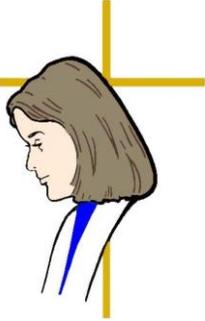


# THE PARISH POST

Volume 42 - Issue #11

11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

November 2014



*“So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.”*

*2 Peter 1:12-15*

## Thanks for the Memories

I've just returned from a trip to Iowa to celebrate my mom's 80th birthday. On her special day, I enjoyed visiting with an aunt and uncle and cousin whom I have not seen for the past nine years. The night before our lunch with them, my mom and I were talking about old family history — things from her childhood. There was something she wasn't sure about, so she said that would be a good thing to ask her 91-year-old sister when we saw her the next day. My aunt's mind is still very sharp. However, do you think that either my mother or I could remember what it was that we wanted to ask her? Of course not!

For most of us, memory dims as we age. Thoughts disappear in the short journey between our brain and our tongue. We walk into a room and forget what we were searching for. It is frustrating!

Part of our task as a community of faith is to help one another remember. Maybe we won't always remember where we put our keys. But hopefully we will remember who we are and whose we are — children of a loving Creator. We come together in worship and in Bible study and in other times of fellowship and service, to refresh our memories (as Peter notes in the verses above). We remind one another of what is really important — love of God and love of neighbor, not love of stuff or love of self.

Our worship on November 2, All Saints Sunday, will be a time of remembering. We will remember specific individuals dear to us who have passed on to eternal glory in the past year. And we will remind one another that God's love for each of them and for each of us is everlasting.

In the gospel account of the crucifixion we are told that two criminals were executed along with Jesus — one on his right, the other on his left. One of them hurled insults at the Savior. Yet, the other pleaded, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (Luke 23:42) And Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Jesus remembered the man who hung on the cross beside him, even though we might consider him unworthy of such grace. So, also, Jesus remembers us, saint and sinner alike. He does not forget any of his children. Unlike us, he never has to scratch his head trying to recall a name.

What a beautiful thought — that we are always held in the Lord's memory! But more than that — that we have the opportunity to live forever in God's kingdom.

As we join together in remembering people special to us — the “saints” in our lives, may our memories of days past bring us comfort and joy, and may they connect us to a future filled with hope.

*Pastor Sherri*



## Condolences

We extend our sincere sympathy to *Gay Bell* at the death of her brother-in-law, Marvin Williams, on October 4.

We also extend our sympathy to *Mary Klug* at the death of her uncle, Leslie Merriman, on October 11.

May the Lord comfort you in your grief.



## Holiday Treasures

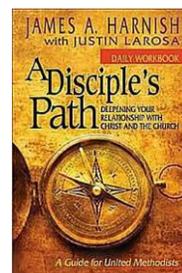
The Stevensville United Methodist Women are busy making preparations for the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Holiday Treasures Arts and Crafts Bazaar. It will take place on Saturday, November 1, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will showcase a variety of handmade items created by local artisans. There will be a Cookie Walk and Bake Sale featuring a wide variety of scrumptious home baked cookies and treats. The Luncheon Café offers a menu that includes hot turkey sandwiches with mashed potatoes and gravy, Sloppy Joes, salads, homemade pies, and desserts.

The church is located at 5506 Ridge Road, between John Beers Road and Red Arrow Highway. Look for the electronic sign and entrance on Red Arrow Highway. For more information call 429-5911.



## Harvest Dinner

Remember to save the date of Sunday, November 16 for our Harvest Dinner. The Fellowship Committee will provide the meat, bread and beverages. Please plan to bring one of your favorite dishes to share. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Our gatherings have been dwindling in numbers as of late, so let's plan to have a wonderful turn out to break bread together with our church family. Hope to see you there to kick off the holiday season!



## New Bible Study

A new Bible Study, "A Disciple's Path" is now underway on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are meeting until December. Tell Pastor Sherri if you would like to join the group.

### **Those who serve as missionaries, especially:**

Jeff & Deliegha Swanson, Charissa, Lois, and Titus in Mexico;

Kate & Peter Walugembe in Jinja, Uganda;

Dr. Elma Jocson in the Philippines.

### **Those who are in the military, including:**

Christopher Blackwell, Danny King, Ricky Zeiger.

### **Those who are in care facilities:**

Hamilton Grove – Betty Smith, Dorothy Schwark,  
Sabra Lambert

Woodland Terrace – Shirley Hoadley

Pine Ridge – Jerry Thomas

### **Those who are homebound:**

Dorothy Brayboy, Helen Heward, Elsie Portinga, and Marge Vidal.

### **Those with health problems:**

Lynneah Ackerman, Dave Alexander, Jean Bozer, Shirley Busick, Barbara Christian, Nancy Comfort, Susan Denzine, Norma Eldridge, Dale Emerick, Glenda Emerick, Dick Fatter, Sharon Peterson Flick, Jean Koebel Gardner, Dawn Hayes, Paula Hess, Shauni Hinman, George Koebel, Ogden Krossovitch, Sabra Lambert, Anna Lange, Les Lee, Charles Love, Judy Mattieu, Laurie Sittig McLaughlin, Thomas Nitz, Cindy Norris, Dorothy Petro, Perry Pickens, Sally Preece, Alexis Renbarger, Ed Rogers, Sue Rubeck, Marylou Schmaltz, Danelle Springer, Hugh Stout, Tim Swanson, Megan Wilkins, Anna Marie Williams, Chuck & Marlyn Williams, Ken Williams.

### **Those who grieve:**

Family and friends of Gertrude Frierdich, Montana Beesley, Marvin Williams, Don Harrington, and Leslie Merriman.

### **Those celebrating the birth of a baby:**

Adam and Jenny Williams at the birth of a daughter, Anna Marie, on October 1.

### **Other:**

Strimbu family whose house was destroyed by fire. A safe trip for Yuriko Cooper traveling to Japan and back.

Recovery efforts following the devastating hurricane in La Paz, Mexico.

Those fighting the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa and the U.S.

Peace in Gaza, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, and throughout our world.

**Please note: Names will be deleted from the above list after one month unless an updated request is received.**

Dear Friends of Camp Catch-A-Rainbow,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$371.79 received on September 15, 2014 to YMCA Storer Camps designated to Camp Catch-A-Rainbow through your Sunday School donations.



Your kind gift will continue to give children the opportunity to have fun, learn new things, grow and develop while emphasizing how normal a child with cancer is.

Camp Catch-A-Rainbow and its history and traditions live on!  
Sincerely,  
Becky Spender,  
Vice President of Camping

Dear Sisters in Faith,  
Thank you very much for the care package. It was all so delicious!! It's really comforting to have a church family that really cares for me.  
Thank you,  
Tom Bartelmay

Dear Sisters in Faith,  
Thank you so much for the care package. It really means a lot to know that people are thinking of me and rooting for my success.  
Sam Bartelmay

Dear Sisters in Faith,  
Thanks for the delicious gift. It means a lot to have you thinking of me.  
Ben Bartelmay

Dear Rev. Sherri Swanson,  
My mother, Gertrude Frierdich, was an active member of the Three Oaks United Methodist Church for many years before my parent's retirement to Florida. It's with sadness that I share the news of her recent passing.

Mom graced this earth for 95 years and was a shining example of service to others in word and deed. She always had a smile, a kind word for all and an outstretched hand of friendship.

I am enclosing this donation to the Three Oaks United Methodist Church in tribute, honor and remembrance of her. Please use the funds to remain within the Three Oaks United Methodist Church community.

Sincerely,  
Karen F. Rose



## Sunday School Mission

Our Sunday School Mission Project this year is "Imagine No Malaria." We will be handing out collection cans in the next couple of weeks and hope the congregation will help our Sunday School students raise funds for this worthwhile cause.

For more information about this emphasis of our United Methodist Church, visit: [www.imagenomalaria.org](http://www.imagenomalaria.org) or [www.minomalaria.org](http://www.minomalaria.org).



## Sisters in Faith

Approximately 40 people enjoyed our Chili Luncheon last month. Thank you to all the members who attended and especially those who provided food.

Proceeds will support our ministry to college students. Earlier in the month we sent out three care packages and one gas card to these young people. Thank you for all your contributions to this ministry.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by Rhonda Hinman and Elna Rogers. Please read lesson four in "Pew Sisters" for our Bible Study

Our annual Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m.



## Shoebbox Christmas

Last year was our first time to participate in "Operation Christmas Child." There was such a good response that we are going to do it again. If you are interested in the project, it involves a Christmas wrapped shoe box (top and bottom wrapped separately) and filled with items for children to enjoy. There is information on the table in the narthex. The boxes need to be turned in by November 16 and labeled for boy or girl, and age of the child, 2-4 years, 5-9 years, or 10-14 years. Our hope is to send more than last year. The cost of sending the boxes will be covered from the Mission Jar collections. This is a joint project of Sisters in Faith and the Missions Committee.



## Church Conference

Copies of the booklet from our annual Church Conference last month are available on the table in the narthex.



Listed below are the figures from our Treasurer's report for September 2014.

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Average Monthly Need</u>
September	\$10,963.40	\$11,783.79	\$11,090.92
Year-to-Date	\$86,363.00	\$100,397.21	\$14,034.20

General Fund Balance as of September 30, 2014 is \$12,385.40.

### Amount pledged vs. amount received:

The amount pledged through September 30, 2014 is \$58,530.00 and the amount received through September 30, 2014 is \$59,146.00

The amount received is 101.05% of the amount pledged through September 30, 2014.

### Designated Fund disbursements for September :

Imagine No Malaria	\$528.75
Camp Catch-A-Rainbow	\$371.79
Christian Education	\$7.50

Submitted by  
*Jim Thompson, Finance Chairperson*

My Offering

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To be used only for the purpose of the offering in the church, not for other purposes.  
An offering envelope should be used to receive your offering. The one shown here is only for information. Use an envelope for any payment to the church.  
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Third Quarter giving statements were mailed at the beginning of October. If you have any questions, call Rhonda Hinman at 756-7560 or leave a note in the office.



**Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 2. Be sure to "Fall Back" and set your clocks back one hour!**

## Shop Amazon!



Now through eScrip you can help earn money for Thee Oaks UMC each time you purchase something from Amazon.com! Simply go to our website: [www.toumc.org](http://www.toumc.org) and click on the Amazon button that looks just like the one you see above. You will be routed to Amazon and up to 2.4% of every purchase will be given back to our church. It's that easy!

Anyone can do this – you don't have to be a member of eScrip. You don't need an Amazon account and this program is entirely free. All account, payment, or order information is collected and processed by Amazon. It's exactly like shopping directly through Amazon.com, except that the church will receive a percentage of your purchase when you access Amazon through our website. Free to you, invaluable to us!

What's the catch? There are no catches and no extra fees. The shopping experience through Amazon.com is exactly the same as it would be if you went to Amazon directly. But if you access Amazon by clicking on the Amazon button on our website, the church gets a percentage of your purchase. If you are reading this electronically you can click on the Amazon link above and start shopping.

# Thanks to...

...*Jim Thompson* for fixing a broken electrical outlet at the church.



### Special Offering

On Sunday, November 30, we will celebrate United Methodist Student Day. Our college students are invited to participate in this service on Thanksgiving weekend.

We will also receive a special offering on this day that provides scholarships and loans to those attending UM colleges and universities. Ten percent of this offering stays in our annual conference to provide merit scholarships for students chosen by our West Michigan Board of Higher Education and Ministry. There will be a special offering envelope in your worship bulletin on this day.

Think of us in this way,  
as servants of Christ  
and stewards of  
God's mysteries.



## Stewardship Commitment Campaign

All church members and constituents will soon receive a mailing about our Stewardship Commitment Campaign for 2015.

Please consider prayerfully what you are able to give to support the ministries of our church and return your commitment card by November 23. If you have any questions, speak to our Finance Chairperson, *Jim Thompson*.



## Conference Ministries

During the week of November 10-13 Pastor Sherri will be attending a Conference Board of Ordained Ministry meeting in DeWitt, Michigan. At this time the committee will be interviewing several candidates who are coming to be approved for ordination as a deacon or an elder in our Conference. Please pray for the candidates and for the representatives of the B.O.M. as they complete their work. If you need to reach Pastor Sherri while she is away, leave a message on her cell phone at 269-405-0002.



## Well Done!

Congratulations to River Valley Marching Mustangs Band for their recent accomplishments which include a Division I rating at District festival in Niles, a 5<sup>th</sup> place showing at the Otsego Invitational, a 4<sup>th</sup> place showing among seven Class D schools at the Lakeshore Invitational, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the Jenison Invitational. *Paige Barbour, Annette Donner, Laura Donner, Katharine Kersey, Shelby Sieler, and Zachary Sieler* are members of the band. Way to go!



We are looking for volunteers to provide refreshments after our worship services. Sign up in the narthex if you will help.



## Re-Cap

Thanks to all who helped with our annual Chicken Dinner held on September 27. It takes many people to make this event successful. We are especially grateful for the leadership of this year's chairperson, *Priscilla Hellenga*. We served 300 dinners, and of the 50 chicken halves leftover there are only 4 halves still in the freezer for sale (two per bag for \$10). The six Styrofoam coolers in the kitchen are free to anyone who would like them.

## Worship News

"Hanging of the Greens" will be on Saturday, November 29, at 10:00 a.m. Anyone is welcome to come in and help. There will be inserts in the bulletin for ordering poinsettia plants within the next couple of weeks.



We will be looking for readers for the Advent candle readings. If you have an interest in taking part, please tell me or Pastor Sherri. We will be asking soon.

Chris Zebell,  
Worship Chairperson



## Job Opportunity

Part-time Church Administrative Assistant needed in Lakeside area to work in exceptionally creative, positive environment. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office, Excel, and Publisher. Experience with Quick Books a plus. Able to work with a variety of Word docs and other format templates. Must be internet savvy, able to learn management of our present website and electronic communications. Position requires at least a high school degree and a candidate with strong organizational skills, people skills and a sense of humor. 15 hours/week at \$11.45 per hour. Please send resume to mediatorrector@gmail.com.



### Join Our Tech Team

We are still looking for at least one more volunteer who will take a turn once a month on our tech team running the Sunday morning video projection. Training will be provided. If you are interested in joining the monthly rotation or in serving as an occasional substitute, please speak to *Sabrina Bellaire, Doug Hinman, Rhonda Petro, or Pastor Sherri.*



### Pumpkin Rolls

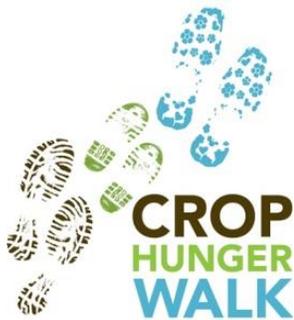
Sisters in Faith will be selling pumpkin rolls for \$7 each to be picked up on November 16.

This is a fundraiser to support ongoing projects around the church. Place your order in the narthex by November 9.



It is time to turn in the plastic cups

filled with your donations for the "Widening the Welcome" capital campaign at the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo. You may bring them to the church office.



### CROP Walk 2014

Last month 66 walkers representing area churches helped raise \$5,387.12 to fight hunger at the annual Harbor Country CROP Walk, held this year in Three Oaks

and hosted by The Gathering.

We had 9 walkers from our church: *Annette Donner, Laura Donner, Sharon Flick, Katharine Kersey, Judy Ross, Shelby Sieler, Zachary Sieler, Sherri Swanson, and Leia Williams.* Thank you for your efforts to stop hunger!



### Special Remembrance

On November 2 our congregation will observe "All Saints Sunday." On this special day we remember those who have gone before us into

God's heavenly kingdom, especially those who have died in the past year. Our worship service will include the celebration of Holy Communion as we gather around the Lord's table with the "great cloud of witnesses." Please plan to join us for this special time of worship and prayer.

# Happy



# Thanksgiving

Three Oaks United Methodist Church  
2 East Sycamore Street  
Three Oaks, MI 49128

Phone 269-756-2053  
Fax 269-756-2061  
E-mail [toumc@att.net](mailto:toumc@att.net)  
Web [www.toumc.org](http://www.toumc.org)

*Address Service Requested*

# November 2014



### Please Note

Please turn in all submissions for next month's Parish Post newsletter by November 16.



If we could deliver your next Parish Post by e-mail, please inform the church office. It would be faster, easier, and cheaper.

Thanks for your help!

- November 2 All Saints Sunday  
Communion  
"A Glimpse of Glory"  
Exodus 33:12-23
- Sermon Series: "All You Can"
- November 9 "Gain All You Can"  
Matthew 25:14-29;  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
- November 16 "Save All You Can"  
Matthew 6:19-21, 24-33;  
1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- November 23 "Give All You Can"  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15; 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- November 30 First Sunday of Advent  
UM Student Day

### Three Oaks United Methodist Church Staff:

Pastor: *Rev. Sherri Swanson*  
Secretary: *Cheryl Kersey*  
Organist: *Martha Szychalski*  
Custodian: *Mary Weers*

### Church Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00-3:00  
Tuesday: 9:00-12:00  
Thursday: 9:00-12:00

### To Reach the Pastor:

Please call the church office first: 756-2053.  
If you do not reach her there, leave a voice message  
on her cell phone: 269-405-0002.