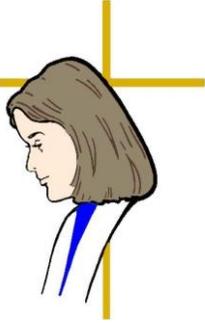


THE PARISH POST

Volume 42 - Issue #10

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

October 2014



*“The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green.”
Psalm 92: 12-14*

The Energizer Bunny Turns 80

I think of my mom as a person in perpetual motion — an “energizer bunny”, if you will. Even from the time I was very young in age, she has always been able to run circles around me. I remember several family vacations when my mom would lead the family in climbing some steep stairway or hill or mountain, and I would either complain or just decide to wait at the bottom. :) She would say, “Come on, Sherri, you’re less than half my age.” Which was true, but it didn’t convince me.

Well, I am now more than half my mom’s age, but still she manages to leave me in the dust. A couple of years ago when she needed knee replacement surgery, she put it off as long as she could because she was walking 4 miles a day and didn’t have time for it! This is still her normal routine — 2 miles a day with my dad and 2 miles a day on her own. Yes, age hasn’t slowed her down too much.

Even so, my mom is celebrating a big birthday this month. The big 8-0. Unfortunately, we are not going to be able to gather for a large family party (as we did for my dad), so I thought I would write a little tribute about the things that make my mom pretty special. In particular, what I consider some of the secrets to how she has aged so well. How she has stayed “fresh and green,” as the Psalmist puts it.

Dancing

My mom loves to dance. When my sister got married (my mom was 51 then, just a little younger than I am now), all of the college kids who attended the wedding were amazed at my parents regarding both their dancing ability and their dancing stamina. Mom & Dad were the ones leading all the rowdy polkas and jitterbugs. My mom has always been the first one out on the dance floor and the last one to leave it (sometimes wearing out my poor dad in the process!).

At my parents’ 40th wedding anniversary, when she burned her leg pulling some food out of the oven to feed all of us the day before the party (which was a surprise she didn’t know about) — we weren’t worried about taking her to the hospital, we were worried that she wasn’t going to be able to dance! And when she did dance throughout the whole party, her only comment afterward was that she wished she would have known to bring different shoes so she could have danced better!

Why has dancing helped my mom age gracefully? First of all, because it has been one way she has stayed active. Secondly, because it has been the connecting point for most of the best friendships of her life. My parents have many dear, close friends whom they first met and bonded with during the various stages of their dancing life: square dancing, ballroom dancing, and line dancing. And finally, because it is evidence of her lack of self-consciousness. Maybe you’ve heard the saying, “Dance like no one is watching.” Truly, my mother has done this her whole life. I greatly envy her ability to abandon herself to the joy of the moment and not care what anybody thinks.

Laughing

My mom has a great laugh. And she laughs loud and often. I have seen her laugh so hard she couldn’t catch her breath and she was in danger of peeing her pants. :) She always reads the Reader’s Digest column “Laughter — the Best Medicine” and she has lived her life as if that were true. But what I think is most special about this laughter is that it is often at her own expense. She gets most tickled at the dumb things that she does! Instead of getting mad about it, she shakes it off by laughing. And, along with the laughter, we might hear her say, “Darn it, Garnett!”

(continued on page two)

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Serving

My parents are of an age that one might expect they would be receiving some caregiving. However, they are still awfully busy giving care to others. Beyond the many things they do for their kids and grandkids (taking care of children, fixing things around our homes), they are also still heavily involved in their local church and community. Whether it is taking food to a church event or volunteering at the hospital, my mom keeps very active and connected. The thing I have noticed the most is how my parents in recent years have made a regular routine out of visiting aging friends and relatives who are hospitalized, in nursing homes, receiving Hospice care, or recently bereaved. They probably do as much “pastoral” care as I do — without being pastors.

Of course, all this serving — though tiring in some ways — can also be life-giving. In John 12:24-26, Jesus says: “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”

Yes, my mom has a servant’s heart and this, I believe, has kept her young and vital. She is “still bearing fruit,” in the words of the Psalmist, as an outgrowth of being “planted in the house of the Lord.”

So the energizer bunny is turning 80. I pray she will enjoy much happiness on this special occasion and much good health for the future so that the dancing, laughing, and serving may continue.

Pastor Sherri



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, Scott McDonald.

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:

Dave Alexander, Sandy Bauer, Bud Bean,

Nancy Comfort, Norma Eldridge,

Sharon Peterson Flick, Jean Koebel Gardner,

Isaac Grynowich, Don Harrington, Dawn Hayes,

Paula Hess, Shauni Hinman, Mike Houston,

Kelly Kiburis, Ogden Krossovitch, Les Lee,

Laurie Sittig McLaughlin, Dorothy Petro,

Perry Pickens, Alexis Renbarger, Sue Rubeck,

Dave Schlundt, Danelle Springer, Hugh Stout,

Megan Wilkins, Ken Williams.

Those who grieve:

Family and friends of Lottie Dziepak, Steve Palen, and Joe Gardner.

Those recently married:

Gina Botterill and Alan Randolph who were married at our church on September 20.

Other:

Monsoon and flooding in Pakistan.

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

Those fighting wildfires in the West.

Those fighting the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa.

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.



Condolences

We extend our sincere sympathy to *George and Vivian Koebel* at the death of his brother-in-law, Joe Gardner, in New York on September 12.

We also extend our sympathy to *Tracy Donner* at the death of her great-aunt in Nebraska.

May the Lord comfort you in your grief.



Holiday Treasures

The Stevensville United Methodist Women are busy making preparations for the 32nd 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.



Craft Show

The Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Sodus is sponsoring their 35th annual Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday, October 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds in Berrien Springs. Admission is only \$2.00 and there will be over 280 exhibitors plus food vendors and a bake sale. You can check out their website at www.chapelhill-craftshow.org.



Piano Showcase

Faculty, students, and alumni from Western Michigan University's All-Steinway School of Music will be featured in a Piano Showcase event at Milwood United Methodist Church in Kalamazoo. The concert is at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 12. It is open to the public free of charge, but a free will offering will be received. Dr. Silvia Roederer has coordinated the program. Her husband, Leslie Tung, will join her for piano duets. Faculty jazz pianist Jeremy Siskind will enhance the concert's musical fare. Milwood United Methodist is located at 3919 Portage Road, 49001, just one-half mile north of I-94 (exit 78). Refreshments will be served following the concert.



New Member

On September 14 we welcomed *David Ball* into the fellowship of our church. Please record his contact information in your directory: P O Box 85, Three Oaks, MI 49128 and his phone is 513-608-0642.

Welcome, Dave! We're glad you're here!



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*.



Save the Date

We will have a Harvest Dinner on Sunday, November 16, after worship. The Fellowship Committee will provide meat, bread and beverages. The congregation is invited to bring a dish to pass to round out this potluck meal. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!



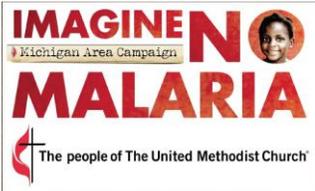
Journey to Uganda

We appreciated *Terry Evans* sharing pictures from her mission trip to Africa after worship on September 14. What an amazing experience!



Annual Meeting

The 137th Annual Meeting of Berrien County Association of Churches will be held Monday, October 13, at Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church (911 South Crystal Avenue, Benton Harbor). The evening begins with registration at 6:00 followed by a banquet meal at 6:30. The cost of dinner will be \$10 and collected at the door.



Special Offering

On Rally Sunday we collected \$293 for Imagine No Malaria! Awesome! We are now over halfway toward our goal of raising \$1,500 for this cause. Thank you for your contributions. You may give at any time and we will receive another special offering on Christmas Eve. We are also using this year's Sunday School collection cans for this mission project. For more information about this emphasis of our United Methodist Church, visit: www.imagenomalaria.org or www.minomalaria.org.



Sisters in Faith

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. Please make a note that this is one week later than usual. Refreshments will be provided by *Nancy Davis and Priscilla Hellenga*. *Marcia Hess* will lead our Bible Study on "Pew Sisters." Please read lesson three.

We are continuing to help with the "Blessings in a Backpack" program at River Valley Schools on the third Thursday of the month.

We are planning our annual Chili Luncheon for Sunday, October 19. See details below.



Chili Luncheon

Sisters in Faith will host their twelfth annual Chili Luncheon for the congregation on Sunday, October 19, following worship. The menu will include: chili with all the fixings, cornbread, dessert and beverage. In addition, hot dogs will be available for the children.

Cost is just \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ten and under. Proceeds will support the church's ministry to college students. Twice a year we are mailing care packages to those who are away at school and providing gas cards to those living at home. These funds will provide supplies and postage.

Bring your family and friends and join us for a warm bowl of some chili dished up with some wonderful fellowship.



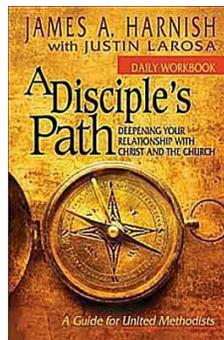
It is time to turn in the plastic cups filled with

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



Fall Lay Servant Classes

Kalamazoo District Lay Servant Ministries will host two classes in October: "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts" and "Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition." They will be held Saturday, October 11 and 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Paw Paw UMC. These classes will be limited to 10 participants each. To enroll, please send an email to Patrick McCrevan, District LSM Director, at patrickmccrevan@gmail.com. Text information will be provided to enrollees when they sign up.



New Bible Study

It's not too late to sign up for a new Bible Study. Due to scheduling conflicts it was decided to wait and begin lessons on October 26. This study will run six weeks. We will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the pastor's office.

The study book "A Disciple's Path" is a program that guides individuals to take the next step in discipleship and become dynamic, engaged followers of Jesus Christ. The study combines a Wesleyan understanding of our growth in God's love and grace with the time-tested practices of spiritual discipline expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Participants will develop spiritual practices, discover their unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation in their own lives, the lives of others, and the world.

The workbook costs \$8.00 and includes daily readings and writing exercises. Please sign up in the narthex if you are interested.



Save the Date

Wednesday, October 15, is the date of our annual Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Rev. John Boley. This year it will be held at our church. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (S-PRC) will meet at 6:30 p.m. and the full Conference will convene at 7:00 p.m.

Committee chairpersons are asked to submit an annual report on activities to the church office by October 1. These will be combined in a booklet for members who attend the conference.

All members of our congregation are invited and those who hold office are especially encouraged to attend. Business will be conducted regarding church membership, leadership, and finances.



Kick-Off Update

A new year of Sunday School is underway! We had seven children present for Rally Day on September 7. Our theme this year is "Imagine No Malaria". We had lots of fun as we played games with mosquitos and learned how we can squash the killer disease, malaria.

We are still looking for another volunteer or two to serve as a Sunday School teacher for the elementary grades this school year (September – May). You would be placed in a rotation and teach the class every four to six weeks (depending on how many volunteers we secure). If interested, please speak to Julie Becktell or Pastor Sherri.



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

| | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Average Monthly Need</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| August | \$9,264.66 | \$10,372.89 | \$11,090.92 |
| | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Shortfall</u> |
| Year-to-Date | \$75,399.61 | \$88,613.42 | \$13,213.81 |

General Fund Balance as of August 31, 2014 is \$13,205.79.

Designated Fund disbursements for August:

Rural Life Sunday \$40.00

Submitted by
Jim Thompson, Finance Chairperson



CROP Walk 2014

They walk for food. They walk for water. They walk for firewood. They walk to escape violence. They walk to seek shelter. They walk to farm their fields. They walk to find employment. They walk to go to school

Please plan on joining us on Sunday, October 5, for the annual Harbor Country CROP Hunger Walk. The CROP Hunger Walk is held in many communities across the nation each year to raise money and awareness to help fight hunger in the United States and throughout the world.

Twenty-five percent of all money raised in the Harbor Country CROP Hunger Walk will be donated to the Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry to help those in need in our own community. Other funds will be distributed by CWS Global (Church World Services) wherever there might be a need.

The funds might be used to help those affected by a hurricane in Florida, or a tornado in the Midwest, or to help build wells for running water in an African village, or to feed hungry children in Haiti or to help those hit by a tsunami in Thailand. There are many, many ways that the funds raised will be used to help those less fortunate.

This year the CROP Hunger Walk will be held in Three Oaks and will begin at The Gathering (301 N Elm St.). Registration and a light lunch will begin at 12:45 and the walk will step off at 1:15. The walking route will be approximately 1 ½ miles long, with a second route that is a bit longer.

We hope you will walk with us again this year, or if you've never walked in the CROP Hunger Walk, that this is the first year you decide to join us!

Pick up a sponsor sheet in the narthex or sponsor one of our walkers. Hopefully, this CROP Hunger Walk will be our best year yet with many walkers!

For more information, visit www.churchworldservice.org or www.cropwalk.org.



...*Sharon Flick, Marcia Hess, and Rhonda Hinman* for painting our kitchen pantry. And thanks to *Doug Hinman* for assembling new shelving units for the pantry.

P.E.T. News



Your gifts put children in PETs in Tanzania! Thank you for lifting kids out of the dirt at Disabled Children's Home! PET Affiliate volunteers from Michigan, Missouri, Iowa, and more sent PETs to the warehouse in Ohio over the last three years. These PETS were delivered by the Anglican Diocese to children in hospitals in Ghana and Tanzania.

Fall is Here!



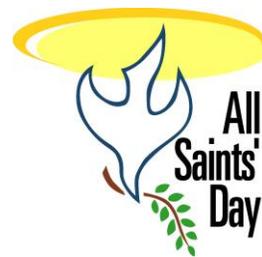
World Communion Sunday

In his letter to the church at Philippi, the apostle Paul writes, "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:13b-14, NRSV). United Methodists will follow this mandate on October 5 by participating in World Communion Sunday. You play an important role in making World Communion Sunday extra special this year.

On World Communion Sunday we celebrate communion with other Christians around the world. We also receive an offering to support ethnic undergraduate and graduate students, which often enables first-generation students to attend college. World Communion Sunday scholarships remove financial obstacles for students for whom education is difficult, if not impossible.

Our church is at its best when we reach out to sisters and brothers in need. World Communion Sunday calls us to reach out to all people and model diversity among God's children.

An offering envelope will be provided in your worship bulletin. Please give generously on World Communion Sunday!



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." If you have lost a loved one in the past year, please turn in their name (and date of death, if known) to the office by October 28 so that they may be included in our remembrances.

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
Web www.toumc.org

Address Service Requested

October 2014



Please Note

Please turn in all submissions for next month's Parish Post newsletter by October 19.

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!



Sermon Series: "The Life of Moses"

- | | |
|------------|--|
| October 5 | "Wonder Bread" Exodus 16:2-15 World Communion Sunday |
| October 12 | "Better Than Wall Drug" Exodus 15:22-27; 17:1-7 |
| October 19 | "Promises to Keep" Exodus 20:1-10, 12-21 |
| October 26 | "Don't Put God in a Box" Exodus 32:1-14 |

Three Oaks United Methodist Church Staff:

Pastor: *Rev. Sherri Swanson*
Secretary: *Cheryl Kersey*
Organist: *Martha Spsychalski*
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.