



The Acorn

Starr Presbyterian
Church News
December 2010

Celebrating the Christmas Season!

Christmas Services

"Blue Christmas" Service

*Recognizing and honoring
the sadness the holiday
season can bring.*

Thursday, December 23 at 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve

December 24

Family Service from 5-5:45 p.m.
Candlelight Service at 11 p.m.

New Year's Celebrations

Primary Purpose

"New Year's Day"
Noon—7 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Family First Sunday

New Year's Service
Sunday, January 2
10:30 a.m. Worship
Luncheon to follow.

Special Observances

Epiphany Service

Celebrating the arrival of the Magi.

Sunday, January 6 at 7 p.m.

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Renewing our Baptismal Vows.

Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Education Ministries

Session Highlights

Summary of pertinent actions the Session took at the November meeting.

- Approved support to move coffee hour to the lounge after worship.
- Approved to amend the by-laws to reflect that the Boards of Deacons and Trustees have been re-established and how many members will sit on each Board.
- Set Christmas Eve services for 5 p.m. Family service and 11p.m. Candlelight service.
- Set Blue Christmas service for Thursday, December 23rd.
- Approved new Warming Shelter schedule: Doors open at 6 p.m. for coffee/registration/warm-up.
- Approved support for Rev. Kelly to request financial support from churches in the area to provide cots for the guests of the Warming Shelter.
- Set Sunday, January 9, 2011 date for Annual meeting following worship.
- Set Sunday, January 9, 2011 date for a "baby shower for Jesus" to supply the nursery with new items.
- Approved to provide resources and support to move the Sunday School classes to the upstairs west wing. Renovation completion date: Easter Sunday 2011.
- Reported 33 stewardship cards returned. Reminders sent to those who have not responded.

Communion Servers For December:
Carol Eads • Janie Castle
Andy LeCureaux

Deacon's Corner

We would like to send out a big *Thank You* to John Meyers for repairing and cleaning one of the large coffee urns in the kitchen.

Remember ,Coffee Hour will now be held in the upstairs Lounge.

Regards,

Deacon Committee

The Senior High Youth Group, led by Brooke Henderson, will meet Dec. 5, 12 and 19 from 7:30-9 p.m.

Contact Brooke at
(906) 630-0228 or via email,
broohen@hotmail.com

The Middle School Youth Group, led by Rev. Kelly and Sheila Judd , will meet on Sunday, December 19 from 5-7 p.m.



Scripture... Soup and Salad

A four-week Advent Bible Study hosted by Rev. Kelly

Each Wednesday, December 1 through Wednesday December 22 beginning at 6 p.m.

From the Trustees

The Trustees would like to thank the volunteers that helped set up the Christmas tree on November 20th and who cleaned most of the church's gutters. We will need 4-5 or more volunteers to help with cleaning the strip of gutters along the east side of the Church on December 4th. We'll be moving a large, heavy ladder. We will meet at the church at 9 a.m. and should have the work done before noon. Call Don Reinke if you can help. Thank you!

Community Ministries

Recovery Ministries Meeting times

Sundays:

Men's AA Bible Study at 8:30 a.m.
Meeting in the Park Group at 1 p.m.

Tuesdays: Al-Anon meeting at
9:30 a.m.

Thursdays: Primary Purpose
Men's Group at 7 p.m.

December's Fourth Sunday Coffee Hour will be postponed due to the holidays. Starr will host on Sunday, January 23 at 10 a.m. Please join us as we spend special fellowship time with New Life and the Taiwanese Fellowship Group.

Salvation Army "Wish Tree"

Make sure to sign out a tag off our "Wish Tree," located by the church office. Please return the gifts, unwrapped with the tag attached, by Sunday, December 5.

If you have any questions,
Please contact Margaret Rossnagel.



Women's Association News December 2010



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Circles meet on
Tuesday,
December 14 at 10 a.m.

Abigail-Dorcas meets at the church.
Mary-Martha meets at
Betty Groh-Bennett's home.

Following the meetings we will have lunch at
the Clawson Steak House.

There is no Women's Board Meeting
In December.

There is no Women's Gathering
In December.

Additional Women's News:

PWPD Gathering will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, **December 1** at Allen Park Presbyterian Church. There will be a Recognition of Honorary Memberships and small change collection for hunger. Cost is \$7 and includes lunch. RSVP to Velma Wills (248/549-1544) by November 23.

Our Fifth Annual Women's Tea will be Sunday, **December 5** at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Velma Wills (248/549-1544) by November 23.

DID YOU KNOW...

That one of Starr's neighbors, Changez Salon, is dedicated to helping Starr's mission as well as the neighborhood and businesses in this area? Stefan Fleck, one of the salon owners, goes out of his way to extend a neighborly hand to Starr. (He donated items to the Coffeehouse and Warming Shelter last year, and many, many canned goods to our pantry!) He also tries to fill a need in the community, so this year, his salon is offering \$2 for every non-perishable food item donated (up to \$10) to be used off any salon service!

Join the Changez Salon for a Holiday Open House, where you can meet Stefan and enjoy complimentary hand treatments and mini-facials, discounts on products and services, drawings and prizes! Help support the neighbor who supports Starr on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Changez, 3210 Crooks Road in Royal Oak. 248/288-3434.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER MINISTRIES

**SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE
December 2010**

Liturgists:

December 5: Shelby Alston
 December 12: Susie Regula
 December 19: Mandy Reinke
 December 24: Becca Castle (5 p.m. Service)
 Aaron Michaels (11 p.m. Service)
 December 26: Linda Finn

Greeters:

December 5: Carol Eads
 December 12: Lorna Eliason
 December 19: Margaret Rossnagel
 December 26: Velma Willis

Coffee Hour Hosts:

December 5: No coffee hour (Family First Sunday)
 December 12: Session
 December 19: Carol Eads
 December 26: No coffee hour

A very special thank you to...

Dear Rev. Kelly and Congregation,
 What a beautiful, exciting Mission breakfast you hosted for our Month of Mission!
 Everyone left your church thrilled with your kindness, filled with your good food and inspired by the mission messages!
 I must quickly tell you how much I love the clever apron with the specially painted logo of the PC (USA) painted on it...given to me! I will wear it like a uniform I have decided! How clever you are!
 Thank you so much for the wonderful presentation you made, Rev. Kate, in giving your lovely gift to me! Thank you for the cherished present!
 Everything about the breakfast was planned to perfection. The greeting as everyone arrived was so welcoming! The tables looked so festive; the food was so delicious and abundant! The hymns were chosen to emphasize the mission! Peggy Beal's piano and organ playing were amazing and added an elegant touch!
 All of the details were organized beyond expectation! The breakfast was magnificent! Thank you! Thank you! I love you!

Fran Anderson

Thanks for the info (building use approved). Our program on New Year's Day illustrates the name of our group, Primary Purpose: our primary purpose is to stay sober and help others achieve sobriety. The holidays are a time of stress for many who are new to sobriety and our gathering provides fellowship in an alcohol-free environment. It also provides fellowship for those who don't have families to celebrate with. Thanks again.

Primary Purpose



SAVE THE DATE!

Dec. 19: Caroling and visit our shut-ins
Jan. 22: Coffee House Fundraiser for Warming Shelter
Feb. 12-19: Warming Shelter

Christmas Boxes for Shut-ins

We're collecting cookies, fruit, candy, sugar-free candy, individually wrapped snack items, etc., to assemble into gift boxes for our shut-ins. Bring in non-perishable items by December 12, and perishable items December 19. Boxes will be given out when we go caroling.



Stewardship and Attendance

The weekly giving need for Starr Presbyterian Church is \$3,000. The average weekly giving for October was \$2510, and the average weekly giving (through week three) for November was \$2,169.

Our monthly attendance average for October was 60 adult members and guests. The attendance average (through week three) for November was 60 adult members and guests.

Mitten Tree

At the top of the stairs, as you come in the door, you will find a tree designated as the "Mitten Tree." Please help us decorate it with pairs of mittens or gloves for children. We are joining with mittensfordetroit.org to help warm hearts, two hands at a time.



Your generous mitten and glove donations go to benefit the following charities in Michigan: Covenant House of Michigan, Crossroads of Michigan, Michigan's Veteran's Foundation, St. Christine Christian Services and Latino Family Services.

Proposed Clarification of Responsibilities

Deacons and Elders

Board of Deacons: Shall assume the following areas of responsibility with one or more deacons serving as point person(s) for each ministry.

Greeting Card Ministries: Purchasing of cards and stamps to send cards to members including birthday, anniversary, congratulations, get well soon and sympathy cards.

Ministry to Homebound Members and the Sick: Coordinate communion, visitation, needs assessment, poinsettias and Easter lilies. Create and oversee visitation schedule for all hospitalized members within 24 hours of learning of their hospitalization. Update the pastor and prayer chains with any additional concerns or information.

Meals and Annual Events: Coordinate and oversee all funeral luncheons, roast beef dinners, family first Sundays, worship in the park and ice cream social.

Community Outreach: Coordinate and oversee Community meals, food pantry and future community based ministries.

Warming Shelter Ministry: Participate and convene planning sessions for the Warming Shelter. Following the shelter coordinate "Volunteer Appreciation Sunday" and assessment of what "worked" and "didn't work" with volunteers and leaders.

Hospitality Ministry: Coordinate and oversee the outside and inside seasonal decorations, update bulletin boards monthly, over sight of room cleanliness, intentional care of visitors and guests, coordinate hospitality bags and donations needed.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Shall work with the pastor in identifying individuals both in our congregation and our community who are in need of the extra love and commitment our prayer shawls convey.

Coffee Hour: Coordinate schedule of servers, donations of goodies, set-up and clean-up for Coffee Hour. This would also include participation in our Fourth Sunday Fellowship at 10am with the TWF and NLLC.

In addition to the definition of duties stated in our Book of Order the:

- Deacons shall meet no less than monthly (proposed second Sunday of the month).
- Deacons shall participate in Leadership Development activities and Bible studies.
- Deacons shall be placed in rotation for serving communion and encouraged to serve as liturgists and greeters.

Deacons shall give a monthly report to the Session including any action items and copies of the minutes from monthly meetings. An abbreviated report shall be given to the administrative assistant to be included in our newsletter no later than ***the third Friday of the month.***

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Session: The Elders of Starr Presbyterian Church are called by God and empowered by the congregation to discern, develop and carry-out short term and long term goals, ministries and visions for the church. To that end it is proposed that in addition to the responsibilities of the elders are put forth in our Book of Order they shall:

Be visible leaders on Sunday mornings: Make announcements, lift up prayer concerns, serve as liturgist, be placed in rotation to serve communion, serve as greeters and ushers, sing, moments for mission and reports from the Session. Actively encourage participation in and promote all Starr activities.

Participate in Bible studies, small groups and all leadership activities. Pray for the church and study God's Word daily.

Nurture our longtime members: To intentionally reach out to those members who are home-bound or no longer as physically active as they once were in the church. Make them feel connected, hear their concerns, communicate with the pastor if she should visit them at home, partner with her in bringing communion to those who wish to receive it.

Each Session member will take leadership in one or more of the following areas of church life:

- Outreach to the community - intentionally seeking out ways we can better serve our community.
- Attend Presbytery meetings and events
- Pastoral and staff support
- Oversight of worship- including partnering with the pastor and musicians to create special worship services.
- Hospitality ministry to visitors and new members
- Be an active participant in the Education Program for our children and adults
- Develop year long stewardship program and help to carry out goals
- Developing long-term financial stability for the church- meet with members about legacy gifts
- Actively supporting the work of the Deacons and Trustees
- Serve as a coordinator for the Warming Shelter
- Communication - including signs, neighborhood contact, newsletter and website.
- Attend grant writing seminar with the pastor and work on grants to provide additional funds.

Session shall convene monthly; Elders shall give reports, submit information to Lynne for announcements, flyers and newsletter articles and they shall submit reports for the Annual Report in their respective areas of ministry.

Elders shall also pray for the church, its members and the pastor daily. Study God's word with passion and curiosity and openly communicate with the pastor about their desired leadership goals.

If you feel called to serve, please contact Sandy Woodcox, Nominating Committee Chairperson.



Starr Presbyterian Church Contacts

Session Members

Janie Castle 248/629-5239
 email: janiecastle@aol.com
 Betty Groh-Bennett 248/435-5458
 email: bgroh1@ameritech.net
 Ann Johnson 248/549-4294
 email: amjohnso@oaklandcc.edu
 Dan Kendall 248/549-9432
 email: mako1man@aol.com
 Andy LeCureaux 248/225-7372
 email: alecureaux@yahoo.com
 Mandy Reinke 248/399-9053
 email: mandyreinke@sbcglobal.net

Board Chairs

Trustees: Don Reinke 248/399-9053
 email: Donald.T.Reinke@usace.army.mil
 Deacons: Sandy Woodcox 248/320-3182
 email: imsandyw@aol.com

Office Staff

Church Office: 248/288-3230
 Fax line: 248/288-3231
 Rev. Kathryn Kelly kvkelly08@gmail.com
 Lynne Cobb, Admin. office@starrchurch.org

Web Address:

www.starrchurch.org

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



29 John and Elaine Meyer
 30 Bob and Anne Babion

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bob Babion
- 2 Melissa Bunge
- 4 Sarah Doty
- 5 Carol Eads
- 6 Greg Castle
- 7 Bruce Johnson
- 9 Janie Castle
- 23 Pam Berschbach
- 26 Annabelle Sorenson
- 28 Brooke Berschbach
- 29 Steven McCusker, Jr.
- 30 Lynne Cobb
- 31 Helen Doty
- 31 Tom Hahn



PRAYER PAGE

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:

Those severely ill/injured/facing tests and surgery:

Lee Accorsi, Jacob Bommarito, Sally Burton, Bob Chaney, Dan Cobb, Steve Cutter, Janet Delaney, Jane Duff, Joe Fedderhoff, Lou Fleury, Jacky Howard, Vernon Howe, Tom Kraus, Tawni Lambroff, Pam Martin, Joey Massameri, Fred Miller, Donald Raines, Alexander Rataj, Ricky Rojas, Beverly Schell, MacKenzie Rose Stothers, Mike Tanner, Al Wease

Those recovering or facing long-term health challenges:

Rich Albright, Ted Alex, Becca Castle, Shirley Caughey, Lynn Chalmers, Diane Cole, Deb Collins, Maria Gorniak, Kathy LeCureaux Cherris; Austin Durbin, Janet Edmonds, Jim Evans, Lillian Farrel, Mary Guss, Larry Hessen, Chelsea Johnson, Lilly Johnson, Tom Johnson, Dr. Kabot, Billie Krakker, Mae Mitchum, Susan Parcell, Gabrielle Schramski, Dallas Strawn, Jim Sutherland, Anne Trampus, Marian Ventro, Alma Wetters, Sandy Woodcox

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Ryan Bennett

For our missionaries:

Marge and Steve Doty and Lizzie Heavenrich

For those serving our country:

President Barack Obama and all of our elected officials. Our service members: LCpl Jon Castle USMC; SrA David Cobb USAF; SPC Jeff Cobb USA; David Kennington USN, SSG James Rubert USA; SGT Laura Tate, USA(Reserve); Army Recruit Tyler Parcell

For home-bound/health-care facility-bound members:

Darlene Burche, Margaret Burkheiser, Lori Carson, Marie Deromedi, Anna Lee, Elvaretta Lister, John Pardy, Joyce Wilson, Eileen Gmeiner; Marguerite Hengel, Louise Judge, Jean McFarlin, Doris McDonald

For those experiencing personal struggles:

Those needing comfort during transition and change; those seeking employment, the homeless and those who are losing their homes; families experiencing effects of natural disasters/bad weather; for those struggling with addictions and those recovering.



Senior High Youth Group News

I have been to many churches in search of a place to call my church "home" because that sense of community has always been an important piece in my faith journey. My first steps into Starr were greeted by friendly faces, excited voices and a pastor I could connect to. Hugs were given with ease and love, and I was quickly welcomed into your home. What a testament to this church and its members!

I write to you now to ask for that same love and support I have felt from day one to continue for our youth. While small in number, I can assure you that these high schoolers are some amazing people. They deserve nothing but our everything!

To say that I'm excited to "work" with them is an understatement. I'm honored and blessed to be a part of this church and its youth. BUT...and there's always a but...I can't and won't do it alone! Yes, these kids deserve all I can give, but they also deserve all YOU can give! Let's stand behind them, guide them, teach them, LISTEN to them, pick them back up when they fall, and most importantly, LOVE them unconditionally!

Starr Presbyterian Church is a family I'm proud to be a part of and I thank you for opening your arms (literally!) and welcoming me aboard. There is so much for me to be thankful for this Thanksgiving and you better believe that Starr is on that list. I thank you in advance for the support of the youth and myself as we work at growing in number and growing in our faith.



Peace & Love,
Brooke Henderson

Halloween Party 2010—We had a howlin' good time!

