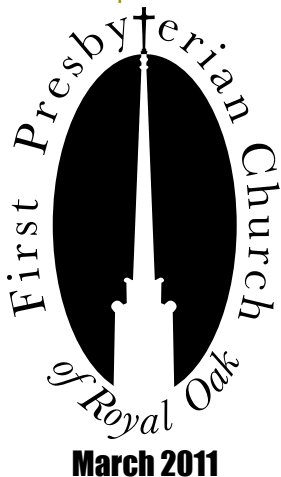


## First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

# Church Bell



A word from our pastor...

**“Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night...” (John 3:1-2a)**

Just look at this “cast of characters.” First comes a man who sneaks in to see Jesus — he doesn’t want anyone else to know. What would his friends say if they knew he was having this conversation?

And then there is a Samaritan woman. She has two strikes against her. Racially/ethnically, her people and the Jewish people hate one another. And she has been divorced five times — so she is an outcast even to her own people. Yet here Jesus is (a Jew!), having a long and life-changing conversation with her.

Then comes a man who was blind from birth. People assumed that his blindness was somehow God’s punishment upon him: “Either he had sinned, or his parents had sinned,” they told one another... But Jesus will have none of this. Jesus heals the man, and the man becomes a witness to Jesus — asking even the religious authorities: “Do you also want to become his disciples?”

Then we have two women — Mary and Martha — who are grieving deeply. They are heartbroken that their brother, Lazarus, has died, and they are tormented by the questions, “How could this happen?! If Jesus really loved us, how could this happen?!” They bring their broken hearts and their questions to Jesus.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday (March 9)**. I invite you to join us for a **soup supper at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall, and then a **worship service at 6:45 pm** — led by all ages and for all ages. And as we begin our 40-day Lenten journey towards Easter, we bring these stories with us. Stories of Nicodemus (John 3), and the woman at the well (John 4), and the man born blind (John 9), and Mary and Martha (John 11). **Stories of holy conversations.** Stories of profound healing, and deep learning, and remarkable transformation.

God intends for this Lent to be a time for you and for me to have holy conversations. With

our Lord. With one another. With people to whom we need to listen. With people who need to hear a word from us. Every conversation involves risk. Every conversation presents great opportunity for the Spirit to be at work.

Our theme for this Lent is “holy conversations,” and I pray that you will take the time and make the effort to have the conversations God intends for you in this holy season — this season we dedicate to God. Set apart the time to say things and hear things that God yearns for you to say and hear. Join us for

our **Thursday evening Lenten Reflection services** (beginning

Thursday, March 17 at 6 pm in the chapel), as we listen to God in the Scriptures, and in sacred poetry, and in the silence. Bring your prayer requests to our Christian Education lobby, and we will together lift them to God during our Saturday Easter vigil.

For **Wednesday Night Live** during

Lent all ages will gather in the chapel each Wednesday at **5:50 pm** for a 10-minute Lenten worship service before our dinner.

For **Holy Week** (you can mark your calendar): On **Maundy Thursday** (April 21) we will have a soup supper at 6 pm and worship at 7 pm; on **Good Friday** (April 22) we will have a tenebrae service of light and darkness at 7 pm; on **Holy Saturday** (April 23) we will have an Easter Vigil service at 4 pm; and on **Easter Sunday** (April 24) our Easter services will be at 9 am and 11 am.

Often the question is, “What are you giving up for Lent?” Often the answer is something like “chocolate.” This Lent let’s give up something different. Let’s give up avoiding. Let’s give up anything that stands in the way. Let’s have holy conversations with God and with the people God has put into our lives. And may we experience the healing and the renewed faith and the fruitfulness that will then follow.

Grace and peace to you!

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Tom Rice*



# Congregational Business

## OF NOTE:

### Anniversaries:

March 18, 1961: Dorothy & Armen Patchanian, 50 years!

### Baptisms:

February 20, 2011, Campbell Joan Johnston — Daughter of Jason Ronald Johnston & Sandra Jo (Ham) Johnston

### Deaths:

January 17, 2011: Bertha Mary Bacon

January 19, 2011: Clifton H. Gabler, Jr.

January 21, 2011: Evelyn Simon



*Memorial gifts were given in memory of Bertha Bacon, Jeanne Cline, Robert Cochrane, Marian Grimm, and Evelyn Simon.*

## CALLING ALL FUTURE ELDERS, DEACONS AND TRUSTEES!

You know who you are! You are the ones who like to be involved. Those who care about the directions in which the church is moving. Those who are interested in music and art. Those who like to visit the sick and elderly. Those who are handy with tools and electricity. Those who are good at math and engineering things. No...no one is good at all these things but we all know where our own talents lie and what we enjoy. The Nominating Committee of FPCRO is currently searching for those members who would “fill the bill” for our church boards and are asking you either to volunteer yourself or someone you know to be considered for a position as a church officer beginning in 2012. You can contact any member of the Nominating Committee to submit names or leave a note in my mailbox in the work room. You are also welcome to send me a note by email with your suggestions. Please help us as we search to match talents to tasks in our church. Thanks so much.

Nominating Committee members are Liz Spry ([espry3@comcast.net](mailto:espry3@comcast.net)), Benny Rediers, Beth DeGuise, Norm Bayne, Tracy Castle, Trish Steen, Beth Heitchue, Stan and MaryJane Jarman, Marc LeDuc, and John Decker.

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## First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Staff

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

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

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

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

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 — *Administrative Assistant, Ext. 207*

Alan Glasel — *Facility Manager*

Gary Moultrup/Dillon Warner — *Assistant Custodians*

Jay Kaufmann — *Evening Security/Receptionist, Ext. 200*

Randy Jarman — *Food Consultant*

Julie Matthews — *Sunflowers Director, Ext. 220*

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

### Soloists

Melissa Maloney — *Soprano*

Alona Moon — *Mezzo Soprano*

Curt Peters — *Tenor*

Greg Williams — *Bass*

### Wedding Coordinator

Ginny O'Brien — [weddings@fpcro.org](mailto:weddings@fpcro.org)

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## PRESBYS

The Presbys will meet on Friday, March 18 in KFH at 6 pm for punch and fellowship followed by the usual great Randy Jarman dinner. We will then be treated to another great musical production by Mel Janny Productions entitled **“Everything Irish, or Where Have All The Leprechauns Gone?”** Presby members will be contacted, others may sign up at the reception desk by Tuesday, March 15. Questions, call Ron Gillham 248.546.8288.



## HOLY DUSTERS / HOLY HANDYMEN

Please meet at 10 am  
March 7 & March 21 in the CE Lobby.



## ATTENTION CAMPERS:

FPCRO Annual Camp-out is planned for the weekend of August 5-7. We have again reserved group site #5 at Groveland Oaks County Park. Save the date on your calendar and join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship and relaxation. Sign up will begin in June. Bill & Barb Hayes are coordinating the weekend. You can contact them at 248.435.4527 or [bjhsander@wowway.com](mailto:bjhsander@wowway.com) if you have any questions.

## Staff Email List

Pastor Tom Rice . . . . . [trice@fpcro.org](mailto:trice@fpcro.org)  
 Assoc. Pastor Jonathan Evans . . . . . [jevans@fpcro.org](mailto:jevans@fpcro.org)  
 Parish Associate Betsy Rice . . . . . [brice@fpcro.org](mailto:brice@fpcro.org)  
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 Alan Glasel . . . . . [aglasel@fpcro.org](mailto:aglasel@fpcro.org)  
 Newsletter Designers. . . . . [newsletter@fpcro.org](mailto:newsletter@fpcro.org)



## LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

Come join us for the Lunch Bunch on Thursday, March 3 at 12 noon in the Fireside Room. We will enjoy a great potluck lunch, great fellowship, and a great program with our own Jonathan Evans. Jonathan will bring us up to date on the Mid and Senior High programs and the new Senior High mission trip destination. Those with last names beginning with A – F should bring a salad or side dish; from G – N should bring a dessert; and from O – Z should bring a main dish.

## EASTER FLOWERS

Easter season and spring seem synonymous: the Risen Christ and the earth breaking forth with new life and beauty. In the sanctuary on Easter Sunday a glorious spring garden with lilies, daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, azaleas and hydrangeas will rise. Orders for these plants will be taken beginning March 20. This is a wonderful opportunity to remember or honor family and friends. Order forms will be available at the reception office counter. Please complete the form and return it with your check by either placing it in the basket on the counter or mailing it to Eileen Taylor. Orders must be received by April 3.



## 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).

## 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.”*

# A View From the Pew

## STEWARDSHIP OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Our call to be stewards is understood within the context of our relationship to God through Jesus Christ. It is a relationship that is both personal and intimate. Our love for God is our thankful response to God's love for us. For faithful stewardship in all areas of our life we must be faithful stewards of our spiritual lives.

John Westerhoff in his book *Spiritual Life: The Foundation for Preaching and Teaching*, describes the spiritual life as "ordinary, everyday life lived in an ever-deepening and loving relationship to God and therefore to one's true or healthy self, all people and the whole of creation."

If spiritual life is the expression of our relationship with God, then stewardship of spiritual life is about the choices we make to maintain and grow in that relationship. The relationship is deepened when we spend time with God, know God in a more personal way and learn to hear God speaking to us. Prayer is one of the spiritual disciplines that guide us in stewardship of spiritual life.

Our spiritual life is in some ways like going on a journey. The road map for our journey is the Bible. As we read, pray, listen to and live with the Bible, we grow in our understanding of God's direction for our lives. There are many Bible stories that show the importance of caring for a relationship with God by being stewards of spiritual life. In Daniel 6:7-23, Daniel continued the discipline of prayer even when threatened with death. His disciplined spiritual life gave him courage to remain faithful to God in the face of danger.

As we travel, we need the community and support of our church, family and friends who encourage and nurture us on our journey. Jesus's life serves as an example of the need to nurture one's relationship with God through prayer. Followers of Jesus through the ages; apostles, church leaders, our Christian ancestors and Christians in our lives today, help show us the way to be stewards of our spiritual life.

~Eileen Taylor  
Worship and Music Committee

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## 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.

## 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 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.



## CHURCH CALENDAR

Printed copies are now available in the CE Lobby.

## SOUTH OAKLAND SHELTER 2011

The week of May 22–May 29 we will once again be sharing our church home with the South Oakland Shelter.

The 30 guests are people (individuals and families) who are temporarily in need of shelter. Many of them are employed, and being homeless is a short-term setback. The ninety days the Shelter houses them, gives them the opportunity to get back on their feet. By hosting the Shelter, we offer the guests a safe place to sleep, warm meals, transportation, and listening ears. It takes a lot of volunteers to provide these services. There will be more about the opportunities to volunteer in the next newsletter. Doing one little thing during that week will help greatly.

In Matthew 25:35, 40, Jesus prepares us for the Kingdom of Heaven saying ***“For 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 a little

“Well done,  
good and faithful  
servant!”

Matthew 25:21, NIV



of your time to serve God’s children in need. In so doing you will also be serving our Lord.

Mark your calendars for the fourth week in May. For more information, contact Ken Bissey 248.549.0767, Dan Olah 248.542.8144, or Bruce Castle 248.288.6604.

## HANDS-ON MISSION OPPORTUNITY

On Saturday, March 12 anyone 12 years old (accompanied by a parent) on through 99 years old, is welcome to come and help serve dinner at the Christian Guidance Center. This is a ministry of the Detroit Rescue Mission that works with men who are recovering from drug addiction. The Senior Highs have served here on several occasions and highly recommend it. Space is limited, so please contact Mark Heitchue to confirm: [mheitchue@yahoo.com](mailto:mheitchue@yahoo.com) or 248.585.7980. We will meet at the church at 3:45 pm and return at 6:30 pm.



## 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. 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](mailto:helendus@wowway.com)).

## FOOD! FUN! FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Live dinners are created by our own chef, Randy Jarman. These great meals are a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, make new friends, and not have to cook one night a week! We are hoping you will enjoy dinner with us from 6:00-7:00 pm each Wednesday, even if the rest of the activities don’t fit your schedule.

- ~Dinner is \$6.00 for adults
- ~\$5.00 for 9th – 12th graders
- ~\$3.00 for Kindergarten – 8th graders
- ~Free for preschoolers

Make your reservations by calling the church office (248.541.0108)

# Children's Ministry

## SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS 2011

Reserve August 1-5 and 7 for your family to participate in our own VBS exploring the history of the Reformation! Children will participate in worship on August 7. Registration forms will be in the April Newsletter... watch for them and mark your calendars.



## JOYFUL JOURNEYS

Remember to bring Church Banks on the 4th Sunday of the month!

The March rotation continues: "Choices and Consequences," an exploration of the choices we make as humans and the choices that Jesus made. This is taken from the biblical stories in Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11. The memory verse for this rotation is Matthew 4:10: *"Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, Worship the Lord your God and serve only God.'"*



## SPECIAL LENT AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Mark your family calendar to reflect the special worship services during Lent and Holy Week.



**Ash Wednesday Service** on **Wednesday, March 9.**

Soup Supper at 6 pm and Service at 6:45 pm.

WNL during Lent will include 10 minute Lenten service at 5:50 pm.

**Palm Sunday** is **April 17** with a Palm Parade during the 10:30 am worship and Walk through Holy Week that afternoon from 4-6 pm.

**Maundy Thursday** is **April 21** with a dramatic stripping of the sanctuary in silence at the end of worship.

The dramatic **Good Friday Service** is **April 22.**

**Easter** is **April 24** with duplicate services at 9 am and 11 am. We invite families to attend at 9 am!



# Adult Education

## FRIDAY FILM

Friday, March 11 will be another film in our year-long series, this one exploring Stewardship of the Spiritual Life. Join us in the Faith Features Room at 6:30 pm for pizza, salad and popcorn, as well as a great film and discussion. Donations will be taken to cover the cost of the food.



## HELP

A conference sponsored by our Presbytery will support those engaged in education in our congregation. Speakers and workshops, as well as a Spirituality Center hosted by our own Carmel Tinnes, will nourish and recharge those who lead and teach others. This overnight event on March 25 and 26 is sponsored by the Presbytery's budget and costs only \$30.00 per participant and includes meals and an overnight stay at the Westin Southfield. If you are interested, see Carmel for a registration form.

## SENIOR HIGH, SEX, AND CHRISTIAN BODIES

In 2008, The Centers for Disease Control released a study claiming that one-fourth of girls between the ages of 14 and 19 have at least one sexually transmitted disease. One group immediately responded to this crisis. They put a full-page ad in *USA Today* the very next week. Guess what group responded to this crisis? Not the church, not schools, not politicians, but the Trojan condoms manufacturer.



As most of us can guess, youth acquire many of their understandings about sex and sexuality from television, movies, Internet, and peers. The result? Many youth view sex outside the context of relationship and with a casual lens. Sadly, too often sex is used as a way to fill voids of pain and loneliness.

In response to the needs of youth, in February and March, our Senior Highs are talking about God's gift of sexuality. Teaming up with First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, we're exploring how we sexuality is broken in our culture and in our lives, where it's broken in Scripture, and where God's grace emerges in the gift of sex and sexuality. We hope that these classes will be just the beginning of healthy conversations about these wonderful gifts.

Please pray for our youth and our families for healthy, optimistic, honest, and hopeful conversation about sex and sexuality among our youth, their families, and our youth leaders.

While we are letting parents know the lessons of the classes, it's also important for parents to be a part of the conversation. Youth ministry experts Kara Powell and Jim Hancock report that most teaching that youth receive from parents appears as *confrontation*: "Here are the facts... These are the boundaries... This is the truth." However, they emphasize *process* in teaching youth about sex.

Powell and Hancock recall an ancient Hebrew liturgy that celebrates this process of leading kids into a

greater commitment of their faith. This liturgy, the *shema*, says, in part:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (NRSV)

This, the authors claim, exemplifies what *process* with youth is about.

## SENIOR HIGH AND COSTA RICA

Last month we were so fortunate to have Pastor Stacey Steck come and visit with our senior high and parents.

Stacey is a PCUSA pastor and mission volunteer who regularly hosts outside mission groups and is a liaison with the Presbyterian Church in Costa Rica. Our parents felt much assured that our youth will be in good hands while visiting this wonderful country. Please pray for our youth and the people they interact with during their mission trip this April 2-10.



# Stewardship

## STEWARDSHIP OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Continuing our Congregation's year-long focus on Stewardship, our theme for the months of March and April is "Stewardship of the Spiritual Life." As I contemplated this article, I wasn't quite sure where to begin. As a layman, who am I to talk about something so personal in one's life?

And then I thought about what was important in MY spiritual life. For me, a spiritual life is one of thankfulness. Thankfulness for family and friends. For food and clothing. For shelter. To love and be loved.

I'm pretty sure where this came from. When I was in college studying Early American literature, I stumbled upon a prayer written by Benjamin Franklin.

In a way, it's kind of odd that Ben Franklin would even write a prayer, because he was a well-documented rascal. It's safe to say that he bent more than a few commandments. He believed that some commandments could be broken, so long as they were broken in moderation. I think that had ol' Ben received the Ten Commandments instead of Moses, he probably would have lopped off a few on the way back down Mount Sinai. Somehow, the 6½ Commandments doesn't have quite the same ring to it! Anyway, it's a very nice prayer of thanksgiving, and I'd like to share it with you:

*"For peace and liberty, for food and raiment, for corn, and wine, and milk, and every kind of healthful nourishment, — Good God I thank thee!*

*For the common benefits of air and light; for useful fire and delicious water, — Good God I thank thee!*

*For knowledge, and literature, and every useful art, for my friends and their prosperity, and for the fewness of my enemies, — Good God I thank thee!*

*For all thy innumerable benefits; for life, and reason, and the use of speech; for health, and joy, and every pleasant hour,— My Good God I thank thee!"*

~Benjamin Franklin

It really is a nice little prayer that, in my mind, really addresses the most important basic things in life, things that we should really be thankful for. And then I came upon a quote by Willie Nelson, the 10-time Grammy award-winning country music star, who has enjoyed the highs of success, stardom and adoration -- and the depths of addiction, bankruptcy and despair. And you know what he said? "When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around."

~Jeff Leestma  
on behalf of the Stewardship Committee



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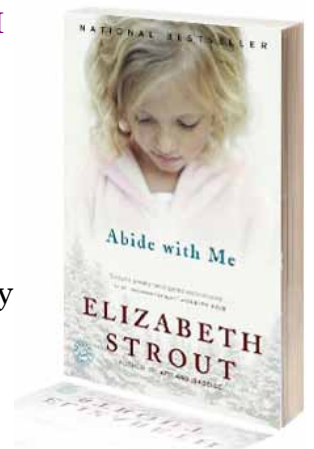
## STEWARDSHIP OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE — BOOK OF THE MONTH

### Abide With Me

S Elizabeth Strout

In the 1950's in Maine, a minister struggles to regain his calling, his family, and his happiness in the wake of profound loss. A congregation that had once been patient and kind during Tyler's grief now question his leadership and propriety.

In Tyler's darkest hour, a startling discovery will test his congregation's humanity — and his own will to endure the kinds of trials that sooner or later test us all.



## Elders, Class of 2013



**Sally Gilreath** has been a member of FPCRO for one year, after learning about our church through Shirley Gillham. She has made many great friends here and feels she now has a true spiritual “home.” Sally is married to Greg, and is presently a stay-at-home mom to their son, Charlie. She currently serves on the Stewardship and Evangelism & Communication Committees, and assists with the graphic design and production of the Church Bell and weekly sermon brochures. Sally also enjoys arts and crafts and knitting.



The large youth and young family population are what brought **Craig Warner**, his wife, Lori, and their children, Sydney and Gavin to FPCRO as a place where their family could grow. He has been a member for six years, and has served as Chair of Trustees, and on the Memorials & Furnishings Committee. Craig is an architectural designer, and enjoys home improvement and volleyball. He is also a big Pittsburgh Steelers fan!



**Mark Heitchue** was introduced to FPCRO through his wife’s family. He and Beth were married here, and he has been a member for 15 years. He has fond memories of the Sr. High weekend retreats, and assists with Joyful Journeys and the Loft Ministry Team as needed. Mark works as a physical therapist, and is father to Emily, Molly, Amie, and Andrew. He enjoys being part of his childrens’ interests, such as swimming, baseball, basketball, and Boy Scouts.



**Elizabeth Patterson** and her husband, Jarrold, are parents to Beth and Daniel, and grandparents of four. She is retired from Corporate Sales/Market Research, and has been a member of FPCRO for thirty-five years. She enjoys the preaching, innovative worship services, music, and caring congregation of our church, and has wonderful memories of singing in the Chancel Choir. Elizabeth has served as a Deacon, Trustee, teaching Sunday School and School of the Bible. Her hobbies include singing, women’s education, reading, tennis, swimming, tutoring Pontiac and Detroit children, and traveling.



**Benny Rediers** and his wife, Kay, joined FPCRO in 1995, and states, “we were immediately swept up into the kindness and generosity of the Chancel Choir.” They still look fondly at photos from the baby shower arranged for them prior to their son, Nathan’s birth. Benny still sings in the choir, and enjoys participating in hands-on mission activities through the church, such as Gleaners, SOCH, and SOS. He is a mechanical engineer at ALTe (re-powering fleet vehicles to hybrid-electric vehicles), and is currently enrolled at U of D Mercy in their Advanced Electric Vehicle Graduate Certificate Program. Benny also enjoys theater, music, spending time with his family, and cooking Belgian food... “the best in the world!”



**Taylor Cook**, a junior at Royal Oak High School, is our Youth Elder to Session this year. A member of FPCRO for two and a half years, he has attended FPCRO his entire life. Growing up, he participated in Joyful Journeys, KiC Club, and today is active in various youth groups. Taylor has particularly enjoyed the mission trips and triennium. His hobbies and interests include robotics, church, and soccer, as well as boating and jet skiing at his grandparents’ summer cottage.



**Marilyn Sutton** has been an FPCRO member for ten years. Her husband, Mark, has been a member for over 40 years, and she began attending with him after they were married, and she felt she had found her church family here. She and Mark attend lectionary classes on Sunday mornings, and participate in a 5F’s group. In the past, Marilyn has served as a Deacon, on the Nominating Committee, and currently on the Christian Education Committee as part of her responsibilities as an Elder. She enjoys spending time with their grandchildren, gardening at the cottage, and reading. She belongs to a book club she enjoys a great deal.

# Evangelism & Communications

## THE LETTER E IS FOR EVANGELISM...

Little things go a long way:

- Be mindful of those who serve you: bank tellers, store clerks, fast food workers, etc. Look them in the eye and tell them you appreciate their service.
- When someone says they're having a bad day, stop and ask if you can pray for him or her right there.
- Before leaving a restaurant, jot a thank-you note to your server (use the back of the check if you don't have paper) and leave it on the table, or call the manager over and explain how much you enjoyed the service.

## THINKING OF LENT

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means "good news.")

A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumbfounded.

During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant Son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.



## 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 5 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

**7:30 pm, March 4:** St. Patrick's Day celebration in FPCRO Fireside Room.

**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



## LIBRARY REVIEWS — OLDIES BUT GOODIES

### Where God Was Born

200.956 F

Bruce Feiler

"Where God Was Born" combines the adventure of a wartime chronicle, the excitement of an archaeological detective story, and the insight of personal spiritual exploration.

In his intimate, accessible style, Feiler invites readers on a never-in-a-lifetime experience: a perilous helicopter ride over Jerusalem and treks through underground tunnels, and then locates the spot where David toppled Goliath. In Iraq he visits the Garden of Eden and the birthplace of Abraham and a life-threatening trip to the rivers

of Babylon. In Iran he explores the home of the Bible's first Messiah and the secret burial place of Queen Esther.

"Where God Was Born" offers a rare, universal vision of God that can inspire different faiths to an allegiance of hope.

### In An Instant

B W

Bob Woodruff

After suffering traumatic brain injuries in Iraq that nearly killed him in 2006, "In An Instant" is the frank and compelling account of how Bob and Lee's lives as they come together were blown apart, and then were miraculously put together again – and how they persevered with the grit, but with humor, through intense drama and fear.

## At Bertram's Hotel

C Agatha Christie

Miss Jane Marple has checked into Bertram's Hotel in London for a much-needed vacation. The last thing she expects is that this elegant establishment, known for service and old world charm, could be embroiled in scandal. But after a series of strange events, including the disappearance of a fellow guest, she finds herself drawn into a mystery.

Only Miss Marple can sort out the puzzling sequence of events and solve the mystery.

## My Name is Mary Sutter

O Robin Oliveira

Mary Sutter is a brilliant midwife from Albany, New York, who dreams of becoming a surgeon. Mary Travels to Washington, DC to help tend to the legions of Civil War wounded. Under the guidance of two surgeons and resisting her husband Matthew's plea to come home, Mary pursues her medical career in the desperately overwhelmed hospital of the capital.

## The Double Comfort Safari Club

S Alexander McCall Smith

Mama Romotswe and Mina Makutsie head to a safari camp to carry out a delicate mission on behalf of a former guest who has left one of the guides a large sum of money. Soon Precious begins to sense that something is not right. To make matters worse, shortly before their departure Mina Makutsie's fiancé, Phutui Radiputi, suffers a debilitating accident and his Aunt moves in to take care of him, and she pushes Mina Makutsie out of the picture.

## The Sheen on Silk

P Anne Perry

Arriving in the ancient Byzantine City in 1273, Anna Zarides has only one mission: to prove the innocence of her twin brother, Justinian, who has been exiled for conspiring to kill Bessarion, a nobleman.

Anna moves freely about using her skills as a physician to find out about her brother's fate. While trying to clear her brother's name and his possible role in a plot to overthrow the Emperor,

Anna's discoveries draw her inextricably closer to the dangers of the Emperor's Court, where no one is exactly who he or she appears to be.

## An Uncrowded Place

977.4 B Bob Butz

Reconciling a passion for woods and waters with a love of family is not easy, but after college, Butz headed North almost to Canada. But life proves hard in the Northern Michigan towns.

Though often at odds with obligations and everyday tales, Butz finds what Thoreau called the nature behind the ordinary.

Poignant and funny, this book speaks to the trifles and heartaches that make life worth living, and to every wandering soul looking for a place to call home.

## The Red Door

T Charles Todd

Lancaster, England, June 1920, in a house with a red door lies a woman who has been killed. Rumor has it that two years earlier, she had painted the door a rich red to welcome her husband back from the front. Only he never comes home.

Meanwhile, in London a man suffering from a mysterious illness first goes missing and just as suddenly reappears.

What is the secret that nearly drove one man mad and turned his brothers and sisters against one another?

## America Moves Forward

973 J Gerald W. Johnson

"America Is Born" and "America Grows Up" told the story of our country from the early beginnings to World War I. This final volume, from 1917 to the present, concludes Mr. Johnson's history of America.

This book illuminates the underlying causes of events, the reasons why men acted as they did, and the circumstances which brought America the power to wreck the world or save it.

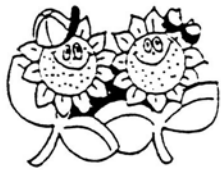
It will give young Americans a rich understanding of their country and a glimpse of the wisdom and courage the future demands.

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**

**DEADLINE for the APRIL 2011 Newsletter: MARCH 8, 2011**



sunflowers  
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

We sure hope spring is on its way. This month our preschoolers will be watching the weather to see if March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Blue is the color of the month and we'll look at the sky hoping for blue and paint something blue.

Later this month our four-year olds will take a field trip to Arts and Scraps, a non-profit organization in Detroit that will teach us to make great projects with recycled materials.

March is reading month and during the month the threes will learn an assortment of nursery rhymes to say and act out. Look for spiders in our tree to frighten...or go up the water spout. The fours will have reading logs so they can share with each other books they especially liked, or maybe didn't like. We will also focus on a special author, Mo Willems and read lots of his books. Look for special art work around

our room. During center time on Fridays, we will continue to work on language and math activities and do fun science projects.

Look for our Little Caesars fund raiser coming soon with Sunflowers scholarships and a new digital camera on the wish list. Registration for the 2011-2012 school year has begun. If you are interested in enrolling your child or know someone who might be interested in preschool, please call 248.541.0108 x220 so that we may mail out registration information to you. Our Three Year Olds meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15 to 11:45 am. Our Four Year Olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:15 am to 12 noon. We'd love to introduce you to our wonderful program! Come see for yourself.

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