



# The Lifeline

First Presbyterian Church of Blissfield  
304 Franklin St. Blissfield, MI 49228  
www.blissfieldpresbyterian.com



Oct./Nov.  
2008



Hola! It is a little scary, but it will soon be November. It seems like the year has just flown by. I will be out in Washington State visiting family the end of the month, and by the time I get back, the election will be over and my mail will be reduced by at least half. Since the last newsletter, we have seen a lot happen. It was really sad for the church to lose two long time members, Ann Reed and Putt Petee. With some of the other losses we have suffered this year, it is a sign of a real change within the church. In addition, we have seen several others go through major health struggles, with Doug Hickman now back in church, but Marjorie Wotring struggling to recover from a stroke; Sally Hagenbaugh now at Blissfield Place, and Dick Werth still valiantly fighting a vicious form of cancer. Additionally, I just found out today that Don Ashman, who used to attend regularly, is at Park Place, in hospice care.

But in the process of all the changes, I have contin-

ued to be impressed by the many gifts that we have as a church. The response for the funeral dinner, the care shown for those who are struggling, the marvelous music, and work, and willingness to sacrifice simply shows that those who are in the process of leaving the church for their heavenly reward, have done a great job of preparing others to step up and serve. I certainly feel blessed to have such a great group of people to work with, and to have the opportunity to serve. You make my work and my life both more enriched, and more of a joy.

But I can't help but look forward. Forward to the church working together on the Craft Show in November; forward to the next after church "let's go out to dinner," like the one we had earlier this month at Conner O'Neil's in Ann Arbor; and forward to the several trips that I will be taking next year - first to Mexico with a group from Presbyterian, then a vacation (tour) to Costa Rica and Panama, and then finally the Mission trip with 9 other members of the church and my youngest son from Wash-

ington, as we go to Costa Rica and help create a community center in the town of Tres Equis, half way between the capitol of San Jose and the Caribbean. I am trying my best to learn Spanish, and if successful will maybe preach a sermon some Sunday in Spanish, though I don't think there is any need to fear that based on the progress I'm making thus far.

As we move towards the holidays, both Thanksgiving and Christmas, let's make a concerted effort to both be in worship regularly, to support the activities that are taking place, and to invite others to come and join us. I think we have a lot to offer, and others will like what they find. Invite a friend, invite a stranger, invite a relative, invite a co-worker, or invite someone who used to attend. Think what we might be able to accomplish with even more people pulling together.

Pastor Bob

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## Special Dates

11/2	Daylight Saving Time Ends
11/4	Election Day
11/11	Veterans Day
11/15	Yuletide Craft Show and Bake Sale
11/27	Thanksgiving
11/30	First Sunday of Advent



THANKSGIVING

Do you have dinner plans for the third Monday of the month? Palmyra Presbyterian serves a delicious homemade dinner from 5:00 - 6:30 every third Monday. The cost of dinner is very reasonable. Support our friends in Palmyra. Mark your calendars now.



**PRAYER SHAWL  
KNITTING GROUP**

Fall is here and it is time to get back to some serious (???) knitting. We are looking for some new people to join us and bring some new ideas. We would like to do Prayer Shawls and more. We have several different patterns for prayer shawls. We would like to make some hats and mittens for the Elementary School as well as tie some young peoples' quilts for those who can use them. We want any new ideas anyone might have. We still meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 and will be meeting October 28, at the church. There is plenty of room for lots more people and all are welcome. We will be meeting each Tuesday at the Church until it gets too cold and then we may move to some homes. Please come and join us. We have a lot of fun. Any questions, please call Mary Case at 486-4224.

**"Let's Go Out to Eat After Church."** We will be having our next "Let's go out to eat after church" on November 9th. The location has not been definitely determined yet, but one very possible destination is the Elephant Bar Restaurant in Toledo (but other suggestions have been made for Chinese or Middle Eastern). It is a no reservations required event, and everyone is welcome and invited. We had a blast in Ann Arbor on October 6th, with 13 people in attendance, and expect to have just as much fun this time. Plan on joining us and see if you don't enjoy yourself in a very relaxed and informal time of fellowship. The church that plays together and eats together, I believe, will actually grow together. If not in number, at least around the middle. Invite an open-minded friend, but remember, this isn't Bible Study, it's fellowship, and we are going to be having fun.



The annual Yuletide Craft Show and Bake Sale, held at Bliss-

field Elementary School will be held on Saturday, November 15. Help will be needed Friday for set-up and all day Saturday for a variety of things. Start making items for the Bake Sale now. Most will freeze well. And if you could clear a couple of hours to work that day, it would be appreciated. Say yes when Peggy Nieman asks for help.



The blue envelop in the front of your offering envelop box is for your per capita fee for 2008. It is our church's obligation to pay a per capita fee to the Presbyterian Church USA for each member. This money comes from the general fund. We are asking each member to consider paying their Per Capita fee of \$27 to help with this expense from our general fund. This cost equals out to just over 50 cents per week. Thank you.



**Prayer Chain Fan Out**

If you have a person, situation, or a need for prayer, please call one of the following people and the Prayer Chain will be started.

- \*Pastor Bob Bidwell - 517-605-2341
- \*Carolyn Saxton - 486-3429
- \*Peggy Nieman - 486-4116 (h)  
486-4347 (w)
- \*Mary Case - 486-4224
- \*Wetonia Jackson - 486-4360 (h)  
517-612-0322 (c)

## Sunday School and Youth Group are in Full Swing

The school year has begun, and so has our Sunday School and Youth Group Activities. The adult class is a non-threatening discussion all adults. The friendly atmosphere is enlightening, and fun discussions are being taught by Sue Porter. The emphasis of the class is important concepts. The Middle School students



### Classes for All Ages

in our lives, and Denny Thompson is their teacher. The Elementary students are being taught by Amber Unsinger and they are having fun learning more about Jesus in their lives. There have been approximately fifteen students attending each week with five in each of the three grade levels.

orientated class which is open to all. The atmosphere lends itself to interesting discussions. Our High School students and Jana Martin and the main emphasis of the class is important Christian truths and concepts are studying about Christ



The High School /Middle School Youth Group took a trip to Cedar Point and enjoyed a wonderful day. The weather was great, the lines were short, and the nine kids that went had a good time.

Some of the activities that the youth will be doing will be service oriented. For example, the church foundation needed painting and Alex Martin pitched in and helped with that. There will be opportunities in the near future for our youth to rake leaves for people in our congregation and community. The CROP WALK is also coming up soon and the youth will be encouraged to participate in that worthwhile event.

## A Very Generous Gift

We have deposited the moneys received from the Mary Emily Tuttle estate, into two CD's. \$50,000 is in a 12 month variable CD earning at this time 2.47%. That % could change - it's variable! Also we can make one withdrawal per quarter from this account. \$125,000 has been put into a fixed interest 14 month CD earning 3.11%. While these accounts are earning a little higher interest for us for the next year, we can be thinking about some much needed repairs, improvements and investments for the church, such as sanctuary carpet, storm windows, outdoor storage shed, etc. Most of these moneys will be put into a long term account, similar to the Comerica Account that will provide us with substantial interest income. Hopefully the markets and the economy will right itself by then. Questions? Talk to Paula, Pastor Bob, Doug Case, or any session member.



"Let me tell you about my kids" is the title of a new feature in the upcoming **Lifelines**. We view our children as a vital and important part of our church family and we want to know what is happening in their lives. We want to know about their accomplishments, their interests, their school activities, etc. Please submit to this editor "just the facts." I will take that info and put it into article form. If you'd like to submit a picture, that would be a great addition. Stories about grandchildren would also be welcome. Information can be submitted to me personally or via email at [elibrarylady@hotmail.com](mailto:elibrarylady@hotmail.com).

Thanks, Connie Graf

Taken from a church bulletin - "Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done." (This is for real. It actually appeared in a church bulletin. More to come in future **Lifelines**. Thanks to Suzanne Saxton.)

# QUARTERLY REPORT



Quarterly Financial Reports are included in this Lifeline. If you have questions, please call Mary Case at 486-4224

**Choir Practice** is each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Diana is always looking for new voices. Practice has started for the Christmas Eve Service. ALL are welcome!



## November 16, 2008

- \*Matt & Kori Nieman
- Peggy Nieman
- Carol Seeburger

## December 14 or 21, 2008

- \*Connie & Ken Graf
- Sally & Lee Feldkamp
- Helen Peshke
- Linda & Denny Thompson

\*Chairperson

If scheduling conflicts occur on your designated Sunday, please feel free to trade or contact Jana Martin at 486-5914 or Linda Thompson at 486-3113.



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## November

- 1 Jacob Graf
- 2 Peggy & Tom Nieman
- 3 Susan & John Harmes
- 4 Suzanne & Jerry Saxton
- 9 Alex Mitchell
- Molly Nieman
- 11 Bill Strouse
- 14 Monica & Dale Wotring
- 15 Sadie Strouse
- 16 Paul Friess
- 18 Jana Martin
- 21 Chelsea Goodson
- Darlene & Sandy Petee
- 22 Connie Graf
- 29 Mary Case

## December

- 2 Kirk Bettis
- 3 Kori & Matt Nieman
- 5 Greg Jackson
- 10 Tom Nieman
- 16 Suzanne Saxton
- 18 Alex Martin
- 20 Yvonne & Jim Robertson
- 21 Kelly Griner
- 23 Cathie & Doug Case
- 24 Steve Seeburger
- June & Andy Somes
- 25 Jesus
- 29 Amy Martin
- 30 Doris DeNudt
- Ellen Hicks & Glenn Griner

Just a reminder to keep collecting used ink cartridges, cell phones, laptop computers, iPods, and digital cameras. There is a container in the narthex in which to place these used items. Our church earns money from these items. Let your family, friends, and co-workers know about our project. Proceeds will go to the Costa Rica mission trip in June. Call Cathie Case (486-4178) if you have items you would like to donate but need to have them picked up.



Taken from a church bulletin - "The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'"

# Joys and Concerns

**Pray for . . .** Doug Hickman; healing for Dick Werth; Steve Werth, Kelsey and kids; Alice Petee; MaryKay Snyder who fell and broke some ribs; Ken Street who had some knee surgery; Ben Hoagland as he recovers and makes progress after surgery in September; Debbie Royal's father, Art; Ryan and Gretchen Rought; Pastor Bob; Glendora Klump; Grace, Carol Seeburger's mom; Cliff and Barb Jackson; Karen Tuckerman Jasmund; Rhea Schaedler; Jerry Lippens and his family; our church; our Session; the state of Michigan; the USA; military personnel serving all over the world; our president and elected officials; world leaders; peace, tolerance, understanding and compassion for our world.

## Sympathy for . . .

- the family of Ann Reed. Ann passed away September 25. Ann was a faithful member of our church, serving on many committees. Her memorial service was Oct. 11 in our church.
- the family of Putt Petee. Putt passed away September. He was an active member of our church and a wonderful neighbor.
- the family of Bill Smith. Bill was our choir director many years ago.

## Remember . . .

Those who can't worship with us on

a regular basis: June and Andy Somes; Sally Hagenbuch who has recently moved to Blissfield Place; Esther Billington, Mary Saxton, Marjorie Wotring who is recovering from a stroke at Lake Park, and Marian Snyder (103 years old) who is recovering from a broken hip at Tender Care.

## Joys . . .

- Doug Hickman has returned home and is back in church after his miraculous recovery. God hears our prayers.
- Steve Werth was recently interviewed by our Presbytery for his candidacy into the ministry and did an awesome job! Way to go Steve.
- Cyndi Case is spending several weeks in Australia being a nanny.
- Derek Feldkamp is also in Australia working on his baseball skills. He will be there until February/March.
- Al, Lillian and Jeff Shaffer joined us for worship September 28. They were in town for Al's induction into the Blissfield High School Hall of Fame.
- Gretchen and Ryan Rought were in Blissfield for a few days visiting family and friends in the USA. They are missionaries in Costa Rica, daughter of Doug and Cathie Case.
- Dick and Carolyn Saxton are

in attendance.

- Jan and Dave Wood celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary aboard a cruise ship, a gift from their family.
- Denny and Linda Thompson who are always doing little things for others and making a BIG difference.
- Beautiful fall weather.
- Chuck and Gina Cory are grandparents!

### Everyone Can Serve

Look for opportunities to serve; don't wait to be asked! Remember: You can serve without being a part of an "official" ministry. We all can:

- extend the word of welcome, whether or not we are official greeters;
- be listening, caring friends, whether or not we are official lay counselors;
- be ready to give reason for the hope that is within us, whether or not we are on the evangelism team;
- be enthusiastic participants and ready to give a hand, whether or not we are on the planning or cleanup committees.

