (off-white for three walls in each room, leaf green for one wall), redoing the flooring (carpet to match the undercroft in the inner room, stone –pattern laminate in the outer room) and French doors (similar to the ones leading to the undercroft) to separate the two rooms.

Paul DeLange and Dave Gregory have already prepped the rooms for painting,

which included some plumbing and dry-walling as well as filling numerous nail holes. (Please let us know if you'd like to help paint, and we'll contact you about the date/time.) Assuming we do the painting and laminate-laying ourselves, the projected total cost is \$4,500. Session has approved this project and we can pay for this work using money from the "Emergency Fund". However, given our tight finances any special gifts for this project would be greatly appreciated. Just note "Sunday School Project" on your check. Between your special gifts and the Emergency Fund we will complete the improvements to the Sunday School area

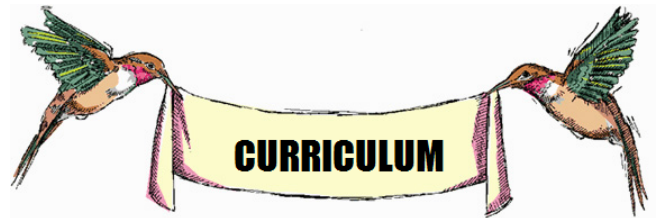
Sarah Juntune  
Elder: Facilities and Planning



**THANK YOU  
KAITLYN  
WE WILL MISS YOU!**

For the past three years Church in the Hills has been blessed to have Kaitlyn Parrish as our care provider for nursery school age children. Kaitlyn's love of children is evident as soon as you see her in the children's area. She is warm and loving and plans fun activities for the children. After three years

Kaitlyn has decided to leave us. She is working at Moka's as a baker and needs more flexibility in her work hours. Her dream is to become a caterer and have her own business. Moka's is a wonderful place for her to learn about commercial baking. Even though we will miss her, we are excited for her future and wish her the best. Thank you, Kaitlyn, for all the love and care you have shared with our little ones.



Dee Lynch and I met to set up the curriculum for this year. Dee, who is a born storyteller, has been telling and discussing the Parables of Jesus with the children. You should see their faces as she presents the stories. They are enthralled. After the Advent Season, we will begin a general study that helps them become familiar with and learn to use the Bible. Dee's kids are still playing the bells and you can plan on a performance sometime during Advent.

Sue Schorfhaar has discussed beginning a confirmation class for our older students. We will be talking to parents and young people about that soon.

Again, thanks for all your support.

Cynthia Tschudy  
Elder: Christian Education

# DEACONS

September was a busy month for the Deacons! We planned and cooked a tailgate celebration following the Sept. 11 service. Good food and company was enjoyed by all. We also continue to see the highest numbers of attendance ever for the Antrim County Community Meal. We've averaged over 80 guests this summer for each meal, assuring us that there is still a need and want for food and fellowship in our community.

The Deacons are committed to hosting the meal in Oct. and Nov., but our goal in 2012 is to make this a true "community" effort, with several groups, companies or organizations hosting a meal or two throughout the year. By sharing the responsibility with other groups we will free up resources to concentrate on new efforts, while including more of our neighbors in this wonderful mission. If you are a part of or know of groups, organizations or companies in the area that might be willing to host a meal or learn more, please see a Deacon.

Respectfully, Your Deacons

Carol Gregory, Edena Williams, Don Hoyt, Martha Harris, Lewis Lesperance, Millie Serrine, Garnett Anderson and Jeff Braden

Dear Church in the Hills.

Thank you once again for donating the backpacks and supplies to the students at Bellaire Public Schools. This is always such a thoughtful gift at this time of year. With the difficult economic times many families cannot afford the extra things that children want to have for the start of a new school year. The families of the children who receive these backpacks and supplies are always very thankful. I would also like to thank you for the \$50 from the Mom to Mom Sale. We appreciate your kindness and generosity as you continue to be our partners in education

Sincerely,  
Kristi Poel, K-8 Principal

Dear Church in the Hills,

I want to thank you for your generous donation of sponsoring a team this year. This year Church in the Hills sponsored a T-ball team. Your donation will go to great use and I know the kids of Bellaire will truly appreciate your generosity. In appreciation of sponsoring a team this year, I included a team photo of your sponsored team. Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,  
Julie Goodwin,  
President Bellaire Summer Ball League

To whom it may concern,

During these tough economic times for families, it is such a blessing to receive a generous gift such as yours.

Thank you so very much for the several back packs that will mean so much to so many special young folks.

Thank you Again!  
Alba Public School

Thank you Church in the Hills,  
On behalf of Rapid City Elementary we would like  
to thank you so much for all the backpacks and  
school supplies. They are always much needed. The  
kids and teachers loved them!  
Thank you again, Lanie Shiee  
PTA President

Thanks to CITH for faithfully praying for our  
daughter, Rose. She is healing well from her  
surgery and gaining strength. We appreciate those  
who helped to carry our burdens in this way. God  
bless You!

Ron and Betty Van Mersbergen

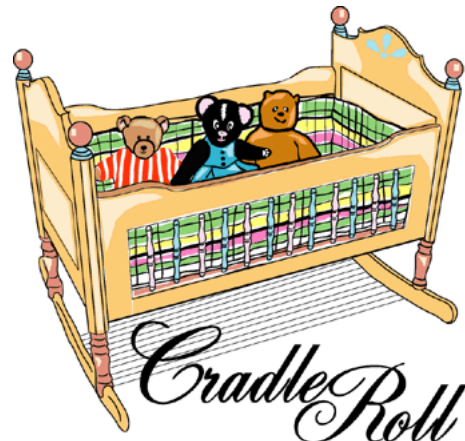
#### 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY BOOK GROUP

We continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday of the month in the Bellaire Library  
conference room. All are welcome. The  
book for October is The Last Time I Saw You  
by Elizabeth Berg. For November we're  
reading Exile by Richard North Patterson, a  
novel that should produce a good  
discussion, as it portrays the complexity of  
the Israel/Palestine situation quite well.

## P.N.C. COMMITTEE

Your Pastoral nominating committee (PNC)  
is made up of Dick Garcia, Don Hoyt, Ron  
Lynch, Carol McLeod, Mary Ann Waara,  
Jerry Walsworth and Ted Whittlesey. This  
group meets each week to review its work.

To date over 80 resumes have been  
reviewed and some 15 people contacted in  
regards to our pulpit.  
We have been assisted by Carol Mead who  
reports to our Mackinac Presbytery. As we  
work through this process we are  
maintaining our objective, which is to select  
a candidate who will be submitted to  
session and after their approval to bring  
that person to a full membership meeting  
to seek your approval by a vote.  
We continue to ask for your continued  
support and prayers as we do the work of  
the church.



Don and Kathy Hoyt welcomed their new  
baby girl Amelia Suzanne at 2:38 p.m.  
Monday, September 19, Amelia weighed in  
at a 6 lbs and 20 inches long. Mom, Dad,  
and Baby are doing fine. Congratulations to  
the Family.

#### Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Once again we will be collecting decorated  
shoeboxes filled with small presents for  
children. Watch the bulletin for more  
information.

# CROP WALK

The CROP Hunger Walk is the oldest charity walk in the United States and takes place in some 1,500 communities. Throughout the years neighbors of different faiths, cultures and ages have walked together as people of faith in the fight to end hunger.

This year we walk together around the theme of water. Did you know that more than a billion people in the world lack access to clean water and over 1 million people, most of them children, die each year of waterborne disease? The good news is that through the support of CROP Hunger Walkers, Church World Service is able to provide clean, healthy and accessible water to millions of people around the world. A single walker who raises \$100 can provide five bio-sand filters, giving families the ability to drink their water safely. Now just imagine the difference we make when we walk together! The Crop Walk in Bellaire is this Sunday October 2. It starts at the Forest Home Twp. Hall next to the Methodist church. Check in at 1:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. If you can't walk you can still give. Call Lila Wilson for more information, (231)-533-8929.

## PRAYER REQUEST OCTOBER 2011

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Amanda Remai                  | Heide Weir     |
| Courtney McNeill              | Chieko Prince  |
| Family of Shirley Hetzel      | Joe Henley     |
| Jean Grimm                    | Bob Schaefer   |
| Marilyn Koleneck              | Shelly Carlson |
| Kevin Westrate                | Muriel Twigg   |
| Jane Thomas                   | Bill Scadin    |
| Margie Miedema                | Delora Ward    |
| Jean Thornell                 | Pat DeHinke    |
| Marianne McBeth               | Gloria Miller  |
| Family of Bea Blunt           | Bob Widdis     |
| Sue Sawaskey                  | Roger Fecher   |
| Doreen Stover                 | Ron Harrison   |
| Cathy Peterson                | Sue Williams   |
| Michelle Lewis                | Mary Ann Estes |
| Darlene Mulholland            | Richard Miller |
| Norm and Barb Wilks           | Sara Gaynor    |
| Steve Laredo                  | Deb Braden     |
| Jean McClelland               | Margie Law     |
| Betty Van Antwerp             | Jen Miller     |
| Jason Wohlert                 | Ann Nagel      |
| Gordon Grinwis                | Kayla Stover   |
| Ron and Cindy Vassiloff       | Levi Ogles     |
| Eileen Hefferman              | Peg O'Dean     |
| Michael, Leah, & Molly        |                |
| David, Jane, Rebecca DeBoer   |                |
| The Family of Dave Van Huysen |                |

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 [Office@churchinthehills.net](mailto:Office@churchinthehills.net)



**The Numbers (as of 8/31/11):**

|  |                     |   |                                 |
|--|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Cash Balance</b>  | <b>\$45,383.06</b>  |   |                                 |
| <b>Designated Funds</b> (Set asides included in the \$45,383.06) |                     |   |                                 |
| Memorial Fund  | \$ 2,257.45         |   |                                 |
| Memorial Garden Fund   | \$ 2,720.00         |   |                                 |
| Deacons Fund   | \$ 959.91           |   |                                 |
| Mission Fund   | \$ 47.08            |   |                                 |
| Concert Fund   | \$ 4,480.78         |   |                                 |
| Coffee Fund  | \$ 764.35           |   |                                 |
| Emergency Fund   | \$16,052.00         |   |                                 |
| PNC Fund   | <u>\$12,000.00</u>  | (Reflects the return of the \$12,000 bal.<br>of the loan extended to Pastor Andrew) |                                 |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>                                    | <b>\$39,281.57</b>  |   |                                 |
| <b>Net Cash Balance</b>  | <b>\$ 6,101.49</b>  |   |                                 |
| <b>Expenses 2011 YTD :</b>                                       | <b>\$105,638.58</b> | <b>Giving 2011 YTD :</b>  | <b>\$107,995.01 +\$2,356.43</b> |
| Expenses (YTD 8/31/10)   | \$106,647.45        | Giving (YTD 8/31/10)  | \$ 113,170.16 +\$6,522.71       |

**Recap for 2011:** Early 2011 reflected our typical seasonal giving patterns with expenses as budgeted driven by 3% raises for staff with a mild negative impact on giving by the recession. June and July reflected understandable slight reductions in giving owing to some extent to Pastor Andrew's departure and again to possible recession impacts. However, during June and July our expenses included residual obligations to Pastor Andrew. This resulted in June and July's expenses exceeding giving. **With August, our financial picture/likely pattern for the remainder of the year, became clearer and brighter with August 2011 monthly revenue at \$12,801.87 and corresponding expenses at \$7,496.77 +\$5,305.10** (for comparison August 2010 Expenses were \$11,407.26) It will be a tight finish this year but with your continued

generosity the CITH's will meet our 2011 expenses.

Note: When we had a full time pastor we incurred a 31.5% of salary monthly charge payable to the Board of Pensions (for the Pastor pension and health care). In the interim, while we work on the PNC process we are required to pay "Vacancy Dues" of 12% \$569.27 per month (for up to 12 mo. or until our position is filled) to the Board of Pension.

### 1. Beyond and Behind the Numbers:

- Given the importance of being ready for the right fit with our new pastor call process, the **Finance Committee is striving to support the PNC** with a viable compensation package for the new Pastor. Elder Ted Whittlesey serves on Session/Finance Com. and the PNC helping to insure coordination.
- The Finance Committee continues to focus on **insuring appropriate procedures and controls for the handling of all CITH' Finances**. Please note we could still use one or two volunteers (with a few hours to give) to help complete our Congregational Audit Review Committee. Please call Fred Harris 231-533- 6105.
- Thanks to your generosity the **Memorial Garden is underway**-you will start to see the progress. You are encouraged to speak with a member of the Memorial Garden committee for their plans and how you can help. (Elder Jean Rowe, Deacon Lew Lesperance).
- Submitted by Elder Fred Harris on behalf of the **Finance Committee whose Members are** : Cindy Overby-Secretary ,Ted Whittlesey -Elder, Member, Fred Harris-Elder, Member, Dale Hanson-Member, Mike Card, Member and Mac Wright-Member.

### ATTENTION CRAFTERS:

Do you have a "portable " craft? Do you wish you had more fellowship with women of the church?

We would like to start up the "Gentle Touch" program again. You can bring your own craft, or we have a lot of yarn at church for your use. (It's in the undercroft bathroom; help yourself.) If we have a group project we can work on it together, or you can work on your own project while enjoying the opportunity for fellowship.

We can meet at the church or in homes. If you're interested, please sign the sheet in the information rack, and indicates day(s)/time(s) that would be good for you. Call Edena Williams with any questions (533-8589).



## OCTOBER 2011

| SUN                                    | MON   | TUES  | WED  | THUR   | FRI | SAT  |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----|--|
|  |   |   |  |  |     | 1  |
| 2<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Worship<br>service  | 3   | 4<br>1:00 p.m.<br>Deacons<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Mission | 5<br>9:00 a.m.<br>Session<br>3:00 pm<br>Youth Center<br>3:30 p.m.<br>Choir | 6<br>9:00 am Men's<br>Rap<br>9:00 am<br>Women's Bible<br>Study<br>3:00 p.m.<br>Youth Center  | 7   | 8<br><b>7:30 p.m.<br/>Concert<br/>"Sweet<br/>Adelines"</b> |
| 9<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Worship<br>service  | 10  | 11  | 12<br>3:00 pm<br>Youth<br>Center<br>3:30 p.m.<br>Choir                     | 13<br>9:00 am Men's<br>Rap<br>9:00 am<br>Women's Bible<br>Study<br>3:00 p.m.<br>Youth Center | 14  | 15   |
| 16<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Worship<br>service | 17  | 18  | 19<br>3:00 pm<br>Youth<br>Center<br>3:30 p.m.<br>Choir                     | 20<br>9:00 am Men's<br>Rap<br>9:00 am<br>Women's Bible<br>Study<br>3:00 p.m.<br>Youth Center | 21  | 22   |
| 23<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Worship<br>service | 24  | 25<br>1:00 p.m.<br>Book club                      | 26<br>3:00 pm<br>Youth<br>Center<br>3:30 p.m.<br>Choir                     | 27<br>9:00 am Men's<br>Rap<br>9:00 am<br>Women's Bible<br>Study<br>3:00 p.m.<br>Youth Center | 28  | 29<br>Mom to<br>Mom Sale<br>Elementary<br>School 10-2      |
| 30<br>10:00 a.m.<br>Worship<br>service | 31<br> |   |  |  |     |  |

**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.org](mailto:pastor@churchinthehills.org)

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

Church in the Hills  
Post Office Box 319  
6401 Shanty Creek Road  
Bellaire, Michigan 49615  
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