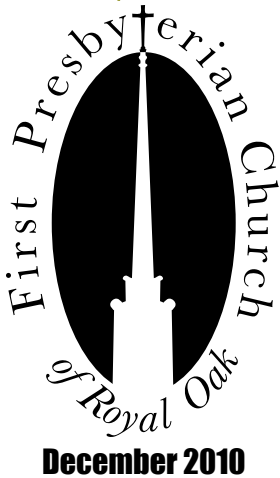


First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

Church Bell



December 2010

A word from our pastor...

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matthew 3:3)

It is Isaiah’s prophecy: “Prepare the way of the Lord...Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken” (Isaiah 40:3-5).

Centuries later, it is John the Baptist’s proclamation: “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

But what does it mean for us in this season of Advent — as Christmas approaches?!

I’ve seen it. I’ve seen how this season can get to people. It seems like our culture — our society — puts so much pressure on us! And we put so much pressure on ourselves! “To be *ready* for Christmas!” But those kinds of preparations — sometimes do us more harm than good. In the midst of all that the world says to us about “preparing” for Christmas, can we hear what Isaiah says? Can we hear what John the Baptist says? Can we hear what our Lord says about preparing?!

Our theme for this season is this: **“Getting our hearts ready IS the gift!”** As a community of faith we will be focusing on the most important gift we can give to Jesus this Christmas — the most important gift we can give to ourselves, our loved ones, and the world: TRUE preparation — preparing our hearts. Getting ready to receive our Lord and to truly celebrate! We will be doing some important things together to prepare:

We will be having more Children’s Sermons in this season — helping God’s children of all ages to focus on true preparation.

We will be having Advent candle lighting services on Wed. evenings (5:50-6 pm) in the chapel. A special time for all of us to focus on the real Christian preparations of this season.

We will have a “Blue Christmas” worship service on Wed. Dec. 22 at 7 pm in the chapel. Sometimes called a “longest night” service, this is an opportunity for all of us —

those for whom this is a difficult time, and those who want to care and support anyone suffering in this season — to come together in prayer and worship. The service will be preceded by a 6 pm soup supper.

We will be exploring the website: www.pcusa.org/browse/resources-resource/tag/Christmas for ideas and suggestions about “reclaiming” Advent and Christmas, and daily

readings for Advent 2010.

We will be going Christmas Caroling on Sun. Dec. 19 at 3 pm — an opportunity for all of us together to bring the good news of this season to members of our church family who are home bound.

May we experience in this season that “Getting our hearts ready IS the gift!” And as a result of our preparations, may we all have a holy and grace-filled celebration of “Emmanuel” — “God with us.”

Grace and Peace to you, in this holy season and throughout the New Year!

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Tom Rice*



Sunday, Dec. 12: (Only one service) 10:30 am **Chancel Choir Presentation** of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, Dec. 22: 6 pm soup supper; 7 pm **“Blue Christmas” worship service** in Chapel; 8:30 pm College and Young Adult Reunion Party in the Loft

Friday, Dec. 24: 4 pm: **Family Christmas Eve Service** (Please note the new time – childcare provided)
9 pm: **Christmas Eve Service** with special music
11 pm: **Christmas Eve Service** with Holy Communion

Sunday, Dec. 26: (Only one service) 10:30 am **Family Christmastide Service** of Carols

Congregational Business

OF NOTE:

Anniversaries:

December 17, 1955: Dick & Helen Dusenbury, 55 years

Baptisms:

October 17, 2010:

Alexandria Catherine Carver, daughter of Kenneth Jason Carver and Jennifer Nicole (Koch) Carver

Logan James Gebby, son of Brian Patrick Gebby and Kelly Ann Gebby

Births:

November 4, 2010: *Samuel Joseph Bell* was born to Kate & Albie Bell, and is little brother to Nathaniel

Deaths:

October 5, 2010:

Katherine "Kay" Tupper

*Memorial gifts were given
in memory of
Kay Tupper and Marian Beals*

*A special gift was given
in honor of the
2nd Annual First Harvest Festival*

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.

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak
Budgeted Financial Statement for September 2010

	Actual for Month	Actual YTD	2010 Budget YTD	2010 Annual Budget
Income				
Contribution Income				
Pledge Income	45,204.00	436,180.51	393,611.59	647,686.00
Loose Offerings	1,276.65	17,290.73	30,000.01	40,000.00
Church School	2.60	353.93	450.00	600.00
Special Gifts	-	5,536.68	3,500.00	10,000.00
Previous Year Unpaid Pledge	-	7,592.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Contribution Income	46,483.25	466,953.85	432,561.60	703,286.00
Other Income	5,303.54	30,642.70	31,500.00	42,000.00
Total Income	51,786.79	497,596.55	464,061.60	745,286.00
Total Expenses	52,037.98	509,608.22	576,830.55	776,756.00
Income Under Expense	(251.19)	(12,011.67)	(112,768.95)	(31,470.00)
General Reserves Transfers	-	-	-	26,976.63
Endowment Equity Transfer	-	-	-	4,493.37
Total	(251.19)	(12,011.67)	(112,768.95)	-

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Staff

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

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

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

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

Carol Lengjel — *Director of Youth Music Ministry*

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

Ivy Debrow — *Child Care Provider*

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

Kari Peruski — *Church Administrator, Ext. 203*

Pamela Kaufmann — *Church Secretary, Ext. 207*

Alan Glasel — *Custodian*

Gary Moultrup — *Assistant Custodian*

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*

Greg Williams — *Bass*

Wedding Coordinator

Ginny O'Brien — weddings@fpcro.org

Newsletter published monthly September — June

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PRESBYS

Wishing all a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Presbys will be ready to return the third Friday of January 2011.



HOLY DUSTERS / HOLY HANDYMEN

Monday, December 6 we will have our annual Christmas luncheon at 11:00 am. **We will not meet Monday, December 20.**



Our December Lunch Bunch program theme on Thursday, December 2, will be "The Gifts of the Magi." Members of our group will do a dramatic reading of a Christmas play, "The Secret of the Gifts." We also will be preparing Christmas cards for home-bound church members. You can rest assured that a few Christmas carols will be part of the festivities. It should be another great day of fellowship. For the potluck lunch those with last names beginning A – F should bring a salad or side dish; G – N should bring a dessert; and O – Z should bring a main dish. Come and share in the joy of the Christmas Season.

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE...

And other products are on sale in Fellowship Hall between Sunday worship services and after the 10:30 am worship service on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. In addition to coffee, there are chocolate bars, cocoa mix, and tea. All of these make good stocking stuffers at Christmas. At the same time you will be helping poor farmers in coffee growing countries. Fair Trade eliminates the middleman, and gives a fair price to poor coffee growers, giving them an opportunity to provide health care and education for their children. Try one of these, and you'll find that each one is a quality product. Prices have gone up, and our prices will soon reflect the rising cost to us. For more information call Helen Dusenbury (248.549.5205 or helendus@wowway.com).



THANKS

Thanks to all who have held my daughter, Eli, in prayer after her accident and during her healing from facial reconstructive surgery. She is on the road to recovery and your prayers have meant a lot to us both! I also greatly appreciate all those who have stepped forward to help out in my absence.

*Shalom,
~Carmel*

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)

Staff Email List

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 Alan Glasel aglasel@fpcro.org
 Newsletter Designers newsletter@fpcro.org

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

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED NOVEMBER 7, 2010

Don and Pat Johnson are the parents of two adult sons and live in the house that Pat's father built in Oak Park. Don was raised in a missionary family and lived in India during his early childhood. He is a CPA who enjoys music and has already joined our Chancel Choir. Pat has advanced degrees in counseling having attended Fuller Theological Seminary and is currently a Chaplain in Training. Pat enjoys knitting and literary pursuits when time permits. They were drawn to First Presbyterian's strong Christian message and supportive environment.

Ron Coleman has been worshipping with us for a couple of years and is now joining us in membership. He is a strategic planning analyst with the US Army TACOM in Warren, having served in the Army for 32 years. Ron is a graduate of Ole Miss (go Rebels) and enjoys motorcycling and studying military history.

Stewardship

2010
STEWARDSHIP



I Do Choose!

THE YEAR OF STEWARDSHIP

DECEMBER: STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS AND TALENTS

Speaking from my own experience, December is usually a frantic time. I spend most of the month agonizing over what to give to those special people on my Christmas list. And then, when I have some ideas, I spend the rest of the time agonizing over having to go shopping to get those presents. Yes, I really don't like to shop!

Our stewardship theme for the month is about gifts and talents, but it's not about what I can buy for someone. It is time for a little self-reflection, time to think about the gifts and talents God has given each of us.

This morning in church I watched a woman come into the pew in front of us. She spoke to the man sitting by her, asking how his son was and then how his grandson was. She turned to the couple in the row in front of her, and asked how their week had been. Then she spoke to the folks on the other side of her. She has a great talent for making people feel welcome, and for making people feel special.

What are you good at? Can you teach, sing, speak well in public, act, make things grow, write, cook, visit the sick or the lonely, sew, paint, draw...and the inventory of gifts could fill this page. Once you remind yourself of all the gifts and talents God has given you, take some time to think about how to "give those back to God" in the coming year. There will be a special worship service on Jan 2 for you to act on your decisions.

~Sue Johnson

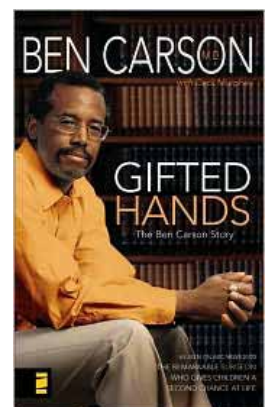
On behalf of the Stewardship Committee

P.S. Don't forget, if you haven't turned in your pledge card for 2011, it's not too late!

STEWARDSHIP BOOK OF THE MONTH

Gifted Hands, The Ben Carson Story

An inspiring story of an inner-city kid from Detroit with poor grades and yet motivated by his Mother. At 33 he became Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. With his gifts and talents he serves as a role model for young people (and everyone else) in need of encouragement to attempt the seemingly impossible and to excel in whatever they try to achieve.



MID HIGHS AND SENIOR HIGHS IN MISSION

Since last winter, our senior highs have regularly engaged in ministry through the Detroit Rescue Mission, www.drmm.org. These times have enriched the faith of our youth. Our youth have learned that just their ministry of presence has a soothing effect on those that they visit. Our hosts have told us that many of the people we serve have been told all their lives that they are a “throw away people,” but our visit affirms their God-given worth. As well, we hear stories of men who have changed their lives, such as one ex-gangster from Los Angeles who turned himself over to God. Hearing experiences like these changes our perspective on what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.



Our Mid Highs also went trick or treating for the hungry, as they joined FPCRO's efforts in collecting food for the Second Mile Center. Eleven of our mid highs dressed up and collected a bunch of food, as seen in picture at right.



Above is the house of an unsuspecting associate pastor who got flocked by his neighbor. Feel free to flock someone you know by calling Sheryl Hunter 248.837.0054 or Karen Kline 248.709.0714.



IMPORTANT: SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP NOTICE

Last winter, we began planning a youth mission trip to the Yucatan to take place during Spring Break of 2011. Last spring we secured our airline tickets and made reservations for the Yucatan Peninsula Mission, a ministry that FPCRO has supported for several decades.

However, several concerns have arisen since then. Principally, the issues of safety have become more salient, mostly relating to increased violence and decreased capacity for state control. These issues have emerged far beyond the border and Mexico City. As a result, many parents and trip leaders felt unsure about allowing their child to go to Mexico. We have thus decided to cancel the trip to Mexico.

Knowing the impact that previous mission trips have had on the youth of our church, we will continue taking periodic mission trips to outside the country. These trips provide our youth with unforgettable experiences, such as seeing the Christian faith take shape in another culture, seeing how others confront poverty, and joining others in God's work in the world.

Therefore, we looked for another opportunity that can provide these same experiences. We are currently planning a trip to support our Presbyterian sisters and brothers in Costa Rica from April 2-10. This trip should be an equally wonderful opportunity for our youth and one that we should all feel great about. For more information about our host church, visit www.iepcr.org/index/Welcome_English.html.

Also, please know that our church will continue to support Yucatan Peninsula Mission but opportunities will likely be restricted to adults in the near future.

Peace and grace,
~Rev. Jonathan Evans

Adult Education



FRIDAY FILM

The Friday film for December centers on the theme of Stewardship of our Gifts and Talents. Sign up on the clipboard in the CE lobby so Pizza and salad can be ordered for you. A donation will be collected to cover the meal. Gather for this event in the Faith Feature room on Friday, December 17 at 6:30 pm.



FINANCIAL PEACE
UNIVERSITY

Our current class of FPU is almost to graduation but our first 2011 session is already being planned! Once the holidays have passed and we welcome the New Year, the next Financial Peace University group will meet on Wednesday evenings (after Wednesday Night Live) starting in February. Watch the January Church Bell for more updates. To register or for more information please contact Brian Coles at colesb@gmail.com or 248.379.0582.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Children's Ministry

KiC CLUB

KiC Club children will once again lead the Family Christmas Eve service. This year this service will be held at 4:00 pm. Join in worship for all ages as we learn about the "Meaning of Christmas."

Children involved in leading this service will rehearse December 19 from 1-3 pm.

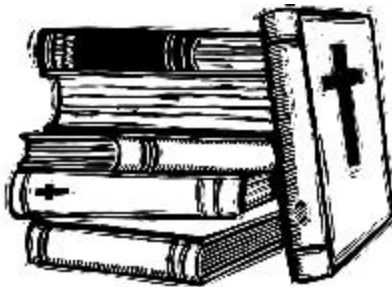


JOYFUL JOURNEYS

During Advent, the children will be exploring the story of John the Baptist from Matthew 3:1-17. The Memory Verse is Matthew 3:2 — "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.*"

THIRD-GRADERS RECEIVE BIBLES

On October 31, 2010, Reformation Sunday, the third-grade children, Lauren Ball, Alia DeVantier, Daniel Flanagan, William Hailer, Adam Hill, Stanley Kormos, Alexandria Ooten, Andrew Rice, Olivia Robbins, and Owen Verryser, received new bibles. After the 10:30 am service there was a luncheon reception for the children and their parents.



3rd Graders Receive New Bibles



A VIEW FROM THE PEW: THE STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS AND TALENTS

1 Corinthians 12:12 *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.*

As a member of the Worship and Music committee, I have become keenly aware of the activities and details that are involved in making our worship experience so wonderful. Every Sunday morning is a bustle of activity that starts earlier than I could ever get there. So many wonderful members of our congregation share their gifts and talents every Sunday morning.

Gifts and talents are all around us: Our greeters and ushers are the first of our volunteers that I see Sunday morning. We have a sound system volunteer that sits up in our balcony. Our beautiful choir proceeds down the aisle to help lead us in our worship. Choir members rehearsed on Thursday evening and came early on Sunday to prepare their gift for God and God's people. On communion Sunday, we have talents of many people: The volunteers who prepare our elements, the communion servers, and a special person who makes sure our communion tablecloth is cleaned, pressed and in place. We have volunteers who assist in reading our prayer of the day and our first scripture reading. Finally, at the end of worship, our valuable trustees are there to collect our tithes and offerings.

During our worship we have our nursery volunteer to watch all the beautiful babies and toddlers. Our Joyful Journey classes are taught by many volunteers. There is someone always teaching our mid and senior high members as well. Coffee hour is always available thanks to our volunteers who serve us coffee, tea, juice and delicious cookies.



Outside of a typical Sunday, there are many gifts and talents being used almost every day of the week. Our daytime receptionist is a volunteer. Wednesday night live couldn't be possible without a couple of wonderful ladies and some dishwashers. We have bible studies that are facilitated by volunteers.

Of course I couldn't write this without acknowledging our Board of Deacons, Elders and Trustees. They usually make a three-year commitment to fulfill these positions. I also am amazed with our committee members. Every committee has a very important role in the functioning of our church.

Then there are our Holy Dusters, Holy Handymen, Garden Angles and a couple of elves who change our sign every Sunday.

I can't forget our members who make up The Lunch Bunch, the Five F's, the Presbys, the TGIF group and the book clubs.

There are also our mission volunteers: World Rescue Mission, Gleaners, Habitat for Humanity, Second Mile Center, South Oakland Shelter, the Welcome Inn and so on.

Our congregation has enjoyed a new successful event that is presented by another group of volunteers called the First Harvest Festival.

Our church believes God has called each of us to be Christian witnesses in our work and our world. We use our gifts and talents to demonstrate God's hands in the world. Our gifts and talents complement one another in a way that allows us to work as many members of one body in Jesus Christ

~Susan Adams

THE FRANCIS LUTTRELL FINE ARTS SERIES COMMITTEE PRESENTS 2010-2011 SEASON LINEUP

The Luttrell Fine Arts Series is excited to announce the lineup for the 2010-2011 season. The upcoming season promises to be one filled with exciting new performers, appealing to a wide range of audiences.

The Season begins on Sunday, December 5, 2010 with the annual holiday feast prepared by our own Chef Randy Jarman. This traditional culinary extravaganza will surely sell-out quickly, so be sure to make your reservations early.

Following dinner will be a performance by the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, a wonderful group made up of musicians mainly from The Detroit Symphony Orchestra. They will begin the evening with a holiday sing-a-long at 6:45 pm, followed by their performance of holiday favorites at 7:30 pm. This is a not-to-be-missed concert, and only subscribers to the complete season will be guaranteed the low price of \$20.00. Others purchasing tickets will be charged \$35.00, the rate set by the performers' contract.

Friday, February 25, 2011 brings the annual Cabaret Concert to Fellowship Hall. This year, in addition to the delectable hors oeuvres and desserts, we welcome the Shandor Trio, who will transform Fellowship Hall into a 1920's cabaret. This innovative group combines piano, vocals and cello for a unique sound that is wonderful to behold. The price for this concert, including the enticing buffet, is a mere \$20.00.

The season concludes on Sunday, May 22, 2011, with a unique opportunity to get up close to a well-known Detroit personality. We welcome TV news anchor, author, and musician Devin Scillian to our sanctuary for an exciting performance. He and his band, Arizona Son, bring a taste of the Downtown Hoedown to Royal Oak. This concert, once again for the low price of \$20.00, is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Series subscriptions start at only \$60.00, and consist of one ticket to each of the three performances. Holiday Dinner tickets are available at an additional charge. Look for the Luttrell brochure in the near future, or call the church office 248.541.0108 for more information or to become a subscriber.

2nd Annual “First Harvest Festival”

On October 16, 2010, First Presbyterian was blessed with a perfect fall day to host year number two of the 1st Harvest Festival. Months of planning by a very dedicated, creative and enthusiastic committee included Julie Decker, Lisa Dildilian, Peggy Kleckner, Roger Watson, David Bernier, Robert Harris, Amy Randolph, Kate Bell and Andrea Richards. Several church committees took charge of specific aspects, including Christian Education (games), Hospitality and Circles (concessions), Presbys (bake sale), Lunch Bunch (pie baking contest), Deacons (decorations), Trustees (ticket sales), Evangelism and Communications (publicity), and Music and Worship (entertainment). FPCRO Knitters and Quilters were also on hand demonstrating their talents. The Mission and Benevolence committee was responsible for the World Mission Sunday displays as well the adorable faces in the cutest baby contest (Chair Ken Bissey was voted cutest baby!) So many people pitched in to help the weekend of the festival; it is difficult to quantify attendance and number of hours volunteered, but the official total from those who signed up ahead of time was close to 200 hours!

A wide variety of entertainment was on hand and included a couple FPCRO members. Brandon Ward, currently a student at WMU and his band the Plastic Macs played a set of familiar hits and Tom Gagne sang and played guitar. The Little Creatures Company was a big hit with the younger crowd and was generously sponsored by Herb O'Brien. Other guest entertainment included a choral group from Royal Oak High School, performances by members of Stagecrafters Youth Theatre and Ridgdale Players and a square dance caller (thanks to Sandra Olah) who encouraged all to participate! Henry Ford Health Systems sponsored 'Dunk the Doc' and had two health professionals on hand with a healthy apple snack for kids. Our own Dr. Tom Rice was the very first Dr. dunk-ee! Fortunately nice weather and a borrowed wet suit prevented a Popsicle Pastor! Fun and games for kids also included face painting,



a moon bounce, crafts and a ride with Dan Dan the Choo Choo Man. Adults were offered an opportunity to bid on many great items in the Tin Can and Silent Auction and were also able to ride the train and take a shot at dunking a brave but chilly volunteer!

Contests for two food groups were held. The pie baking contest (a big hit last year!) was back and the competition was...delicious! A chili cook-off was held as well and the Jarman women were triumphant in both categories...Suzy Jarman's chili (she promises there was no help from Randy!) and

Clela Jarman's apple pie took blue ribbons. Once judging was complete all entries were offered for sale with 100% sell through!

Blessed with perfect weather and a wonderfully supportive congregation and staff, this year's event again met the goals set by the committee to A) have a wonderful day of fellowship for our church family, B) welcome some new friends and neighbors from the surrounding community, and C) cover all expenses and still

make a contribution to the general fund. After expenses, the event netted just over \$2000, ten percent of which will be distributed to a local charity. Additionally the book sale, sponsored by the Library Committee, netted \$86 and will help fund postage for Operation Paperback. Thank you to everyone who participated, whether you donated time and talent or just came to enjoy the day!

~Jennifer Ward

P.S. An eggnog pie took first place in the non-fruit pie category and although it is indeed a delicious recipe, the winner isn't altogether sure it was a fair contest... she thinks perhaps it was fixed to keep her on the festival committee another year. (Yes, the winner was me...Jennifer Ward). New committee members are welcome and will not be required to bake a pie. The 3rd Annual 1st Harvest Festival Committee will begin planning in early 2011...please let Pastor Rice or me know if you are interested!

**The First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak
Staff wish you a very Merry Christmas!**

Robert

Donna McAllister
Carol Roush
Ann Str

James McAllister
Jonathan Ross
Carmel James

Shelley
Janice
Beth Britton
John

Don David
Fred
Joy

Library Reviews

Birds of a Feather

W Jacqueline Winspear

Since starting a one-woman private agency in 1929 London, she now has a professional office in Fitzroy Square and an assistant, Billy Beale. She has even won over Detective Inspector Stratton of Scotland Yard's Murder Squad — an admirable achievement for a woman who worked her way from scholar to sleuth and was a nurse in The Great War.

It is now 1930. Stratton is investigating a case in Coulsden while Maisie has been summoned to Dulwick to find a runaway heiress. When Maisie looks into the disappearance she finds a chilling link to Stratton's case and to the terrible legacy of The Great War.

La's Orchestra Saves The World

S Alexander McCall Smith

It is 1939, Lavender, La to her friends, decides to flee London, not only to avoid German bombs but to escape memories. The small town she settles in offers peace and solitude, at least at first. The War drags on, La wants to boost morale, so she organizes an amateur orchestra, drawing musicians from the village and the local RAF base.

Does La's orchestra save the world? The people who come to hear think so. But what happens after the war is over? And what of La herself? And of La's heart?

Gertrude's Oath

940.53 O Ram Oren

Michael Swtolowitzky, the only son of a wealthy Jewish family in Poland, is three years old when war breaks out and the family loses everything. His father, desperate to settle his business affairs, travels to France, leaving Michael in the care of his mother and Gertrude, a Catholic Nanny. When Michael's mother has a stroke, Gertrude promises the dying woman that she will make her way to Palestine and raise him as her own.

This true story brings to life the people who helped ensure their survival, including SS Officer Karl Rink, who made it his mission to save Jews after his own Jewish wife was murdered.

Gertrude's Oath transcends history and religion to reveal the compassion and hope that survive in a world immersed in war without end.

American Passage

917. C Vincent Cannato

Ellis Island's heyday from 1892 to 1914, coincided with one of the greatest mass movements of individuals the world has ever seen, with some twelve million immigrants inspected at its gates.

American Passage captures a time and a place unparalleled in American immigration history, and articulates the dramatic and bittersweet accounts of the immigrants, officials, interpreters and social reformers who all play an important role in Ellis Island's chronicle.

Long after Ellis Island ceased to be the nation's remnant immigration inspection station, the debates that once swirled around are still relevant to Americans a century later.

Wildflower

B R Mark Seal

In January 2006, Jane Root a conservationist, was murdered in Kenya.

Wildflower is also the story of Kenya itself. A country blessed with unmatched beauty that is one of the last repositories of rare wildlife on the African Continent. Kenya has also been scarred by decades of colonization and corruptions. Jane Root dreamed of a bright future for Kenya and spent her life fighting with quiet heroism and courage to make her dream come true. Her life ended too soon but her legacy lives on.

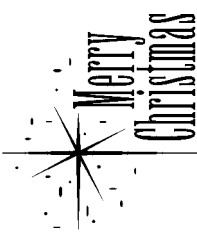
Where Are You Now?

C Mary Higgins Clark

This book is a compilation of several authors besides Mary Higgins Clark. There is "A Single Thread" by Marie Boswick, "An Irish Country Village" by Patrick Taylor and "Italian Lessons" by Peter Pazzelli. Each author has a unique voice and a wonderful story to tell.

"When a woman is speaking to you, listen to what she says with her eyes"

~ Victor Hugo

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Typical Sunday Schedule 9:00 a Child Care 9:00 a Lectionary Class 9:00 a Chapel Service 10:00 a Family Fellowship 10:00 a Teen Breakfast 10:30 a Mid-High Bible 10:30 a Sanctuary Service 10:30 a Joyful Journeys 11:30 a Family Fellowship 4:00 p Mid-High Group	Typical WNL Schedule 5:45 p Confirmation Class 6:00 p WNL Dinner 6:45 p Circle of Friends 7:00 p Adult Bible Study 7:45 p Sr. High Youth Group 8:00 p Grace Notes/King's Men	4:00 p LOFT Open Time 4:30 p Knitting Group 4:30 p KIC Club 4:30 p Carol Choir 4:30 p Computer Club 5:00 p Discover the Bible 5:15 p Celebration Choir	5:50 p Lighting of Advent Wreath 6:00 p WNL Dinner 8:00 p Grace Notes Choir Rehearsal	9:00 a Quilters 12:00 p Lunch Bunch 6:00 p Bereavement Support Group 6:00 p Dan Kline's Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony 7:00 p Deacon's Meeting 7:30 p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p TGIF	4:00 p The Gathering - Disciples on Assignment
8:30 a Flocking Flamingos 9:00 a Chapel Service/ADVENT 2 10:00 a Fellowship & Coffee (note room change) 10:30 a Sanctuary Service/ADVENT 2 11:30 a Fellowship & Coffee (note room change) 11:45 a Worship & Music Committee 6:45 p Luttrell Fine Arts Concert 7:30 p Luttrell Concert - Afterglow	10:00 a Holy Dusters & Handymen	9:30 a Library Committee 10:00 a Tuesday AM Bible Study 1:00 p Trustee Counting Group 2:00 p Staff Meeting 6:00 p Cabar Feidh Pipes & Drum 6:30 p Financial Peace University 7:00 p Memorials & Furnishings 7:00 p Mission & Benevolence Meeting 7:00 p Nominating Committee 7:15 p Evangelism & Comm. Committee	5:50 p Lighting of Advent Wreath 6:00 p WNL Dinner 7:00 p Finance & Investment Committee Meeting 8:00 p King's Men	9:00 a Quilters 1:00 p Daytime Book Club 6:00 p Bereavement Support Group 7:30 p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10:00 a Newsletter Folding Party 6:30 p Friday Film Festival	4:00 p The Gathering - Disciples on Assignment
8:30 a Equal Exchange Coffee 9:00 a NO Chapel Service 9:15 a House Committee Meeting 10:00 a NO Sr. Highs Breakfast Club/SS (in worship) 10:15 a Angel Tree/Adopt-a-Family 10:30 a NO Joyful Journeys (in worship) 10:30 a Sanctuary Service/ADVENT 3/Lessons & Carols 12:00 p Loft Ministry Team Mtg.	12:30 p Daytime Covenant Group	9:30 a Library Committee 10:00 a Tuesday AM Bible Study 1:00 p Trustee Counting Group 2:00 p Staff Meeting 6:00 p Cabar Feidh Pipes & Drum 6:00 p Stewardship Committee 7:00 p Trustee Meeting	8:30 a Sunflowers Preschool Christmas Concert 1:00 p Naomi Circle 4:00 p Ruth Circle Meeting 5:00 p Kerygma: Discover the Bible (note room change) 5:50 p Lighting of Advent Wreath 6:00 p WNL Dinner 8:00 p Grace Notes/King's Men	9:00 a Quilters 9:30 a Lydia Kline meets @ home of N. Marsh 12:00 p Staff Christmas Party 6:00 p Bereavement Support Group 7:30 p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10:00 a Newsletter Folding Party 6:30 p Friday Film Festival	4:00 p The Gathering - Disciples on Assignment
8:30 a Flocking Flamingos 9:00 a Chapel Service/ADVENT 4 10:30 a Sanctuary Service/ADVENT 4 11:45 a Christian Education Committee 3:00 p Christmas Caroling 4:00 p NO Mid-High Youth Group	12:30 p Daytime Covenant Group	9:30 a Library Committee 10:00 a Tuesday AM Bible Study 1:00 p Trustee Counting Group 2:00 p Staff Meeting 6:00 p Cabar Feidh Pipes & Drum 6:00 p Stewardship Committee 7:00 p Trustee Meeting	NO WNL ACTIVITIES 6:00 p Soup Supper 7:00 p NO Personnel Committee Meeting 7:00 p "Blue Christmas" service 8:30 p College Student Reunion Party	9:00 a Quilters 6:00 p Bereavement Support Group 7:30 p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4:00 p Christmas Eve Family Service (note earlier time) 9:00 p Christmas Eve Service 11:00 p Christmas Eve Service/Holy Communion	
8:30 a Equal Exchange Coffee 9:00 a NO Chapel Service 10:30 a NO Joyful Journeys (in worship) 10:30 a Sanctuary Service of Carols	12:30 p Daytime Covenant Group	9:30 a Library Committee 10:00 a Tuesday AM Bible Study 1:00 p Trustee Counting Group 2:00 p Staff Meeting 6:00 p Cabar Feidh Pipes & Drum	NO WNL ACTIVITIES	9:00 a Quilters 6:00 p Bereavement Support Group 7:30 p NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4:00 p Christmas Eve Family Service (note earlier time) 9:00 p Christmas Eve Service 11:00 p Christmas Eve Service/Holy Communion	4:00 p The Gathering - Disciples on Assignment

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

Address service requested

Worship Services
Sunday mornings at
9:00 am & 10:30 am

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DEADLINE for the JANUARY 2011 Newsletter: DECEMBER 8, 2010



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! How exciting it is to prepare for the birth of our Lord with His smallest followers. We will spend the days of December preparing our hearts (and classroom) for Jesus' arrival.

Our three-year-old class continues to work on socialization, fine motor skills, shapes and colors, while our fours continue their weekly alphabet study and early math skills. Both classes will decorate our classroom and hallway with sparkly ornaments of all sorts, and work on wonderful surprises to share with their families. We will also celebrate Jesus' birth by decorating the Mitten Tree with warm hats, scarves and mittens.

Our biggest project of the month, by far, will be rehearsing for our annual Christmas Concert! You are all welcome to come see us perform on Wednesday, December 15 at 10:00 am in the church sanctuary. An afterglow will follow in Fellowship Hall. Our performance also marks our last day of school before Christmas. School resumes on Monday, January 3.

Christmas blessings to you all!

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