

The Hotline

A publication of Holt United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2009

Worship for September (8:30, 9:30 & 11 AM)

During my recent trip to Israel Bethany and I made it a point to worship in different churches each Sunday. We worshipped in an Aramaic speaking Syrian congregation in the tomb of Joseph of Arimethea in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We worshipped in St. James Church where the Apostle James is buried. We worshipped in St. Andrews Scottish Presbyterian Church and in the French Catholic Church of St. Anne, a Crusader church near the Pools of Bethesda. We worshipped as tourists, soaking up the learning and touching briefly an experience with God, but fully aware that we weren't staying or investing for the long haul.

Worship at Holt UMC is different. This is a place where we are growing roots and relationships that matter. It is a place where we want to live in communion and community and share a vision for Jesus Christ with the Body of Christ.

I pray that every tourist to our church receives a warm welcome and hospitality from each of us that encourages them to stay or at least take with them the grace of Jesus as a result of their visit. But I also pray for all who attend that our shared experience of Christ here transforms us from tourists to resident Disciples for Jesus, each invested in helping to grow the Body of Christ.

Sunday, September 6, 2009- Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost -Labor Day Roger Rochowiak preaching, "Great Disciples of Our Lord: James"; Acts 12:1-2.

Sunday, September 13, 2009-Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost-Hungry World Offering Dr. Wagner preaching "Great Disciples of our Lord: Barnabas"; Acts 4:31-37

Sunday, September 20, 2009-Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Dr. Wagner beginning a new sermon series entitled, "Because of Jesus." We will look at how the world is a different place because of Jesus. Our first sermon will be on "The Abolition of Slavery"; Galatians 3:25-29.

Sunday, September 27, 2009-Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - Super Sunday Dr. Phil Amerson, President of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary will be in worship with us during a very special service. A free will offering will support the work of the Seminary.

60+or- will meet September 8 at noon in the East Room for potluck and program. The speaker will be Dorothy Fredrickson, a missionary to Haiti from the Lansing area. She will share about the mission and school as well as about their new medical clinic that was built this last year. A special offering will be taken for the clinic. Please invite a friend and come and be inspired. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Our hosts for the day are Dave Showerman and Perry and Uyvonne Johnson.

Piece to Peace Quilters will meet Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m., Betty Lockwood's. The quilting group makes quilts for shut ins, baptisms, and other special events.



Walk to Emmaus – at Holt UMC October 8-11, 2009. This 72-hour spiritual renewal program is open to all women and the cost is \$75.00. Each attendee ("pilgrim") must be sponsored by someone who has previously been on a walk. For further information, registration forms, etc. please visit <http://www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com/Walks.html> or contact the church office if you do not have internet access. Application are available in the literature rack and registration deadline is September 10.

All-Church Fall Kick-Off Sunday Picnic! This year we are celebrating the start of our fall season in the great outdoors at Valhalla Park on Keller Road in Holt. We will meet on Sunday, September 13 at noon to barbeque, eat, and laugh! Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to pass, and lawn chairs. Main course, beverages and paper products will be provided.

Youth Groups Fall Kick-Off! All youth grades 6-12 are invited to Holt UMC on Sunday, September 13! We'll start our new fall schedule with games and activities from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Don't miss the fun! Check out the youth flyer included in this Hotline!



D.S. Welcome Event Sunday, September 13 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. is the "official" welcome celebration for our new Lansing District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Robert Hundley, at Christ United Methodist Church, 517 W. Jolly Rd. in Lansing. Rev. Hundley will be sharing a message of challenge and vision during the welcome event. His presentation will be "It Has Been Reported" based on I Corinthians 1. Members and friends of Holt UMC are invited to this public party.

Join us at Alpha: a school year program for adults with developmental disabilities which provides fellowship and Christian Education. We will begin on Monday, September 14. See article elsewhere in this issue for all the details.



Grief Support Group - an "Understanding Your Grief" support group will begin Monday, September 14, 2009 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. It will be at Holt United Methodist Church in the chapel. This is a 12 week support group and will last until November 31. The group is open to anyone in the Tri-County area who has lost a friend or loved one. You will find your way to hope and healing, if your goal is to heal in grief and to find continued meaning in life. Contact Doris Garrison at 517-242-5585 to pre-register.

September Reception planned for Seminary President at Holt UMC

A public reception for Dr. Phil Amerson, president of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, will be held here at the church on Saturday, September 26th at 7 P.M. Those attending will have an opportunity to learn more about the important work of our Seminary to equip our pastors for leadership in the church. Did you know that GETS has trained 9 of Holt UMC's 16 pastors since 1925 including: Joe Huston, Lynn Grimes, and Glenn Wagner? 9 ministry candidates from our West Michigan Conference are currently enrolled at Garrett including Lansing's Danielle Williams, who is the current recipient of the Glenn Wagner scholarship, established at Garrett-Evangelical in recognition of Pastor Glenn's ministry.

A special offering will be received on September 27th during worship to support the work of GETS.

Liturgist Workshop: The word liturgy means "work of the people". It is a gift of oneself to God to participate in worship as a liturgist. We would like to invite all current liturgists and anyone interested in becoming a liturgist to a workshop immediately following the 11:00 service on Sunday, September 20. Pastor Glenn will lead this 30 minute workshop, held in the sanctuary, to discuss ideas to lead the congregation through the Order of Worship in a timely, organized and reverent manner. Also included is a section focused on reading Scripture. If you're interested and want to find out more about the role of the liturgist, please plan to attend. We hope to see you there. Questions? See Pastor Glenn or Sue Knechtges.



Fireproof your marriage! Go on a Marriage Encounter Weekend! Attending to and protecting against threats to your marriage are essential to its health and survival. Open, sincere, and honest communication can produce a strong marriage that lasts a lifetime. Find out how on a United Methodist Marriage Encounter weekend! The next Marriage Encounter weekend is scheduled September 25-27 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, Michigan (north of Lansing). Contact Registration Couple, Chuck & Dalice Yost at (313) 937-1051 or CYOST@twmi.rr.com For more information visit www.encounter.org

The Lunch Bunch meets Sundays at 12:30 p.m. for dinner and fellowship at the following restaurants: September 7 – Flap Jack; September 13 – All Church Picnic; September 20 – Big Boy in Mason; September 27 – Zeus's on S. Pennsylvania. Please contact Sharon Showerman or Sharon Simonson with questions.

Youth Praise Team: Any youth interested in being a part of the Youth Praise Team is welcome to contact Lyle Edinger at 699-8125 or holt.edingers@netzero.net. You don't have to be experienced or have any particular level of ability, just a desire to be a part of it.

September Giving Opportunities: Thank you for your continued support of missions during the busy summer months. The Hungry World offering on September 13 will go to support Christian Education. These gifts will undergird the work to provide training in Christian Education within the conference, and 50% of gifts given to this offering stay at HUMC for our Christian Education program. On September 27, a special offering will be taken for Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. The seminary president, Dr. Amerson, will be the keynote speaker at Super Sunday on the 27th.



Body & Soul meets Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in Youth Room 2. We are currently studying "The Fruitful Life," about the fruits of the spirit. Invite a friend. – Lucille LaCourse

Alpha Ministry Join us at Alpha! Alpha is a school year program for adults with developmental disabilities which provides fellowship and Christian Education. We meet from 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at First Presbyterian Church of Holt (NW corner of Holt & Aurelius). **We will begin on Monday, September 14.** Activities each month include a Bible lesson, making a joyful noise, crafts and snacks. Support of the Alpha program is a combined effort between Holt UMC and First Presbyterian. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact any of the following people: Kathie Church 694-8168 or 694-7232, Marcia White 323-0482, or Kathy Russell 694-2516. Our schedule is on the church calendar.

Church Library Thanks Fall is a great time to enjoy our recently re-categorized library. Hopefully the changes will make it even easier for you to find what you're looking for! Librarian Florence Vermilyea has spent many hours along with the following volunteers: Sharon Showerman, Lynne Ruetenik, Shirley Stuteville, Dawn Hartig, Mary Ann Waltz and Betty Felbeck, cleaning, labeling, and re-shelving materials. Thank you all for your service. There are many great fiction series for you to enjoy!

Extend your travels - visit the Hideaway series to enjoy a small town filled with warmth, mystery and romance.

Kathie's Corner *Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.* (Proverbs 13:12) Have you ever had an unfulfilled dream? Twenty four years ago, I left my job in Houston and moved to Dallas to attend seminary. It was a dream that had been brewing for more than four years. Over and over the Lord confirmed this decision by all the ways He provided for me. However, shortly after classes started, I became ill, and by the New Year, I was in the hospital. I attempted to start the spring semester, but shortly into it, I had to drop out of school. By this point, I was too ill to even pack, so a friend packed for me. My dad drove down from Michigan and towed my car home. The day I left was one of the saddest days of my life.

As I wrote in January, I had the opportunity to complete a program through the same seminary. The program would only require me to complete one additional class to receive my Certificate of Graduate Studies. As of today, I have completed the program, 24 years later! God is so good!

The Adult Sunday School Class will resume our 2009 sessions on Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. We meet in the church library to continue using the "Journey Through the Bible" study book with a review of chapter 1-7 and then proceeding to chapter 8. Please join us to learn more about the Old Testament fundamental truths and their paths to the teachings of Jesus.



Annual Red Bird Mission Trip Annually, Holt UMC makes a trip to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky, during the week of spring break (the first week of April; **2010 dates are April 4-10**). **Youth eighth grade and older are eligible to participate.** While there, we work on community, mission campus, or conference projects. The cost of the trip in 2010 will be \$280. To raise funds for this trip, we operate a concession stand in Spartan Stadium during the home MSU football games.

There are seven home games this season, and \$20 can be earned toward the trip each game. If you cannot work, or in addition to you, it is possible for you to have a parent, or other designated responsible individual work for you. *Those working for you must inform the scheduler of such at the time they work so that proper records may be kept.*

Mary-Jo DeLany is our schedule coordinator for football concessions. She may be reached at 268-6699 or ormaryjo.delany@gmail.com. In order to make the scheduler's job easier, please note the game schedule below. Game times are often not available until the week before, sorry for the inconvenience. Our time to be in the stand is two hours before kick-off. We usually car pool from the church parking lot.

FYI: Workers cannot wear open-toed shoes or flip-flops; think comfortable as you will be standing on a cement floor. You also cannot wear the colors or clothing from the opposing team. Wear MSU green or a Holt UMC shirt if you have one. Tank tops are also not allowed. All workers must wear an apron and hat (you can bring your own hat).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>
09/05/09	Montana State	10/17/09	
	Northwestern		
09/12/09	Central Michigan	10/24/09	Iowa
10/03/09	Univ. of Michigan	11/07/09	Western MI
		11/21/09	Penn State



Theme for September: Creation

Memory Verse: “God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.” Genesis 1:31, adapted.

Mission Project for September & October:

Supplies for our local About Face Youth Center. The center will soon be relocating to a more cost effective location in Holt. We will publish the new address when received. Items needed: Paper Plates, Paper towels, Napkins, Plastic silverware, Cups – 8 & 10 oz. size, Toilet Paper, Reams of Copy Paper, Cans of Pop and Craft Supplies.

Workshops: Creation Station (Art), Science, and Gold Crown Theater (Video).

Our kick-off will be **Sunday, September 13**. New group lists are available outside the chapel. It would be helpful if you could check the list with your child so they are aware of their group (and color) to make our first day less stressful. Your help is also needed for your children to find their nametags in the narthex of the sanctuary. New 3 yr. olds should be potty trained before beginning our program. Thanks for your support! Just a reminder: Kingdom Kids II is the 11:00 service program. During this hour, all children are together in one group.

Youth Ministry Changes and Needs For several years, the fifth graders have been a part of our youth ministry. The results haven't been what we had hoped. As a result, Middle School/Junior High ministry will now be for those in grades 6-8. The fifth graders will be part of a new ministry which will organize quarterly events for them. Parent volunteers will be needed for this program to work. If you are interested, please let Kathie in the Christian Ed. office know of your desire to assist.

Senior High youth group will continue to be lead by Linda Staebell. We will also continue our connective relationship with the Dimondale and Grovenburg churches.

Additional volunteers are needed for all areas of youth ministry. All workers are screened through the Michigan State Police. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Kathie at 694-8168.

Parents, we moved our parent meeting to September 20. We ask you to join your students as we share important information and include you in our programming for the evening. See you there!

Third Grade Bibles Sunday, September 20, our third graders will be receiving their Bibles in both the 9:30 & 11:00 services. All children in third grade have been contacted. If you have a third grader and were not contacted, please call Kathie in the Christian Ed. office, 694-8168.

Summer Kingdom Kids Thanks Much appreciation to those who helped to lead our Kingdom Kids program this summer: Linda Staebell, Mary Harless, Amber Pitts, Christy Wiley, Phyllis Ginther, Matt & Keri Keck, Michele & Gina Burton, Darin & Mary Roush, and Joel & Terri Carman.



Fair Trade Coffee: September marks the first anniversary that UMW has been selling Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate. This is a mission project to help small farm growers sell their organic products. As Global Exchange reports: *Bit by bit, fair trade coffee has made a tangible difference in many farmers' lives. Children gain access to medical care and education, where before these services were non-existent. Much needed infrastructure is built, and progress against poverty is achieved. These advancements are being made because people in consumer countries realize that they can have a positive impact with the way they choose to spend their money. Fair Trade Certified coffee is a socially and environmentally responsible way to conduct trade between developed and developing countries. This alternative form of trade has the power to revolutionize the global economy, illustrating that the global community can work together to provide for everyone's needs.* We thank you for supporting this important project. Watch for chocolate bars again in October!

Holt UMC Scholarship Recipients The Holt UMC Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the following Holt UMC students met the application submission guidelines and have each received a \$1,000 scholarship toward their college educational expenses for the 2009-2010 school year. Tim Edinger (sophomore at Western Michigan University), Darren Frakes (sophomore at Grand Valley State University), Aaron Gimm (senior at Western Michigan University), Andrew Marlan (freshman at Michigan State University), Kaylee Neuhaus (sophomore at Michigan State University), and Bethany Wagner (senior at Hope College). The Scholarship Committee is profoundly grateful for the generous congregational donations which made giving scholarships this year possible.

Knowing Jesus

“Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so...” “Jesus Loves Me” was one of the first songs I learned in Sunday school. I can remember parents and grandparents reinforcing the tune at family sing-alongs. The Great Theologian, Karl Barth, when asked the most important Biblical truth, answered by singing this familiar tune, “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

If Karl Barth, and my Sunday School Teachers, and my elders were right, there is no more important task in life than knowing and loving Jesus as he loves us. Our ancestors have underscored the primary importance of Jesus for life by marking time in the Western world by the date of Jesus’ birth: B.C. (before Christ), and A.D. (Anno Domini, Latin for “the year of our Lord”).

Many of the greatest achievements in human history can be attributed directly to Jesus and his influence in: art, architecture, public education, health care, government, law, philosophy, music, and morality. It is possible in many of life’s most important arenas to trace the unparalleled impact of this man named Jesus.

Since it is a tenet of the Christian faith that Jesus is Lord and Savior of life, and a big part of Christian discipleship involves growing in our relationship with Jesus, and Christians believe that Jesus is risen from the dead, lives eternally with God, and desires to take up residence in the human heart, then doesn’t it make sense for believers in Jesus to work at growing in our relationship with Jesus?

But how do we grow in relationship with someone who isn’t present bodily in the same way as you or me? How do we love a “spiritual Jesus?”

Here are some ways that I have learned to love Jesus.

The Bible tells us a lot about Jesus and how he has been remembered. The four Gospels, the book of Acts and the Epistles of the New Testament tell us much about Jesus’ life, mission, priorities, death, and resurrection. Our Old Testament tells us about the Jewish culture and history into which Jesus was born. If we want to grow in our love for Jesus we can get to know a lot about him by studying the Bible.

We can learn even more about Jesus by participating in the kind of life that he calls us to in the Bible. In scripture we read for example that sacrificial love is a priority for Jesus, and that he wants us to be forgiving. Jesus teaches us to care for children, to remember the poor, to practice righteousness. Choosing to live as Jesus instructs tells us something important about Christ’s character. We can learn about Jesus experientially by choosing to live as he commanded.

We can learn about Jesus by participating fully in the life of the church. The Apostle Paul suggests in 1 Corinthians 12 that the church is like a body. Paul calls the church, “the body of Christ.” As we share our spiritual gifts

for the strengthening of the body of Christ we come to learn more about who Jesus is. People regularly testify that they have grown their faith by singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, going on a Mission Trip, visiting the sick, serving in a Soup Kitchen etc.

I often grow in my own faith by learning what Jesus is not. When I encounter others who are bigoted, self-absorbed, addicted, or bitter, these behaviors are understood by way of contrast to what I believe about Jesus who in the Bible is revealed as someone who is faithful, gracious, compassionate, and God-focused.

We can further learn about Jesus through those experiences in life that test us: grief, doubt, temptation, medical or economic crises. A favorite biblical story reveals that faith can grow through trial. Remember that Jacob became “Israel,” meaning, “One who has wrestled with God,” after an all night wrestling match with God left him crippled for life.

I have learned about Jesus from prayer. I know there is power in prayer and have experienced answers to prayer that continue to inspire my faith. I have also grown in my faith in those difficult experiences when prayers have not been answered as I have hoped.

I have grown in my faith in moments when I have been surprised by what I call, “God-incidences.” There are moments in life when God through circumstances too wonderful to be mere “coincidence” opens up heaven and gives us a glimpse of his majesty, power, and glory. These unplanned “God-incidence” moments leave me in awe at God’s wisdom and help me to know Jesus better.

I have also grown in my faith through the witness of those who embody the love of Jesus. This church is full of the Saints of God who love to do Jesus’ will. I am regularly encouraged and inspired by your Godly living to want to continue to choose to live in faithfulness. The good deeds of God’s people awaken that voice that speaks to conscience that says, “Lord, help me to grow like that!”

This summer I learned more about Jesus experientially by walking in his neighborhood in Israel. I learned for example that anyone who lives and walks in Israel needs to be in great physical shape. It is a very hilly/mountainous country. On my final Saturday in Jerusalem, Bethany, Brother Richard, and I hiked for the first time up the Mount of Olives where tradition holds, Jesus ascended into heaven 40 days after Easter. Most tour groups get a bus ride to the top of the Mount of Olives and walk down! It was an arduous climb. By the time we were done we were all winded, sweating profusely, in need of rest and water. If I were Jesus, after a crucifixion, when it came time for the ascension, I would have asked God to pick me up at the bottom of the hill!

Israel is a country with much less water than Michigan. When Jesus likens himself to “living water,” in John’s gospel it is an image as life giving as a cool cup of water to parched lips. The few “springs” and wells were of central importance to any city.

Jesus' land at the time of his life was dominated by the presence of Rome. The country is still littered with monumental Roman ruins. A visitor to Jerusalem would never forget a crucifixion. People, who live under the thumb of an oppressor historically, quietly submit or violently rebel. They still do.

Jesus was part of a culture where people valued faith. The synagogue in Capernaum where Jesus spent much time on the North shore of the Sea of Galilee is made of limestone in a region where all the local rocks are volcanic basalt. Someone went to a lot of extra labor and expense to quarry this stone and bring it a long way for this building where God was worshipped. The Temple Mount in Jerusalem similarly gives architectural evidence even 2,000 years after Jesus that honoring God was of paramount importance. The construction was of a massive scale particularly considering the primitive methods of construction employed.

This was a land used to geological upheavals and military conquests. It is a land where the weak and the wounded had short life expectancies.

I was struck in Galilee by the stunning beauty of the landscape. If the "Son of God" could have chosen to spend his time on earth anywhere, he chose to spend a lot of his brief adult life in a very beautiful neighborhood.

Jesus grew in a Jewish family with a faith tradition that was already more than 1,800 years old by the time he was born to Mary. The oral tradition of this Jewish family, backed by Modern Science, has been proven to be remarkably accurate through history.

In a recent book entitled, "The Lost Ark of the Covenant" by Tudor Parfitt, the author marks how he recently discovered a tribe of Ethiopians in Africa who claimed in culture, religion, practice, and belief to be descended from the Jews. Parfitt was able to confirm the claim using modern DNA testing. All Jewish priests have always been direct descendants of Aaron the first high priest. Priestly families in Israel all share a single common male genetic marker. Upon testing it was found that the Ethiopian priests similarly shared the same common male marker!

In a country where mortal threats still abound and conquests have an indelible historic record, a covenant, community, and shared commitments are essential to survival.

All this is to say, life has a lot to teach us about Jesus. It is a privilege to grow in my love for Jesus with you and through you.

See you in church on Sunday. Invite a friend to join you. Through our investments of prayer, time, talent, hospitality, and treasure let us continue to grow a world class community where Jesus is known and his love is embodied in each of us.

Love,

Pastor Glenn

Holt UMC member Mike Scott, QKA, Director of Operations for PensionTrend, Inc., has generously offered to review resumes and provide interview coaching for any Holt UMC members that are looking for work. In a highly competitive employment environment persons who may be qualified but are unprepared for their first impressions with a new employer often get passed by. Contact Mike, scottm@pensiontrend.com, if you have need or interest in his help. Thanks Mike!



United Methodist Women Trusting you all had a wonderful summer. September is here and lots of events are starting again.

UMW Board Meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the library. (note date change)

Lansing District Annual UMW is September 13, 3:00-8:00 p.m. at our church. All are welcome to attend but need to have a reservation by calling Betty Williams, Uyvonne Johnson or Mary Hamilton for details. Pastor Glenn is speaking about his Israel trip.

September 27 is Super Sunday! We will need cookies donated for refreshments. Call Uyvonne Johnson, 882-1807.

Think Crafters Bazaar on November 14th! Keep thinking about what you can donate for bazaar - jams, jelly, cookies, candy, other baked goodies, pickles, items for the Kids' Korner, Yesteryear Treasures - on November 14.

September dates for Circles:

Early Birds: Mary Odiorne, Chairperson 882-5834. Will NOT meet in September. Our next meeting will be October 21 at Grumpy's (corner of Pennsylvania & Mt. Hope) at 8:30 a.m.

Caroline: Tuesday, September 15 at Joan Smith's home, 12 noon.

Maudy-Priscilla: Linda Kaschyk, Chairperson, 694-1519. Monday, September 21 at Kathy Reinke's, 7:30 p.m.

Eva: Roberta Lott, Chairperson, 694-0548. Tuesday, September 22 at Helen Youdes's home, 7:00 p.m. (note time change)

Great Lakes: Tuesday, August 26 at Great Lakes in the small dining room at 12:30 pm. All are invited to join us. Call Margaret Turner, 694-5971, for reservations.

We invite all of the women to join any circle for fellowship, information and fun.

Coming to Holt UMC this fall!

Holt UMC will be hosting some great opportunities for spiritual growth this fall.

- 1) Wednesday, September 16 from 3 to 8 P.M. is the Lansing District UMW Annual Meeting that is being hosted by the women of our church. Pastor Glenn will be speaking and sharing a program at 7 P.M. in the sanctuary on his trip to Israel. If you missed it during August this will be another chance for you to learn from his experience in the Holy Land. For more information and registration see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter or contact Mary Hamilton 694-7601 or Uyvonne Johnson 882-1807.
- 2) On Sunday, September 27 from 2:30-5:00 P.M. Holt UMC will host this year's "Super Sunday" This leadership training event being sponsored by the Lansing District of the United Methodist Church will offer simultaneous world class workshops for free on a large array of topics to equip Christians for service. Dr. Wagner is a member of the planning team for this great event. Put the date on your calendar. As host congregation we need many volunteers to help run the event and there is sure to be a workshop offered that will be a blessing to you. If you would like to help as (a greeter, parking lot attendant, with refreshments, room captain, with set up or clean up, a reporter to help cover the event, please contact the church office at 694-8168, or email to pastorglenn@acd.net or call Perry or Uyvonne Johnson at 517 882-1807.

Workshops will be offered on: cooking, writing liturgy for worship, coping with Alzheimers, helping children with grief, dealing with difficult children, church stewardship, lay leadership, church public relations, music in worship, youth leadership, disaster preparedness, service evangelism, unemployment, and the ministry of encouragement. See enclosed flyer for details.

- 3) From Thursday, October 8 – Sunday, October 11, Holt UMC will be hosting an Emmaus Weekend for women. Emmaus is a wonderful opportunity for women to take a break from life and grow in their understanding of and commitment to Jesus Christ. Women who are interested in attending this spiritually uplifting weekend or who would like more information are encouraged to speak with the church office so we can put your name on the list as attendance is limited!

Special Thanks & Congratulations

Congratulations and thank you to Rick Gandura. Rick coached Holt UMC's softball team to a Methodist League Title again this year! Rick has been coaching our team for 20 years! The team finished in third place in the year end tournament. He will be passing the coaching reins to team member Stephanie Smith for next year.

Congratulations and thank you to Delores Norton. Delores was recently recognized by Independence Village as one of their volunteers of the year!

Thank you Florence Vermilyea and many volunteers who labored in the church library this month to clean, sort, label, catalogue, and shelve many new books for our church library. Your efforts are appreciated.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees and contributors to the church building fund. Parking lot cracks have been filled to prevent further damage with the expertise of Hayhoe Asphalt. Lines are being repainted by our own Jon Curtis, a sink hole has been patched, and the sewer line at the parsonage has been replaced by Roto Rooter in Holt, and the lawn reseeded by Doug Richardson.

Thank you Aaron Gimm and Bethany Wagner for your appreciated labor to re-paint the parsonage deck.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to the generous donors who made possible the awarding this year of college scholarships to six students who submitted their completed applications to the committee before the extended deadline. Receiving scholarships for the 2009-2010 school year are: Tim Edinger, Western Michigan, Aaron Gimm, Western Michigan, Andrew Marlan, Michigan State, Kaylee Neuhaus, Michigan State, Darren Frakes, Grand Valley, and Bethany Wagner, Hope College. Thank you also to the Scholarship Committee for your work.

Thank you Carl Strahle and Louanne Service for appreciated yard work around the church.

Thank you to David Dechow and Don Stouffer for appreciated technical help during the Wagner's recent public program on Israel. David helped to install a new donated remote control for our Sanctuary projection system and Don was on hand to trouble shoot during the presentation. 133 persons were present for an enjoyable evening learning about Israel. Pastor Glenn will be offering a much condensed version of this presentation in the Sanctuary at 7 P.M. on Wednesday, September 16 at the Lansing District United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting that our Holt Women are

hosting from 3 – 8:30 P.M. For tickets or more information contact Mary Hamilton 694-7601, or Yvonne Johnson 882-1807

Thank you Mark Krish, Michael Wagner, Bob Scriver & Joe DeLany for time spent researching, diagnosing and helping repair Pastor Glenn's computer when it was infected with a malignant virus, and for correcting the "glitch" in the network antispyware/antivirus software so all the church computers are better protected.

Please remember to notify Pastor Glenn or the church office with name of patient, hospital, type of surgery or reason for hospitalization and time surgery or procedure is scheduled beforehand, whenever possible. This is the only way we have of knowing where to visit you due to the privacy laws. Prayer requests may be called in to the church office, or e-mailed to RWTGreen@aol.com Please don't hesitate to request confidentiality if that is what you would prefer. Thank you!

Cemetery Lots available for sale, one in Deepdale Memorial Park and six in Memorial Gardens. The money raised from this sale will go toward capital improvements to the church building and property. If you are interested, please call the church office at 517-694-8168.



Knittin' Hats & Mittens: It will soon be time to think about the "Give a Kid a Coat" project. Last year the people of this church added over 100 hats and mittens to the project. Kari DeRosa was so pleased to have them, and thanked all who participated. Now is the time to start again for this year, and we can use any yarn skeins large enough to knit or crochet a pair

of mittens. Also knitting needles, size 4, 5, 6, or 7. Again we have patterns and people who can help you, and yarn for you to use. Please give this project your thoughts and prayers so there will be plenty for those who come in need. Thanks for your help.

Don't Forget to keep those outgrown kids' coats for distribution at Give-A-Kid-A-Coat, which will be October 24.

Coming in October - our annual Stewardship Drive. This year's theme: "Give until it feels good." (Jerry Robinson in the January 2009 *Hotline*) Commitment Sunday is scheduled for November 15, 2009.



English Class – for any person wanting to learn English as a second language. Every Sunday afternoon from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Lansing Central Church of the Nazarene, 1300 Eureka St. & Holmes St. (1 block south of Sparrow Hospital, across from Ronald McDonald House). Free, one on one instruction. Phone Rev. Will Baker at 517-484-1325.

Jerry's Page - in honor of Jerry Robinson

It is fun to be a giver. I particularly enjoy giving when I am able to use gifts to benefit people that I love and where my investments produce tangible results for God's kingdom.

It has been great fun to be able to give scholarships this year through the church to students, particularly when it looked after our endowment returns were in that we would not be able to give any.

I enjoyed being part of a Miracle Sunday program last year to beautify the church and to know that every day our investments in energy savings enable us to use money that would have been spent on utility increases for missions and ministry.

It has been a joy in recent years to watch young people that I have had a hand in baptizing, mentoring, and marrying, blossom and begin making contributions to the world.

I am grateful to watch as our congregational investments in missions make a difference in the lives of people in other parts of the world and to receive notes from persons we have helped in Holt in their times of crisis.

It is satisfying to receive letters from a child we support through Compassion International and to share life's journey with a 10 year old boy in Peru.

I would invite you on behalf of Jesus to become a joyful giver. Set aside some of your income to make Godly investments for Christ. It really is a fun thing to do!

Pastor, what would you do with a million dollars? I really was asked this question the other day. "Pastor, what would you do if you had a million dollars to invest in the church?" I was thankful for the opportunity to dream.

If someone handed me a gift for a million dollars to invest for the blessing of this congregation (amounts listed are estimates):

I would tithe the gift and use the first \$100,000 to set up an endowment at either the Methodist Foundation or the Capitol Area Community Foundation that would generate earnings of approximately \$5,000 per year forever to supplement the great

things that are already being done by our Church Good Samaritan Fund earmarked to assist local persons in need.

I would replace the aging church Boiler system with a more energy efficient system - \$40,000

I would install a handicapped accessible entrance and automatic doors at the front of the church for ease of access - \$40,000

I would replace all the church gas water heaters with tankless energy saving water heaters - \$5,000

I would insulate the back wall of the church sanctuary above the choir loft to save on the winter heating bill - \$3,000

I would replace six tank toilets with water saving flushing devices. \$3,000

I would reseal and expand the church parking lot. \$30,000

I would invest \$75,000 in upgrading the church sound system, worship computer, video cameras etc. so that portions of our weekly worship could be broadcast on TV and the internet and copies of the service could be reproduced quickly for sharing with others.

I would build an addition across the back of the church connecting the East Room and Fellowship Hall and adding additional classroom, office, and storage space including a lounge/brides room, another adult education space, and a computer lab. \$400,000

I would use \$100,000 to add to the church endowment for college scholarships.

I would use \$100,000 to add to the church endowment generating funds annually to assist with church maintenance. (Additional needs in the near future will be: replacing three additional aging AC units (Chapel, Daycare, and Kitchen), adding a new carillon, and or strengthening or replacing bell tower so the church bell could be rung before church on Sunday. The church parsonage roof has about four years of life expectancy left.)

I would use \$104,000 to create an endowment to be used by the church education committee to assist with programming for youth and young adult ministry.

The net result of these investments would be to:

- minimize church energy costs so more operational funds are available for ministry and mission long into the future;

- enhance our ability to grow the church in attendance, program, outreach, and effectiveness;

- invest in our youth and young adults to raise up Christian leaders for our future;

- make our church more effective and attractive to all.

- do even more to help address local needs in the name of Jesus Christ.

Dreams beyond the million include things like: growing church staff to assist with programming and ministry in areas like small groups, young adults, and pastoral care;

And launching a publishing company staffed with talented church members and pastor to publish written and musical materials for national distribution. By broadening our outreach we can multiply the impact of our investments.

It is fun to dream. How would you invest a million dollars in your church if someone gave you that kind of gift? Does anybody have a million dollars you'd like to invest in great dreams and dreamers willing to put it to work for Christ?



Kiwanis Blood Drive Thursday, September 17
at First Presbyterian Church, corner of Holt & Aurelius
Roads, from 1:00-6:45 p.m. Give an hour, save a life!

Finance Update In order to meet our budget for the year, the average giving per Sunday should be around \$7,900. As the summer has progressed, our average Sunday giving has slipped to \$7,600, which currently puts us in a deficit position of \$13,073. Projecting this current trend to the end of the year would give us a deficit of \$38,533.

To remedy the situation, all committee chairs and staff have been informed to carefully review needed expenditures for the balance of the year. We have also changed the timing of some major payments.

We have accomplished major and sometimes unexpected financial goals this year, in spite of the difficult times: new air conditioning for the sanctuary and the office wing, major rehab of the boiler, drainage rehab at the parsonage, new tile floors at the parsonage and a new industrial refrigerator.

Your financial support of God's mission at Holt United Methodist Church has been amazing and we thank you for it. We truly believe that God has a vital plan for this church and it will be achieved. Our mission is to discern this plan and progress in faith. Your continued financial support is appreciated. – The Finance Committee

Praise Team, Chancel Choir and Bell Choir will begin their fall schedules soon! The Praise Team leads music at 9:30 and practices on Wednesdays, the Chancel & Bell Choirs provide special music at 11:00 (and sometimes 8:30) and rehearse on Thursdays. Watch the bulletin for more details on how you can “make a joyful noise!”



Calling all dirty cars!!!

The Senior High Youth will be sponsoring a **donations only car wash** here at the church on **Saturday, September 19th** from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Funds will be used to help defray the costs of youth activities. Please bring your dirty care and help support some wonderful youth!!!

From the CEC It's even more difficult to write for September's

Hotline in August than it was last month to write for August's Hotline in July! September in my favorite month of the year. There are still many summer-like days to enjoy. The nights begin to cool and the leaves begin to turn. The weather is almost always perfect.

The CEC kids get to be outside repeatedly every single day - without bug repellent, without sunscreen, without jackets. It's still warm enough to play in the sandbox; while being cool enough to go outside in the warmest part of the afternoon. September's weather is dependable.

That brings me to my topic. Dependable. What does it mean to be dependable? If you are three or thirteen or thirty, being dependable means incredibly different things. What about if you are forty or sixty or eighty? At each stage of life the definition changes dramatically. In our world at CEC being dependable means *always* being on time - teacher or parent. No one wants to be left waiting. Each teacher needs to be on time so that the CEC opens promptly at 7 a.m., has appropriate ratios, allows the preceding teacher to leave on time. Late staff creates a multitude of problems! Young children learn from the rhythm of the day when to expect Mom or Dad. If that rhythm is disrupted by a late (or even an early) parent, the children are greatly bothered. If Mom or Dad does not arrive before the end of our day, we are greatly bothered.

As you enjoy the dependable month of September, as school starts for our children, as we settle into our fall routines; think about those who might be depending on you. Are you on time or have you left someone waiting? – Lisa Scriver, CEC Director