

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

Church Bell



A word from our pastor...

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight--" (Mark 1:3)

Our theme for the season of Advent—from November 27 through Christmas Eve—is this: ***"Prepare the way of the Lord."*** It is how Mark's Gospel begins, with these words of John the Baptist ringing in our ears. It is that important!

In premarriage counseling I often talk with couples about the importance of preparing for their marriage—for their life together—not just for their wedding day. In this season it is similar. We are invited to prepare for receiving Jesus Christ—preparing for our life together in Him—not just for a few hours of celebration (hours which may be a focus of frenzied preparation maybe leading afterwards to a let down).

In the weeks of Advent we will be preparing together. Our "Christmon Tree" (which is usually in the chapel) will be in the narthex of the sanctuary this year. Each Sunday in a children's sermon we will highlight which "Christmon" ornament is on the tree now, and what it symbolizes. Each week we'll be "hanging a little more of the greens" as we prepare, week by week.

On Wednesdays at 5:50 pm in the chapel we will have a 10 minute service for all ages as a family leads us in lighting the Advent candle and as we sing beautiful hymns of the season. Preparing together, in prayer, in worship, in community.

You'll notice something new in the Christian Education lobby and in the chapel! The wooden sculpture of the Bible will be in the lobby, so as we enter the church and as we go to the Joyful Journeys

wing, we'll see the Bible and a key verse for each week. I am so grateful to the Grimm family for their gift of this Bible and for their support! In the Chapel we will have a sunburst—a symbol of the resurrection and a reminder of why we are preparing.

On Saturday, December 17th, at 3 pm we will have a ***Christmas caroling party***. Join us as we go caroling to homebound church members. It is a highlight of the season to see the joy you bring as we sing the good news of Jesus Christ! We'll then come back to the chapel and light the Advent candle, and then have a soup supper in the Fireside Room with hot chocolate and cookies.

On Wednesday, December 21st, we will have a soup supper at 6 pm and our "Blue Christmas" service at 7 pm. If this is a difficult

time for us or for someone we love, this is a very special service of healing and prayer for us and for our loved ones.

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!

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*



Congregational Business

We received memorial gifts in memory of Mark Sutton.

We received an appreciation gift in honor of Greg Gillham and his dedication and service on the computer network.

Gifts were given in celebration of the Mid-High and Senior High Ministries.



Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, December 1 from 12 noon-2:00 pm in the Fireside Room. After eating a delicious potluck lunch and singing some Christmas Carols, we will enjoy a presentation by Rev. Dr. Tom Rice entitled "Christmas Potpourri." Come and learn some fun and interesting facts about Christmas. Please sign up at the reception desk for the following: Last names beginning A-F bring a salad or side dish, G-N bring a dessert, and O-Z bring a main dish. Hope to see you there!

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

	Actual for Month	Actual YTD	2011 Budget YTD	2011 Annual Budget
Income				
Contribution Income				
Pledge Income	49,869.00	452,257.25	431,294.03	650,000.00
Loose Offerings	952.00	18,854.17	18,750.01	25,000.00
Church School	0.50	190.57	450.00	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	50,821.50	481,739.10	461,494.04	693,100.00
Other Income	26.13	30,115.44	39,750.02	55,500.00
Total Income	50,847.63	511,854.54	501,244.06	748,600.00
Total Expenses				
Income Under Expense	(6,557.22)	(32,290.18)	(97,465.30)	(38,341.00)
General Reserves Transfers	-	-	-	18,942.42
Endowment Equity Transfer	-	-	-	19,398.58
Total	(6,557.22)	(32,290.18)	(97,465.30)	-



*Chris and Charity McCoy are pleased to announce the birth of a son, **Colin Jeffrey**, born September 23, 10lb.5oz. Colin joins his big sister, Madison. Proud grandparents are Ruth and Bob McCoy.*

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Staff

Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Rice: *Pastor, Ext. 206*
 Rev. Matt 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 Ed., Ext. 204*
 Ivy Debrow: *Child Care Provider*
 Rev. Betsy Rice: *Parish Associate, Ext. 201*
 Kari Peruski: *Church Administrator, Ext. 203*

Pamela Kaufmann: *Admin. Assistant, Ext. 207*
 Alan Glasel: *Facility Manager*
 Gary Moultrup: *Asst. Cust. / DJ Frey: Asst. Cust.*
 Jay Kaufmann: *Evening Security/Reception, Ext. 200*
 Randy Jarman: *Food Consultant*
 Julie Matthews: *Sunflowers Director, Ext. 220*
 Beth Heitchue / Sue Ann Sirr / Joan Cone - *Sunflowers Teachers*

Melissa Maloney: *Soprano*
 Alona Moon: *Mezzo Soprano*

Soloists

Curt Peters: *Tenor*
 Peter Morgan: *Bass / Baritone*

Wedding Coordinator

Ginny O'Brien: weddings@fpcro.org

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Congregational Business

PRESBYS

The Presbys wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in January.



HOLY DUSTERS / HOLY HANDYMEN

Holy Dusters meet one or two Monday mornings a month. We meet at 10:00 am in the C.E. Lobby. We dust/clean for an hour or so and then have lunch afterward.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us. Watch the bulletin for dates.



HELP PREPARE THE CHURCH

There will be opportunities for congregation members of all ages to help decorate for Advent. Beginning on Sunday, November 27, after the second service on Sundays and at Wednesday Night Live, the wreaths, trees, roping, etc. will be gradually put up about the Church. Plan now to have your family help beautify the Church. Members of the Memorial & Furnishings Committee will be present to help.

Go to the C.E. Lobby to help.



Merry Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 11th: (Only one service) 10:30 am **Chancel Choir Advent Worship Presentation**

Saturday, Dec. 17th: 3 pm **Christmas caroling**, followed by lighting the Advent candles and having a soup supper

Wednesday, Dec. 21st: 6 pm soup supper; 7 pm **"Blue Christmas" worship service** in Chapel



Saturday, Dec. 24th:

4 pm: **Family Christmas Eve Service** (Please note the time--childcare provided)

9 pm: **Christmas Eve Service** with special music

11 pm: **Christmas Eve Service** with Holy Communion

Sunday, Dec. 25th: (Only one service) 10:30 am **Family Christmastide Service of Carols**

If you NEED A RIDE to a Sunday service, Wednesday Night Live, or a special holiday service, please contact Barb Hayes at 248.435.4527 or bjhsander@wowway.com. A back up contact is Lynn Macumber at 248.543.2941. We will do our best to find a ride for you. If you are someone who would like to offer their services to help by giving a ride, please contact Barb, she would appreciate your help. Your name will be put on a list of possible drivers. Thank you!

Staff Email List

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The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

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

Congregational Business

DONATIONS FROM THE 2011 FALL FOOD DRIVE THANK YOU!

Donna Doyscher, Dorothy Hoagg, Jackie Davis, Eileen White



LADIES - OUR PINK BASKETS

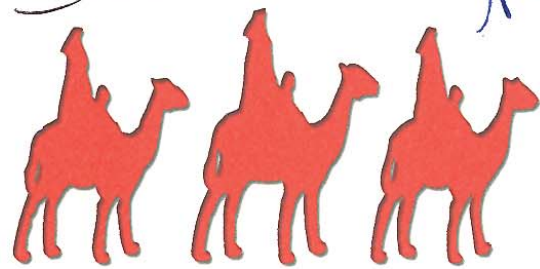
As most of you know, there is a pink basket in each of the main women's restrooms. For several years we have collected feminine care products. These items have been given to Common Ground Sanctuary in Royal Oak, The Warming Center (SOCH), and our guests each year for S.O.S. All groups have expressed great appreciation for these useful items.

The Warming Center will be opening soon and we will want to take care products to them. So, check the pink baskets for the list of needed items. Occasionally, there will be special requests posted on the baskets. If you have questions call Linda Wade 248.548.1584.

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.

Tom Rice
Sue Ann Swir
Joan Cone
Beth Dickerson
Julie Matthews
Kari Peruski
Jay
Danell
Jay
Ann Gillman
Carmel James
Don Daniels
Patsy Rice
Randy Jan
Matt Nickel
Rachel Gardiner
GARY MOULTON



As we gather to celebrate the season...
our love and prayers are with you!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
~The Staff at the First Presbyterian
Church of Royal Oak

ARE WE GOOD STEWARDS? (PART 5)

At the conclusion of Pledge Dedication Sunday on November 6, we can report that we are at 61% (\$436,000) of our stewardship goal of \$710,000; slightly behind the pace of last year.

But still, we have reason to be optimistic. Like any campaign, there is always good news and bad news.

The good news is that we received 16 more pledge cards at Stewardship Sunday, than we did a year ago.

But unfortunately, we had 22 pledging units that decreased their pledge from last year.

On the flip side, and some good news, is that we received 14 new pledges from members who had never pledged before. AND, we had 66 pledging units so far INCREASE their pledge over last year, and 90 pledging units that stayed at the same level.

And here's the best news yet. There are 134 pledging units who pledged last year, but have not yet turned in a pledge card this year. If every one of those pledging units pledge again at the same level as last year, or higher, we will come very close to reach our goal to simply maintain the programs we all enjoy.

There's even more reason to be optimistic. Only about 50% of our membership makes a pledge. This means that the half that has not previously pledged can make a BIG difference in the life of our church!

If you have already pledged this year, we sincerely thank you.

And if you have made an annual stewardship pledge in the past, but have not yet done so this year, please return your pledge cards as soon as possible.

If you are currently not pledging, please consider doing so this year in any amount that you feel comfortable with.

These remain difficult economic times to be sure, but your pledge is a commitment to this church and to the many joys it brings to your life. The Stewardship Committee will soon be following up with those members we have not heard from.

Again, if you have already pledged, thank you! And if not, please consider doing so, prayerfully, faithfully and generously!

Let your giving be a sign of your thankfulness to the Lord, to this church, this congregation, this family!

From the Stewardship Committee

Photos from the reception welcoming Matt and Emma to our Church Family



November 13, 2011



Trustee Notes

Grounds

Kevin Ball

-Total Lawn Care has offered to do the fall cleanup free of charge, as an apology for problems with repairing the curbs. The committee will provide Total Lawn Care with a list of projects and continue with the congregation fall cleanup as planned.

-Curb replacement, seal-coating and restriping of the parking lot by the Women's Club are targeted for the week of October 24, depending on weather.

-Three major projects using donated funds are either in process or completed as follows:

A new Whitespire birch tree has been planted on the SW lawn, paid for with a generous gift from the quilters.

Re-landscaping along the main parking lot and outside the CE lobby is progressing, with some areas already completed. Proposals for additional work are under consideration, but generally done for this year. Removal of the crabapple tree by the Chapel is on hold, pending further discussion.

The Earla Smith garden has been planted along the west wall of the sanctuary, with the exception of several boxwoods, which will be obtained, and planted in the spring. In addition to the grant from the Early Smith Foundation, Bev Moss had devoted considerable time and effort to this project.

The Church will dedicate all three projects in the spring.

-Snow removal contracts will be solicited and presented to the Trustees at the next meeting.

-Upon discussion, it was suggested that the parking stripes in the main lot should be considered for next year.

Computer

Greg Gillham

-The committee received three bids for computer system setup and maintenance and two bids for network, but they aren't all "apples to apples". The committee will meet in October to determine next steps. Cost is higher than anticipated – "technical labor" is fairly expensive.

-Alan's PC failed. The hard drive from his PC has been moved to the spare PC in Dr. Rice's study. Alan is operative, but we are short one PC at this time.

Insurance

Heather Smith

-Heather explained that the 2012 budget may need to be increased based on premiums.

House

Dennis Janney

-Royal Roofing is tentatively scheduled near the end of October for their fall cleanup and inspection.

-The committee is still waiting for the Roof 'U' repairs to be scheduled, but have been assured that it will be in the very near future.

-Royal Roofing will also replace the flashing at the 200 wing and recheck repairs in the preschool hallway area.

-Motor City has installed the coupler for the new booster circulator pump that serves the office and 200 wing, however the noise was still present, if not louder. They then determined the motor on the pump was defective and had to be replaced under warranty. This was done but the noise persists. Motor City now feels there are not enough pipe hangers installed, which is causing the vibration and noise. We are waiting for a quote for suggested repairs and will see about negotiating the cost of the OEM coupler installation.

-SAS Waterproofing came out last month and injected and sealed the top crack on the north wall of the choir room.

Internal Review

Joyce King

-All reviews planned by University Presbyterian Church are complete. Reports have not been received.

Memorials and Furnishings

Nancy Lambert

-A proposal to move the bible carving from the Chapel to a more predominant location in the Christian Education lobby was discussed. There was some concern about the structural capability of the handrail, which will be assessed by the House Committee.

-Costs for this project will be \$2,308.06 and will come from a special projects fund from memorial gifts.

-Cost breakdown is \$825.00 to remove the Bible carving from the Chapel, repair the wall, install the necessary bracketing on the handrail in the Christian Education lobby to allow removal as necessary and \$1,483.06 to purchase and install a sunburst in the Chapel.

-UPON MOTION: Funding in the amount of \$2308.06 will be allocated from a Special Projects Fund for memorial gifts to move the Bible carving from the Chapel to the CE lobby, and install a sunburst in the Chapel, subject to approval of the House Committee that the mounting of the Bible carving in the CE lobby is appropriate and allows removal as necessary. Motion was approved.

-Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for Sunday, November 27, after the 10:30 service.

-It was reported that at least two incidents of tripping on the slate in the Narthex have been reported. The committee will discuss this topic at their next meeting.



The Francis Luttrell Fine Arts Series

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH @ 7:30 PM
HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG: 6:45PM

The Frances Luttrell Fine Arts Series is pleased to host the Detroit Chamber Winds in their annual **Holiday Brass Concert**. This is the second season the *Luttrell Committee* has invited this wonderful ensemble to perform in our acoustically rich Sanctuary. Joined by the choirs at Andover High School, this concert is sure to start your holiday season off in the perfect manner. There will be a reception in Fellowship Hall after the concert. Pre-concert ticket prices are \$20.00 per person. These tickets will cost \$40.00 at the door, on the day of the concert. Please contact Don Daniels, at 248.541.0108, to purchase your tickets, or for more information.

YOU ARE INVITED...

The Chancel Choir will feature the Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saëns, as part of the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, December 11, 2011. This piece was composed over 150 years ago, when Saint-Saëns was just 23 years old and serving as the organist at the Madeleine Church in Paris. The entire work was written in 12 days. Although Saint-Saëns wrote several other oratorios, the Christmas Oratorio is the only one which is regularly performed today. The choir will be joined by a string orchestra, harp, flutes, and organ.

This work is a collection of scriptures which center on the prophecy of the Messiah's birth and praise to God for bringing salvation to earth. Similar to Handel's *Messiah*, Saint-Saëns includes the shepherd story, setting the scene with a short pastoral prelude. The next section focuses on the prophecy of Christ's coming, with an Advent focus on waiting and preparation. The chorus "Wherefore do the nations clamor" creates a dramatic contrast, which is answered by a calm Gloria



Patri ("Glory unto the Father"). The final section moves from Advent to Christmas, with a text from Mary's Song ("My soul doth magnify the Lord") and three final movements which triumphantly proclaim praises to God for bringing comfort and salvation to all people. Please join us for this special worship service on December 11th.

Family Ministry

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Our third graders received their NRSV Children's Study Bible on Reformation Sunday. A special lunch and education event followed. If your child missed this event, they will receive their Bible during Joyful Journeys on January 22.



CHILDREN'S SERMONS

During Advent, the children will learn about the Chrismsons, special symbols displayed on the tree in the Sanctuary Narthex, during the Children's Sermon. This tree usually is out during Advent in the Chapel Narthex. This year, the Presbyterian Women's Circle created the ornaments that will be adding decorations to the tree each week which connect to the Advent theme of the week. Look carefully to see what has been added each week (but don't touch!).

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

This year our children are studying the Shepherds' story and the Isaiah prophecies during Advent. Ask them about the many names for the Messiah!

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP

Last years' time change was so enthusiastically received, that once again our Family Christmas Eve service will begin at 4:00 on Saturday, December 24. This interactive service is appropriate for all ages. Child care will be provided for our youngest children. Invite neighbors and friends with young children to hear this familiar story led by our KiC Club 5th graders, assisted by our Mid-High youth.

REHEARSAL FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Children involved in leading the Christmas Eve Service will rehearse from 1-3 pm on Saturday, December 17. This rehearsal is followed by caroling, a special soup supper, and the last of the Advent Chapel times. Put this important afternoon on your family's calendar!

ADULT EDUCATION

Friday Film

Join us on Friday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 in the Faith Features room to enjoy pizza, salad, popcorn, and a wonderful film about what is REALLY important! Suggested donation for the food is \$8.00 per person. Discussions after the film are fun and interesting!

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)

OUR PRESBYTERIAN IDENTITY: SCENES FROM THE REFORMATION

Where did “Presbyterians” come from? A ‘presbyter’ by definition is an ‘elder or minister of the Christian church’, derived from the Greek word “presbuteros”. The name is ancient but the philosophical foundation was born in the European Reformation of the early 16th century. The Reformation grew from increased dissatisfaction with the papal Church. People of all levels of society found the emphasis on meaningless rituals to have little relevance to their personal salvation, and their individual relationship to God.

Where there is dissatisfaction, there are dissenters. Our stained glass windows pay homage to several key persons of the Reformation movement that brought us to where we are now. In the sanctuary nave right, the center window of the five has (6) panels with (2) smaller inserted vignettes.

Beginning at the bottom, we see The Relief of Leyden, a town in the northern Netherlands, led by William the Silent in 1574. The whole country had been laid siege by the Spanish army to wipe out Protestants from defying the papal Church. William broke the dikes, allowing the sea and the Dutch sailors to approach the town walls. This scene remembers the Reformation of the Netherlands and the inception of the Dutch Reformed Church in the north. There is also a small vignette of Martin Luther above left, tacking his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany where the Reformation was also in high gear.

The next panel depicts Gaspard de Coligni, the spokesperson for the Huguenots or French Protestants. He protected and fought for them, becoming their commander-in-chief. Unfortunately, Queen Mother Catherine was determined to exterminate the Protestants in France. The panel shows Catherine pushing Coligni out a tower window and the axe-man ready to behead him, just in case he survived. The murder of Coligni began an attack on Protestants, leading to the massacre of some 90,000 dissenters across France. We honor the French Reformed Church with this panel.

The third panel depicts John Knox, speaking with the French ambassador after the massacre in France. We in the Presbyterian Church (USA) trace our roots, in part, to the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. His role will be highlighted in the March 2012 “View from the Pew”.

There is a small vignette in the lower right corner that shows John Hus, the son of peasant Czech parents, and a predecessor to Martin Luther. To attend the University of Prague, he supported himself by singing in the church choir. He became a member of the faculty in 1394 and later, rector at Bethlehem Church. His anti-papacy teachings landed him in front of the Roman Catholic Church Council. Cajoled by promises of safety to present his views, he arrived on Dec. 24th and was promptly imprisoned, never to speak his views. He was

burned at the stake in June 1414, setting in motion a new martyrdom, and the ‘morning star of the Reformation’.

The fourth panel depicts John Calvin, a contemporary of Martin Luther and a correspondent with all the great Protestant leaders. John Knox followed his teachings to reform the Scottish church. Calvin’s influence on the theological principles of the Presbyterian Church will be highlighted in the February 2012 “View from the Pew”.

The fifth panel depicts the Westminster Assembly, in Westminster Abbey, called by English Parliament in 1643 to prepare plans for a reformation of the church. The purpose was to bring it into nearer accord with the Church of Scotland and the other continental reformed churches. This was an advisory body to Parliament, consisting of 121 English and Welsh clergymen, 10 Lords, and 20 Commoners. The majority were Puritans and Presbyterians with a few Episcopalians. The glass panel honors the beginning of formal religious governance, addressing discipline, ordination, worship, prayer, faith confession, and the catechisms.

The final panel honors Huldreich Zwingli, a Swiss Protestant clergy of the early 1500’s. He was a chaplain for Swiss troops in Italy, and from that began his protest against using Swiss troops as paid professional soldiers. He shared with Luther the ‘priest of the people’ characterization and supported his reforms. Zwingli preached against fasting, saints as intercessors, and believed priests should marry, entering marriage himself. Although they shared many personal life similarities, including being ordained for Catholic priesthood, they disagreed on several doctrines, notably the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Their significant and different interpretations were not resolved, and Zwingli’s group broke away.

At the top of the window panel is the Seal of the Presbyterian Church, showing an open Bible on which burns the bush seen by Moses in the wilderness and from which he heard the voice of God. Our forefathers who gave us this seal wanted us to remember that, like Moses, we will hear the voice of God speaking to us in the open Bible.

The Reformation encompassed over 130 years of dissention, war, martyrdom, and protest against the corrupted practices of the Roman Catholic Church. The Protestants themselves disagreed, and developed separate doctrinal groups. Presbyterian roots are linked directly to Calvinism and the other Reformed Churches. We share ‘grandparents’ with the Anglicans, Lutherans and Anabaptists. We share parental rights to Congregationalists. The Reformation was a boiling pot of turmoil, not unlike a refiner’s fire. But from it came great leaders and clarified doctrine, which gave us our Presbyterian heritage. All of our stained glass windows embody the original “flash cards” for teaching us about the life of Christ, the Bible, the Medieval Church, and our own birthright in the Protestant movement.

By Beverly Moss

Welcome New Members



Carol Strozier is coming to us as an affiliate member, as she is also a member of First Presbyterian Church in Irvington, New York, and she shares her time between Ferndale and New York. Carol is an Alexander Technique teacher. She has lived in Scotland and does ceilidh dancing, and also plays the flute, and sings.

Joe Jessmon was introduced to First, Royal Oak through his wife, Linda, who joined our church last year. Joe appreciates our traditional worship and music, and finds our members friendly. He works at AT&T as a Communication Technician. Joe is sad to have the golf season come to an end, and enjoys walking, and target shooting.



Kristin Hunt and Jim Karner are engaged to be married here at First, Royal Oak in Feb. of 2012. They met in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and found our church through Kristin's job move. Kristin is a pathologist at Henry Ford Hospital, and lives in Royal Oak. She enjoys cooking, reading, and outdoor activities. Jim lives outside Cleveland, Ohio, where he is geologist and research scientist at Case Western University. He plays and coaches hockey, and travels to Antarctica to collect meteors three times a year.

Amber and Luke Harlow are the parents of 4 month old, Hope Elizabeth. Amber and Luke have attended Presbyterian churches through their many moves, most recently from First Presbyterian, Ann Arbor. Amber is a physical therapist who is home with Hope right now. She enjoys reading and watching college basketball and is looking forward to getting involved in our children's educational activities as Hope grows up. Luke is a history professor at Oakland University, and appreciates our "robust four-fold Reformed Liturgy" (he specializes in teaching American Religious History!!!). Luke is a coffee aficionado. He is looking forward to participating in our adult education program.



STAY TUNED FOR INFORMATION ON OUR NEXT NEW MEMBERS CLASS SCHEDULE!

Library Reviews

Christmas Cross

Max Lucado

L

Chicago journalist finds himself in a small Texas town on Christmas Eve. Lonely and alone, he encounters old faces and new facts, a hard carved manger, a father's guilt, and a young girl's faith. This trip into the past holds the key to the future, and a scarlet cross shows him the way home.

The Viognier Vendetta

Ellen Crosby

C

When Lucie Montgomery visits Washington, D.C., during cherry blossom season, she doesn't expect her reunion with old friend, Rebecca is a setup. Rebecca disappears into thin air after running an errand for her boss, Sir Thomas Asher. Also missing is an antique wine cooler looted by British soldiers before they burned the White House during the War of 1812.

Was it murder or an elaborate scheme to disappear?

The Longest Trip Home

John Grogan

G

The longest trip home is a book for any son or daughter who has sought to forge an identity at odds with their parents and for every parent that has struggled to understand the values of their children. It is about mortality and grace, spirit and faith, and the powerful love of a family.

Colonel Roosevelt

Edmund Mo

B R

Of all our great presidents, Theodore Roosevelt is the only one whose greatness increased out of office. When he toured Europe in 1910 as plain Colonel Roosevelt, he was hailed as the most famous man in the world. Crowned vied to put him up in their palaces, "If I see another King" he joked "I think I shall bite him".

Had he not died in 1919, at the age of sixty, he would unquestionably have been elected a third term.

What other President has written forty books, hunted lions, founded a third political party, survived an assassin's bullets and explored an unknown river longer than the Rhine?

Minding Frankie

Maeve Binche

B

After his girlfriend passes away after giving birth to their newborn baby girl, Frankie, Noel is finding out that being a single father is no easy task. Luckily, within his Dublin Community he has a network of people to help, ranging from his American cousin to a newly retired doctor, who has found he has nothing to do. But one person does not like this arrangement and this person has the power to take away the baby from everyone. Can Noel prove to the social worker that he can mind Frankie?

a note of thanks on our mission collecting paperbacks for our Troops

September 22, 2011

Dear Ms. Nelson,

I received the books you sent through Operation Paperback today - THANK YOU! Life at sea can be very confining and books are an easy way for us to escape. I have shared these books with my shipmates on HIGGINS and every single one of them sends a sincere thank you.

Thank you again for the books and support - we truly appreciate it!

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 JANUARY 2012 Newsletter: DECEMBER 15, 2011



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' birth.

Our three year old class continues to work on socialization, fine motor skills, and exploration in science, literacy, and math. While our four year olds continue their weekly alphabet study, along with science and early math exploration. 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 sharing our love for others with warm hats, scarves and mittens placed on the Mitten Tree.

Our biggest project of the month will be rehearsing for our annual Christmas Concert! You are all invited to come and see us perform on Thursday, 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 Tuesday, January 3.

Christmas blessings to you all!

We are hoping to add a few children to our classes in January. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool for their child, please share our brochure, and ask them to call 248 541-0108 ext. 220. We look forward to showing them our preschool.

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