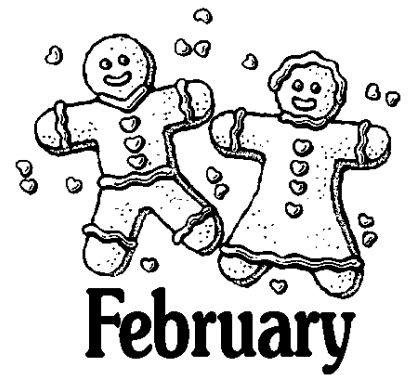


EXPRESSIONS

CHURCH IN THE HILLS PC (USA)

“Happy Lent”



This month marks the beginning of our forty day period of preparation for Easter, known in the church calendar as Lent. We will celebrate worship on Ash Wednesday at 7:00 pm with the traditional imposition of ashes. In addition, the church is offering a free devotional guide for everyone at Church in the Hills to use this season for prayer, reflection, and preparation. Preparation has been on my mind lately as I prepare for this next step in my ministry.

I am extremely excited to announce that I have been accepted into the Doctor of Ministry program with a focus in Reformed Theology offered jointly by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Before going any further, let me clarify that this degree is meant to be pursued and completed while working in a congregational setting, with cooperation between the local church, seminaries, and doctoral candidate to determine how this course of study will be mutually beneficial for all parties. I am delighted session has approved this move and I look forward to integrating my course work here at Church in the Hills through worship leadership, research, and the faithful following of our mission to be Christ’s church here in Bellaire.

A Doctorate of Ministry is the highest professional degree available for clergy and is meant to be completed through a combination of on-site classes and research/writing completed away from campus, culminating in a final project based on an element of focus in one’s home church. My time away from Church in the Hills will be limited to two weeks each January and August for the next four years, alternating classes between Pittsburgh and Aberdeen, Scotland, starting this August. Each session will require me to use one Sunday off from the congregation. In general, this degree will not require any additional study leave than is already allowed in my terms of call.

I am overwhelmingly excited to share this news and would be happy to answer any questions, comments, or concerns you might have. I would like to again extend my thanks to the session for their willingness to support and encourage me as I pursue this doctoral degree over the next four to five years. I hope you will all be active participants in this process as a local committee is formed to help guide my course of study and offer suggestions for potential dissertation topics most helpful for the mission of Church in the Hills.

The next few years will be an exciting adventure and I could not be happier to be taking them with Church in the Hills.

Peace and grace to you,

Pastor Andrew Pomerville

From the Bench

One of the nice things about the church calendar's Ordinary Time is that it gives those of us involved in worship planning a chance to make some small changes that we think will enhance worship. The choir, for example, is occasionally singing the "prelude" music and sitting nearer the piano so as to minimize the need for a lot of movement from our usual choral spot to someplace where the congregation can hear better.

As a result of going through our music library, I noted that we rarely sing the anthems filed under "Communion" because our usual anthem spot in the liturgy is closer to testament readings and the communion anthem texts don't seem to fit. Therefore on communion Sundays, you will notice that the choir's anthem is being moved to the offertory spot, aligning the communion anthem more closely with the celebration of communion that follows.

Lastly, just as the Prelude is incorporated into the beginning of worship, Andrew has requested that the Postlude serve as a conclusion to the service and be placed right after his benediction. Sometimes this postlude will be sung (by the congregation, an example being one verse of a particular hymn): other times it will be an instrumental (usually organ) piece. The choir and congregation remain seated for this rather than marching out (choir) or self-recessing (congregation) to coffee hour. We initiated this change in January and it seems a good way to conclude the service, giving us all reason to pause and reflect before moving on to other things on our personal calendars. It is also prompting the

organist to practice more which is certainly a good thing.

Please know that changes in worship are always made after careful consideration, not just because we feel like trying something different. We hope that these changes enhance everyone's worship experience and strengthen reasons for coming to CITH for worship.

Dorothy Clore—Music Director

FEBRUARY LITURGIST

February 7—Fred Harris

February 14—Gene Selden

February 21—Bob McClelland

February 28—Mary Ann Waara

If you cannot be at the Service of Worship on the Sunday you are to be the Liturgist, please call Sue Schorfhaar at 533-9408

FEBRUARY GREETERS

February 7—Mike and Judy Card

February 14— Dale and Nancy Hanson

February 21— Walt and Dee Owens

February 28—Rick and Kathy Munger

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 greeter, please call Cindy Overby at 533-6001.

**Deacons on call for February are
Edena Williams and Doris Ferris**

FEBRUARY HEAD USHERS

February 7—Gene Selden

February 14—Bob Drudge

February 21—Olga Cairns

February 28—Don Hoyt

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January 3—87

January 10—84

January 17—80

January 24—82

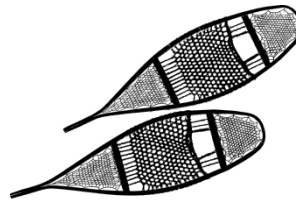
PORTABLE CRAFTS

Interest has been expressed in forming a group to gather together to create hats, scarves and other articles that would be used for people in need, maybe as a useful item or just a tangible expression of a hug. We could use our skills to knit, crochet, or sew and have a nice time together with new or old friends.

If you are interested in becoming a part of such a group, please contact Doris Ferris 377-7022 or e-mail me at providence2@charter.net

The Church in the Hills annual contribution reports were sent out in the last week of January. If you have a question or concern please call Kathy Munger at 231-533-4733

All Sermons are available at www.cithsermons.org



Snowshoe Event

Potluck Snowshoe Event

**Come join us for a fun
afternoon snowshoeing
through the pine trees
on Sunday Feb. 7 at 3:00**

p.m. We will meet at the home of **Mike and Judy Card, 6004 Spyglass Hill Ct. in Cedar River.** Directions to our home will be on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church. **Before snowshoeing, please provide a salad, soup or bread to the church kitchen.** After the event, we will return to the church for a light meal. You can snowshoe as far as your ability and no experience is necessary. **If you would like to participate and do not have snowshoes or poles, we will try to acquire these for you. Hope to see you on February 7!** Mike and Judy Card 231-533-8526

DEACONS

Class of 2010

Doris Ferris 377-7022

John Brostrom 631-3770

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

Mille Serrine 544-8047

Elders

Class of 2010

Ron Lynch	377-7077
Bob Peters	544-3613
Bob McClelland	533-9408

Class of 2011

Bob Schaefer	377-7848
Fred Harris	533-6105
Sue Schorfhaar	533-5071

Class of 2012

Cynthia Tschudy	544-6167
Ted Whittlesey	377-9304



Sunday, January

17, a Chili

Cook-off

was held in the undercroft.

There were 10 delicious chili entries as well as some great homemade

bread. Congratulations to the winners of the contest, Craig and Misty Aylworth. Their wonderful recipe for White chicken chili follows.

White Chicken Chili Recipe

1 lb boneless skinless chicken breast,
cut into 1/2 inch cubes
1 lb spicy pork sausage
1 medium onion

1 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 (15 1/2 ounce) cans great northern white beans, rinsed and drained
1 (14 1/2 ounce) can chicken broth
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon oregano
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 to 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro (to taste)
2 cups sour cream
1 cup whipping cream
2 (4 ounce) cans diced green chilies

1. in large saucepan, sauté chicken, onion and garlic powder.
2. Brown and crumble sausage and add to chicken
3. Add beans, chilies and seasoning and chicken broth.
4. Bring to a boil.
5. Reduce heat and simmer (uncovered) for 30 minutes.
6. Remove from heat, stir in sour cream and whipping cream.
7. Serve immediately.

Christian Education

Wednesday evening February 10, from 6-7 we will be having a very special program at Church in the Hills. Terri Blanch and several friends will be coming to present a "Story Telling Hour".

These will be stories from the desert and will be both entertaining and provide an opportunity to learn and grow in biblical understanding. Terri and her friends have presented other story telling programs at

our church and they have been enjoyed by all who have seen them. These desert tales are particularly appropriate as we prepare for the Lenten season. I hope you can join us on February 10.

Elder-Cynthia Tschudy

PRAYER REQUESTS

February, 2010

All those who work, serve and look for hope in Haiti

Our snowbirds

Peg O'Dean, Ann Havenstein's daughter

David Giles, Heart problems, Deb Braden's nephew

Bill, Tammy, and Travis Band

Dorothy Johns

Ermil Jones, recovery from back surgery

Tracie Lord, Breast cancer, Jeff Braden's niece

Katie Hierlihy, Thyroid cancer Daughter-in-law of Bud and Irma Hierlihy

Missionary Amy Robinson

Shirley, friend of congregation suffering from brain cancer

Natalie Williams

Shelby Zeigler

Leonard Hittle, Flu

Diane McCormick, brain and lung cancer

Patsy Turk

Nancy Hanson

Ann Marie Attea, cancer

Marian Sterner, cancer treatments

Ralph Ross, brother of Dee Lynch

Margie Law, stress and depression

Muriel Twigg, several illnesses

Richard Schorfhaar

Ruth Ann Nast, cancer

Dawn Rankin, cancer

Barb Pyle, Breast cancer

Beverly Owen

Jim Sulley, chronic Leukemia

Worshiping God on the Mountain, in the Chair and By Proxy

What a pleasure it is to worship God when the sky is blue, our health is good, our children have all grown up to be doctors and lawyers, our grandchildren are all well above average in beauty and brains, and we still look as good as when we turned thirty. I'm guessing it would be easy since I've never experienced that particular set of circumstances. I do know that during what is referred to as "a mountain top experience" it is easy and a joy to worship our Lord. We get so carried away that we feel like shouting and singing and clapping our hands all at the same time. Of course, being the good Presbyterians that we are, we don't multitask that well, so we refrain from the shouting and clapping of hands. Still, we know how to have a good time in the Lord when we're on a high. To see how Peter, James, and John experienced a "mountain top experience" read Matthew 17:1-9.

It's also easy to worship joyfully when things are just quiet or even a little boring.

During the gloomy days of winter there's a satisfying peace sitting by a cozy fire praying and reading God's Word. We are unaware of any problems, debts (ours or the nations), world hunger or global warming. It's just you and me Lord, hanging together having a good time.

Mountain top moments or quiet times don't last forever. You get up from your chair; turn on the TV and what you see crushes everything else in your soul as if you had also been hit by an earthquake. I won't try to explain all I felt on Tuesday, the 12th of January because you already know. You felt the same feelings. There are no adequate words to describe our emotions. And if there are no words to describe how we feel how do we even begin to understand what the people of Haiti are experiencing? The truth is we could never understand their extreme pain and torment unless we had experienced the devastation with them.

God tells us He will be with us at all times and never forsake us. I would hesitate to say those words to someone in Haiti who has just lost all five of her children. The words would seem so empty. Being almost insane with grief, it's hard to believe that God cares about you. It must be impossible to pray or even believe God still exists. How then does one worship God in such unbelievable pain? I think the answer is you don't, at least in any way familiar to

you. There is hope for every believer in such a crisis. That hope is the Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:26 we are comforted by these words. "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered". There is also another hope for contact with God and that is through the intercessions of a believer on behalf of others. Even though we might not know one person in Haiti we can pray for them "like there's no tomorrow". For them, hope for tomorrow is gone. We as Christians must believe for them, hope for them and give to them. We must do this also for all the people of this horrible disaster, not only our fellow Christians, but unbelievers as well. We must earnestly pray for their lives, both physical and spiritual. God expects no less of us. If we do this we will truly be worshiping Him, perhaps even in a better way than on the mountain or in the easy chair.

"Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Sue Schorfhaar, Elder for Worship

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. We will have a traditional Ash Wednesday Service that evening at 7:00 pm, with the imposition of ashes. As a way

of marking this year's Lenten season, a devotional guide is available for everyone that can be picked up at worship. This prayer guide is published by the Presbyterian Church and includes a reading, prayer, and thoughts for each of the forty days through Lent leading to Easter. I hope you will join me in this devotional practice.

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Winter Offerings:

Monday Morning Sermon Preview Group

This group will meet every Monday at 9:00 am through the fall to read the scripture for the following Sunday in worship. It is an open discussion with no preparation necessary. Please come have a cup of coffee, offer thoughts about the passages, and help Pastor Andrew fine tune the sermon for the following week. All are welcome!

Spirituality:untapped

Every Thursday night at 7:00 at Shorts Brewing Company we meet to discuss everything from philosophy to theology, baseball to politics. Each week we have a topic that we deal with as openly as possible. All faith backgrounds are welcome to attend.

Thursday Morning Men's Rap Group

This wonderful group of men has been meeting for nearly 20 years. While the faces have changed, the camaraderie and opportunity for a cup of coffee and conversation remain the same. Please join us if you haven't been in a while, or come for the very first time. We meet at 9:00 am each Thursday at the church.

Scripture Topics for Sunday Worship

February 7—Week 4 in a series on Ruth

Scripture Readings—Ruth 4:11-21,
Matthew 1:1-16

February 14 –Transfiguration of our Lord Sunday

Scripture Reading —Exodus 34:29-35
Luke 9:28-36

February 17 (Ash Wednesday) 7:00 p.m.

Scripture Readings –Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 4:1-11

February 21 (First Sunday in Lent)

Theme— What, Why, and How do We Pray?

Scripture Readings—Psalm 102:1-11
Romans 10:8b-13

February 28 (Second Sunday in Lent)

Theme-Praying with Our Heart

Scripture Reading –Psalm 27
Luke 9:28-36



Dave Ramsey is a personal money

management expert, a popular national radio personality, and the best-selling author of the Total Money Makeover. Dave is the creator of Financial Peace University (FPU), a 13 week program that helps people dump their debt, get control of their money and learn new behaviors around money that are founded on commitment and accountability. More than half a million families have attended FPU classes. The average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 91 days after beginning FPU and is completely out of debt, except for the mortgage in 18 to 24 months. Church in the Hills is offering this program on Wednesday nights from 6-8 p.m. It will be led by Pastor Andrew. The cost of the 13 week class is \$90.00. **We do have financial help available if you are interested in this class**, and you can still sign up for the class in the first week of February.

Here is the line up of the classes:

- Jan 20-Super Saving**
Common Sense For Your Dollars And Cents
- Feb 27- Relating with Money**
Nerds and Free Spirits Unite!
- Feb 3-Cash Flow Planning**
The Nuts and Bolts of Budgeting
- Feb 10-Dumping Debt**

- Breaking the Chains of Debt
- Feb 17- No Class Ash Wednesday**
- Feb 24- Credit Sharks In Suits**
Understanding Credit Bureaus and Collections Practices
- March 3-Buyer Beware**
The Power of Marketing on Your Buying Decisions
- March 10-Clause and Effect**
The Role of Insurance in Your Financial Plan
- March 17 That’s Not Good Enough!**
How to Buy only Big, Big Bargains
- March 24- Of Mice and Mutual Funds**
Understanding Investments
- March 31- From Fruition to Tuition**
Planning for Retirement and College
- April 7- Working In Your Strengths**
Careers and Extra Jobs
- April 14-Real Estate and Mortgages**
Keeping the American Dream from Becoming a Nightmare
- April 21-The Great Misunderstanding**
Unleashing the Power of Generous Giving



It is hard to believe but the Bellaire Community Youth Center has been opened for three months now. As of now the youth center is open on Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. for 5th to 8th graders.

Beginning on Thursday, March 4 we will be opening the Youth Center for students in grades 1-5 every Thursday after school from

3-4:30. Our ultimate goal is to open the center as many days a week as possible after school for youth to enjoy and have a safe place to hang out in Bellaire. If you know elementary students and families, please let them know about this opportunity. The program will be a little more structured than our middle school activities. But it will still include trained volunteers (with background checks), organized games and crafts, and caring adults who want to provide a great after school program for the youth in Bellaire.

Pastor Andrew will be on vacation February 8-13. In case of emergency please contact Pastor Jennifer Saad at 231-675-7744



We highly recommend the January book (Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, by Lisa See), which not only tells the horrors of the old Chinese custom of women's foot binding but also

vividly displays the joys and sorrows of the custom of "old sames" (the matching of two girls to become life-long friends and

confidants). The February book is Hotel on the Corner of

Bitter and Sweet, by Jamie Ford, to be discussed February 16 at 1:00. At that meeting Sarah Juntune will begin the addition of a 5-minute book review of a different book (the memoir Stealing Buddha's Dinner, by Bich Minh Nguyen). We will also discuss changing the meeting day (perhaps to the 4th Tuesday) in order to avoid conflict with another book group. Please come, even if you haven't read the book.



HAITI RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS

We are all shocked by the massive destruction and loss of life in the wake of the Haiti earthquake of January 12. Aid is slowly arriving, but reconstruction will take years. Many organizations, including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, are marshalling aid, and we all want to do what we can for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We would encourage you to be generous, either through the church or other organizations. The IRS has just announced special tax treatment for contributions for Haiti Earthquake Relief.

Cash contributions made to qualified charities, including churches, after January 11 and before March 1, 2010, can be deducted as itemized contributions on Schedule A of your 2009 tax return, that is, as if they had been made in December. This means that the tax benefit can be almost immediate, rather than waiting until 2011. You may take the deduction either for 2009 or 2010, but of course not both for the same contribution. If you choose to make your contribution through the church, we will provide a special receipt for your 2009 tax return. Please contact Tom Juntune if you have further questions.



Williams and Betty Bea Washburn` 2-3
 Andrew and Tamara Byerly 2-3

“Are you our next elder?”

The CITH nominating committee is seeking candidates to fill one elder position on session for the class of 2012 (3 year term). As a ruling elder of the church, you are charged with the worship, mission, education, fellowship, and business of the church. You serve with eight other dedicated men and women who follow the example of Christ to be servants to all. Has God placed a call in your life to serve in a new way? Church leadership is different that serving on a board or committee in the secular world. We are looking for those with gifts of compassion and sympathy who will work with our team or elders to help CITH follow it’s faithful call of Christ to share his love, grace, and hope with the world. Please contact the church office if you would like more information or would like to nominate an individual for elder.



Dorothy Luxton 2-2
 Andrew Byerly 2-8
 Larry Geresy 2-9
 Bill Thiemann 2-14
 Dolores Jensen 2-16
 Jeff Braden 2-18
 James Oaklief 2-20
 Adele Steele 2-21
 Jean McClelland 2-23
 Carol McLeod 2-28

FEBRUARY 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 9:00 Sermon Preview Study	2	3 3-5 p.m. Youth Center 6:00 p.m. FPU 7:00 p.m. Choir	4 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Untapped	5 Finance Meeting	6
7 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	8 Pastor on vacation	9 Pastor on Vacation	10 Pastor on Vacation 12:30 Worship Meeting 3-5 Youth Center 6:00 p.m. FPU 7:00 p.m. Choir	11 Pastor on Vacation 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap 7:00 P.m. Spirituality untapped	12 Pastor on vacation	13 Pastor on Vacation
14 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	15 9:00 am Sermon Preview Study	16 10:00 Staff meeting 1:00 p.m. Book Club	17 9:00 a.m. Session 7:00 p.m. Ash Wed Service	18 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap 7:00 p.m. Spirituality Untapped	19	20
21 10:00 am Worship Service	22 9:00 am Sermon Preview Study	23	24 3-5 p.m. Youth Center 6:00 p.m. FPU 7:00 p.m. Choir	25 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting 9:00 a.m. Men's Rap 7:00 P.m. Spirituality Untapped	26	27
28 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	29 9:00 a.m. Sermon Preview Study	30	31 3-5 p.m. Youth Center 6:00 FPU 7:00 p.m. Choir			

Church in the Hills

A Presbyterian Community of

Faith and Friendship in Christ

6401 Shanty Creek Road Bellaire, Michigan 49615

Phone: 231-533-6001

OFFICE EMAIL:

Churchinthehills@charterinternet.com

WEBSITE

www.churchinthehills.org

Service of Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Children's Program: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

Church in the Hills Session:

Clerk of Session: Dottie Schaefer 377-7848

Class of 2010

Ron Lynch	Membership	377-7077
Bob Peters	Building	544-3613
Bob McClelland	Grounds	533-9508

Class of 2011

Bob Schaefer	Personnel	377-7848
Fred Harris	Finance	533-5071
Sue Schorfhaar	Worship	533-5071

Class of 2012

Cynthia Tschudy	C. Education	544-6167
Ted Whittlesey	Finance	377-9304
Kathy Munger	Treasurer	533-4733
Dorothy Clore	Choir/Organist	331-6587
Edena Williams	PW of CITH:	533-8598

The Reverend Mr. Donald E. Gordon, Pastor Emeritus

Church in the Hills

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