



**50 Years of Growing a Faith
That Must Be Shared**

Chapel Chimes

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VOLUME 54 NUMBER 1
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January 2014
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Pastor's Letter—January 2014

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Dear Chapel Lane Family,

God has built a strong congregation of Christian disciples here at the corner of Chapel Lane and Jefferson Avenue. And it was with certainty that God intended for the congregation to remain strong and vital that the Session called together a group of elders and laypersons to form a Core Planning Team for the purpose of discerning God’s plans for us at this juncture in our history together.

And on behalf of the Core Planning Team, I want to thank you for your participation in our work together. Thanks to all who completed the congregational survey several months ago, and special thanks to all those who came out to the planning event we had with our consultant Sue Waechter. We appreciate your taking the time to join us and making your voice heard!

We are nearing the point of sharing our findings with the Session. You will recall that we started this process with the deep conviction that nothing was “broken” at Chapel Lane, so nothing needed “fixing.” What we were looking to do was engage in a process of discernment by which we could listen for that still, small voice of God as we are lead into a dynamic and growing future.

I suspect it has been about twenty years since the PC(USA) produced a major report which stressed that every congregation has an “ecosystem” that provides nurture in our Presbyterian identity and culture and that, while Presbyterians in America have been connected and organized in many different ways, most members of most Presbyterian congregations belong first and foremost to their local congregation—denominational “loyalty” comes second to congregation loyalty, in other words. That is as true for Chapel Lane as it is for any other Presbyterian church, I think. Most have joined this church because of its nurturing “ecosystem” that is a marvelous mix of Christian welcome, compassion, grace, love and laughter. Some may have come through the door the first time because of its connection to the larger Presbyterian Church, but most have stayed because of the feeling of being “at home” in this place—at home in worship, in study, in service, and in the fellowship of believers.

The Core Planning Team feels strongly that Chapel Lane is on the cusp of great things and has set some vision priorities for continuing to fulfill our mission as a body of Christ. You will hear more on these priorities as goals are set and prioritized, and as action items take shape. But, as of this writing, I can confirm that we will soon be presenting to the Session a Strategic Plan that focuses on *Worship, Spirituality and Church Infrastructure* as our Primary Vision Priorities, and *Mission Outreach, Membership and Stewardship* as our Secondary Vision Priorities for the next five years of ministry.

Like Jeremiah, we trust that God has great plans for us—plans for our welfare, and not for our harm—giving us a future bright with hope. Having just come off a strong Stewardship campaign and a Christmas season steeped in joy and generosity, we are poised for a new year of worship and service to the Lord. Just as God is hard at work keeping the ministry of Chapel Lane vital and growing, so too may we do our part to keep the church strong and its ministry vital by offering our work and worship as praise to God.

Blessings to you this New Year,

Pastor Rhonda



Christian Education Programming:

Sunday School Classes 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sunday Mornings:

Sunday School classes will continue to meet regularly.

Kids (preschool-6th grade) meet in the South wing and follow the lectionary.

7th & 8th graders meet in the Youth Room for Confirmation class (studying key characters in the Old and New Testament)

High Schoolers meet in the South Wing.

YOUTH Activities

The CLPC Youth (6th through 12th grade) will meet on January 12th and January 26th from 2-4 p.m.



ADULT Education Opportunities:

Wednesday evening Bible Study and Potluck Please join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8 p.m. for fellowship, food and study. This is an informal gathering that begins with a light potluck meal and moves into study. The studies are generally based upon the *Thoughtful Christian* materials, but vary according to the desires of the group.

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study will resume January 9th at 1p.m. Pastor Rhonda will continue to lead our discussion on the Book of Acts. See Pastor Rhonda for a copy of the study guide. (A gift of \$8 to help offset the cost of the books would be appreciated.)

Exploring the Gospel of Peace

“Exploring the Gospel of Peace” is an educational event planned by the Board of Christian Education for January 19 at 12:30 p.m. Presenters will include David Nichols, assistant professor of philosophy, SVSU; Paul Teed, professor of history, SVSU; and Dave Myers, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Caro.

The purpose of the event is twofold: to encourage personal discernment on current matters of peace and violence in light of the witness of Jesus Christ and Christian teaching; and to honor the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday will be celebrated the following day.

The event is open to Chapel Lane members and all others who are committed to a more peace-filled world. A light lunch will be made available to those from Chapel Lane who choose to attend. You are requested to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. A free-will offering for the lunch will be received.



Winter Camp

Winter Camp is March 7-9, 2014 at Mystic Lake YMCA Camp. For ages 1st grade-12th grade. Cost is \$90 with scholarships available for members (See Nikelle). Friends are welcome. Signup will begin soon on our website.

Winter
Camp

What a Great Roof!

Winter swept in a bit early to Mid-Michigan this year, with snow and ice and some brutally cold temperatures. Just a few weeks earlier, of course, we had some pretty crazy late Fall weather that brought with it crazy wind speeds and rain that “fell sideways.” We are so grateful for the new roof over the sanctuary that has kept our heads dry, our bodies warm, and our toes tapping for joy! Thank you to Brandle Roofing for giving us an affordable quote for the work and to Brett Wildfong for overseeing the week and making sure the job got done right. Brett gave many hours of his own time to help install a strong, stable, well-cushioned (and beautiful) roof. And the 10 year warranty on the materials makes us confident that the roof will withstand whatever Mother Nature can throw at us. Not that we’re asking for wicked weather, of course—just that we are prepared for it!

Fun in Faith

January 17 is coming fast. Save the date for Adult Fellowship. That evening we are celebrating everyone's birthday. It will be a fun packed evening and, yes, there will be cake. Kate Mass



Deacons' Doings:

Highlights of the Board of Deacons are posted in the Deacons' section of the kiosk. Disbursement reports are included.

Share Fair Results

The Board of Deacons is grateful for the congregation's support of the annual Share Fair held every November. This is a summary of the Share Fair held on November 24th of this past year: Congregational Care (donations in lieu of purchasing the "star gifts"-- \$430; Emergency Food Pantry Network -- \$246; Quilting Bees --\$489; Midland Area Homes -- \$315; Heifer Project -- \$1,080; Adopt-A-Family -- \$255; Member-In-Mission -- \$403.20; Meal-in-a-jar (with proceeds designated for the Food Pantry)--\$352; The ROCK Youth Center--\$455; SERRV--\$122.95; Haiti Project (Clinic and Orphanage) -- \$680; and Max Redvil's Housing Fund -- \$577. The total for Share Fair giving was \$5,405.15. Thank you, everyone for your very generous giving!

Music Highlights:

A HUGE thank you to the musicians of Chapel Lane! December 2013 was a very busy month for the vocal & bell choirs with the pageant, concert, and Christmas Eve services in addition to their regular commitments, so if you know a Chapel Lane musician, please let them know how much you appreciate their commitment. I sure do!!

~Karen Graef, Music Director.

Presbyterian Women

The Monday Evening Circle will meet January 6th at the home of Susan Dusseau at 7:30 p.m. The study will be lesson 4 of the study book "Abiding Hope." Please call Susan at 835-4841 to let her know if you will be attending. Everyone is welcome. If you have questions call Alice Wiltse, 631-7271.

The Afternoon Ladies Circle will have its fifth study of Exodus on Monday, January 20th, in the church library. This is a permanent day change from the previous second Tuesday to the third Monday. We will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Please join us! Questions? Please call Sally Ann Sutton at 835-2428.



Book Group

On Monday, January 27th at 7:30 p.m. the group will meet to discuss Persepolis, The Story of Childhood by Marjane Satrapi. Ten copies of the book are available in Chapel Lane's library. Please read this book as it was highly recommended. Tina Jacobs will be focusing our discussion. We will meet at Grand Traverse Pie Company just off Saginaw Road. Join us for pie, coffee or other food as we talk about this selection. Hope to see you and hear your opinion.



CHECK IT OUT

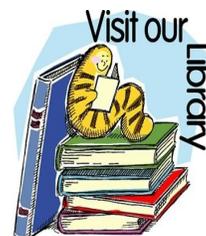
Pastor Rhonda recently added two books to our library which augment the subject BIBLE INTERPRETATION. The books present contemporary insight to a scholarly, historical viewpoint. As we know, the Bible is a centuries-old collection of writing by many authors over many years. By examining and questioning the texts in light of newer evidence and modern interpretation, today's Bible scholars are discovering a depth of understanding and conviction. This "deeper faith allows for a diversity of interpretation," according to author Elaine Pagels, who Rhonda says is a highly-respected Bible scholar.

The books are:

Beyond Belief: the Secret Gospel of Thomas (c. 2003)

Reading Judas: the Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity (c. 2007)

Sue Lane, Librarian



Stewardship Campaign Update:

Stewardship Dedication Sunday was held on November 10th. And as we go to press, we have received a total of 98 pledges for our work in 2014, representing a pledged amount of \$252,842. There were 36 increased pledges for 2014, as well as 10 new pledge units. We continue to see a bit of an uptick in Electronic Funds Transfers, which is greatly appreciated by the Treasurers because it makes it easier for them to budget for expenses when revenue is consistent. We thank you all for your generous support of Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church and its ministry to the community of Midland and beyond!

Per Capita 2014

Per Capita is the cost of being a Presbyterian. There are administrative expenses incurred by our regional and national judicatories for doing the work of the church. Historically, per capita has been used to fund the ecclesiastical, legislative and judicial functions of the greater church, as well as being used to enable governing councils to make decisions regarding the distribution of mission dollars without itself being funded by those same dollars. If each member pays the per capita amount above his or her pledge or regular giving, pressure on the local budget is reduced. The Per Capita amount for 2014 is as follows:

General Assembly	\$ 7.02
Synod of the Covenant	\$ 3.25
Presbytery of Lake Huron	<u>\$13.76</u>
Total	\$24.03

January 10th is Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the PC(USA)

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt. (Genesis 37:26-28)

As unlikely as it may seem to us, human trafficking is a modern day form of slavery that has taken on global proportions. Trafficking is not something that happens only in economically depressed countries but across the globe there is an underground network that brings humans to those who demand labor, services, and sex. In fact, the International Labor Organization, a UN Agency, estimates that there are at least 12.3 million children, women, and men in forced or bonded labor and commercial sex servitude at any given time. Even here in the United States, it is estimated that every year approximately 17,000 people are trafficked into the country and an unknown but significant number of American citizens are sold into sex slavery every year. These numbers are only reduced as people are educated about Human Trafficking and report incidences of its occurrence.

Contrary to popular belief, slavery in the United States has not been abolished but there are many organizations working to make this a part of our past. As a people of faith, we are called to help those who have no freedom so that they may live into hope. Looking closely at this issue is disturbing because we see the depth of human sinfulness. However, the women, men, and children living in slavery require that people look below the surface and ask important questions about what is happening and how Christ might be calling us to respond. By bringing this issue to light, Christians will take the first step to becoming an "Abolitionist" church.

The PC(U.S.A.) has invited us to act by:

Becoming educated on human trafficking and its far reaching impacts. The Presbyterian Church's website provides educational resources on human trafficking from a faith perspective, as well as information on how the church is working to end human trafficking and provide services to survivors. Visit www.pcusa.org/humantrafficking for details.

Organizing a Bible study by ordering the Thoughtful Christian's publication on sex trafficking. This study could be paired a viewing of the movie, *Human Trafficking*, starring Mira Sorvino and Donald Sutherland. The Polaris Project, www.polarisproject.org, offers a wide range of information and resources on human trafficking, including many survivors' stories. And Not for Sale, www.notforsalecampagain.org, offers information on human trafficking, slavery, and how to get involved. Their action items include information for "people of faith" with a focus on becoming an abolitionist church. Other information includes: a list of commonly used items produced through the use of forced and bonded labor and the sale of their documentary about human trafficking, *Not for Sale*.

Calling the national Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 if you suspect illegal activity of this sort.

January Birthdays

1 Jacob Cobb
4 Kaitlyn Kristal
5 Shirley McCutchen
15 Jeff Ermak
15 Paul Schmidt
15 Jenn Tryban

18 Elsa Kramer Yakel
19 Graham Michael McGee
19 Jessica Kristal
22 Vance Sowle
23 Hayleigh Rouech
25 Barry Moyer
25 Renee White

26 Carol Ostergren
27 Harper Myers
31 Ben Franklin
31 Alice Wiltse



Is your birthday missing?

If your name was missed in 2013 or if you are a new member, please let us help you celebrate with a card or a congratulatory greeting by providing us with the month and date of your birth. No year required.

On a sadder note if we have created a problem by not removing a loved one's birthday from the master list, please inform us as well. By note to Joyce Glover in the office or by e-mail to Kerry Buell at k2buell@aol.com. Thanks!

Make a Note of These Dates! January and Beyond.....



Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Church Office will be closed for New Year's Day

Friday, January 10, 2014

If you were elected to the Session or the Board of Deacons for the coming term, please join us for the New Officer's Training here at Chapel Lane on Saturday, January 11th at 9:00 a.m. and for the Installation of Church Officers during our 10:45 a.m. service of worship on January 12th

Saturday and Sunday,
January 11 & 12, 2014

If you are a Board Chair, a Finance Officer, a Staff Member, or the coordinator of one of our many "Affinity Groups," please make sure to have your Annual Report into the Church Office by January 10th so that it may be included in the Annual Congregational Report.

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Newsletter deadline is Wednesday January 15th will be here before you know it! Please e-mail your submission to Christ Pashby at cpashby@ameritech.net.

Monday, January 20, 2014

Church office will be closed for Martin Luther King's birthday.

Sunday, February 9, 2014

The date of our Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch will be February 9th, following the 10:45 service of worship.

Sunday, February 20, 2014



Talent Show 2014 – It is never too soon to start practicing your talent! Please circle Sunday, February 23rd on your calendar as you won't want to miss this afternoon of great entertainment for the whole family. If you would like to share a talent, please talk to Paul Schmidt (non-musical) or Karen Graef (musical). See you there! *Parents: PLEASE make sure this event is on your kids calendars as the children & youth are preparing acts to perform! Times to follow.

Friday to Sunday,
March 7-9, 2014

Winter Camp is March 7-9, 2014 at Mystic Lake YMCA Camp. For ages 1st grade-12th grade.

Sunday to Friday,
June 15-20, 2014



Summer Camp 2014! (Grades 2nd through 12th) Please reserve the week of June 15-20, 2014. This will be our 13th year of camp – wow!! We hope all of your campers will return again this year! Questions? Please ask Kamp Karen.

Prayer Concerns for January :

For All Our Military and Law Enforcement Personnel, especially:

All Chaplains; Eric Arrants, home safely, grandson of Vander Woude; Parker Buell, Seoul, S. Korea; Cory King, Fort Knox; Kipp Moe, police officer, son of Jim Moe; Ray Nelson, police officer and Chris Gagne, Secret Service agent, Vicki Eden's brother and nephew; Stephen Papesh, Fort Gordon, Georgia; Dustin Risk, returned from Afghanistan to Fort Campbell, TN, Susan Hillman's nephew; Seaman Stefani Skiendziel, Great Lakes Naval Base, IL, granddaughter of Dave and Susan Skiendziel; Arik Skiendziel, 1460th Michigan National Guard, deploying to Afghanistan; grandson of David and Susan Skiendziel; Gregory Sturtevant, FBI Special Agent, Carol Rowe's nephew; Chief Martin Thompson, USN, Vickie Irving's son; Ben Weymouth, Vander Woude's grandson in Coast Guard and all members of the 1460th Michigan National Guard to Afghanistan this month.

Those underlined are in a new location or new duty or new rank.

For All Missionaries, especially:

Martin family in Alaska; Rev. Sigita and family in Lithuania; Medical mission in Haiti and the Migrant ministry.

For all those in need of food or shelter in our community and across the world.

For all those suffering from conflicts in Syria, Egypt, Pakistan and Kenya, especially those Christians being targeted by violence.

Quilting Bees

We want to thank the congregation for the support we received for the Quilts of Valor project. These quilts are so well received by the wounded soldiers as they recover. The notes we get are few, we expect that as these men and women are going through their healing process. We do post them when we get them on the Presbyterian Women's board in the foyer. We want you to know that we respect the dollars we are given. We shop sales and do everything we can to stretch each dollar. Postage is one that we don't have much choice.

I personally want to thank each of the gals who come and quilt with us. Many of these gals made the beautiful items that were sold at our table for share fair. They are such a dynamic group who are so committed to the project. We also have several gals from other faiths that help us faithfully.

The quilt Mary Hinson gave us years ago will be silent auctioned to the highest bidder on December 17. Thank you, whoever you are that will receive this quilt. This money will also go to the QOV fund. Thank you, so much!!! If you want to follow this cause on the internet go to www.QuiltsOfValor.com.



Worship leaders 10:45 service:

January 5: Carl Vander Woude
January 12: Dave Skiendziel
January 19: Harry White
January 26: Carl Vander Woude

Calendar