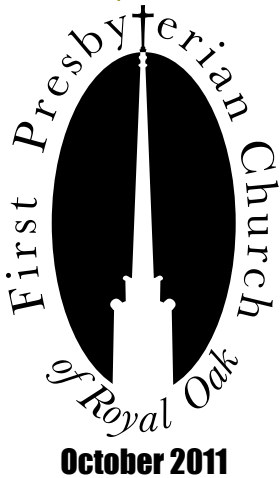


First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

Church Bell



A word from our pastor...

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)

Believe it or not, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has changed the Book of Order. Believe it or not, in response to frustratingly long search processes, and interims never being permitted to stay, the national church finally “changed the rules.” The new options are very exciting for our church!

We are in the process of seeking a “Stated Supply Associate Pastor.”

What that means is this: Presbytery has given us a list of 5 candidates they highly recommend for our associate pastor position. Our search committee — consisting of members from Personnel, Session, a youth elder and parents of youth — is considering those candidates. They are reading their dossiers, interviewing any they want to interview. If they do not find the right candidate in that group, our search committee can go back to Presbytery and ask for another list of candidates to consider.



But once the committee has found the right candidate the “change” really begins. That person is not an interim. That person is a “stated supply associate pastor.” What that means is that if, in a year, we feel that we have the right person and we don’t want them to leave, we can install him or her. This candidate can be our associate pastor for many years to come, without our ever having to go through an interim coming and going.

Presbytery has wonderful candidates to recommend to us, and each one is a person who loves Southeast Michigan and wants to serve here long-term.

So I am very hopeful about this process. I hope you will keep our search committee in your prayers: Taylor Cook, Ted DeVantier, Alisa Hill, Kim Kucharski, Suzanne Lewand, Benny Rediers and Heather Smith. Thank them for this wonderful ministry, and we’ll keep you posted.

Yes, God IS doing a new thing, and we are very grateful!

*Yours in Christ,
~Pastor Tom Rice*

Congregational Business

Dear Friends,

Three years ago, Barbara and I were traveling across the country, seeing the Grand Canyon, spending time with friends in Colorado, and then arduously driving across states full of corn and soy fields. We were looking forward to a new life in Michigan and my new career at First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak.

Since then, I've come to love this congregation and its ministries. I have learned so much from you and my colleagues. I have great memories of mission trips to Mexico, Costa Rica, Detroit, and Pittsburgh. I've loved being with the youth on outings, on retreats, and in groups. I've been blessed with the talents and experience of so many of our members who have given themselves to God's work through this church. I feel blessed to have been a part of great worship. I have grown immensely as a pastor.



In addition to many blessings in the church, Barbara and I have also been gifted with a wonderful son, Luca. With this gift have come huge responsibilities. Barbara and I have both been quite challenged to be the parents we want to be and to meet the demands of our respective callings. Since having Luca, we've needed the support of close family and we have seen that Luca too needs it. With a heavy heart, I began to look for another call some months ago that would allow us to be close to several of our family members in Florida.

With much discernment, I did receive another call. In October, I will be an associate pastor in Naples, Florida. My position will be more generalist in nature, but utilizing my strengths and call in mission, youth, education, and pastoral care. My last day at FPCRO will be on October 2, when I will give my last sermon to you.

I want to thank you for all your support, encouragement, and teaching that you have given me. I am thankful for what God's doing here at FPCRO. I know that you will be in good hands, in God's hands, as you continue worshipping, serving, and learning. I will miss you dearly and I will be keeping you in my prayers.

*Peace and grace,
~Rev. Jonathan Evans*

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Staff

Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Rice — *Pastor, Ext. 206*

Rev. Jonathan Evans — *Associate Pastor, Ext. 202*

Donald A. Daniels — *Director of Music Ministries, Ext. 218*

Joseph Jackson — *Organist/Music Associate, Ext. 218*

Dr. Carmel Tinnes — *Director of Christian Education, Ext. 204*

Ivy Debrow — *Child Care Provider*

Rev. Betsy Rice — *Parish Associate, Ext. 201*

Beth Heitchue/Sue Ann Sirr/Joan Cone — *Sunflowers Teachers*

Soloists

Melissa Maloney — *Soprano*

Curt Peters — *Tenor*

Alona Moon — *Mezzo Soprano*

Greg Williams — *Bass*

Wedding Coordinator

Ginny O'Brien — *weddings@fpcro.org*

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OF NOTE:

Anniversaries:

October 6, 1956: Bonnie and Harold Teufel **55 years**

Marriages:

August 13, 2011: Joseph Raymond Jessmon and Linda Jane (Prokopek) Jessmon

PRESBYS

The Presbys will continue this new season on **Friday, October 21, 2011** at 6 pm in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Following punch, fellowship, and a delicious dinner, **the church youth who serve us at each meeting will tell us about recent travels which we have helped them enjoy.** Questions? Call Ron Gillham 248.546.8288.



HOLY DUSTERS / HOLY HANDYMEN

Join us at 10 am
Monday, October 3 and Monday,
October 17 in the CE Lobby. All are
welcome – we love to see new faces!



LUNCH

BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, October 6 from noon until 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We look forward to hearing about the recent changes in the Book of Order presented by Ed Koster, the Stated Clerk of Presbytery. Come and join us for a delicious potluck lunch, great fellowship, a few hymns, and some fun to go along with our program. For those with last names beginning with A-F, please bring a main dish, from G-N bring a salad or side dish, and O-Z bring a dessert. Don't forget to sign up at the Reception Desk and invite a friend to join us.

*A gift was given in
Celebration of the 50th
Wedding Anniversary of
Linda and Ken Noble.*

*A memorial gift was
given in memory of Michael
Walter Rae.*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – HANDS ON MISSION

Thanks to Roger and Edie Watson and Brian Miller who all swung hammers for Habitat during the Blitz Build this summer! Helping with hospitality during week two were June and Roger Van Dyke (hospitality hosts for a day) and the 11th hour team of Karen Kline, Judy Pugh, Chris Klein and Helen Dusenbury who put together lunch for 80 people with barely a day's notice! First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak provided a total of over 40 hours to help provide a hand up to some very deserving families. Thank you for all your hard work and continued support of Habitat for Humanity!

Staff Email List

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The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

“Called by God’s love in Jesus Christ, we respond by welcoming others into an energizing community of worship, learning and service. Moving forward in faith, making disciples of all ages, we are sent out in the power of the Holy Spirit to make a daily difference in the world.”

Congregational Business



PIE BAKING CONTEST 3RD ANNUAL FIRST HARVEST FESTIVAL

A pie baking contest will be held at the 3rd Annual First Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 8. This contest is open to all church members and interested parties. A sign-up sheet and a copy of the rules are posted in the CE Lobby. Prize ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. (Bakers need not be present to win.) Pie Baking Contest helpers are also needed. Sign-up sheets are posted in the CE Lobby for anyone interested in helping check in and display the pies and bid sheets. Helpers can sign-up for variable hours between 8 am and 4 pm. (The most needed times are from 8 am until 1 pm.)

The following rules apply:

- Bakers must submit two pies of the same kind (One pie will be cut into pieces for tasting and sale by the piece. The second will be sold to the highest bidder at 2 pm.)
- The pies must be made in disposable pie tins
- The pies must be homemade (Prepared crusts are permitted)
- A list of ingredients (not exact recipes) must be submitted with the pies
- There will be two categories of pie fillings: Fruit and Other
- Pies must be turned in at the festival between 8 am and 11 am on October 8
- Judging begins at 11 am and the winners will be announced at 11:30 am
- Pies will be judged on the following: Overall appearance, Crust, Filling, Originality and Taste

Come join in the fun of the festival and help at the pie contest!



USING THE CHURCH'S DOORBELL

You might notice at times that our front door is locked. You may need to ring the doorbell and the receptionist will "buzz" you in. I want to explain what's going on here.

I wish we could afford a full-time, paid daytime receptionist. Someone who is trained in security, and yet, of course, someone who is warm and welcoming. Someone like Jay Kaufmann, our evening receptionist. Unfortunately, our stewardship giving has not supported such a position. Instead, during the day we have volunteers at the reception desk who are not professionally trained for security.

Late this past summer, we had an incident at the church. A stranger entered to ask for financial assistance, and then it became clear that this individual was mentally unstable and threatening. The police were called.

In response, we will be having training for our volunteer receptionists. We are putting procedures in place for better security to help ensure the safety of our volunteer receptionists and everyone in the building. In the meantime, until our receptionists are trained and ready, you may at times need to use the doorbell. Please know that you are welcome in this place! Thank you for your understanding.

*Yours in Christ,
~Pastor Tom Rice*

3RD ANNUAL FIRST HARVEST FESTIVAL

The festival, now in its third year, has become a 'can't miss' event for everyone's calendar this year! The committee has put together a great line up of entertainment and activities that will be fun for all and the Tin Can Auction has some fabulous items to bid for! Fresh baked goods and books will be on sale and we will soon find out who takes home the prize for best pie and chili too, so bring your friends, family and neighbors on October 8 from 11 am to 4 pm! The entertainment line-up and auction item list are below and subject to change so please check the church website for up-to-date information!



Schedule of Events:

- 11 am** Little Creatures: *Live small animal show*
- 12 pm** 4GVN: *Barbershop Quartet*
- 12:30 pm** Eric Paul Klein: *Folk-pop soloist*
- 1 pm** Royal Oak Children's Choir
- 1:15 pm** Lost to the West: *Band*
- 2 pm** Square Dancing: *Audience participation!*
- 3 pm** School of Rock

Tin Can Auction Items:

- Four tickets to either Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village
- Family Four pack of tickets to the Detroit Zoo
- Family Four pass to the Detroit Science Center
- \$25 Holiday Market gift certificate
- Two \$25 Hollywood Market gift certificates
- Handmade jewelry donated by Liz Gardiner
- Plum Hollow Golf Gift Certificate
- Two tickets for "Too Hot to Handel" at the Detroit Opera House
- Hand painted vase from Adrianna Talley in Royal Oak
- 2011 Country Pleasures Note Nook calendar
- New complete DVD set of "The Honeymooners"
- Mark Ridley Comedy Castle Passes
- Car wash passbooks
- Giraffe broach
- Women's clutch
- Detroit Lions memorabilia
- Detroit Red Wings memorabilia
- Chapman's Mill restaurant gift certificate

FOOD! FUN! FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Live dinners are created by our own chef, Randy Jarman. These great meals are a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, make new friends, and not have to cook one night a week! We are hoping you will enjoy dinner with us from 6 to 7 pm each Wednesday, even if the rest of the activities don't fit your schedule.

- Dinner is \$6 for adults
- \$5 for 9th – 12th graders
- \$3 for Kindergarten – 8th graders
- Free for preschoolers

Make your reservations by calling the church office at 248.541.0108

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE

Equal Exchange Coffee is on sale in Fellowship Hall between services and after the 10:30 am worship service. The sale of this coffee helps poor farmers in coffee growing countries to provide basic health services and education for their children. We sell coffee, cocoa mix, tea, and chocolate bars. All products are of excellent quality. Our prices are lower than in retail stores. Give it a try — you'll like it!



Congregational Business

TRUSTEE NOTES — AUGUST 2011

GROUNDS — Kevin Ball

- New mulch has been purchased and applied in the play structure area.
- All tree trimming has been completed for 2011.
- The arborvitae in the walled garden to the west of the sanctuary has been removed in preparation for the installation of the Earla Smith garden this Fall. The committee is working with Bev Moss to design the new garden.
- A congregation member has offered to pay to re-landscape the grounds facing the main parking lot and Pleasant Street wall of the Fireside Room. The offer includes hiring a landscaper to do the planning and design.
- The asphalt curbs in the NE and NW parking lots were damaged by Total Lawn Care during snow removal. They agreed to make repairs but have not done so. Kevin Ball sent the owner a letter on 07/09/2011 advising him that the church would make the repairs and offset the cost against current and future invoices. The quotes to make the repair range from \$1,200 to \$1,833. Upon Motion: The trustees approved that FPCRO shall withhold payment of all open and future charges, invoices, and other obligations owed to Total Lawn Care and set off same against the costs to repair or replace asphalt curbs in the northeast and northwest parking lots and the sidewalk in the northwest corner of the main parking lot until the cost of such repair or replacement is recovered in full.
- The committee has received bids to repair and seal coat the NE and NW parking lots, the Hendrie parking strip, and repair the curbs. The committee does not have the budget to do both parking lots. Upon Motion: The grounds committee is authorized to spend up to \$1,700 for asphalt seal coating, repairs, and restriping and up to \$1,833 for asphalt curb repairs with the latter being offset by the above motion.

COMPUTER — Greg Gillham

- John Daniel reported for Greg Gillham. The committee has received an \$8,000 donation with no restrictions. With the existing \$6,254.31 in the Designated Computer Fund and remaining 2011 budget of \$1,500, the committee has enough funds to upgrade the entire building. Upon Motion: The trustees approve the use of available computer funds in the amount not to exceed \$15,700. This is for the purchase of 12 new PCs for staff, a new server, and all appropriate software, and a preference for addition of wireless capabilities throughout the building if possible.

HOUSE — Dennis Janney

- The committee has received the recommended repairs evaluation from our roofing consultant for roof "U" located outside the chapel door. Royal Roofing has submitted a bid for \$9,250. There are still outstanding questions that need to be answered before presenting a motion.
- A new leak has been found in the choir room coming from an old corroded drain pipe. The issue should be addressed tomorrow.
- We have had leakage in the Fireside Room due to a clogged condensate drain (which is now cleared). Damage and mold possibilities are being investigated.
- Since the new circulating pump has been installed, there has been a loud humming from the pipes. The committee has requested that Motor City Heating look into the situation.

MEMORIALS & FURNISHINGS — Nancy Lambert

- No report.

*~ Respectfully Submitted
Joyce King — Trustee Chair*

From the Production Team:

Do you have something you would like to submit? Please use our email address to contribute to the next issue of the Church Bell: newsletter@fpcro.org

ARE WE GOOD STEWARDS? — PART 3

It is Stewardship season once again, and we know that you've heard it before: that the Church needs pledges in order to properly budget for the next year; that the Church, like any organization, has bills to pay; that the Church needs pledges to pay staff salaries and to fund benevolence and the various programs we all enjoy; that the Church needs funding to maintain this beautiful building.

Well, it's all true! But perhaps the best reason to give is because God asks us to be good stewards of the many gifts we receive, and to return a portion of those gifts.

Jesus said: ***“You did not choose me...but I chose YOU...and appointed YOU so that you might go and bear fruit — fruit that will last — and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”***

That's a beautiful passage, isn't it? It's taken from John 15, Verse 16, and it is the theme for our Stewardship campaign this year.

What that verse tells us is that if we share the gifts we have received — our fruit — those gifts will be returned to us in blessings many times over, as God loves a cheerful giver.

Stewardship Sunday is November 6. As a way of keeping track of our gifts, we will add one piece of fruit to our Stewardship Tree for each 1% of our overall Stewardship goal we reach.

For some of us, these remain challenging times to be sure, but your pledge is a commitment to this ministry and to the many joys it brings to your life.

Please prayerfully consider renewing your pledge this year, or perhaps even increasing your Stewardship commitment this year. And if you are presently not making a pledge, please consider doing so.

*On behalf of the Stewardship Committee
~Sally Gilreath*



Youth Ministry



“Don't forget to welcome strangers, for by so doing some have welcomed angels” (Hebrews 13:2) This is a wonderful instruction for radical Christian inclusivity and one that relates mission, hospitality, and reconciliation.

This mural you see is by one of our youth, Heather Cook. As you can see, she is wonderfully gifted and readily gives of herself to inspire others. Thank you Heather!

Please make sure to stop by the Loft to see her work!

A View From the Pew

As we delve into our Presbyterian heritage this year through our theme, “Our Presbyterian Identity,” we look to our roots and what has brought us to where we are today.

Several tenets define Presbyterians, but perhaps the two most identifiable are our form of government (which will be addressed in a later article), and our form of worship. Everything in our worship services, which are truly central to our beliefs, is done for a reason. One of the most noticeable features of our services is the Hymn singing.

The great hymnologist, Erik Routley, defines a Hymn as songs for unmusical people to sing together; poetry that unliturgical people can utter together. In other words, a hymn is a song that can be shared by all. Looking at the Presbyterian tradition and how the Reformation shaped our worship today, it is fitting that music for the common people is such a large part of each service.

Hymn singing has a long tradition in the Christian worship. In fact, it is theorized that Christians were singing hymns within 100 years of Pentecost, but it was not the familiar hymn singing we experience today. The hymns were very limited since the congregations were mostly unschooled. Even if the congregations could read, printed books were not available, and so oral tradition was the only way to pass along the words and text. Hymns were mainly limited to either liturgical songs or special songs that were designed to be used during mass on high holy days, such as the “Dies Irae” or “Alleluia”. In other words, Hymns existed merely to support and adorn the liturgy of the church.

Our modern-day hymnody began with the Reformation. When Martin Luther nailed his theses to the church door, there was a marked shift in the way worship and its parts were viewed. The congregation was no longer mere spectators, but integral participants in the new corporate form of worship. Services were in the peoples’ own language and with that came an ability for the people to fully participate. The Bible was translated into a language that could be understood by all as well. Martin Luther wrote 37 hymns that were meant to be a part of worship – still termed Mass. They were substituted for parts of the service. He also wrote metrical psalms, and re-wrote Latin Hymns. Perhaps his most recognized Hymn today is “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.”

On Reformation Sunday, we will close with this hymn from Martin Luther. He wrote it in 1529, basing it on the text of Psalm 46. This hymn soon became the rally cry for the Protestant Reformation and is still commonly used today. Many say that the text not only describes the struggle of good against evil, but also the struggle of the Protestants against the Pope.

John Calvin continued the tradition of congregational hymn singing, but his hymns were more limited, strictly singing Psalms and other passages such as the Lord’s Prayer. These songs were unadorned by instrumental accompaniment. John Calvin produced a Psalter of 18 psalms and 3 canticles based on the Genevan Psalter, a collection of hymns used in Geneva where he lived and studied.

The opening Hymn we sing on Reformation Sunday is “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art,” the hymn text of which is attributed to John Calvin. This Hymn first appeared in the French Psalter, published under Calvin’s leadership in 1545.

With the English reformation, which arose from Henry VIII’s split from Rome over the issue of divorce, hymn-singing became increasingly popular. Thomas Sternhold expanded the English hymns, completing the “Whole Booke of Psalmes” in 1562, the same year that the Genevan Psalter was completed.

In the early seventeenth century, there was an explosion of new hymns, through the creativity of Puritan Isaac Watts. He questioned why Christians could not sing about the central figure of their beliefs, Jesus Christ. He wrote more than 300 hymns, setting them to tunes that seemed more like the ballads of the day than anything written previously. With his writings, hymn singing increased in popularity among English-speaking congregations.

Charles Wesley and his brother John continued the tradition of English hymnody into the eighteenth century. They, but especially Charles, were exceptionally prolific; and many of their hymns, including “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” and “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” are still in our hymn books.

The catalog of Hymns is continuously growing. The middle Hymn on reformation Sunday, is “How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord”, written in 1981 by Fred Pratt Green as a result of a request from Hymnologist Erik Routley for a new text on the theme of vocation set to Hubert Parry’s monumental tune.

A View From the Pew (cont.)

Hymns continue to be an integral part of our worship experience. In following the tradition of corporate worship, or worshipping as a group, they allow us to express through words and music the emotional component of our faith. The next time you are in worship, think about the hymns we are singing. They are carefully chosen to correlate with scripture reading, relevant topics of the sermon, and events occurring in our congregation and the world around us. How lucky are we that our Reformed tradition allows, and even encourages, us to make a joyful noise!

~Suzanne Lewand,
(Written with much help and
support from Joseph Jackson)

Children's Ministry

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

Children continue exploring the story of Moses, Miriam, and Aaron this month. Please look for the additions that appear on the Children's Ministry bulletin board for images from each week's story as we move through this important saga!



THIRD GRADE BIBLE EVENT

On Reformation Sunday, October 30, our Third graders will be receiving their Bibles in worship (10:30 worship). A special lunch and education event will follow for third graders and their families in the Fireside Room after worship. Invitations have been mailed, so if your third grader has not received one by October 1, please let Carmel know.

Adult Education

"FRIDAY" FILM

The first Film event will take place on Friday, October 28 at 6:30 pm in the Faith Features Room. Join us for pizza, salad, popcorn and a delightful film exploring our reformed heritage! Donations of \$8 are requested to cover the costs of the pizza, salad, popcorn, and paper products.



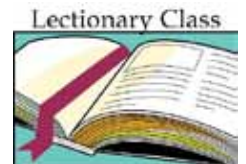
WNL BIBLE STUDY

Join in an interesting look at our Presbyterian identity on Wednesdays from 7 to 8 pm in the Fireside Room. Exploration will include important topics of faith from the Reformed tradition. By the end of the month you might even know the answer to important questions like, "Just who are the Elect?" Tom Rice and Carmel Tinnes will lead this class.



LECTIONARY CLASS

Each Sunday morning at 9 am, a group gathers to study the biblical passages for the day. At the end of class, we explore the worship bulletin to see how these texts play a role in creating that Sunday's worship service. Join us in room 104 for this hour of interesting discoveries!



QUESTION FOR ALL ADULTS

What is it that you would like to learn about your religious life? How to help your children grow and learn about God? How to pray yourself or with others?

Where did we get the biblical text? What "practices" help us to grow in faith? Let Carmel know your questions by placing them in the envelope on her office door.



Who knows, there may be opportunities to explore these conundrums some day at FPCRO!

Ask Me...

In an effort to encourage communication between children and adults in church, each month the Worship and Music Committee will present discussion topics.

Children: Ask your parents what they learned about Moses this month. Did they hear more than one story? Did you learn about any of the same stories?

Parents: Ask your children to show you the Ten Commandments finger play. Can they tell you more stories about Moses?

"If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."
John 14:14, NRSV

ALWAYS REFORMING

The Latin phrase *Ecclesia semper reformanda est* means "The church is always reforming"; implied is "And that's good!"

Ongoing change and growth are important for individuals, too, but for many of us, change is hard. Use this prayer poem to embrace positive change, safe in the arms of our unchanging God.



*Cradle to grave — How shall my life flow?
Always the same,
Never daring to grow? Since
GOD is the same, always faithful and near,
I'm free to move forward in spite of my fear. So...
Naming the Lord as my Power through strife, I
Go forth braving newness — in faith and in life!*

~Heidi Mann

BEING A PRESBYTERIAN PARENT

In the Parlor on Wednesdays from 5-6 pm, October 5-November 16, come and explore what Presbyterians believe and learn ways to share these ideas with your children. Using a series of magazine articles, we'll discuss a variety of topics from a Presbyterian point of view and discover ways to teach these beliefs to our families. This seven-week study will be a great time of fellowship, discussion, and learning — so plan to attend. Sign up at the reception desk, contact Julie Decker, or just come on by! Questions? Contact Julie Decker at 248.398.5589 or juliedecker@comcast.net.

SUNFLOWERS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL FUND RAISER— YOU CAN HELP!



Box Tops For Education is an easy way for you to support our preschool and for us to earn money. All you do is clip the coupons from participating products and bring them to church. There will be an envelope on the bulletin board, in the hall that leads to our room and the elevator, to receive your coupons. Thanks so much for your help!

~Sunflowers Staff

The Last Time I Saw You

B Elizabeth Berg

This novel is about women and men reconnecting with one another and themselves at their fortieth high school reunion.

To each of them this reunion means something different — a lost opportunity to say something long left unsaid, an escape from the realities of everyday life, to save a marriage or simply an opportunity to go home.

Mistress of the Monarchy

W Alison Weir

This is the extraordinary tale of Katherine Swynford, a royal mistress who became one of the crucial figures in the history of Great Britain. In the mid fourteenth century, Katherine De Roit was only twelve when she married Hugh Swynford. But her story began two years earlier, when she was appointed governess to the household of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and fourth son of King Edward III. Later she became his wife in a scandalous marriage.

Without Katherine Swynford, the course of English history, perhaps even the world, would have been very different.

Fading Echoes

956.70 S Mike Sielski

The compelling chronicle of two outstanding athletes, their lives, the game they loved and the separate journeys they took from the football field to the battlefield.

Only one made it back to their home and nothing about them, their families or their hometowns will ever be the same again.

The Elephant Keeper

N Christopher Nicholson

In England in 1766, at the ship docks in Bristol, England, a rumor spreads about the cargo. One crate after another is unpacked containing a zebra, a leopard, and a baboon. In the last crate is something almost magical — a pair of young elephants, in poor health, but still alive.

A wealthy sugar merchant purchases the elephants and turns their care over to a stable boy, Tom. It takes time for Tom and the elephants to understand one another, but a remarkable bond is formed.

Nicholson's deft storytelling complements a captivating tale of love and loyalty of one boy and two elephants that changes the lives of all who meet them.

Cutting for Stone

V Abraham Verghese

Marian and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of an Indian mother and a brash British surgeon at a mission hospital in Addis Ababa. They are orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance. Bound together by a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution.

Marian makes his way to America finding work as an intern at a crowded and under-funded New York hospital.

An unforgettable journey into one man's life and an epic story about power, intimacy and curious beauty of the work of healing others.

NEW STEEN LIBRARY TAPESTRY

Be sure to stop by the Steen Library either before or after church service on October 23 to see the wonderful addition to our library and to the church's art collection.

Many memorials were sent to the church library for Jane Meschke and it was the wish of her family that the money be used for a lasting piece of art. As Jane had been instrumental in purchasing the two tapestries already used in the library, the Library Committee decided a third tapestry would be a fitting tribute to her.

After a search of artists who do weaving, we settled on Millie Dannielson of Ann Arbor. Our church already has one example of her work — it hangs in the parlor on the south wall — and it's note-worthy because of its wonderful play of colors. She used her love of color in the new tapestry as well.

The name of the tapestry is "*Let the little children come unto me*" and Jesus is portrayed as a teacher with the children at his feet.

The First Presbyterian
Church of Royal Oak
529 Hendrie Blvd.
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

Address service requested

Worship Services
Sunday mornings at
9 am & 10:30 am

OCTOBER 15 is the **DEADLINE** for the **NOVEMBER** Newsletter



It's wonderful to be back at school. We are enjoying learning about our new friends and all of the routines of our school days. We have had a busy few weeks, enjoying the lovely weather outdoors, and the flurry of activities inside, too.

October always brings the topic of "fire safety" to preschool. We spend the month using songs, games and projects to teach us how to stay safe in the event of a fire. The four-year-old class will visit the downtown Royal Oak Fire Station to tour the building, listen to the firefighters, and check out all of the fire trucks and gear. Our parents love this field trip, too! The three-year-old class will have a fireman visit our classroom. We may even get to try on some of his gear!

The beautiful autumn colors outside our classroom window come inside as we paint with "orange" this month. Our three-year-olds are practicing their fine motor skills, learning how to play cooperatively, and doing some wonderful art projects. Our fours are delving into the alphabet, studying one letter per week, as well as working on producing some beautiful artwork.

The hay wagons at Bowers Farm will be full of our students and their parents in October. This all-school field trip allows us to visit a real pumpkin patch for important selections, take a tour of the farm, and run through a corn maze, followed by cider, donuts and wonderful fellowship.

We still have openings in both our three- and four-year-old classes. The fours meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:15 am to 12 pm, while the threes meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15 am to 11:45 am. If you are interested, please call the Preschool (248.541.0108, ext. 220) during school hours. We would love to meet you!

Mrs. Heitchue, Ms. Matthews, Mrs. Sirr and Mrs. Cone