

Haslett Community Church



HCC Connections

...to inspire people with love for truth, passion for righteousness, and enthusiasm for service.

November 2011



Special points of interest:

- Choir News - p5
- Pledge Giving Update -p6
- Our Church History - p7
- Christmas Giving, Advent Services - p8-9

Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor's Page</i>	2
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	3
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	4
<i>Commendations Church Family</i>	6
<i>Mission 1, Fall Clean-up</i>	7
<i>Food Bank News</i>	9
<i>Social News</i>	10, 11
<i>Spiritual Life</i>	12
<i>Church Calendar</i>	13

Giving Good Gifts

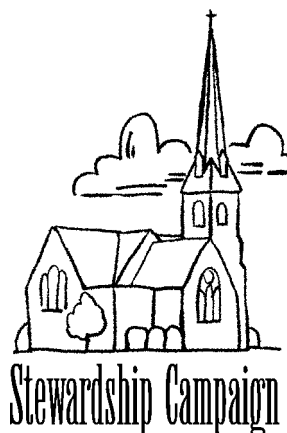
By now, most of us will have received the initial stewardship campaign letter from your Stewardship Team. In that letter we identified the theme of the 2011 stewardship campaign to be "**Giving Good Gifts**" based on a passage from Isaiah 55, verse 2 that reads... "*Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?*"

We have all been blessed with particular spiritual gifts and it is up to each and every one of us to discover and develop those gifts so that we can understand and acknowledge what God is calling us to do. When we all share our gifts we help fulfill our church's commitment to "seek in every way to be a power for the building of the Kingdom of God."

The letter also identified five (5) key ministry areas of the Haslett Community Church...

- worship
- our ministry with our children, youth and young adults
- the nurture and care of our HCC family
- our service to the local community
- our service to the wider church and world

What do these ministries mean to us? Take a few minutes to reflect, for example, on the worship services and how they have shaped and strengthened your faith; how your children have grown in their faith by having participated in the Sunday School program, attended children and youth activities, mission trips and service projects; how you have enjoyed the fellowship of your church family when taking part in the Hanging of the Greens, Thanksgiving dinner and the ski trip sponsored by the Social Committee; how you have been touched (or know someone who has been touched) by the faithful outreach of the Member Caring Committee in a time of special need; how you have witnessed those in need in our local community being assisted through the extraordinary efforts of our Food Bank, CROP Walk and the Christmas Giving Project; how you have appreciated the radical hospitality of our church that





Pastor's Corner

As I write this column I'm also putting finishing touches on a sermon in the series on the Lord's Prayer I've been preaching this fall. It's on Jesus' petition, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The timing of it leads me to think there's no better love revolution/servolution story to share with you this month than the follow-up to one of the best-known and most impressive acts of Christian forgiveness offered in recent memory. It comes from the Amish community in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania.

You likely remember that five years ago a 32-year old milk-truck driver named Charles Roberts broke into their schoolhouse and shot ten young girls, five of them to death, before killing himself. Immediately afterwards, the families of the murdered girls and the leaders of the Amish community reached out to Roberts' widow, Marie, and to her family with assurances of forgiveness. Their outreach was so profound and compassionate that Marie Roberts soon issued a statement declaring that she and her family were "overwhelmed by the forgiveness, grace, and mercy" shown to them by the Amish. She said that their "love for our family has helped to provide the healing we so desperately need."

This forgiving love flowed freely from the deeply rooted habits of Christian faith to which they as Amish are so genuinely committed. It also has led to other gifts and challenges to which they've been called to respond.

For example, they've received many acts of kindness from people they usually see as "worldly" but whose capacity for goodness they've now come truly to appreciate- the police, emergency medical personnel, local community members, and even the national and international media. The attention they've received has led to a windfall of unexpected donations that also have posed an unexpected challenge. What do you do with \$4 million you never knew you'd have?

In response, the Amish of Nickel Mines have set up an "accountability committee". Again, out of the committed practice of their Christian faith they've determined to be generous with the money they've been given and wary of their own potential for being greedy with it. One of the committee's first decisions, therefore, was to set aside a significant portion of the donations for Charles Roberts' family, especially for his children.

They also began getting requests to receive delegations from other communities from all over the world that are struggling to come to terms with their own distinctive tragedies. The Amish have warmly welcomed these delegations, typically appointing parents of the victims of the Nickel Mines murders to be spokespeople for them. They're among

the ones who can best share what the practice of forgiveness has meant in dealing with the wrong that has been done to them and in preparing them for a better future.

In time, they've also taken the initiative to send delegates from Nickel Mines to other tragedy-stricken places. For instance, several of the parents traveled to Virginia Tech in 2007 to be with families affected by the shooting rampage that killed 32 students and faculty there. Several Amish couples have also traveled with Terri Roberts, Charles's mother, to New Hampshire to help a community in that state which has been deeply divided because of a murder among them. Each time their goal is to bear witness to the possibility of reconciliation that the practice of forgiveness offers.

In reflecting on what he's learned through his visits to Virginia Tech and New Hampshire, the father of one the girls killed at Nickel Mines says, "I've learned that forgiveness is a journey. I've learned that healing is possible. And I've learned that it is not yet finished."

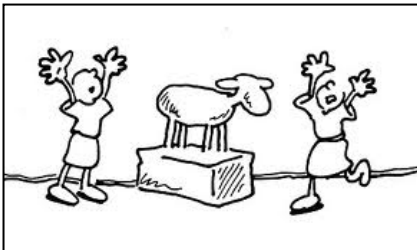
As part of Jesus' love revolution it's not yet finished. But it is an essential part that we keep practicing with our Amish sisters and brothers until God's Kingdom finally comes on this earth as it is in heaven.

With you in Jesus' revolution,



Children's Ministry @ HCC

This November in Kingdom Makers Workshop, our journey with Moses continues. In October we learned about how Moses went to Pharaoh and said, "let my people go." This month we'll hear about all the things that happened to Moses & the Israelites after they left Egypt. We'll end our unit by learning about what the Israelites did while Moses was on top of Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments from God. Read about it in Exodus 32.



Here's a sneak peek; it's a poem called "Golden Calves" from the book *Don't Mess With Moses!* (by Marty Nystrom):

Golden Calves

*I find it kinda funny,
it sorta makes me laugh -
that tale about the crowd that bowed
before a golden calf.*

*I really think it's humorous
the things that people do -
how folks will bow before a cow
that cannot even moo.*

*For who would want to worship
an object made of gold -
a god that cannot walk or talk
or heal a common cold?*

*Still folks today are just the same
as those that lived before.*

*We seem to choose some silly stuff
to worship and adore,
like fancy cars and movie stars,
like money, gold, or fame-
some worship sports of every sort
or a favorite video game.*

*But there is only one true God
worthy to be adored.
Let's be faithful to worship him-
Our Maker and our Lord.*



On the following Sundays, the children will begin in worship & stay for a **Children's Moment** before going to Sunday School:

October 30th, December 4th,
January 22nd & February 12th

Kingdom Makers Workshop 2011 Schedule:

November

- **6 & 13th:** Ten Commandments (cont.)
- **20th: Confirmation Sunday (children upstairs)**
- **27th: Communion (children upstairs)**

December

- **4 & 11th:** The Wise Men
- **18th: Advent Cantata (children upstairs)**
- **25th: Christmas! (children upstairs)**

January

- **1 & 8th:** Give & Serve Projects
- **15th: Communion (children upstairs)**
- **22 & 29th:** Jesus' baptism



Parent-Child Music Group

**Tuesday, November 15th
10 – 11am**

Joyce Bischoff is leading this unique parent-child play group that will focus on music. Join us for this fun learning experience as we all sing, dance, and play with different instruments and sound makers.

There is no cost for the group. There is a sign-up sheet and more information on the table outside of the sanctuary.



Children's Library News

We are excited to announce that one of our middle school youth, Raechel Decker has offered to take on the Children's Library as her Silver Award Project for Girl Scouts.

In support of Raechel's project on November 6th after worship we will be getting together to organize our library.

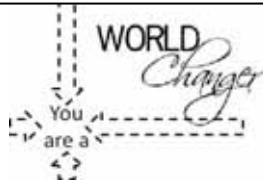
**Join us on November 6th
after worship!**



At Haslett Community Church we partner with families to help children discover God's love and construct a foundation for their Christian faith.



**Youth News & Events
for November**



This fall the middle school youth of HCC are going M.A.D.! They are learning about all the ways in which God has called them to Make A Difference in this world. If you go downstairs you will see the hallways lined with shadow-like body cut-outs. Written like tattoos all over their bodies are the ways our youth hope to change the world and “outlive their lives.” Go down and check it out. It is inspiring to say the least! Then ask yourself what mark you will leave on this world.

GRADE DINNERS:

7th grade dinner
November 15th at 6pm
10th grade dinner
November 29th at 6pm



THANK YOU!

A HUGE thank you goes out on behalf of Youth Ministry Team for everyone who contributed to making our pumpkin sales such a success! In that one weekend we raised over \$1400 for the youth mission trip!

From donating baked goods, to working the sales, painting pumpkins, and of course buying pumpkins and delicious treats, we are so thankful to everyone at HCC!! This fun event will surely be back next fall!!

HIGH SCHOOL



11-11-11

11 things by 11pm

On **November 11th** we will meet at the church at 7:30pm (this is a change from what's printed on the youth calendar). Please be on time because we will be leaving right away.

What to bring: \$10/person for our various activities AND money for a late night trip to Denny's, DVDs and overnight stuff.



Thanks to all the youth who walked in the CROP Walk on October 9th.

We had more youth walkers than we have had in years!

Change is being counted. The winner of the youth group challenge will be announced in youth groups on November 2nd and 6th.

The winning group's lock-in will be on December 16th!



Saturday, November 19th
at 7pm
“*That's What I Am*” (PG)
www.thatwhatiammovie.com



*Confirmation Sunday
November 20th*

This November we have nine confirmands who are finishing up their confirmation journey. **Amy Baumgartner, Gabriella Fedewa, Katie Flagg, Nick Gulliver, Katie Harris, Sophie Kirchoff, Rachel Linnemann, Adam Marsh, and Jordon Walling** have met many weeks over this past year to learn about the basics of faith, the United Church of Christ, and about what it means to join the church.

Join us in worship on Sunday, November 20th to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation.

THE TIME HAS COME!

Space is limited on all of our upcoming trips so **SIGN UP TODAY!!**

**High School Winter Retreat @ SpringHill
January 27-29th
Sign up NOW
with a \$25 deposit!**

**Middle School Winter Retreat @ Spring Hill
February 3-5th
Sign up NOW
with a \$25 deposit!**

**The high school mission trip to Detroit will be
June 24th – 30th**

**The middle school mission trip to
National Youth Event will be July 10-13th.**

Stewardship | cont. from page 1

also reaches out to those in need on a wider and more global scale through our support, for instance, of the Child Sponsorship Program and Rose Gakwandi's Rwandan orphan ministry.

If the essential ministries we have identified above are to grow, it is imperative that we have the commitment of each and every one of us to give as much as we can of our treasure, time and talent.

We recognize that we are living in very challenging times - socially, economically and financially. To that end your church leadership has been diligent, and will continue to be diligent, in trying to control expenses while still providing the same level of programs, mission and ministry you have come to expect. In trying to stay ahead of inflation we have set a pledge goal for this fall's campaign of \$259,000 in support of an overall budget target of \$310,500.

One might ask what impact does this have for our members and friends as they discern what their financial gift to the church might be in the coming year? If you were contributing, for example, \$150/month to the church - a 4% increase in your pledge would only amount to a total increase of \$72, or \$6.00/month, or \$1.38/week. What about a 5% increase in your pledge? That equates to \$1.73/week or \$7.50/month or a total of \$90/year. To break it down even further, that's only \$.25 cents a day.

So, between now and Sunday, November 6th (Pledge Sun-

day), please prayerfully consider what amount you may give of your treasure, as well as through your time and talents, to the continued growth of our church's mission and ministry in 2012.

Your Stewardship Team
Bob Heisler and Mike Dixon
Co-chairs



As we approach our Stewardship Campaign where we not only offer our financial gifts, but our gifts of time and talent, Barbara and I want to offer our deepest love and thanks to the members of our wonderful choir. The gift of their musical talents is beyond measure. All are so very faithful by attending rehearsals and Sunday services. We hope you agree that the music that the choir shares each week enhances our worship.

It is time to think ahead to **Saturday February 18th, 2012**, when we'll present our **annual Cabaret** dinner and entertainment. Every year when it is over many of you say that you would like to do something "next year". Now is the time to consider being a part and to start preparing. The theme for this year is "Starry, "Starry" Nights" and we are gathering together as many songs with the word "STAR" in them as we can.



A Note from Barbara

Dear Folks -

So far the response to the addition of contemporary music (some of which are at least 20 years old, by the way) to our church service has been very positive. This speaks to the openness and variety of our congregation, and I am so grateful for this. Including this music means much more than trying to become more "with it" in comparing our services to other churches in the area; it says to any younger person growing up in our church that we are still considering them, still trying in our early-to-middle-to-late-age way to keep some kind of connection to them, trying to live up to the promises we make at their baptisms, promising our "love, support and care".

We are all in a stage of transition with the addition of this new music, and I guess sometimes we will have those songs where nobody knows where to come in (as in "Mighty to Save"), and on that, I appreciate SO MUCH the fortitude of Matt Heard (guitar) and Dylan Fernandez (drums) hanging in there with me, and all of us! They are great to work with! November will have 2 to 3 services with the full "band", and the boys and I are figuring out what can happen in December.

Thank you all, keep those responses coming, positive or not!

Barbara

Commendations Are In Order

Thanks to these individuals who have recently served the church in special ways:

- **Larry Leefers** for organizing the CROP Hunger Walk, and all those who walked in and supported it.
- **Matthew Heard**, guitarist, and **Dylan Fernandez**, drummer, for sharing their musical gifts in worship.
- **Isabel Kwan**, cellist, **Kim Huston** and **Joan Wierzba** for their musical contribution to worship on Sunday, October 23rd.
- **Dick Ledebuhr** for getting our new tables, and for saving us a considerable delivery charge on them.
- **Sally Heisler** and **Diane Robinson** for organizing the 1st Annual Women's Wine Tasting Party.
- **Becky Leefers** and **Pastor Erin** for driving the confirmation group to Chicago.
- The **Social Committee** and everyone else who helped provide the Chicken BBQ.
- **Becky Leefers** for serving as a delegate to our Michigan Conference-UCC's Annual Meeting on October 8th at the First Congregational Church in Saginaw.
- **Katie Flagg**, **Kelly Flagg** and **Laura Roumpz** for cleaning and organizing the youth room and for leading middle school youth group on October 12th!
- **Adam Marsh** and **Mike Dixon** for planning fun games for the middle schoolers!
- **Brandy Miller-Shumaker** and **Kaye** and **Gerry Gardner** for teaching Sunday School in Kingdom Makers' Workshop this October.
- **Rich** and **Amy Baumgartner** and **Ann Pierce** for teaching FaithSpeak (middle school Sunday School) in October.
- All of our confirmation mentors who have journeyed with their confirmands over the past year: **Laura Clark-Roumpz**, **Maria Cowan**, **Heidi Dalton**, **Danna** and **Mike Dixon**, **Sally Heisler**, **Becky Leefers**, **Devin Mongrain**, and **Dave Vietti**.



This column is left blank intentionally to protect the privacy of our members. HCC members may contact the church via email (hcc1@att.net) to obtain the contents of this column.



Pledge Giving Update

Here in 2011 we need \$4712 each week to remain current in our pledged giving receipts. As of the end of September we're \$10,236 behind in the amount of those gifts we've received. Any efforts we can make to keep our pledges current or bring them up to date, especially as we move towards the end of our fiscal year, are a major help to our church's cash flow and to the ministry that everyone's giving makes possible. Thank you!



The following is from HCC's newsletter, November, 1958:

Christian Enlistment Committee Report

In a recent letter sent to all on the mailing list was to be found a sheet listing personal talents to be contributed to the church as choir, Sunday School teaching, yard custodial service, etc. These are also a part of our Christian Enlistment program and members or friends may check any talents to be contributed. Sign the sheet and place it in the offering plate any Sunday, or deliver it to the canvassers when they call. We need such services just as surely as we need your treasure.

Your committee has been having weekly meetings for over a month now and the enthusiasm for a successful campaign has been best expressed by the fine attendance at these meetings. To add to the joy were the promises of very close to 50 men to assist in the canvass Sunday program. If 50 of your neighbors will spend their Sunday, November 9th, working for your church, is it too much to ask that you be home to receive them or better yet, pre-pledge during the next two Sundays and save them a call?

**Mission: 1 Food Drive
1111 items in 11 days, 11/1/11-1/11/11**

In November our church traditionally designates a particular Sunday for our annual congregational food drive. Our HCC Food Bank is on pace this year to serve more folks than ever before, so we want to promote more than ever our participation in bringing food to help those in need. To do so, we're tying this year's drive into the Mission: 1 project that's being done throughout our United Church of Christ from November 1st to November 11th. Congregations all across the UCC are each committing during those 11 days to gather at least 1111 food items in support of food banks in their areas. If at least 901 churches do this, over 1 million food items will be gathered and given away.

We want our church to be one of those, so we invite and encourage each of us during the first 11 days of this November to set aside at least one food item daily that we'll then bring to church on Sunday, November 13th for this year's HCC drive. If at least 101 of us bring at least 11 items we'll reach our 1111 item goal. Among the things our Food Bank most needs at this time of year are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Spaghetti Sauce | Salad Dressings |
| Mayo | Brownie Mix |
| Granola Bars | Graham Crackers |
| Family Size Mac & Cheese | Taco Dinners |
| Cream Soups | Coffee & Tea |
| Peanut Butter | Jelly |
| Canned Meats | Canned Pineapple |
| Pancake Mix | |

So what do you say? 1111 items in 11 days- we can do that and more to be part of God's answer to our prayer with Jesus, "Give us this day our daily bread".

Fall Clean-Up Day, November 6th

First impressions count for those visiting our church. We want to keep putting "our best foot forward" for them by keeping our church grounds clean and in good order. Our annual Fall Clean-Up Day helps us to do that, so we invite you to join in it this year on Sunday, November 6th from about 11am to noon. Feel free to come to worship that morning dressed in your yard work clothes and bring along work gloves, rakes, and tarps if you'd like. We're setting Sunday, November 20st at the same hour as an alternative date in case we get rained out on the 6th. If you have any questions, call our Property Committee chair, Dick Ledebuhr at 641-4122.





Giving Project

On **Sunday, November 13th**, the Holiday Gift Board will be available. The Mission Outreach Committee sponsors this project. The Gift Board will consist of many colorful gift requests for the Haslett families that we will be assisting through our Christmas Giving Project. Requests are identified on numbered, two-part cards matching families and gifts. We encourage your participation again in this joyful giving event by:

1. Selecting card(s) from the Gift Board.
2. Following the directions on the board about the card, then purchasing and wrapping the gift(s).
3. Securing the card to the outside of the wrapped gift. It is our only way to know of the gift's destination.
4. Returning the gift(s) to Church with the card securely attached to the gift(s) by **Wednesday, December 14th**.

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BUY??? NO TIME TO SHOP???

Your cash donations are cheerfully accepted for purchasing items from our Holiday Gift board, especially jeans, socks, and underwear. In addition, cash will be used to buy needed foodstuffs through the Mid-Michigan Food Bank and retail groceries during sales. Look for envelopes marked CASH for this purpose on the board. Please make your check payable to Haslett Community Church and put "Christmas Giving Project" on the check memo line. Place the envelope in the offering plate or turn it into the Church Office.

GET INVOLVED - SAVE THE DATES

Many kinds of help are needed to carry out the Christmas Giving Project. It's a great way to help families in need and meet others in the congregation. Watch for the volunteer opportunities form in upcoming Sunday bulletins and in the December newsletter.

Dates for your calendar:

Sunday 12/18—Packing night

Tuesday 12/20— Merge gifts with food

Wednesday 12/21—Distribution



The Mission Outreach Committee appreciates all of your support and participation.

Remember those who are less fortunate.

North Pole Needs for the Christmas Giving Project

The Mission Outreach Committee will again need 400 + **copy paper sized boxes** (please, no larger) for packing heavy groceries, produce, and other items distributed in our annual Christmas Giving Project. Bring the boxes to church at **ANY time, the sooner the better**. If you have access to boxes and need assistance transporting them or have questions, please call Paul or Nancy White at 339-2837.

Gently used household items will be available for our Christmas families to select from as they wait to receive their holiday baskets. In high demand are **dishes, pots & pans, odds & ends of silverware, glasses, cooking utensils, dish towels, bath towels, sheets & bedding**.

Also popular are children's useable toys & games, books, **winter** clothing, and baby accessories.

Please consider setting aside any of these items you can spare and hold them until mid-December when you may bring them to the church. Questions? Call Ruth Linnemann at 339-6138 or email rlinne-mann3@aol.com.

STOCKING STUFFERS

Fun, small "**stocking stuffer**" gifts are requested for children ages two to teens. Useful items for girls include hair accessories,



News

Food Bank Help Needed

We have been serving a record number of households each month since June. If you have **two hours a week** or month to assist with serving families/individuals in need of food please call Betsy McLernon 655-5994. No heavy lifting is required. Unfortunately, children and teens are unable to serve with their parents for confidentiality reasons.

Thank you to all those involved in CROP Walk for your donations, and to Dick Ledebuhr for the food he brought from the Walk to our Food Bank. Please encourage friends and neighbors to enroll in the Kroger Rewards



Program to assist our Haslett Food Bank. See instructions on the food bank bulletin board.

Congregational Food Drive Sunday November 13th

We will have our fall food drive the same Sunday of our Thanksgiving dinner. See the Mission 1 Food Drive article on page 7 for information on the special way we're doing it this year. Please call Betsy McLernon at 655-5994 if you have any questions.

Advent Meditative Worship Services

During the season of Advent, when most of us are at our busiest, we will be given an opportunity to come together quietly in worship. We will meet in the sanctuary on Wednesdays, **November 30, December 7, 14, and 21**, at 6:15 - 6:45pm for these meditative worship services when readings, contemplation, and prayer will be offered.

Social Committee News

15th Annual HCC Ski Trip

Special Bonus This Year!!

The Social Committee wants to send out a special invitation for you to join the HCC Ski Weekend on January 6th-8th, 2012 at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. We want to announce the trip will be offered at a BARGAIN PRICE this year! The Social Committee is, for the first time ever, able to subsidize the expense of the trip by absorbing the cost of the common gathering room (Hospitality Room), and the Saturday night pizza party, costs that are usually shared by



all participants. So, there has never been a better time to join in! Remember, you do not need to ski to enjoy a beautiful weekend of fun and fellowship! Don't think about it too long, or you will miss out on a great time with your church family! The HCC Social Committee is ready for your reservation for a great weekend of fun in the snow. There will be lots of skiing (downhill and cross country)..... cards and games being played, sports watching, eating, laughing, swimming, eating, worshipping, tubing, laughing, and just having a great time being together! The dates for it are

January 6th thru January 8th, 2012. The cost is \$124 per night for a Standard Room. There is an option of coming early on Thursday for a 3-night stay. Ask for details if interested.

Just sign up on the Social Committee Board to reserve your room for this always fun-filled weekend. There is a NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT of \$100.00 due by November 20th. This can be made payable to Kim Carnes. We will be having an informational meeting on November 6th right after our worship service for more details. If you have questions before then, please contact Kim Carnes at 339-8183 or Karla Hiller at 339-8502. Plan ahead and put these dates on your calendar so you and your family don't miss out on the fun!!



Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Dinner at HCC is another wonderful annual event. This year the date is set for Sunday, November 13th at noon. There will be lots of traditional turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, rolls

and drinks provided by the Social Committee. The extra twist of flavor and personal touch come from you when you bring your dish to pass, large enough to serve twelve other people. There will be special entertainment you won't want to miss, soon to be announced! Bring all of your family, mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, college students, little ones, neighbors, people from out of town, the person next to you in church.... and enjoy the fellowship of food and love!

Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, November 27th, we will gather to make wreaths and decorate the church for advent. It is a great "everyone" event. There will be activities for the children, decorating of the tree by the high school youth, making the youth room festive by the middle school youth, adults make and hang wreaths all while munching on fresh popped popcorn! We will come together for a intimate worship service and then share a soup supper. Please join us on November 27th as we pre-



pare our church for Advent and Christmas.

- Sign up for Ski Trip - Now
- Sign up for Thanksgiving Dinner - Now
- Ski Trip Informational meeting - Sunday, November 6th after worship
- Thanksgiving Dinner - Sunday, November 13th at noon

More Social News

Ladies, card-making is back! On Saturday, December 3rd we will be making cards for Christmas and/or other events. Come join us gals for a relaxing evening of dinner, card-making and conversation. Come for the card-making or just for the conversation.

First, a light supper will be served followed by card-making under the guidance of Kaye Gardner again this year. She will have packets ready for us to make our own cards, following her examples (for a nominal fee). She is offering a choice of ten Christmas cards OR a mixed collection of four birthday, three thank you and three Christmas cards.

PLEASE SIGN UP on the Social Committee bulletin board to mark which kit you would like to make and to bring an item for our meal.

* * * * *

Special Dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2011
- **Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 6, 2011**
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2011
- Christ the King Sunday, November 20, 2011
- National Bible Week, November 20-27, 2011
- Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2011
- First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011

Two Sides of Gratitude

Today, the Hebrew word for "giving thanks," also means "admitting, confessing, acknowledging." That might seem odd, but when we thank someone, we're acknowledging we needed what they gave us. Rabbi Daniel Lapin explains we're even confessing we were incomplete, or experiencing a shortcoming, beforehand.

Gratitude is so important for the Jewish life that the Hebrew root words for "giving thanks/confessing" and for "Jew" are closely related. A Jewish person, then, is "one who both confesses and gives thanks" — actions crucial to the well-being of the receiver, even more than for the giver.

Christians, too, treat confession and thanksgiving as significant aspects of faith, prayer and worship. While we confess that we wholly depend on God for our life and salvation, we offer daily gratitude to God for his countless blessings.

Christian Symbols

Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.



Five Kernels

The Plymouth Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day in fall 1621, but by the next May their food supply was depleted. The harvest of 1622 was a failure, and the Pilgrims often lived for days on just a few kernels of corn.

Amid a drought in 1623, the people sought divine intervention. After praying for nine hours on a hot July day, they were blessed with a two-week rainfall. Edward Winslow wrote, "It was hard to say whether our withered corn or drooping affections were most quickened and revived." The Pilgrims never went hungry again.

Start a Thanksgiving tradition by placing five kernels of corn at each place setting. Point out a blessing that each kernel represents. For example:

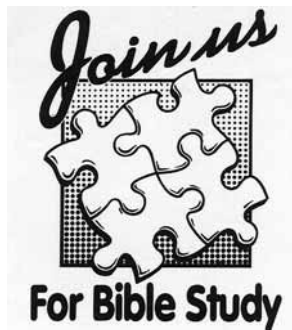
1. God loves us.
2. God provides for all our needs.
3. God gives us friends, just as the Indians befriended the Pilgrims.
4. God hears and answers our prayers.
5. God is preparing a place for us in heaven.

Then have family members share five things for which they're grateful.



Spiritual Life

The adults of the congregation are invited to join in these many activities sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee. You are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. We are incorporating a new curriculum developed by the United Church of Christ, called Faith Practices, into many of these discussion groups. The Spiritual Life Committee members are Becky Leefers, Michele Booher, Donna Ellis, and Don Ricks. Please contact any of us with questions about these programs and events.



Bible Study: This group meets (almost) every Sunday. They have now started meeting at the home of John and Mary Trebilcock (649 Casey Lane, Bird's Strawberry Farm) after worship, about 11:15am. As the basis of their discussion, the Bible Study group will use II Corinthians and follow the life of Paul. Mary Trebilcock is the facilitator of the group and she can be contacted at trebilco.john@att.net or 339-3974.

Spiritual Development: Practicing our Faith: This group meets the third Sunday

of the month after worship. The next meeting will be Sunday, November 20, at 11:00am, in the Youth Room. The new UCC curriculum materials, Faith Practices, along with other books and resources, is used as a basis for the discussion. Questions can be addressed to Becky Leefers at 337-0560. For the next three months, discussions will be based on these topics from Faith Practices:

- **November 20** – Giving and Receiving Hospitality
- **December 18** – Living and Playing Joyfully
- **January 15** – Living and Playing Joyfully

Men's Group: The Men's Group has been meeting for breakfasts, book discussions, barbeques, and a fishing trip up north. Dave Vietti has an email list of all those interested in the Men's Group. Contact him at 339-5731 or vietti@msu.edu to be included on this email list or to ask questions.

College-Age Young Adults: A new group for College-Age Young Adults has begun this fall. Each month, meetings are on the first and third Sundays, 3:00 – 4:30pm at the church and on the second and fourth Tuesdays at Grand Traverse Pie (at Grand River and Hagadorn in East Lansing). The theme for discussion is "Adjusting to Opportunities and Challenges of College Life". For more information contact Erin Heisler (339-8383) or Don Ricks (655-3641).

Jesus Seminar: A Jesus Seminar will be offered in East Lansing this spring at People's

Church on April 20 -21.

The Jesus Seminar is presented by Westar Institute, a group of Biblical scholars with a double mission: to study ancient biblical texts to discover who Jesus was and how Christianity evolved and to share this information with the public. When more information about the April Seminar is available, it will be found at events@westarinstitute.org. Registrations can then be made through the mail-in forms available on the Spiritual Life board. In addition, registrations can be made by phone at 877-523-3545 (tollfree).



Life Stories, God Stories: If you like to think about questions relating to the story of your life and your relationship with God and you'd like to share your answers with others, come to the "Life Stories, God Stories" group that Kurt Kirchoff is leading after worship on the last Sunday of each month. These groups are a follow-up to last fall's "Life Stories, God Stories" retreat, but you *don't* have to have taken part in that retreat in order to take part in this group. You also don't have to commit to coming every time. The next meeting will be at the front of the sanctuary on **Sunday, November 27.**

Haslett Community Church Calendar for November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 AM Women's Coffee	2 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir	3 7:00 PM Haslett Women's Club	4	5
6 9:30 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 11:15 AM - Bible Study 3:00-4:30 PM – Young Adult 5:30-7:00 PM – Confirmation 7:00-9:00 PM–HS Youth Group	7 2:30-4:30 PM MS/HS Study Hours 7:00 PM Mission Outreach	8 7:15 PM Church Council	9 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir	10	11 HS Overnight 8 PM – 9 AM	12
13 FOOD DRIVE NEW MEMBERS 9:30 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM - Member Care 11:15 AM - Bible Study 12 noon – THANKSGIVING DINNER 5:30-7:00 PM - Confirmation 7:00-9:00 PM -HS Youth Group	14 2:30-4:30 PM MS/HS Study Hours 7:00 PM Youth Ministry	15 8 AM Newsletter articles due 6:00 PM 7 th Grade Dinner 7:30 PM Social Committee	16 5:30 PM Spiritual Life Comm 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir	17	18 Red Cross Blood Drive	19 1:00-4:00PM Circle of Friends MS/HS Movie Night
20 CONFIRMATION 9:30 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 11:00 AM Spiritual Development 11:30 AM - Bible Study 3:00 PM - Inquirer's Meeting 3:00-4:30 PM Young Adult Group 7:00-9:00 PM -HS Youth Group	21 2:30-4:30 PM MS/HS Study Hours	22	23 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26
27 COMMUNION 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 11:00 AM Life Stories, God Stories 4:00 PM – Hanging of the Greens 7:00-9:00 PM -HS Youth Group	28 2:30-4:30 PM MS/HS Study Hours	29	30 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir			

Newsletter articles are due the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00 AM.

Pastor Kurt Kirchoff can be reached at 339-8383, ext. 11 or pastorkurt53@att.net Erin Heisler can be reached at 339-8383, ex 19 or erin.heisler@att.net

Beverly Wegener can be reached at 339-8383, ext 12 or bev.wegener@att.net Wayne Mason can be reached at 339-8383, ext. 10 or hcc1@att.net

Susan Witkus can be reached at 339-8383, ex 10 or susan.witkus@peoplepc.com

Judy Connelly's e-mail is judyleconly@earthlink.net Barbara Freeman can be reached at bff7@comcast.net

HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH
1427 Haslett Road
PO Box 217
Haslett, Michigan 48840-0217

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
Haslett, Michigan 48840
PERMIT NO. 5

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailed October 25, 2011
DATED MATERIAL

HCC Connection

November 2011

Worship for November 2011

Sermon titles and Scripture readings include:

Sunday, November 6th, 9:30 am
Stewardship Pledge Sunday
"Giving Good Gifts"
Isaiah 55:1-3 & II Corinthians 9:8-9

Sunday, November 20th, 9:30 am
Confirmation Sunday
The Rev. Erin Heisler, preaching

Sunday, November 13th, 9:30 am
"For Thine Is the Kingdom, the Power,
and the Glory Forever"
I Chronicles 29:10-13 & Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, November 27th, 9:30 am
First Sunday in Advent
Sacrament of Holy Communion
"The Good of Giving Thanks"
Psalm 42:1-5 & I Thessalonians 5:15-19

Haslett Community Church

Church Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00, M~F PHONE – (517) 339-8383 Fax (517) 339-8526
www.haslettcommunitychurch.org Contact us: hcc1@att.net

Pastor Kurt - pastorkurt53@att.net **Children's Sunday Morning Leader - Susan Witkus** - susan.witkus@att.net
Beverly Wegener - bev.wegener@att.net **Minister for Youth & Children - Rev. Erin Heisler** - erin.heisler@att.net

Worship and Church School, Sundays at 9:30 a. m.