

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

Church Bell



A word from our pastor...

"This I call to mind and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning..." (Lamentations 3:21-23)

As you may know, we have had a search committee intensely working to find a new associate pastor. **I am thrilled to announce** that our search committee voted unanimously, and at its October meeting our Session voted unanimously, for the **Rev. Matt Nickel to be our new associate pastor!**

Matt begins with us on November 1, 2011. In this new Presbyterian search process, Matt is not an interim. The official Presbytery title is "temporary supply associate pastor." He is eligible to be with us for the long-term, and to provide wonderful continuity in our youth ministry and ministry overall. I look forward to your getting to know Matt and welcoming him here to FPCRO. I know he looks forward to getting to know you! Enjoy what you'll find here inside this issue of the Church Bell, as our search committee shares with you a little bit about Matt and his gifts for ministry in this place.

We have also had **congregational focus groups** meeting to discuss a proposal for changing our Sunday schedule in the fall of 2012. I am very grateful to everyone who has participated. We have had very good discussions, and important questions and concerns have been raised together with lots of expressions of commitment and desire for more adult Christian education opportunities and opportunities for children and youth to participate in worship.

We have felt called to do the following: During the Easter season we will have a "trial run." In other words, beginning the first Sunday after Easter, we will have six Sundays in a row with worship at 9 am and 11 am, and Christian education for

all ages at 10 am. Children in preschool up through the 2nd grade will have their own age-appropriate worship experience called "Godly play" at 9 or 11 am. There have been wonderful suggestions for adult education opportunities, including: A class on Islam, Judaism and Christianity, a class on "Reading the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other" (reflecting as Christians on events in the news), a class on Celtic Christianity, a marriage enrichment class, a Christian parenting class, and a Bible 101 class (everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask). As you can imagine, there will be lots of great classes to choose from, and opportunities to learn and grow with friends.



However, before and after we begin the "trial run," we will be using a tool called "Survey Monkey." We will be getting your input, and the input of our children, before and after we try this new schedule.

We are committed to discerning the way forward as a community of faith. Nothing will be imposed upon us. If, after trying it, we feel that the new schedule is what God is calling us to, we will then have that as our schedule in the fall of 2012. If we do not, we will continue with our current schedule, yet committed to strengthening adult education and worship opportunities for all ages.

On **Sunday October 30**, fourteen 3rd graders will receive their Bibles as we celebrate Reformation Sunday. On **Sunday, November 20** (Christ the King Sunday) our youth will lead us in worship at both 9:00 am and 10:30 am. On Tuesday, November 22 we have the privilege of hosting the Presbytery meeting here at our church.

Indeed, *"Great is God's faithfulness!"* (Lamentations 3:23)

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tom Rice*

Congregational Business

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Budgeted Financial Statement for August 2011

	Actual for Month	Actual YTD	2011 Budget YTD	2011 Annual Budget
Income				
Contribution Income				
Pledge Income	38,322.50	402,388.25	374,252.03	650,000.00
Loose Offerings	1,613.00	17,902.17	16,666.68	25,000.00
Church School	-	190.07	400.00	600.00
Special Gifts	-	4,414.11	3,500.00	10,000.00
Previous Year Unpaid Pledge	-	6,023.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Total Contribution Income	39,935.50	430,917.60	402,318.71	693,100.00
Other Income	16,078.89	30,089.31	35,333.36	55,500.00
Total Income	56,014.39	461,006.91	437,652.07	748,600.00
Total Expenses	61,677.22	486,739.87	530,980.84	786,941.00
Income Under Expense	(5,662.83)	(25,732.96)	(93,328.77)	(38,341.00)
General Reserves Transfers	-	-	-	18,942.42
Endowment Equity Transfer	-	-	-	19,398.58
Total	(5,662.83)	(25,732.96)	(93,328.77)	-



Thanksgiving Service

From the Production Team:

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

Staff Email List

Pastor Tom Rice trice@fpcro.org
 Parish Associate Betsy Rice brice@fpcro.org
 Carmel Tinnes ctinnes@fpcro.org
 Don Daniels ddaniels@fpcro.org
 Joseph Jackson jjackson@fpcro.org
 Kari Peruski kperuski@fpcro.org
 Pam Kaufmann pkaufmann@fpcro.org
 Alan Glasel aglasel@fpcro.org
 Newsletter Designers newsletter@fpcro.org

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

On Sunday, November 20th, at 7:30 pm the Royal Oak Pastors' Association is co-sponsoring a community Thanksgiving service at Shrine of the Little Flower (corner of 12 Mile and Woodward in Royal Oak).

Everyone is welcome! Members and friends of all churches in Royal Oak are invited, and refreshments will be served after the service.

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Staff

Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Rice — *Pastor, Ext. 206*
 Rev. Matthew Nickel — *Associate Pastor, Ext. 202*
 Donald A. Daniels — *Director of Music Ministries, Ext. 218*
 Joseph Jackson — *Organist/Music Associate, Ext. 218*
 Rachel Gardiner - *Director of Youth Music Ministry*
 Dr. Carmel Tinnes — *Director of Christian Education, Ext. 204*
 Rev. Betsy Rice — *Parish Associate, Ext. 201*

Ivy Debrow — *Child Care Provider*
 Kari Peruski — *Church Administrator, Ext. 203*
 Pamela Kaufmann — *Administrative Assistant, Ext. 207*
 Alan Glasel — *Facility Manager*
 Gary Moultrup/DJ Frey — *Assistant Custodians*
 Jay Kaufmann — *Evening Security/Receptionist, Ext. 200*
 Randy Jarman — *Food Consultant*
 Julie Matthews — *Sunflowers Director, Ext. 220*
 Beth Heitchue/Sue Ann Sirr/Joan Cone — *Sunflowers Teachers*

Soloists

Melissa Maloney — *Soprano* Curt Peters — *Tenor*
 Alona Moon — *Mezzo Soprano*

Wedding Coordinator

Ginny O'Brien — weddings@fpcro.org

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Associate Pastor News

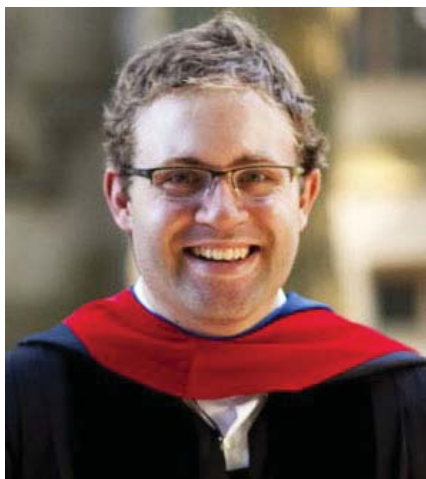
The process of calling a Pastor or Associate Pastor has traditionally been a long and demanding process. A self-study, a nationwide search and review of numerous candidates were required before installing a new Associate Pastor. Under the new rules of government approved by the Presbyteries this year, however, a streamlined process has emerged that allows a search for a "temporary supply pastor" or associate pastor to be completed in a much shorter period of time. Our Presbytery approved this process for us. Under these rules, a self-study is not required, and rather than conduct a nationwide search, the Presbytery sends names of appropriate candidates to a church looking to fill a pastoral position. The result of this process is a pastor who is not initially called and installed by the congregation, but rather a pastor who works under contract with Session. The pastor may continue indefinitely, either on a year-by-year contract, or ultimately by being installed (with permission of Presbytery). Terms of call while under the contract to Session are dictated, as in the case of an interim, by the terms of the contract of the person vacating the position. The distribution of the contract may be negotiated, but the overall compensation package must remain the same.

Following these new rules, a committee of eight members was formed after approval by Session. Members include Tom Rice, Ted DeVantier, Alisa Hill, Kim Kucharski, Taylor Cook, Benny Rediers, Heather Smith, and Suzanne Lewand. Our first meeting consisted of setting a meeting schedule and reviewing the five PIF (Personal Information Forms) sent to us by the Presbytery.

After reviewing and discussing the five PIFs, we decided to interview four of the candidates. A set of questions and a "grading" system were created so that we could fairly compare each candidate.

Following the interviews, the candidates were discussed, pondered, and prayerfully considered. We felt God guiding us to one candidate who really stood out as a good fit for the position and our church. References were called, and the extremely positive references were shared with the entire committee. After more prayer and discernment, the committee unanimously voted to recommend to Session the Rev. Matt Nickel as our Temporary Supply Associate. Pastor. This recommendation was confirmed by Session, also with a unanimous vote.

It is a pleasure to introduce the Rev. Matthew Paul Nickel to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. Matt was born at Beaumont Hospital, just a few miles from our Church. He grew up in Grosse Pointe, attending Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. His family spent time overseas, and he spent his senior year and graduated from Antwerp International School in Belgium. He attended Hope College in Holland, Michigan, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a degree in literature.



Following graduation, Matt returned home to Grosse Pointe to open and run the Red Hat Micro-Winery with his father. His call to the church was strong though, and he continued serving at Grosse Pointe Memorial: volunteering for youth mission trips, young adult education, and serving on a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Three years later, Matt decided that his calling was to the seminary, and he enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary. It was there that he met his wife, Emma, also a student at Princeton Seminary. During Seminary, he worked as a Pastoral Assistant to Youth Ministries at Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Matt returned to Michigan to accept a Ministerial residency at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. He spent two years there, gaining experience in all areas of Pastoral responsibilities, and even organizing a pilgrimage to the Iona community in Scotland. His wife, Emma, accepted a call as a Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Warren, Michigan, and they recently moved to Beverly Hills.



Matt enjoys all sorts of outdoor activities such as running, biking, and especially winter sports such as skiing and ice hockey. He is a dedicated learner and reads from all genres. A self-proclaimed morning person, Matt can often be found in a local coffee shop meeting people for coffee and conversation. He and Emma love culinary adventures and spending time in Northern Michigan on East Grand Traverse Bay with family.

Matt says, "In ministry, I love opportunities to do mission locally as well as mission trips. Learning and asking questions about Scripture and our faith is one of my favorite church activities, whether with youth or adults." He feels that "youth have a stake in it (the youth ministry program)", and that there needs to be a variety of programming, with an easy entry point for all new members of the youth group. He described a favorite youth activity as dodge ball with a twist -- played with giant marshmallows instead of balls.

Matt's gifts extend well beyond the youth ministry. He has experience working with Deacons and enjoys their caring ministry. He is described as "creative, energetic, and has a wonderful way with group dinners." One person we spoke with commented, "Matt is good at whatever he does." Others describe Matt as "a calming grounded influence" with a good sense of humor, a "great teacher" who works well with all age groups, and someone who the youth of the church enjoy because of his openness. The youth appreciate his athleticism and that he is tech-savvy enough to keep up with them. He has worked with large church staffs and is described as a good team player who is self-sufficient but knows when to ask for help. He looks forward to finding out "what excites" each staff member and then drawing on each other's knowledge and experience.

Please join the search committee in welcoming Matt and Emma into our church family.

Welcome Matt!

Congregational Business

PRESBYS

The Presbys will meet on Friday, November 18, 2011 at 6 pm in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Following punch, fellowship, and a delicious dinner, we will hear a presentation by Julie McFarland, a Docent at the DIA about a new display featuring Paintings of Christs Face. Questions? Call Ron Gillham 248.546.8288.



HOLY DUSTERS / HOLY HANDYMEN

November 7 at 10:00 a.m.

November 21 at 10:00 a.m.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL FALL CLEAN UP

Many wonderful improvements have been made to the Church grounds this Fall. New gardens and a new tree have been planted with generous gifts from our members. Please join us in our efforts to keep the church beautiful by participating in the annual Fall Grounds Clean Up on Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 9 am to 12 pm (rain date November 12). Bring your rakes, shovels, brooms, and pruners and enjoy warm fellowship and a continental breakfast as we get our church ready for Winter.



LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, November 3 from 12 noon-2:00 pm in the Fireside Room. After a delicious potluck lunch and a fun activity, we will watch excerpts from a DVD about Martin Luther and the Reformation, followed by a discussion. Please sign up at the reception desk for the following: Last names beginning A-F bring a dessert, G-N bring a main dish, and O-Z bring a salad or side dish. Join us and bring a friend!

Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, November 27 after the 10:30 service. Many helpers may the work go quickly. We encourage Young and Old to help decorate the church for the Christmas season.

2011 HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW:

A craft show will be held in the Fireside Room on Friday, November 18, and Saturday, November 19. The public show will feature the work of over 20 crafters and will be coordinated and hosted by Toby Cheney. Hours on Friday will be from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. On Saturday, the show will be open from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. Please bring a can of food for the Salvation Army.

LOOKING FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Now that the fall season has begun, the Deacons would like an updated address list of our church's college students. Please email the names and addresses to Liz Perinoff at l_perinoff@hotmail.com within the next few weeks. Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE: there is an underscore between L & Perinoff in the email address.

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."



EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE

Equal Exchange products are available in Kirkman Fellowship Hall between worship services and after the 10:30 worship service

on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Purchase of these products (coffee, decaf, chocolate bars, and tea) gives poor farmers in coffee-growing countries a fair price by eliminating the middle man. This is a mission project of our church as the church receives only a small profit from the sales. Equal Exchange ensures that only superior products are sold and FPCRO sells at lower prices than retail shops. If it is inconvenient to purchase at the listed times, call Helen Dusenbury at 248.549.5205 or email at helendus@wowway.com and we will arrange to leave your order at the reception desk.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

To add to the beauty of our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and the following Sundays, we will be taking orders for poinsettia plants beginning November 20. This is a wonderful opportunity to remember or honor family and friends. Poinsettias will cost \$12.00 each and will be available in either red or white.

Order forms for the dedication of poinsettias will be available at the Reception Office counter and the Church website beginning November 20. Please complete the form and return it with your check by either placing it in the basket on the Reception counter or mailing to Eileen Taylor. Final day for ordering will be December 4.



SECOND MILE CENTER

A few years ago Ruth Azar answered a call from God and founded the Second Mile Center to minister to inner city families needing help. The Center is located on the east side of Detroit on Morang. It is supported by the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Detroit. But don't let the term "women" deter you from volunteering or helping out occasionally at the Center.

The Center offers classes on parenting, budgeting, computer skills, crafts, and many others. It also offers an after school program and summer program for children. Children take field trips to perform mime and acrobatic programs in churches in the Presbytery and sometimes out of state. Volunteers are always needed to help children with homework and reading.

Our church has donated tons of clothing and materials for the Center and that ministry is ongoing. A few of our women members have prepared dinner for about 65 children and adults a few times a year for the past few years. We would like to expand this ministry and invite more of our members to join us in this activity. For more information or to volunteer, call Linda Wade (248.548.1584) rllwade@yahoo.com or Helen Dusenbury (248.549.5205) helendus@wowway.com.

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 6:00-7:00 pm each Wednesday, even if the rest of the activities don't fit your schedule.

~Dinner is \$6.00 for adults

~\$5.00 for 9th – 12th graders

~\$3.00 for Kindergarten – 8th graders

~Free for preschoolers

Make your reservations by calling the church office (248.541.0108)

Stewardship

ARE WE GOOD STEWARDS? (PART 4)

Pledge cards for the 2012 program year have been mailed and you should have received them by now. Please return them on or before Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 6.

The pledge goal for 2012 has been set at \$710,000. This is a challenging goal to be sure; in fact, it is the highest pledge goal in the history of FPCRO (pledges for 2011 amounted to about \$650,000). This goal, however, represents the amount that is just the break-even point for our operational/mission/benevolence expenses. You may be surprised to learn that our church has actually operated in a deficit position the past few years, a trend, we would all agree, that cannot continue.

Are we good stewards?

Can we, as a congregation, meet this goal? Of course we can! The formula is simple, but it will require two things: For those in the congregation who do not currently pledge their support to this church, now is the time to give a little. And for those who do currently pledge, please consider giving a little more. Many FPCRO members don't make an annual pledge. Still others have not increased their pledge in many years. The question we should be asking ourselves is not whether we should pledge or not, but rather, at what level.

"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." ~John 15:16

Are we good stewards?

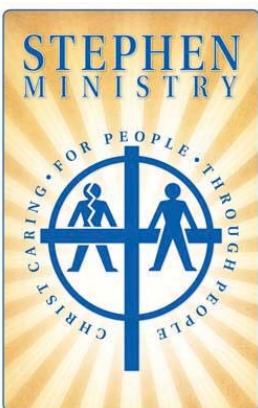
We know that God asks us to be faithful and cheerful givers. Please give prayerful consideration now as you determine your support -- your stewardship -- to Christ's ministry here at First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak.

"Go and bear fruit – fruit that will last!"

Pledge Dedication Sunday is November 6!

*Jeff Leestma, Chair
Stewardship Committee*

Stephen Ministry



First Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry church. Men and women of our congregation are trained to provide compassionate care and companionship to our members. People often wonder how the Stephen Ministry program works. Some questions might be:

"Just because I've had a trauma in my life, will a Stephen Minister show up at

my door?" No, that will not happen. The assignment of a Stephen Minister is a process which includes contact from someone on the Stephen Ministry Team, an explanation of the benefits of Stephen Ministry, and asking permission to assign a Stephen Minister.

"I know someone that I believe needs a Stephen Minister. What do I do to get him or her one?"

First of all, ask him or her if you may contact a Stephen Leader on their behalf. If the person agrees, then you may let one of the Stephen Leaders know about the person's need. The Stephen Leader will continue the referral process.

"I would like to have a Stephen Minister. How do I get one?" Contact someone on the Stephen Ministry Team to start the process.

"Will everyone in the congregation know that I have a Stephen Minister?" No, the assignment of a Stephen Minister is confidential. The only way anyone would know is if you choose to tell people.

Stephen Ministers are presently available to provide care. If you have any questions concerning Stephen Ministry, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Rev. Betsy Rice, Elaine Roseborough, or Gretchen Hirsch.

TRUSTEE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2011

Grounds

Kevin Ball

-Fall cleanup is scheduled for November 5, from 9 am to 12 noon.

-Seal coating is scheduled for the back lot along Pleasant Street.

-As explained at the August meeting, 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. Second Nature has been identified to do the design. Upon Motion: The Trustees approved the house committee recommendation for re-landscaping the grounds with the use of donated funds. No budgetary funds will be used without Trustee approval.

-Total Lawn Care has completed the repairs of curbs in one parking lot, but has not completed all repairs. Kevin will contact the company again and continue to withhold payment until the repairs are completed.

-Work is progressing on the garden design along the sanctuary that is being funded by the Earla Smith Foundation.

Computer

Greg Gillham

-The committee has conducted walk throughs with three potential suppliers for the server design, installation, maintenance and network upgrades. The committee expects quotes in the next two weeks and will plan to place an order for the server and PCs soon thereafter.

-In addressing a question about wireless ability, at least two of the suppliers will quote on network upgrades. There is some concern that the type of Internet service that currently exists for the Church will limit the number of simultaneous users of any wireless installation.

House

Dennis Janney

-SAS Waterproofing was called to address some minor leakage in the Choir room. They are scheduled to be back out Thursday, 9/29/11 to make the repairs (this is included in their warranty).

-Another leak in the Choir room was caused by a combination of a clogged condensate drain and rotted piping. This has been repaired.

-The final leaks in the Choir room (caused by Roof "U") should be repaired by our next meeting, thanks to the support of the Trustees, Finance Committee, and the Session. The roofing consultant is making arrangements with Royal Roofing for a start date, as he wants to be present when the work is initiated.

-Motor City Heating & Cooling is scheduled to be out on Thursday, 2/22/11 to install a coupler on the booster circulator pump (located behind the stage). They believe that this coupler should take care of the noise in certain office areas. The cost of this project will not exceed \$400.00.

-The committee is still looking into solutions for our condensate issues such as in the Fireside Room. We will soon assess the potential damage to the bookcase and wall behind it.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Joyce King, Trustee Chair*

WNL Study

Come learn about our Reformed heritage and learn some interesting theological terms! Join in any Wednesday from 7-8 in the Fireside Room.



Adult Education

FILM (not Friday)

A new time for our film event will be explored on **Sunday, November 13 from 12:30 to 2:30**. Join in for pizza, salad, popcorn, an interesting film and great discussion. A donation of \$8.00 is suggested to cover the cost of food. Child care can be arranged upon request, just ask Carmel by Nov. 6. Sign up to attend the Film Event on the clipboard in the CE Lobby.



Music and Worship

RACHEL GARDINER: OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY

by Don Daniels

Both Joseph and I wondered if we would be able to find anyone who could take over for our recently retired Carol Lengjel. Carol made such a significant commitment to this ministry, we wondered if we would be able to find someone to continue her legacy. We are pleased to report we found a strong candidate who possesses the musical and teaching expertise this position requires. We therefore are delighted to announce that **Rachel Gardiner has accepted the position of Director of Children and Youth Music Ministry.**

As you may already know, Rachel is a child of this church. She was raised in this congregation and she actively participated in the children and youth choirs while growing up. Rachel has continued to participate in the life of this church, most recently playing in our handbell choir. Rachel is the daughter of life-long members Kevin and Liz Gardiner. She has a fine lineage of musical talent, passed down to her by her grandparents: Don Gardiner, an active member of our King's Men, and Charlene Gardiner, a talented pianist, who at one time accompanied the King's Men.

Rachel graduated in December 2008 from Central Michigan University with Bachelor of Music Education. She is an accomplished musician and has quickly established herself as a formidable teacher of music for children. She currently works at the Birmingham Early Childhood Center, teaching music, as well as working in a four-year-old preschool classroom. She will be able to expertly balance her daytime responsibilities with this new position.

Outside of work, Rachel enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and her family. She is looking forward to having the children and youth choirs participate in worship as well as having the children begin working on their annual musical in January. She is excited to collaborate with our new Associate Pastor to develop the mid and senior high choirs so they can participate more frequently in worship. Rachel spoke fondly about her time in our children and youth choirs and she hopes she can share the same great experience with our youth.

Parents, it is NOT too late to have your children and youth participate in choir. Please feel free to contact Rachel, Don, or Joseph for more information.

Please stop by the choir room any Wednesday afternoon and welcome Rachel to our Music Ministry team.



Children's Ministry



Joyful Journeys children continue to explore the saga of Moses. Check the Children's Ministry bulletin board to see if you can identify the parts of the story that the children have explored. Ask our congregation's children and see what they have learned about Moses, Miriam and Aaron, three faithful siblings!



BIBLE QUIZ:

The baby Moses was hidden among the bulrushes of a river. Was it

- A) the Nile,
- B) the Jordan or
- C) the Tigris?

Read the whole story of the baby Moses in Exodus 2:1-10.

“OUR PRESBYTERIAN IDENTITY”

What is “N-FOG?”

It means the New-Form of Government for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or PC(USA). The Form of Government is the first section of the Book of Order—guiding how an individual church is governed and how it is connected to other Presbyterian churches. The second section of the Book of Order is the Directory for Worship (guiding us in our worship life), and the third section is the Rules of Discipline (how we hold one another accountable). The constitution of the PC(USA) consists of the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order.

“N-FOG” is a revision of the existing Book of Order, which was written when the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America merged in 1983. The New Form of Government is much shorter and allows for more flexibility for churches in a variety of contexts.

“N-FOG” became effective July 12, 2011, and the intention is to help churches be more missional, less regulatory. The New Form of Government is far more readable and much easier to understand. The duties and responsibilities of Presbytery are the same; the Directory for Worship and the Rules of Discipline have not changed.

The missional function of a church is to be the representative of Jesus Christ in all that it does. If a

church is not missional now, it doesn't **have** to change; however, the New Form of Government is intended to help churches change. Churches need to decide why the church is here and how they will serve Jesus Christ in reaching out to their neighborhood as well as far beyond it.

One subtle change is that the Presbytery (the 89 Presbyterian churches in our area) will now focus on supporting congregations—rather than having the congregations support the Presbytery. Another change involves the names of the governing bodies. Session, Presbytery, Synod (a combination of presbyteries) and General Assembly (the national church) will no longer be called “governing bodies” but instead will be called “councils” of the church.

The Pastor in the old Form of Government was called the “Minister of Word and Sacrament.” Now he or she will be called the “Teaching Elder.” Elders will now be called “Ruling Elders.”

If you want details of these and other changes, you can order a printed copy of the Book of Order 2011-2013 for \$10.00 at: <http://store.pcusa.org/OGA11001> or a CD-ROM for \$15.00 at: <http://store.pcusa.org/OGA11007> or download a pdf file at: <http://oga.pcusa.org/pdf/boo-2011-2013.pdf>. You can also ask one of our pastors or elders to see a copy.

Sandra Olah

Worship & Music Committee



First Harvest Festival Highlights

The First Harvest Festival continues to build, getting better and better each passing year! This year's event held on October 8, was filled with good food, fun and great entertainment – truly something for everyone to enjoy! The Tin Can Auction, thanks in large part to Andrea Richards, had some great items from golf to theatre tickets, to Lions and Tigers and Wings sports memorabilia. These were up for bid as were beautifully crafted jewelry, quilts and many other interesting and unique items. Our Library Ladies sold books to support the Operation Paperback program (their proceeds will go toward shipping fees) and the Knitters and Quilters were on hand for demonstrations. Outside, the entertainment was not to be missed – The Little Creatures Guy was again a big hit, as were all of the afternoon's entertainers including 4GVN (Barbershop Quartet featuring our own Greg Moss); Eric Paul Klein (son of Chris Klein); the Royal Oak Children's Choir, Julia, (granddaughter of the Corwins), with a hula hoops demonstration; Lost to the West featuring Brandon Ward (son of Dan and Jennifer Ward); square dancing (thanks to the Olahs for setting it up once again!); and finally, the The Detroit School of Rock closed out the afternoon! A special thanks to Mel Janney for setting up the sound equipment and making sure it was in good working order all day!



FIRST HARVEST FESTIVAL PIE BAKING CONTEST

Nine bakers entered pies in the contest. Judges for the event were Randy Jarman and Ray Crawford. The winners of prize ribbons were:

Fruit filling:

First--Elaine Roseborough, Nectarine

Second--Sandra Olah, Peach

Third--Jackie Janney, Cherry-Apple

Other filling:

First--Karen Barger, Black Bottom Chocolate

Second--Brad & Melissa Ross, Key Lime

Third--Mary Livingston, Key Lime

Many thanks to the bakers and judges.

Dan Olah, Contest Director

Representatives from Blessings in a Backpack were on hand to share their mission to provide children in Royal Oak with enough nutritious meals over the weekend so that they come to school on Monday morning ready to learn. Several teachers from Royal Oak schools took time to answer questions about the program. A portion of the proceeds from our event will go to support Blessings in a Backpack and there will be hands-on opportunities to help as well. If you are interested, contact Mark Heitchue or Jennifer Ward for more information.

As our festival grows, so does the need for volunteers to make it happen and many, many people stepped in to help! Whether it was running a game for an hour, providing goodies for the bake sale, working the concessions tent or selling tickets – thank you to everyone who was able to contribute in ways large and small! A special thank you goes to the committee that has been planning practically since the last festival ended – Chris Klein, Lisa Dildilian, Amy Randolph, David Bernier, Vern Schenk, Peggy Kleckner and Roger Watson – an amazing team! Thank you to the church elders, who trusted us to pull it together, the various committees that took their sponsorships very seriously, especially the Lunch Bunch (pie contest) Hospitality (concessions) and Presbys (bake sale) and to Dr. Tom Rice for his constant support and input. And thanks be to God for providing an all-around beautiful day! Next year's event will be even better (although we will be hard pressed to improve upon the weather!!).

A final note – the winners of the pie baking contest and the chili cook off! Thank you to all the judges - it's a tough job, so we called in some professionals to help out... the Royal Oak Fire Department was on hand with four firemen and two trucks! The top chili was prepared by our very own Trish Cook and the pie winners were Elaine Roseborough in the fruit category and Karen Barger in the non-fruit category. On hand to announce the winners were Kelley Gupton, Mrs. Oakland County America, and Royal Oak Mayor, Jim Ellison. Congratulations to all – once again, the competition was delicious!!

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Ward



The Confession

John Grisham

G

For every innocent man sent to prison, there is a guilty one on the outside. He doesn't understand how the police and prosecutors got the wrong man and he doesn't care. He is relieved when the man is declared guilty and goes to prison.

Travis Aoyette is such a man and Donte Drieman, a local football star is on death row.

But how can a guilty man convince judges, lawyers and politicians that they have the wrong man?

The Distant Hours

Kate Morton

M

Edie is an only child. Now, a letter arrives that should have been delivered fifty years ago. A letter for her mother that sends Edie on a journey into the past. It takes her to Milderhurst Castle, a great moldering old house in Kent, where she discovers her mother was billeted as a 13-year-old during World War II.

The truth of what happened in the "Distant Hours" of the past has been waiting a long time for someone to find it.

Van Gogh's Flowers and Landscapes

Janice Anderson

745.949 A

Foremost among subjects which have attracted artists over many generations has been landscapes/ including the depiction of a particular countryside or region, portraits and people, rural life and the natural world.

An introduction gives the reader a biography of the artist and explains his significance in the changing story of art.

Unbroken

Laura Hillenbrand

940.45 H

In 1943, an army air force bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean with only one survivor. The Lt's name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood he was a delinquent - as a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running which carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within the four-minute mile.

Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, sharks, thirst and starvation. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity, suffering with hope, resolve and humor, brutality with rebellion.

"Unbroken" is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body and spirit.

Extraordinary People

Condoleezza Rice

B R

Condoleezza Rice has excelled as a diplomat, political scientist, and concert pianist. Her achievements run the gamut from helping to oversee the collapse of Communism in Europe and the decline of the Soviet Union to working to protect the United States in the aftermath of 9/11. She also became the second woman, and the first black woman, ever to serve as Secretary of State.

Her parents' fierce unwillingness to accept limits propelled her to the halls of Stanford University where she rose through the ranks to become the University's second in command. An expert in Soviet and Eastern European affairs, she played a leading role in U.S. policy as the Iron Curtain and the Soviet Union disintegrated.

Less than a decade later, in the apex of the 2010 Presidential Election, she received news - - just before her father's death, that she would go to the White House as the first female National Security Advisor.

This is the story of a young woman trying to find her place in the world and of two exceptional parents-- who made all the difference.

Promise Me

Richard Paul Evans

E

For Beth Cardall, 1989 was a year marked by tragedy. Her six-year-old daughter, Charlotte, was suffering from an unidentifiable illness, and her marriage had transformed from a happy relationship to one full of betrayal and pain.

Then, on Christmas Day, she meets a mysterious stranger who would change her life.

This is a breathtaking story of the power of love.

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

DEADLINE for the DECEMBER 2011 Newsletter: NOVEMBER 15, 2011



November brings a month of happily giving thanks! Our preschoolers have settled into routines, are developing new friendships, and are working hard. For all these things, and all of our dear students and their families, we are truly thankful!

Brown is the color of the month. You may see some colorful feathered brown birds hanging around our room and hallways. Both classes will also decorate a large turkey with feathers telling about the things we are thankful for. From the Bible, our study of Moses and the Ten Commandments will help us to know how God wants us to live.

Both classes will celebrate Thanksgiving later this month, followed by no school on November 23 – 25 as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our families. A very blessed Thanksgiving to our church family as well!

Just a reminder to all our church family, we are collecting Boxtops for Education to support our programming. Please cut them out and place them in the folder on our bulletin board in the hallway toward the elevator. Thanks so much for your support!

We still have openings in our classes. Interested families should call the preschool at 248 541.0108, ext 220. We would love for you to visit and see 'our kids' in action!

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