

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

Church Bell



May 2011

A word from our pastor...

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39).

I want to ask a favor. **PLEASE READ THIS ARTICLE IN ITS ENTIRETY.** It's very important—and I need your feedback.

You've seen me: holding a baby in worship, the waters of baptism still fresh on the child's forehead. You and I as a congregation take a vow at every baptism—to be a community that will nurture each child of God to live out Jesus' commandments of loving our God and loving our neighbor.

I don't feel able to be faithful to that vow. And I don't feel that we as a church have been faithful to what the Book of Order (from our Presbyterian Church (USA) constitution) calls us to be and to do as the church of Jesus Christ.

And this is why: Here at FPCRO children and youth do not participate regularly in worship, and most adults do not participate regularly in Christian Education. It is because of our Sunday morning schedule. Children and youth learn about worship by being in worship. They learn by doing. And we adults are not being nurtured to love God with all of our mind if we rarely or never have opportunities for adult Christian education together.

I want to propose a change. I have talked with our staff members and we are strongly unanimous in our sense that God is calling us as a church to strengthen our community's worship life and our Christian Education. We are proposing that the Sunday morning schedule be: 9:00 am worship (for all ages); 10:00 am Christian Education (with classes for adults, as well as Joyful Journeys and youth classes); 11:00 am worship (for all ages).

Now, before you fall out of your chair, please note: We are suggesting that this be

our schedule beginning in the fall of 2012. But right now, we want to hear from you! Do you see WHY we as a church would make this change? Can you support this? We'd like to hear your thoughts about it—and any questions or concerns you might have. (You can contact me at trice@fpcro.org; or 248.541.1080 x206 to give me your feedback.)

Change can be hard. We all know that. And this change will not happen without congregational gatherings to talk about this and address questions and concerns. This change will not happen without first hearing from you. Then Session would discuss the feedback and prayerfully vote.



You undoubtedly have many questions! For example, what about young children? The nursery will still be available for the youngest children. And then for our

toddlers through our 1st or 2nd graders we would have a form of “children's worship” in which they would learn about worship through play and story in their own worship space. And if you wish, we have “worship grandparents” and “worship aunts and uncles” who would be glad to sit with a child or youth in the sanctuary. This will help build important relationships between the generations.

What about adults? There would be a variety of choices for adult classes--there are creative and extremely relevant studies available--and we would be inviting some of you to help teach.

So, now we have something to talk about! And to pray about in the coming days!

May God bless us in this season of Easter with “holy conversations” about how we can best be an “energizing community of worship, learning and service, making disciples of all ages”--as our mission statement so beautifully puts it.

Grace and peace to you!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tom Rice

Congregational Business

OF NOTE:

Anniversary:

April 3, 1971: Elizabeth & James Barta **40 years**



Memorial gifts were received for Evelyn Simon.

Special gifts were received for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

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 January 2011

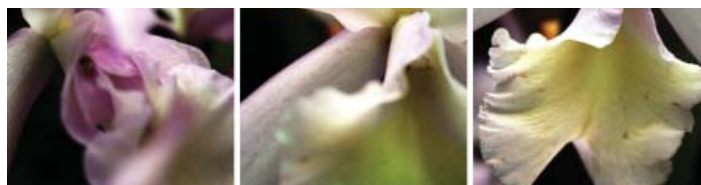
	Actual for Month	Actual YTD	2011 Budget YTD	2011 Annual Budget
Income				
Contribution Income				
Pledge Income	61,846.00	119,931.75	105,000.00	650,000.00
Loose Offerings	1,926.00	3,541.90	4,166.70	25,000.00
Church School	42.50	89.78	100.00	600.00
Special Gifts	160.00	280.00	-	10,000.00
Previous Year Unpaid Pledge	373.00	4,593.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Total Contribution Income	64,347.50	128,436.43	116,766.70	693,100.00
Other Income	2,513.39	3,736.74	8,833.40	55,500.00
Total Income	66,860.89	132,173.17	125,600.10	748,600.00
Total Expenses				
Income Under Expense	13,179.11	22,921.33	(6,809.50)	(38,341.00)
General Reserves Transfers	-	-	-	18,942.42
Endowment Equity Transfer	-	-	-	19,398.58
Total	13,179.11	22,921.33	(6,809.50)	-

PRESBYS

The Presbys will get a musical send off into summer on Friday, May 20, 2011. We will meet at 6:00pm for punch and fellowship, with dinner at 6:30pm. Following dinner and a very short business meeting we will be treated to a program of beautiful music provided by the Silver String Dulcimer Society. All Presby members will be called. Others are welcome to sign up at the reception desk. Try us, you will like us!

Questions:

Call Ron Gillham, 248.546.8288



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

Newsletter published monthly September — June

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AMARYLLIS

Early one spring, I planted a couple of dozen amaryllis bulbs. With great anticipation, I watched for blooms. But weeks turned into months before the first sign of life appeared. By the end of summer, the bed of pink flowers I'd envisioned was nothing more than a scattering of green leaves.

So I pulled them all up to make room for other plants. I wasn't about to waste another growing season.

Imagine my surprise the following spring, when a single delicate amaryllis blossom appeared. My delight quickly turned to dismay — for I realized I'd given up too soon. Had I the least bit of patience or a little faith, I might have had a glorious garden.

Then I wondered: Are there other things or people I give up on too soon? What might a little patience and faith do for a difficult relationship or troublesome circumstances?

Kari Myers (adapted from Homiletics)



- The Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, May 5, at noon in the Fireside Room. We will start with our usual delicious potluck lunch and sing a few hymns and enjoy a pleasant fellowship. We also will enjoy hearing from our own Carol Lengjel, Director of Children and Youth Music Ministry. Carol will talk about music programs for our youth - including the children's show coming up on Wednesday, May 11, and Sunday, May 15. She also will be telling us about the summer Montreat program. Come join us for this closer look at what is happening at FPCRO! For the potluck lunch - those with last names starting A - F should bring a dessert; those from G - N should bring a main dish; and O - Z should bring a salad or side dish.



HOLY DUSTERS & HOLY HANDYMEN

Please meet at 10:00 am
in the Christian Education Lobby:
May 2 and May 16



Staff Email List

Pastor Tom Rice trice@fpcro.org
 Assoc. Pastor Jonathan Evans jevens@fpcro.org
 Parish Associate Betsy Rice brice@fpcro.org
 Carmel Tinnes ctinnes@fpcro.org
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 Joseph Jackson jjackson@fpcro.org
 Carol Lengjel clengjel@fpcro.org
 Kari Peruski kperuski@fpcro.org
 Pam Kaufmann pkaufmann@fpcro.org
 Alan Glasel aglasel@fpcro.org
 Newsletter Designers newsletter@fpcro.org



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. With your purchase, 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).

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."

Christian Education

ADULT EDUCATION

Friday Film Festival



Join us on May 13 at 6:30 pm in the Faith Features Room for an art film focusing on Stewardship of Creation. Sign up on the clipboard in the CE Lobby. Donations will be collected to cover the cost of the salad and pizza supper.



CROP WALK: Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

check in @ 1 pm Sunday, May 15

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

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

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

If you have questions, contact John Decker at 248.398.5589.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Joyful Journeys

The Joyful Journeys Rotation for May begins with the Doubting Thomas story from John 20:19-31. The memory verse is John 20:29b, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." The children continue in May with an Ascension and Pentecost Rotation from Acts 1: 1-11 and Acts 2: 1-21. The memory verse is Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses (in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria), and to the ends of the earth."

Summer Joyful Journeys

Sign up for ONE Sunday during the summer to lead a group in our AIR CONDITIONED classrooms! The clipboard listing the dates and groupings is in the CE Lobby. (Children are broadly grouped through the summer months with Kindergarten, First and Second Graders together and Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders together.) Please sign up if you are interested. A biblical "water story" and activity will be provided for you to lead.

KiC Club Party

Our annual KiC Club party will be held on Wednesday, May 18. Participants in KiC Club and the Children's choirs are invited to gather at 4:30 in the KiC Club Room. They will be engaged in activities, including a special supper, until 7:00. Our 5th grade participants have selected the menu for the party, and we will celebrate their participation in these wonderful programs of the church.

VBS Sign up

Remember to sign up your children for Vacation Bible School. On May 1, the public is invited to sign up. Remember that age groups will cap as they fill.



STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them! Then the trees of the forest will sing, they will sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

- 1 Chronicles 16:32-33

We've all heard about conservation of resources, recycling, reducing your carbon footprint, turning down the thermostat, getting better gas mileage, buying high-efficiency appliances and planting trees as ways to "save the Earth", but what does that have to do with being a Christian? Does God want us to be "tree huggers?"

We hear about stewardship all the time. Sharing our time, talents and treasures are common terms relative to stewardship. But, it is important to remember that God created the earth and all that is in it. We do not own it, but we are stewards of it. A steward is simply a caretaker, and God does want us to care for His creation. Next time you step outside, take a moment to look up at the sky. Look down at the green grass and the budding flowers. Close your eyes and think about the powerful sound of the ocean, or the wind blowing through a forest of ancient trees. We will not destroy those things because we delight in them.

But it is the things we cannot see that are harder to care for. Where did the gas you pump into your car come from? What powers the lights in your house? Who are the people without fresh water? It is when we are mindful of those less visible pieces of creation that we can truly be good stewards. Stop and think, when you leave a room, when you brush your teeth, when you drive to the park instead of walk, am I being the steward that God has called on me to be?

God said:

Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.

- Genesis 1:28

He has placed His creation in our care. Every decision we make has an impact on it. If every one of us makes even small choices each day to be a good steward to the environment, we can make a meaningful difference in preserving the world God has given us.

Craig Warner

Stewardship Committee



NOMINATING NEWS

Nominating COMMITTEE

For the past four months, the Nominating Committee has been busy at work seeking members for officer positions of Deacon, Trustee, Elder and Nominating Member-at-Large. We are looking for people with talents in visitation of the sick and elderly, math, finances, or music who care about the direction in which the church is moving. Please help us match member talent to committee need within our church. If you know of a good candidate for any of these committees or are interested in getting involved yourself, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee to submit names or leave a note in the mailbox of Liz Spry, Committee Chair. If more convenient, send her an email with your suggestions to espry3@comcast.net.

The Nominating Committee is comprised of Liz Spry, Benny Rediers, Beth DeGuise, Norm Bayne, Tracy Castle, Trish Steen, Beth Heitchue, Stan and MaryJane Jarman, Marc LeDuc, and John Decker



T. G. I. F.

THIS GROUP IN FAITH

TGIF is a group of adults who 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 3 TGIF events left. Come Join us! Most events begin at 7 pm.

May 6: Cinco de Mayo Celebration: Bring your favorite Mexican dish to share.

June 10: Detroit Tigers Game at 7:05 pm. We will meet at the Church 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



Need More Info?
Feel free to contact:
Brad and Melissa Ross
248.543.3038

Congregational Business

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Stewardship of Creation

Christian stewardship is about the care, nurture, and responsible use of all creation – the earth, natural resources, and all living things. Genesis tells us that God created the world and everything in it and that this creation was good. Christian stewardship dictates that we live in ways that will maintain all that is good in creation.

Human life is part of God's created order. We are made in God's image and placed in relationship with all of creation. God entrusted humans with the care and management of the created world. That is, humans "have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves

upon the earth" (Gen. 1:28). Dominion carries with it both privilege and responsibility. Our choices affect all that God entrusted to us in creation.

As we exercise our role in caring for creation we should keep at the front of our mind – reduce, reuse and recycle. Can I use less water, less energy, less resources, can I buy more reusable items rather than disposable items, do I consider the consequences of my use of toxic materials in my yard and in my home, and do I recycle and compost all that I can?

Let us all learn more about taking care of creation and encouraging our family and friends to become actively involved in the stewardship of creation.

Julie Matthews

Worship & Music Committee



TRUSTEE REPORT

Grounds

-Reported that Total Lawn Care was advised of damage to several items while

snowplowing. They are obligated to make repairs.

-Tree trimming was completed.

-Committee will review lawn care contracts soon.

-The quilters have graciously offered to replace the tree removed last year. This will be planned.

-The Earla Smith Foundation is providing funding to remove and replace shrubbery and perennials along the west side of the church.

House

-The church has had several leaks due to excessive snow and ice melt recently. Port Huron Roofing was out to address three areas that needed minor repairs.

-There is also a foundation issue in the sacristy area near the electrical penetration into the building. JAK Electric was out to inspect the condition of the circuitry and has assured us that all is in good order. However, this leak ran the length of the sanctuary and penetrated the wall in the boiler room. Both walls will need to be evaluated for repair.

-Some water has been discovered in the elevator shaft. Nelson Plumbing will be out to snake the line which

should solve the issue.

-Nelson Plumbing will also change out a stubborn flush valve in the women's restroom outside Cornell Lounge.

-We are seeking quotes from Motor City Plumbing & Heating for repair or replacement of a boiler circulator pump behind the KFH stage. Depending on response, a motion to repair may need to be done via email before the April meeting.

-Safe Harbor has removed the lower three feet of plaster on all walls of the choir practice room. Kari has asked them to return and remove more plaster in areas where there are obvious cracks that rise well above the three feet that are visible. The committee will then seek advice and bids from waterproofing contractors and bring a motion to the Trustees and the Session.

Memorials and Furnishings

-The committee has investigated an odor complaint in room 204. Modernistic Carpet Cleaning is recommending new flooring. The committee will investigate if the handymen can remove the existing carpeting. The committee is considering tile flooring as a replacement.

-The Art committee was complimented for their efforts in the art in the hallway and specifically Bob Nelson for the work on the descriptive signs.

Joyce King

Chair – Board of Trustees

Worship and Music



MONTREAT

The Montreat Worship and Music Conference will be in North Carolina in June. We are very excited about the trip this year as we have 28 representatives of FPCRO attending. Twelve of those are children in our congregation.

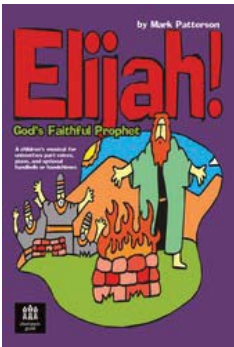
Most of us are going as full registrants so we may take advantage of all the classes, programs and activities that are offered at this wonderful conference. All of us will be participating in the daily worship service.

The theme of the conference this year is One in Christ - Visions of Unity. We will explore the fullness of what it means to be Christian in a church and world filled with diversity and division. Our time together will include: vibrant worship, strong preaching, inspiring musicians, artists, and teachers, all leading us through the biblical visions. We want to bring back the enthusiasm and knowledge that we gather at the conference to share with the rest of our congregation.

We are asking that you help support this endeavor with your prayers and donations. The cost of the conference is always a concern - we would like to be able to help some of our participants. Here are a few ways you can do this and also enjoy yourself and get a clean car!

On Sunday, May 1, 2011, right after the 10:30 service (and the parking lot is cleared), we will hold a Car Wash. Many of us will be washing, rinsing and drying your auto for a donation to our cause. You can even drive your car up and leave it with us as you go down to KFH and enjoy coffee hour. A clean car will be waiting when you return.

On Sunday afternoon, June 5, 2011, following the 10:30 service, we are planning to host an Ice Cream Social at the church. It will feature a make-your-own-sundae bar and we will be entertained by a barbershop quartet. We will also recognize our Confirmands and Graduating Seniors at that time. So dig out your straw hats and come and join us for some old fashioned fun and good eating.



Elijah -

God's Faithful Prophet -

It's almost time for the Carol and Celebration Choirs' presentation of their spring musical. Keep the dates of Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 pm (after Wednesday Night Live dinner) and Sunday, May 16, 6:00 pm open to come and enjoy

an hour or so of singing, dancing and the telling of a very important story.

This Old Testament story is found in I Kings 18. A terrible drought has plagued the land and King Ahab blames the prophet Elijah for the problems. Elijah squares off with the prophets of Baal in a competition of flaming altars to prove that Jehovah is the one, true God. A real showdown of faith. If Ahab will only renounce Baal and follow Jehovah then the rains will return to the land.

Come and see for yourself how this story ends.....

WITH A SONG IN MY HEART

Join Rackham Symphony Choir as they showcase their four 2010-2011 high school vocal interns at a benefit concert at 7:00 pm on Friday, May 6 at First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak.

WITH A SONG IN MY HEART features the 90-member choir conducted by Artistic and Music Director Suzanne Mallare Acton and FPCRO's own **Joseph Jackson** on piano.

The performance includes selections from Broadway to Opera and Jazz to Spirituals. High school vocal interns Joseph Leppek, Erik Hernandez, Morgan Lorkowski and Brandon Spencer are featured in solo performances.

This concert benefits the Rackham Symphony Choir High School Vocal Internship Program. Tickets are available online at rackhamchoir.org, by phone at 313.404.0222 and at the door. General admission tickets are \$15.

Senior High Mission Trip Recap

Wow! What a trip! Just last month our senior high and five adults went to Costa Rica! We were hosted by the local Presbyterian Church, IEPC, and we worked on a community center in the small town of Suerre, about 1.5 hours east of San Jose. We did more than work; we became immersed in Christ's love. Below are snippets of reflections on the trip from various participants.



Jameson Coslow: From this trip, I got a whole new sense of hospitality. When we got there... we were a family instantly. From Sunday morning to Friday, there wasn't a moment, when I, a stranger from North America, felt like everyone didn't like me.

Doug Ferriby: This ended up being one of the best times of my life... instead of just sitting around playing videogames, I was actually able to help a small community and be able to see all the beauty of the world at the same time.

Allison Soboleski: When we arrived in Costa Rica, it was like we were stepping into a whole other world... I feel as though the work we did for them was as us telling them that everyone is important.

Taylor Sorgatz: The Costa Rica Mission Trip has been the most amazing trip I have ever been on, better than any cruise or fancy island vacation. I enjoyed this trip because of all the love... among the people in our group and within the community of Suerre. When I first arrived, I was so lost and so scared; but after only one day of spending time with the community, I felt so loved, like I belonged. This made me want to be more loving when I return home, knowing that by showing love to someone, I can make them as happy as I was on this mission trip... I just can't wait to spread the love when I get home.



Regan Steen: [On our first day] we were split into pairs and matched with a member of the community for the rest of the day. After spending the day, with our new Costa Rican friend, Fabiola, I realized that there was no need for me to be afraid. We were in the hands of the most hospitable, kind, and caring people that I had ever met.



Kari Peruski: I was in awe of the beauty that surrounded us during our trip. God was seen in the deep colors of the flowers and trees. His power heard in the flow of the waterfall, crashing of the waves in the ocean, and the booming thunder and striking of the lightning. His love felt during worship, through the fellowship and while working side-by-side with our brothers and sisters at Monte Sion Church in Suerre. This trip has built connections across the world and has forever changed our hearts.

Allison Peruski: The people in Costa Rica were all very genuine and real. They instantly welcomed us and allowed us to be part of their lives... The family [I visited] made me a delicious home-cooked meal and it was served with fresh fruits and vegetables. They showed me family pictures and paintings and gave me a full tour of their property. Before this trip I would have never thought to share my life... with almost complete strangers. I realized here the value of emotional connection was more important to me than the connections you get by wearing the right clothes or owning a new phone or device. That lesson is life changing to me.

-*Connor Sharum:* The people here were in fact the definition of hospitality. They always acted so open towards us. That's something I need to work on, and now I realize it because of these people.

Senior High Mission Trip Recap



Brendan Hunter: I will never forget how open and friendly the people were to us. On the first day, I went to Pastor Luis's house. The pastor's son, David, came and hung out with us. Even though I could speak a little Spanish and he could only speak a little English, we could all really connect and understand each other. Throughout the week everyone kept on wanting to get to know us and after seeing how open they were, it makes me want to be more open and welcoming.

Karen Kline: Of all the trips I have planned and taken with high school youth, this one had me rattled. I was NERVOUS! I didn't have any idea where we were really going, what we were really doing, where we would be working and sleeping. And I don't speak Spanish. I don't, generally, voluntarily put myself in a situation where I felt so incompetent. But God is definitely bigger than my apprehensions... I found myself moving outside my little box of worry and into a bigger (and much prettier) box. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to spend this mission trip with some amazing youth and generous and patient adults.

Jeff Kline: "The communion of saints" is something real and beautiful and I have witnessed it in all its glory this past week. I have watched this as the youth of the church have grown both inwardly and outwardly. Inwardly, we have one of the strongest and most cohesive groups I have experienced. We are a group with not only diverse, but complementary talents and abilities. Our tempers remained placid and our focus remained upward. Outwardly, I have never seen a group adjust so completely to a new and unfamiliar environment. The community of Suerre welcomed us into their homes and lives as if we had always been there and without hesitation we jumped in with both feet. The love that was felt between people on this trip... is soulful love that can only be felt between family. Family structure is very important for the Central American culture, and it quickly became clear to all of us that we are now members of the family here in Costa Rica.



Taylor Cook: Friendship: To me, this word has a whole new meaning to it.

Heather Cook: As this church community loved us, we loved them back. What I took out of this trip is learning how to love others more. It was so easy for everyone in Suerre to love us, then it should not be at all hard to love the rest of the world back.

Todd Sorgatz: While the trip is indeed over and we are all physically back home it's not really over at all, it's just beginning. We will all reflect on our time spent with the people of Suerre, the amazing hospitality they offered to complete strangers and what that means to each of us...it's a lot to process. Hopefully, it will take us a lifetime to understand it.

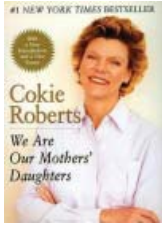


The Senior Highs wish to say **THANK YOU** for all your support and prayers!!!



Library Reviews

We Are Our Mothers' Daughters



305.42 R

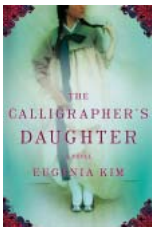
Cokie Roberts

Cokie Roberts takes readers on a political and personal journey discussing the diverse roles women have played throughout American history and the differences between

generations of women.

These intimate portraits of extraordinary women become the springboard for discussions of women's position in politics, business, motherhood and marriage as well as other issues.

The Calligrapher's Daughter



K

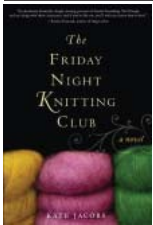
Eugenia Kim

In the shadow of the dying Korean Monarchy, Najin begins a journey through increasing oppression while she pursues an education and surprisingly finds love. After just one night of marriage, a denied passport

separates Najin from her new husband, who continues alone with plans for a coveted education in America.

After Japan invades China and the attack on Pearl Harbor--will the love Najin and her husband share be enough to sustain Najin through the deprivation and violence her country continues to face?

Knit Two: A Friday Night Knitting Club Novel



J

Kate Jacobs

Drawn together by the sense of family the Club has created, the knitters struggle with new challenges; the hope of a family for Darwin, for Lucie, a single mother struggling to also care for her elderly mother; and seventy

something Anita, a proposal of marriage from her sweetheart, Marty, that provokes the objections of her grown children.

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.

Teatime for the Traditionally Built



S

Alexander McCall

Smith

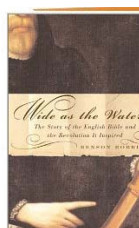
Remotswe's van has developed a disturbing noise. Mr. JLB Matentoni, her husband, and a talented mechanic, is the man to turn to for help. But

Precious has a fear he might simply send the van to the junkyard. Can she find a way to have her old friend?

In the meantime, MMA Makutsi discovers that her old rival, Violet Sephatho, has set her sights on MMA Makutsi's fiance, Phuti Radiphuti. Help, it turns out, comes from an unexpected quarter.

A good cup of Red Bush Tea might be the best solution of all.

Wide as the Waters



220.5

Benson Bobrick

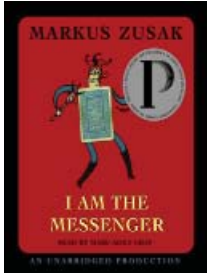
The story of the English Bible and the Revolution it inspired.

Next to the Bible itself, the English Bible was (and is) the most important influential book ever published. It gave every literate person complete access to the sacred text, which helped to foster the spirit of inquiry through reading and reflection. "Books" formerly imprisoned in the libraries of monasteries were as one contemporary put it, "redeemed from bondage, obtained their enlargement, and freely walked about in the lights."

*To read the Bible is to take a trip to a fair land where the spirit
is strengthened and faith renewed.
-Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Junior Library Reviews

I Am the Messenger



J Z

Markus Zusak

Ed Kennedy is a cab driver and is going nowhere with his life. But everything changes when he catches a bank robber and becomes something of a hero for five minutes. After the incident, Ed begins to receive ace playing cards with addresses on them. For every address, Ed's goal is to help the people living at the address, but through helping these people he learns more about himself and what he is capable of doing and being. But who is the person behind the aces? "I Am The Messenger" is a surprisingly funny, thought provoking book that everyone has to read.

The Kidnapping of Christine Lattimore

J N

Joan Lowery Nixon

More than anything, 16-year-old Christina Lattimore wants to be her own person and to go on a study program to France this summer. There's only one problem with this, her family controls every aspect of her life and won't allow her to go. Then, driving home one night, she is kidnapped so her very wealthy grandmother will pay her ransom, but everything goes very wrong. Once the police find her, all evidence of her being kidnapped is gone and everyone believes that she staged her own kidnapping, just so she could get the money from her grandmother for her trip to France. How far will Christina go to prove her innocence?

The Looking Glass Wars

J B

Frank Beddor

"The Looking Glass Wars" is a wonderful take off of the classic book "Alice in Wonderland", but Lewis Carroll got Alyss Heart's story all wrong. Wonderland actually exists and Alyss Heart is the princess of Wonderland. Wonderland is on the brink of war because Alyss' Aunt Redd has come back from banishment to take the throne from Alyss' mother, the real Queen of Hearts. Forced out of Wonderland for her safety, Alyss comes to our world, where Lewis Carroll gets her story so wrong he mixes up her name. But how will Alyss get back to Wonderland to save her country? Read to find out.

The Line

J H

Teri Hall

What lies on the other side of the line? This is the question that Rachel has been asking for her whole life and now is her one chance to find out. The United States Government has been corrupted and they created a line around the country and no one is allowed to leave. But is the line supposed to keep people inside or something else out? When Rachel finds a tape recorder coming from the other side of the Line, with a message of help recorded on it, she decides she will do anything to help what is on the other side of the Line. A wonderful book filled with mystery and excitement.

Annexed



J D

Sharon Dogar

It's 1942 in Amsterdam and Hitler has just begun prosecuting Jews. It is time for Peter Van Pels and his family to go into hiding with the Frank family, where he meets the infamous Anne Frank. At first Peter finds Anne annoying, but through the years of being trapped in a confined space together they form a beautiful friendship. "Annexed:" is the story of the people inside the annex told from Peter's point of view. A very moving book that everyone should read.

Faithful

J F

Janet Fox

Maggie Bennet's life is perfect. She has the perfect friends, the perfect clothes, and is going to have the perfect coming-out party the summer she turns 17. Her charming life is drastically changed when her mother shows signs of insanity and is presumed dead from a fall from a cliff. But Maggie's father believes that she is still alive and drives to the one-and-only Yellowstone National Park. At first Maggie is distraught to leave her home but what she finds there is more than she could ever imagine, but will she find her mother within the beauty of the park? Read to find out. A book filled with romance and adventure.

FROM CHRISTINE ROBERTSON

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 SUMMER 2011 Newsletter: MAY 8, 2011



My, how quickly the year has passed. We can't believe there are only a few more weeks in the school year. It's been a fun year and our preschoolers have certainly grown by leaps and bounds.

The teachers will meet with parents of our three-year-old students on May 3 to discuss their wonderful progress throughout the year. We will spend the rest of this sunny month painting with the color yellow, finishing our special handprint books, making Sunflower t-shirts, and creating Mother's Day gifts. Butterflies and a visit to a farm are also in our plans. Our three-year-old class will finish the year with a fun outdoor day on the church grounds on May 24, with families invited.

How sad we are to see our four-year-olds finish preschool! They have worked so hard all year to prepare for kindergarten; we are just not ready to say goodbye to them. This month, they will finish their alphabet study, learn about insects - especially butterflies and ladybugs -, make special gifts for Mom, plant sunflowers and prepare for our graduation ceremony to be held on May 25 at 10:00 am. Hopefully, their families will have video cameras in hand to capture this memorable end to their preschool experience. We also hope, early in May, to fit in a trip to Tenhave Woods in Royal Oak, where a guide will tell us about the trees and nature.

We still have openings available for next fall's three-year-old and four-year-old classes. If you are interested in learning more about our preschool, please call 248.541.0108, x220. We would love to tell you all about Sunflowers!

Have a safe and lovely summer! Ms. Matthews, Mrs. Heitchue, Mrs. Sirr, & Mrs. Cone