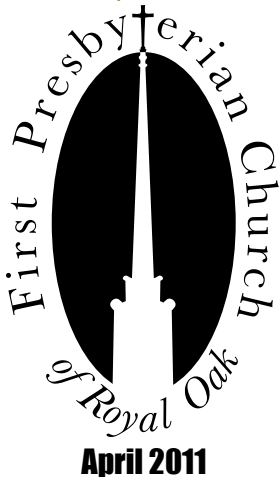


## First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

# Church Bell



A word from our pastor...

Just think about it. Take any of the four Gospels and you'll see. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us, of course, about Jesus' life and ministry. But they devote anywhere from 1/4 to 1/3 of their writing to the last week of Jesus' life! Maybe that's why we find worship throughout Holy Week so important!

I think of that first day of the week. Jesus and his disciples entered Jerusalem, and the whole multitude—including the joy-filled children—waved their palm branches and praised the “King who comes in the name of the Lord!” The Pharisees tried to silence this celebration. But Jesus replied, **“I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out”** (Luke 19:40). Those first disciples couldn't help but praise God for what God was doing. And neither can we!

I think of the **“holy conversations”** that take place in Holy Week. Models for us. Conversations that we, too, have been taking part in and preparing for.

Jesus talks with Simon Peter. Simon Peter seems to have no idea what challenges he is about to go through—what testing he is about to endure. And Jesus says to him those tender, life-giving words: “Simon, Simon...***I have prayed for you*** that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers and sisters” (Luke 22:32). Those words are for you and me, and for all believers. Jesus prays for us. There is hope and new life and new ministry on the other side.

Pilate has that amazing conversation with Jesus. Pilate says to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus replies, “For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.” Pilate says to him, **“What is truth?”** (John 19:37-38) There He is, the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! And yet Pilate can't see it. Pilate can't open himself to it. This week shows us what the King of Kings is really like. This week shows us the Truth, and we are forever changed and forever grateful.

Jesus on the cross has that conversation with the Father. Jesus cries out, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** (Matthew

27:46) It is the first verse from Psalm 22, a psalm that centuries earlier eerily described what would happen right then, right there on Golgotha. This prayer reminds us that it is OK. It is OK to be honest with God! To express our anger, our pain, our frustration! God can take it—and there are times we need to express it!

But the psalm continues. It moves through the affliction to the transformation. **“I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you...saying that God has done it!”** (Psalm 22:22,31)

Lent is a time for us to speak the truth in love—with God and with one another. We gather throughout Lent and throughout Holy Week to enter into these “Holy Conversations.” Resurrection will follow!

### **Our Holy Week schedule:**

**Palm/Passion Sunday (April 17):** Our children will lead us in a palm procession as we celebrate the triumphal entry of our Lord into Jerusalem and as we remember what happens next...At 4 pm is our “Walk Through Holy Week.”

**Maundy Thursday (April 21):** At 6 pm we will have a soup supper, and at 7 pm we will worship, remembering this night in which our Lord celebrated the Last Supper with his friends...

**Good Friday (April 22):** Our community Good Friday service is at First Congregational Church (corner of Crooks and Webster) from noon until 1:30 pm. Our own very dramatic service—for all ages—is at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

**Holy Saturday (April 23):** A brief and beautiful service at 4 pm that begins in the chapel and finishes in the columbarium, incorporating prayers from the prayer chalice in the Christian Education lobby.

**Easter Sunday (April 24):** \*\*\***PLEASE NOTE—we will have identical worship services at 9 am and 11 am (NOT at 10:30!)**\*\*\* Please spread the word! All ages will be in worship to celebrate together the resurrection of our Lord!

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Tom Rice*





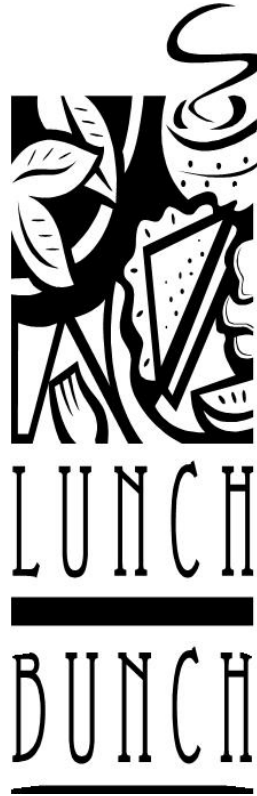
## PRESBYS

The Presbys will continue their entertaining 2010-2011 season on Friday April 16, 2011 with a program sure to please everyone. We will meet at 6 pm for punch and fellowship, with dinner at 6:30 pm. Following dinner and a very short business meeting, we will be wonderfully entertained by **Cathy Crawford** as she reviews her recent book, **“Two Broads ABROAD.”** Come prepared to be amused by the adventures of Cathy and her good friend Karen Schwarck, as these novice travelers venture thru England, Ireland, and Scotland. Presby members will be called. Others can sign up at the receptionist desk. Please come and join us.



## HOLY DUSTERS / HOLY HANDYMEN

*Please meet at 10 am  
April 4 & April 18 in the CE Lobby.*



## LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

We will enjoy a special treat on Thursday, April 7, when our guest speaker will be our organist, Joseph Jackson. The theme for the program will be, “Our Chancel Organ.” We will begin at noon in the Fireside Room with our tasty potluck lunch and some educational FPCRO fun. For the potluck lunch, those with last names beginning with A–F should bring a main dish; from G–N should bring a salad or side dish; and from O–Z should bring a dessert. We look forward to a great afternoon of fellowship.

## FEBRUARY TRUSTEE NOTES

### GROUNDS

- Working to schedule the tree trimming during the lull in snow fall.

### INSURANCE

- All coverages are current with no claims.
- We have received payment for repairs to the choir room (less deductible).

### HOUSE

- The committee is working on the toilet/bathroom upgrades and hopes to complete them before the next meeting.
- The committee is working on re-keying the locks in the church.
- The building has several ice dams which have resulted in leaks in the 200 wing and preschool hallways. They are looking at putting heat wiring in the gutters and downspouts to prevent this in future years.
- The committee would like to have Port Huron Roofing come out twice per year for inspection and maintenance. Currently they only come out once

per year. UPON MOTION: The trustees approved a contract for \$3,300 to Port Huron Roofing for a 2011 Roof Maintenance contract which includes two visits for inspection and maintenance during 2011.

- The committee has been informed by several plumbers that they cannot run a camera through the exterior drain tile nor dig down from the outside due to the risk of damaging the tiles. They are looking at a solution that involves working from the interior of the building. They have also received bids for the tear down and restoration of the wall in the choir room. UPON MOTION: The trustees approved a contract for \$7,800 to Safe Harbor to tear down and replace the plaster wall in the choir room pending final approval of the Housing Committee. \$6,800 of the money would be covered by insurance with the remaining \$1,000 coming from designated funds.

*~Joyce King  
Chair, Board of Trustees*

# A View From the Pew

## STEWARDSHIP OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

It has been said, “We are not human beings on a spiritual journey; we are spiritual beings on a human journey.”

We are all at a different place in our spiritual journey. But we can all think about the stewardship of our spiritual life, or how we handle it. Once again this comes down to how we use our gifts from God. Our spirituality is our awareness of our “connectedness” with God. We need to nurture this connectedness and appropriate the time to it that it deserves. It seems that in our world, making time to be spiritual, or to connect with God through prayer, contemplation, and Bible study becomes ever more difficult in the face of a fast paced, complicated, and demanding world.

Since I have been unemployed I have obviously had more free time. But the funny thing is, I quickly found out that free time is like money — the more you have, the more you use or spend. It’s like you can never have enough of either. If you get more, it doesn’t take long before that doesn’t seem like enough. With my additional free time I made a decision that each morning after I arose and got ready for the day, I would sit down and do a short

Bible study and spend some time in prayer. I thought I would be really glad to have the time to do this. But do you know what? It was really hard to stick to this discipline. While I was reading and praying, my mind would be fighting off thoughts of all the things “I really should be doing.” I was restless and anxious to get started on my daily activities. Then one morning

**“I thought, if I am that glad to see my dog, shouldn’t I be infinitely more happy to spend time with God?”**

I was on the floor, hugging and playing with my beloved dog, Buddy, telling him how glad I was to have another day with him. Then it hit me, that I was so excited each morning to see my dog, and maybe, just maybe wouldn’t God be happy if I showed the same enthusiasm to greet him each morning? I thought, if I am that glad to see my dog, shouldn’t I be infinitely more happy to spend time with God? That’s what helped me to set my priorities straight and realize how important nurturing my spiritual life is.

I Corinthians 9:25 says “Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” This is to me a true inspiration to keep going on my spiritual journey.

~Ellen Burns  
Worship & Music Committee

---

## HOLY WEEK THROUGH THE EYES OF ARTISTS

“Holy Week Through the Eyes of Artists” is the theme of the EXHIBIT ONE in the GALLERY. Assembled by the Arts Committee for the Lenten Season, this church-owned collection of art works is now on display on the walls of the Staff office wing. Brought together from various areas of the church, along with some out of storage—we are displaying works by famous (and not-so-famous) artists, such as Rembrandt, Rubens, Bruegel, and Dali. Come visit and experience the spirit of Easter!



## CROP WALK: COMMUNITIES RESPONDING TO OVERCOME POVERTY 2 PM SUNDAY, MAY 15

Soon the flowers will be blooming, the sun will be shining, and the birds will be singing, which means the Royal Oak CROP Walk is coming! Please mark your calendars and plan to participate. During these difficult economic times, walkers and sponsors are needed now, more than ever. Proceeds from the CROP Walk benefit not only those overseas, but people in need of help in our local area too. Church World Services works with several Christian organizations distributing funds to projects that seek to meet people's basic needs everywhere.



Each year we have a friendly competition with other Royal Oak churches to see who can raise the most money. We can't defend our title without your help!

Please stop by the CROP Walk table in the CE Lobby this month to register to walk and/or sponsor a walker. Walkers can choose a short one mile walk or a new route through Royal Oak (approx. 3.5 miles). The walk will begin and end at FPCRO. So grab your walking shoes, the wagon, the dog, or maybe your iPod and plan to stretch your legs a bit to help others in need.

If you have questions, contact John Decker at 248.398.5589.

### SECOND MILE CENTER DONATIONS

Thanks to all who have so generously given to the Second Mile Center! Some of you have left paper goods that are very much needed, some of you have left clothing, shoes and diapers. On behalf of the Center and all who go there for help, thank you. The collection is ongoing, and donations may be left in the alcove across from Cornell Lounge. Clothing should be on hangers and placed on the labeled rod.

## SOUTH OAKLAND SHELTER 2011

The First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak will host the South Oakland Shelter from Sunday, May 22 to Sunday, May 29. It is our responsibility to provide transportation, housing, and meals for up to 30 individuals that week. During these very hard economic times, the homeless desperately need our help. Matthew tells us that Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one or more of the following responsibilities. Sign up on the volunteer board which will appear in the Christian Education lobby April 3. If each person commits to helping, the responsibility and the joy can be shared.

### TASKS:

1. **Lead Host:** four hours one evening and three hours the following morning
2. **Hosts:** 2 at breakfast, 2 at dinner and 3 overnight hosts each day
3. **Transportation:** several evening and several morning drivers to shuttle guests
4. **Lunch Preparation:** Several people late each afternoon to bag lunches
5. **Set-up Crew:** Sunday, May 22, to set up the sleeping area for our guests
6. **Cleaning crew:** 2 or 3 people Monday, May 23, to clean the guest areas
7. **Laundry crew:** May 29, several people to wash and dry the sheets and towels
8. **Take-down crew:** people to pack up the equipment and transport it to the next site
9. **Playground Volunteer:** adult evening volunteer to supervise children's play area

Any questions regarding the South Oakland Shelter program can be directed to Ken Bissey 248.549.0767, Bruce Castle 248.288.6604 or Dan Olah 248.542.8144.

---

### 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."*

## Mission & Benevolence (cont.)

### “ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE”

#### DELEGATE TRIP TO NICARAGUA

Do you remember this song? (It's a very oldie)

*“Managua, Nicaragua is a beautiful spot, There's coffee and bananas and the temperature's hot...”*

That was about the extent of my knowledge of Nicaragua until, in January, I spent a week in this small Central American country as a delegate for PC(USA).

Our “Enough for Everyone” delegation was co-sponsored by the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and Equal Exchange (EE), Fair Trade coffee importers. This is the coffee that is faithfully sold in KFJ every other Sunday by Dick and Helen Dusenbury.

PHP is a ministry of PC(USA) that works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in the USA and around the globe. One program is development assistance, through land ownership by the poor, appropriate agricultural practices, etc. EE imports and sells coffee produced organically by small farmer cooperatives. The farmers are assured of a fair price for their coffee.

There were nine delegates in our group, seven from Presbyterian churches from different states across the US, and two EE employees from Massachusetts. The purpose of our visit was to see and experience, first hand, rural life in Nicaragua, the production process of organic coffee, and the positive impact that the work of PHP and EE has had in their support of the coffee growers cooperative movement that is improving the lives of the rural poor.

The highlight of our visit for me was our two day home stay, in the remote Boaco region to the north

of Managua, with Juan and Maria Mendoza and their extended family, who kindly welcomed three of us and our bus driver into their modest home. I admit that, at first, I was a bit disconcerted by the extreme simplicity of their home, the ducks wandering in and out of the house, and the dreaded latrine in the back yard. However, the warm hospitality and kindness of our family very quickly made the physical setting unimportant and even fun.

The family spoke no English. One of our group knew enough Spanish to make some communication possible. They were as interested in us, as we were in them. What a privilege it was to form a bond with these good-hearted, loving people.

We tried our hand at picking some coffee cherries (not as easy as one would think), and we followed the many steps in the coffee production process. Personally, I will never drink another cup of coffee without thinking about all of the workers and the hard labor required to produce it.

We can all be very proud of the work of the PHP in Nicaragua and around the world in helping the poor improve their own lives through sound agricultural practices. Be sure to buy lots of EE coffee! You will be making a difference in the lives of deserving coffee growers and their families.

*~Elaine Roseborough  
Member-at-Large*



---

### EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE



Equal Exchange Coffee is on sale in Fellowship Hall each second and fourth Sunday of the month. Ground coffee, bean coffee, decaf, hot chocolate mix, tea, and dark chocolate bars are available. The sale of

these products helps poor farmers in coffee growing countries by eliminating the middleman. Through the Equal Exchange program, farmers receive a fair price for their products and can afford education and medical care for their families. The products are of excellent quality. Come and buy a package and enjoy!

---

### NEW MEMBERS INQUIRER'S CLASS

If you are interested in **exploring membership at FPCRO** and learning about our Presbyterian heritage and our congregational life, the next series of Inquirer's Classes begins on Sunday, April 17 at 9 am and continues on May 1, 8 and 15, at 9 am. All classes will be held in the Fireside Room and childcare is provided for those who need it. New members will be received on May 22, 2011 with brunch at 9 am and public welcome at the 10:30 am service. We anticipate a Spring 2011 Class of interesting and diverse individuals — just like YOU! Contact either Dr. Rice or call Judy at 248.398.8979, or email Karen at [kkline3628@aol.com](mailto:kkline3628@aol.com) with questions or if you'd like to participate in the classes.

# Mission & Benevolence (cont.)

## T. G. I. F.—THIS GROUP IN FAITH

TGIF is a group of adults that get together for fun and fellowship. All ages are welcome: Single or married, with or without children. We are looking for more members. We get together the first Friday of each month to share in activities that include opportunities for fun, adventure, fellowship, relationship-building and spiritual growth.

We have four TGIF events left. Come, and enjoy! You can sign up on the clipboard tree near the reception desk. Need more info? Feel free to contact Brad and Melissa Ross, 248.543.3038

**7 pm, April 1:** Bowling Party at Bowlero Lanes, 4209 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, MI

**7 pm, May 6:** Progressive Dinner. We will meet at FPCRO for an appetizer then travel to homes for soup and salad, main course and dessert.

**6:15 pm, June 10 (notice—2nd Friday...):** Detroit Tigers game at 7:05 pm. We will meet at FPCRO at 6:15 pm and travel to the game together. Interested persons should sign up and pay \$15 by May 6.

**July:** Barbecue and picnic. Date, time and place TBD

## STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

The Stephen Ministry Program at First Presbyterian



Church of Royal Oak is pleased to announce the addition of four newly commissioned ministers. Chris Klein, Joan Geering, Liz Perinoff, and Kathie Brom-Picano have recently completed the fifty hour training program, and are ready to accept care receivers.

Stephen Ministers supplement the work of our pastors by furnishing weekly contact with members of our congregation. One-on-one Christian care is provided for individuals struggling with crises such as grief, divorce, loneliness, relocation, hospitalization, terminal illness, or unemployment.

Do you know someone you believe would benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister? Before submitting their name to the Ministry Team, please ask their permission to do so. If you think you might be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, information on the program can be obtained from Betsy Rice, Elaine Roseborough or Gretchen Hirsch.

## OPERATION PAPERBACK

Here's a touching example of how our servicemen feel about our continued support.

*Thank you so much for the books! I was excited to grab a few good-looking titles and then share the rest of the box. You have the sincere thanks of lots of us!*

*Thank you, not just for the books, but for the support. Thank you for not forgetting us. Thank you for not hating us. Thank you so much for caring and wanting to help. We do it for you!*

*Yours in service,  
Zac Wood*



# Children's Ministry

## JOYFUL JOURNEYS

This month, our children will be exploring the rotation "Darkness and Light," an appropriate study for Lent. It is based on Ephesians 5:8-14 and Psalm 130. The memory verse is Ephesians 5: 8b-9: "**Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.**" Talk with your children this month about what you think is "good and right and true."

## PALM SUNDAY

Our children will again lead the excitement of the Palm Parade on April 17, Palm Sunday during the 10:30 am worship service. Children will gather in the Chapel at 10:25 am to line up and get their palm branches.



The children will receive "Fish Banks" to fill during Lent. These banks will be gathered in on Palm Sunday, so have your children bring them to worship on April 17.

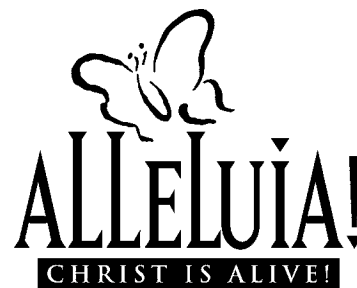
## WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Join us for a dramatic experience of the last week of Jesus' life on Sunday, April 17 from 4-6 pm. Members of our church will embody scenes from Holy Week. In a tour that begins in Fellowship Hall, you will be taken through a transformed church building, experiencing the scenes and events of Holy Week in a very dramatic way. While you are waiting for a tour, you can explore the Hands on Museum or tour the art in our new gallery! This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to our church!

If you or your family would like to participate in this event as an actor, docent, or crew member, let Carmel know!

## EASTER

Once again we will have two identical worship services on Easter Sunday at 9 am and at 11 am. Both services will include a children's sermon, as well as the same celebratory music!



After each service we will have a release of butterflies as a symbol of the resurrection! We encourage families to join us in worship at the 9 am service.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2011

Changing the Church: the Reformation to Today!

This year, from August 1-5, our Vacation Bible School program will continue exploring the history of the church moving from the Reformation to the present time. Children will have the opportunity to "meet" important figures from history, including Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, and others. Children will explore the changes in the church produced by the printing press, religious persecution, and settlement in the Americas! Through the week, children will come to discover what makes the Presbyterian Church (USA) unique! Carmel is looking for leaders to assist with the planning and preparation, as well as individuals to staff this exciting week! Let her know if you are willing to help out.

Registration forms are on the page opposite. Please turn these in as soon as possible as enrollment will cap as groups fill. Members will have the month of April to register, and then registration will be open to the public.

---

## ELIJAH! GOD'S FAITHFUL PROPHET

Please save the dates of Wednesday, May 11 or Sunday, May 15 so you may come and experience the story of **Elijah**, God's faithful prophet, as told in the Old Testament (I Kings 18). A terrible drought has plagued the land and King Ahab blames Elijah for the problems. Elijah has a showdown with the prophets of Baal in a competition of flaming altars to prove that Jehovah is the one true God. If Ahab will renounce Baal and follow Jehovah then the rains will return to the land and there will be crops for food once again.



Our Carol and Celebration Choirs have already begun learning the music and words of the musical **Elijah**. All 40 of the children are getting ready to tell you this ancient tale through many songs and a touch of humor. Your support of this event has always meant a lot to the children and their choir program. Please come and share this exciting time with us.

# VBS 2011 Registration Form

## Vacation Bible School 2011 Registration Form

### *Changing the Church --- the Reformation to Today*

**August 1-5 2011  
9:00 a.m. – noon**

**First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak  
529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak, MI**

**I will:**

- Lead a family
- Assist with a family
- Assist as needed
- Help with snacks
  - Monday
  - Tuesday
  - Wednesday
  - Thursday
  - Friday
- Assist with crafts
  - Monday
  - Tuesday
  - Wednesday
  - Thursday
  - Friday
- Assist with set-up
  - Saturday, July 30
  - Sunday, July 31
- Registration/Greeter
  - Monday
  - Tuesday
  - Wednesday
  - Thursday
  - Friday
- Take home materials to prepare for VBS
- Assist with "take down" August 5 at 12:30

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_ Last grade completed: \_\_\_\_ Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_ Last grade completed: \_\_\_\_ Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_ Last grade completed: \_\_\_\_ Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_ Last grade completed: \_\_\_\_ Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your children grouped together as a family? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contacts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dismissal Information: Who may pick up child(ren) from VBS?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

**This program is for children who turned 3 years of age by September 1, 2010 through those who completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-11.**

**To make this program a success, it is important that parents volunteer. Please indicate your willingness to help by marking the boxes above. You are also asked to make a \$10.00 donation per child and we request that each family contribute a bottle of 100% juice at registration on August 1<sup>st</sup>.**

# Youth Ministry

## REFLECTIONS ON MISSIONS

Why do we go on mission trips? Why would we spend thousands of dollars to leave our country? Why do we work so hard on fundraisers to go? Why do our kids look forward to these trips so much? I wonder what kind of impact we have on the community that we try to serve. Do we really go there just to do work? Is the purpose that we go to become grateful that we do not live in poverty? Would it make more sense to spend all this money in a different way by hiring local professionals who could do a much better job than us? Do we go to feel good about ourselves?



As a former PCUSA missionary in Argentina, I have pondered questions about short-term mission trips and motives for them. Then why am I a supporter of these kinds of trips?

I support these trips as they have the potential to change lives. I know a youth who has decided to become a doctor after his trip to Mexico. I know another young adult who, after a mission trip in Mexico, spent several years working with Haitian share croppers who work on sugar cane farms and live as virtual slaves. I know a woman who decided to adopt a Guatemalan child after one of these trips.

Aside from changing life directions, I have seen youth understand and love God in a different way. As God loves the world so much, God's love is revealed in beautiful ways in other cultures that we wouldn't be able to notice otherwise. In other words, God becomes bigger and more awe-inspiring.

Finally, I'd like to add that our youth will understand a little better their place in the world and history. We are the richest country in time. What does it mean to love Christ who lived and loved those who are so poor. When our youth return, it might be better not to ask them what they did but how they changed. Please pray for our youth during and after our trip.

*Peace and grace,  
~Rev. Jonathan Evans*

---

### 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 6-7 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 (248.541.0108)

## STEWARDSHIP OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE — STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

**“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?”**



### **Psalms 116:12**

This congregation did, indeed, make a return to the Lord this past autumn in its pledges toward the operation, mission, benevolence and programs of First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. Thank you!

Though we did not fully achieve our budgetary goal, we achieved 96% of it. Here are the final numbers:

Number of pledging units: 556 possible pledging units (i.e., a husband and wife who pledge jointly is considered one pledging unit) of which 311, or 56%, made pledges for 2011.

Amount pledged: \$646,196 (this is just a few thousand dollars shy of the amount pledged in 2010, but accomplished with 33 fewer pledges)

Overall, 145 pledging units made pledges of the same amount as the previous year; 98 pledging units increased their pledge this year; 39 pledging units decreased their pledge, and 38 pledging units decided not to renew their pledge at all. Offsetting this to some degree is the fact that our Church received 26 new pledges!

Our Church needs pledges in order to establish budgets; our Church, like any organization, has financial obligations; our Church needs pledges to pay staff salaries and to fund benevolence and the various programs we all enjoy; our Church needs funding to maintain our beautiful Church home. But perhaps the best reason to pledge is that it makes our Church a *priority* in your life. Please give thought now as to how we can become even *better* stewards in 2012!

~Stewardship Committee

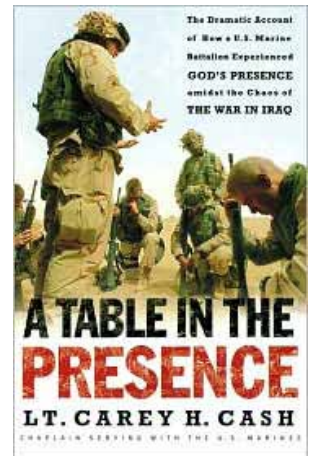
## STEWARDSHIP OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE — BOOK OF THE MONTH

### A Table In The Presence

956 C

Lt. Carey H. Cash

As a chaplain in the Marines, Lt. Carey Cash heard the prayers for courage from the 1,000 plus men of the “Fightin’ Fifth,” the first ground force to cross Iraqi borders during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He heard their tearful prayers when their beloved leader became a casualty, he heard their prayers for protection as the battalion moved into the presence of the enemy that fateful April 10, 2003. When the smoke cleared, only one American had lost his life. Not one Marine could deny God’s protection. From a spiritual revival in the Kuwaiti desert to miraculous escapes from death, Lt. Cash recounts this remarkable story of God’s faithfulness.



### **Staff Email List**

Pastor Tom Rice . . . . . trice@fpcro.org  
 Assoc. Pastor Jonathan Evans . . . . . jevans@fpcro.org  
 Parish Associate Betsy Rice . . . . . brice@fpcro.org  
 Carmel Tinnes . . . . . ctinnes@fpcro.org  
 Don Daniels . . . . . ddaniels@fpcro.org

Joseph Jackson . . . . . jjackson@fpcro.org  
 Carol Lengjel . . . . . clengjel@fpcro.org  
 Kari Peruski . . . . . kperuski@fpcro.org  
 Pam Kaufmann . . . . . pkaufmann@fpcro.org  
 Alan Glasel . . . . . aglasel@fpcro.org

# Worship & Music

## LENT AND PASSION WEEK REFLECTIONS

The Worship and Music Committee asked congregation members to reflect on our Passion Week Worship Services. *“All of the events, activities, and services held at FPCRO during Holy Week are very special and moving to me,”* states one of our worship participants. Members of the committee and participants in our Music Ministry continued to share their thoughts and experiences, as listed below:

*“During Lent, we prepare for the death, resurrection and miracle of our redemption by the risen Christ through personal study, prayer, ritual, worship, reflection, fasting, atonement and rededication. Ash Wednesday symbolically reminds us of our own frailty with ashes burned from the previous year’s Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday foretells the eventual triumph of Christ. Maundy Thursday’s Stripping of the Church reemphasizes that Christ was all alone when turned over to his captors. Good Friday powerfully reminds us of the depth of Christ’s sacrifice and suffering for our redemption. But, as our services last year reminded us, observance of these powerfully moving rituals and personal fasting must lead to something more. As Isaiah teaches:*

Is not this the fast that I choose: To loose the bonds of injustice...;  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house...?  
when you see the naked to cover them...?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn...

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer,

You shall call for help, and he will say, Here I am.” Isaiah 58: 3-11

*May this Lenten season be one in which we renew our faith in Christ’s redemption of our souls and rededicate ourselves to practicing the fast that the Lord has chosen. Then on Easter, let us celebrate the joy of Christ’s resurrection as his light breaks forth like the dawn, and, we pray, is reflected through our church and ourselves into the world.”*

Another wrote: *“I would like to encourage non-choir members of our congregation to experience Passion Week the same way we do. Attend the Thursday evening Services of Reflection in the chapel at 6 pm, led by our multi-talented organist, Joseph Jackson, and allow yourself the half-hour per week of quiet, reflection and prayer. We then get to Palm/Passion Sunday and hopefully, you will feel prepared for the triumphant ride of our Lord, only to be distressed by His arrest. Holy Week needs to be experienced in its entirety — how can we truly experience the joy of Easter Sunday if we have not first felt the agony of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday? When the sanctuary is stripped of all adornment on Maundy Thursday, it feels like part of my heart is stripped bare along with it. It is a powerful, powerful moment.”*

For many, Holy Week services provide the opportunity to forget, for a while, many of the activities which can occupy one’s attention, and concentrate on the person of Christ. Afterwards, many are able to re-engage the daily world with a unique viewpoint and see priorities a little differently.

Another wrote: *“Holy Week: The operative word is “week.” It is not just one day randomly selected from the whole. It is a*

*commitment of myself to my real spiritual journey. It begins with Ash Wednesday and the start of my experience with Jesus as he wanders the wilderness for 40 days. It is the weekly humble reflection on Thursday nights with Joseph leading us in readings and scriptures. It is the meditation on what this 40 days leads to and how it culminates the entire foundation of our Christian belief. The exultation of Palm Sunday is hollow without the Maundy Thursday service and last supper remembrance. The exuberance and elation of Palm Sunday must be offset by the angst and grief of Good Friday. We otherwise, can NOT fully comprehend the inexplicable joy of Easter and the undeniable resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”*

*“I have found the Holy Week services to be very meaningful. Being involved in the services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday really helps me feel the emotional nature of death and resurrection. The altar is stripped, the cross draped in black, and everyone leaves in silence in a dark sanctuary on Good Friday. The music is often in a minor key and rather heart-wrenching at those services. It fills me with sadness. Then on Easter Sunday, the service opens with a fanfare of praise, including the brass ensemble, choir and organ, filling me up with optimism and happiness. The altar is no longer draped in black but surrounded by the scent and sight of fresh flowers. Praise the Lord!”*

The Good Friday evening service is one of the year’s most poignant moments. The mood of the entire service: the words, the music, and the scriptures — bring together an emotion that is spiritually deepening.

*“The Holy Week services are the highlight of my year, every year. We try to arrange our family schedule to be in town, so we can participate as much as we can. It started several years ago when the intimacy, the closeness, and especially the meaningful music selections of the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service gripped me. I can highly recommend them to anyone and everyone!”*

*“I feel that we are truly blessed at FPCRO to have Lenten and Holy Week services that make Lent and Easter so moving and such a journey for us all, together as a family in the body of Christ. Holy Week is probably the most special week of the year for me. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are the most moving and passionate services of the year. They cannot be separated as they are part of the complete Holy Week Experience. After you have traveled throughout this period of sorrow, to wake up with joy on Easter morning is a profound experience. We are blessed to have this quality experience in our church.”*

*“Holy Week is the greatest reflection of the life of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The services that are held: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, are meaningful worships. Each one portrays a significant event that allows me to meditate deeply with understanding of the days leading up to and including His crucifixion. These services provide meaning to how glorious the day of the resurrection, Easter Sunday, really is.”*

It is our hope that everyone plan to attend one or all of the Passion Week services. The poignancy of this week will change your hearts and minds for ever. *“How can we celebrate the joy of Christ’s Resurrection... without feeling the dread and the despair of his dying on the cross?”* Please join us!

## PIPE ORGAN COMMITTEE: COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS

In March 2010, the Worship and Music Committee received a letter indicating our Sanctuary pipe organ was in dire need of attention. The letter was based on reports from maintenance personnel, tuners, organ experts, builders, guest organists, and other sources, including Joseph Jackson's research. The reports referenced a host of conditions from structural damage, bent and unsupported pipes, reed pipe problems, wind deficiencies, unusable stops or ranks, non functioning components, inadequate circuitry and other issues with instrumental integrity.

Although substantial work had been done in 1985, and some features added, the pipe organ's needs have essentially been ignored for many years. The organ's needs were not part of, in any significant degree, our Forward in Faith campaign. The very real and critical organ deficiencies may come as a surprise to many, because they are often masked by Joseph Jackson's ability to play around them, or avoid them altogether.

Worship and Music requested, and the March 2010 Session approved, the formation of an ad hoc committee to examine the current condition of the organ, and develop a feasibility study on the repairs and maintenance needed.

The Pipe Organ Feasibility Committee gathered reports, and with Joseph Jackson's expertise, researched the history of the organ and its changes, reviewed information on pipe organs in general, and provided an informational performance to which Session and Trustees were invited. Session was provided the Committee's Vision Statement in December 2010, which outlines the ultimate goal to have a project completed as a legacy gift in time for the Centennial in 2014. In February, Session accepted the Committee's request to spend up to \$6,000.00 of previously existing dedicated funds to contact several pipe organ builders as part of the feasibility study.



As a Committee, we will begin the process of educating and communicating to the congregation by developing a web page dedicated to this project, and will continue to provide information in the Church Bell, email, and Minute for Mission announcements.

We are conducting very preliminary investigations of organ builders and manufacturers. We are also soliciting responses from five reputable organ builders to determine if they are interested in evaluating and considering all our options. We expect that ultimately three of the five will be selected to visit, investigate our situation and make initial preliminary proposals as to the most feasible value oriented solutions, with budgets for estimating. We may also endeavor to raise modest additional funds to complete our feasibility study, as Session has authorized.

While we share a vision, at this point ours is a feasibility study committee open to all options. Feasibility concepts may be presented to Session, but no concrete proposals will be pursued without further Session approval. No preliminary concepts will be presented to Session until the Pipe Organ Committee has fully investigated builders' existing projects, references, finances and current installations.

We have a very active Music Ministry and feel music in worship is very important to our congregation. The Pipe Organ Committee is also very aware of and appreciative of the stellar work of the stewardship campaigns and priority needs of the church. As a policy, the Committee will only seek funds from members who feel able to contribute above and beyond their contributions to the annual operating budget of the church. Please feel free to talk to any of the members of our Committee.

The Communications Sub-Committee members are: Kathie Brom-Picano, Ellen Burns, Don Daniels, Shirley Gillham, Ginny O'Brien, Bev Moss, and Mark Sutton.

### *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](mailto:newsletter@fpcro.org).

### CHURCH CALENDAR

Printed copies are now available in the CE Lobby.

## Trustees, Class of 2013



**Janice Birkenshaw** was raised Presbyterian in Cincinnati, OH, and has been a member of FPCRO for over ten years. She and her husband, George, have two children, Philip and Robert, and three grandchildren. Jan is an avid reader and enjoys participating in book reviews for the Steen Library, Lydia Circle, gardening, and home decorating.



**Lisa Dildilian** is a relatively new FPCRO member, joining the church a little more than a year ago. She is married to Greg and has two daughters. Lisa was introduced to FPCRO by friends and says she felt welcome from the first visit. Lisa served on the committee that organized and hosted the first two First Harvest festivals and is a member of Chancel Choir. Lisa works as a payroll administrator, is active in local theater, and enjoys playing tennis in her free time.



**Greg Gillham** grew up attending FPCRO with his parents, Ron and Shirley, and has been a member for over 40 years. He is an Engineering Manager at Detroit Diesel Corp., and presently serves at FPCRO as an usher at the 10:30 service, on the Computer Committee, and as the church e-mail administrator. Greg has also served in the past as Deacon and Trustee at FPCRO, as well as Treasurer for Berkley-Huntington Woods Youth Assistance organization. He enjoys computers, and attending sporting events (Tigers, Detroit Titans).



**John Kantarian** has been a member of FPCRO for over 40 years. His parents joined the church in the mid-1960s, and John has many happy memories of high school youth group, his marriage to his wife, Kathy, baptisms of his children, the wedding of his daughter, Theresa, and baptism of his grand-daughter, Micaela, here at FPCRO. John works as a Safety Officer at St. John Hospital, and enjoys travelling and family get-togethers, as well as the church softball games.



**Bill Miller** has been an FPCRO member for 31 years. He and his wife, Sylvia, have two grown children. Bill says the active youth programs originally attracted them to the church, even before they had children. These days, Bill teaches senior high Sunday school with Kevin Kline and he and Sylvia are active members of the 5F's group. As a Trustee, Bill is a member of the Grounds and Computer committees. Bill is an automotive engineer, and his hobbies include auto racing, bicycling, canoeing and camping.



**Brad Ross** has been a First Presbyterian member for three years. Brad, together with his wife, Melissa, is an active member of T.G.I.F and the 5F's group. As a Trustee, Brad serves as a member the Nominating and Finance & Investment committees. Brad is a data analyst and counts cars and culinary arts as two of outside interests.

## As Big As The West

B S Clyde A Milner & Carol O'Conner

The adventures of Granville Stuart (1837-1918) rival those of Wyatt Earp, Buffalo Bill or Sitting Bull. Stuart embodied the *par adores* of the American West. He collected guns, herded cattle, mined for gold and led a band of vigilantes. But he also taught himself French and Spanish, denounced formal religion and married a Shoshone woman and eventually became a U.S. diplomat.

Here is the American West where a man could go from self-appointed lawman to diplomat in the space of a few years.

## Royal Oak, Our Living Legend

977.4 C Constance Kingan Crossman

From the Ice Age to the age we live in today, Michigan has changed and adapted to the climate we live in. As the Ice Age retreated, the mammoth, caribou, moose, elk and deer moved northward. Following them were the Paleo Indians, armed with rocks and spears. As the climate warmed other animals, deer, bear, raccoon and opossum were hunted.

If you are interested in history about our land and homes, this is a very interesting book.

## The Lost Art of Gratitude

S Alexander McCall Smith

Isabel's son, Charlie, is only eighteen months old, but his social life is already kicking into high gear. At his birthday party Isabel is approached by Minty, an old adversary and now a high flying financier. Minty has complicated troubles and seeks Isabel's help. To make matters worse Professor Dove has accused Isabel's journal of plagiarism.

## The Lost Symbol

B Dan Brown

Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned unexpectedly to deliver an evening lecture in the U.S. Capital Building. Within minutes a disturbing object, encoded with five symbols, is discovered in the Capital Building.

When Langdon's mentor, Peter Solomon, a prominent Mason and philanthropist is brutally kidnapped, Langdon is instantly plunged into a world of Masonian Secrets, hidden history and never before seen locations.

## The House at Riverton

M Kate Morton

The House at Riverton is set in England between the wars. It is the story of an aristocratic family, a house, a mysterious death and a vanishing way of life, told by a woman who witnessed it all and kept a secret for a lifetime.

In the summer of 1924, at a party held at the house, a young poet kills himself. Only witnesses were Hannah and Emmeline, and only they—and Grace—know the truth.

## Safe Haven

S Nicholas Sparks

When a mysterious young woman named Katie appears in the small North Carolina town, her sudden arrival raises questions about her past. Katie is drawn into two reluctant relationships; one with Alex, a widower and one with her neighbor, Jo. But even as Katie begins to fall in love, she struggles with a dark secret that still haunts and terrifies her.

## Tribute

R Nora Roberts

Cilla McGowen has come to the Shenandoah Valley to rescue her grandmother's farmhouse from ruin. Sadly, no one has been able to save her grandmother, a legendary actress, with a golden voice. To this day, Cilla is haunted by her grandmother.

The mystery only deepens with a series of cruel acts against her, and if the mystery is not solved there can be dire consequences.

## My Father's Houses

R Steven Roberts

The period was the 40s and 50s, when children of immigrants were striving to become Americans in a booming postwar world. The place was one block in Bayonne, N.J. and the house that Robert's grandfather built with his own hands, just across the Hudson River from "the city" where Roberts grew up surrounded by family and tales of the old country.

## **LIBRARY OLDIES BUT GOODIES**

### Can't Wait To Get To Heaven

Combining southern warmth with unabashed emotion and side-splitting hilarity, Fannie Flaggs takes readers back to Elmwood Springs, Missouri, where the most unlikely and surprising experiences of an octogenarian inspire a town to ponder the age old question: Why are we here?

### The New Woman

Agatha is 88 years old, and grudgingly she moves into the Senior Sunset Apartments on Main Street. Soon she is caught up in the intrigues of Sunset Seniors.

A shoe box filled with resident's valuables is mistakenly buried in a friend's coffin, a kidnapped girl is dropped on her doorstep, and a fellow resident has caught her eye.

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 MAY 2011 Newsletter: APRIL 8, 2011**



We are thrilled that April's arrival means spring has sprung at last. As the weather improves and the ground dries we look forward to playing outside again. We do so enjoy seeing the sunshine!

This month will be spent preparing for Easter and Christ's Resurrection with Bible stories, crafts and songs about Easter. We will also make special "Lenten pretzels," and dye Easter eggs as the day gets close. Our color this month is purple; look for some beautiful purple flowers blooming in our hallway!

Our spring break is early this year. We will not be in school April 4–April 8. School resumes Monday, April 11. As Easter draws near we will not be in school again on Friday, April 22 or Monday, April 25.

When we return from break on April 11, our caterpillars will arrive. We will create a habitat for them, and observe them while they make a chrysalis and become butterflies. What a wonderful introduction to the spectacular creation of new life! It is quite a celebration when each class releases their butterfly friends into the big world outside.

As you can see, we are busy, busy, busy in preschool, and always so thankful for the wonderful children in our care. We have opened registration for the new school year, and still have spaces available in each class. Our three year olds meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15-11:45 am, while our four year olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:15 am-12 pm. Please call us to learn more about our program, 248.541.0108, ext. 220. We can't wait to meet you!

Also, thank you for helping make our Sunflowers fundraiser a success.

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