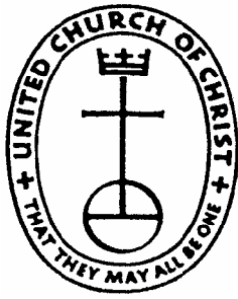




HCC Connections

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

January 2012



Special points of interest:

- Christmas Giving Update - p6
- Celebrating Bert Willems - p7
- Crop Walk Update - p9
- Roeger Memorial Fund - p10
- HCC Cabaret - p12

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The Love Servolution, Part Two in 2012

In the summer of 2011 we launched our Love Servolution project. It was designed to encourage creativity in our practice of daily deeds of loving service as Jesus' love revolutionaries. It culminated in gifts we gave at the end of the year to three groups whose deeds of loving service are worthy of our support.

They are:

- ◆ **The Rhama Word House** in Lansing, directed by **Mary Harris**, which serves as a **transition home for women coming out of incarceration or treatment programs**. It will be our privilege to have **Mary Harris with us in worship on Sunday, January 15th, after which she'll make a presentation to share her own story and tell us more about her organization's work.**
- ◆ **The Care Free Medical Clinic**, led by **Dr. Barry Saltman and his Nurse Practitioner wife, Suzanne**, which provides **free medical, dental, and mental health care to the uninsured and underinsured in our area.**
- ◆ **And the Waitsfield United Church of Christ in Waitsfield, Vermont**, a fellow congregation in our UCC that suffered extensive flood damage this past summer from Hurricane Irene, but that has also taken the lead in efforts to rebuild their entire community.

It's a blessing for us to be able to support these groups and to **continue our Love Servolution project in 2012**. During Part One in 2011 we

heard of significant interest in the possibility of doing group service projects. We want to make those our focus for Part Two in this coming year. Check out the "Love Servolution, Part Two" link on our haslettcommunitychurch.org website where you'll see thirty-eight group service ideas. They're meant both as specific invitations to anyone who'd like to pick up on one of them and as a stimulus to creating other ideas. If you see or come up with one that you'd like to take the initiative on, let our Moderator, Ruth Linnemann, or Pastor Kurt Kirchoff know and we'll help you get ready for our February 26th launch date. Members of our Church Council will soon be running with some of them, too, and information on those will be available at launch time as well. Onward in 2012 with the Love Servolution!



Our annual meeting for this year will be held following worship on **Sunday, January 29th**. We'll celebrate our ministry from 2011 and look forward to the good work God is calling us to do in 2012. We strongly encourage our members to come and take part in this basic act of self-governance that's central to our congregation's heritage. Refreshments and child care will be provided.



Pastor's Corner

Happy New Year!

We all say it, but is this really what we want most for each other? After all, happiness is an "iffy" proposition. If everything goes well for me, if no trouble comes my way then I'll be "happy". But how likely is it that for a whole year any of us will sail smooth with nary a problem in sight? How many of us had such a year last year or in any year? It doesn't "happen" that way because too many things get in the way of how we want things to go. Look at the "Church Family" article in this or any of our church's newsletters and we'll be reminded, for example, of illness and death. Work and money troubles, strife with family and friends, turmoil in our wider world- these things commonly "happen", too, and when they do our happiness disappears. Their prevalence can make "Happy New Year" sound sentimental at best, if not downright hollow.

Wishing each other a "Joyous New Year" rings truer- especially for us as Christians. "Happiness" isn't a fruit of the Holy Spirit, but "joy" is. When the Spirit grows God's love in us, we start to experience the inward satisfaction and sense of well-being that joy is no matter what might be "happening" in our outward circumstances. In Galatians 5, St. Paul lists it as the second fruit of the Holy

Spirit, pointing up the fact that it's a by-product of life centered in God's love. We can't seek joy directly, but it comes as a sweet gift whenever we dwell with God, whenever we bask in God's love for us and share it freely with others.

New Year always comes around when we're still in the Christmas season, so here's a Christmas story to help make the point. Philip Drake frequently felt lonely and sad around Christmas time. His money was tight, so he usually gave only a Christmas gift or two. His family was small and distant, geographically and emotionally. His few friends always seemed to have other plans at Christmas time- family plans that left him out. In other words, his outward circumstances made him unhappy.

But one year, seemingly out of the blue, as his Christmas blues started to set in, Philip decided to do something different. He deliberately determined to focus his Christmas week on making life a little better for others.

The first night he went to a nursing home. He spent several hours just talking and listening to a few of its residents that the staff said would particularly welcome a visitor. The next night he went to a local prison and visited a man the chaplain said hadn't had a visitor in six years. On a third night he helped a shut-in neighbor wrap Christmas presents. The next day on his lunch hour he took this neighbor's gifts to the post office. For Christmas Day, he organized and hosted a potluck

dinner for people from his church that, like him, had no family nearby.

The next week he told a co-worker, "It was the best and most enjoyable Christmas time I've ever had. Trying to spread a little love, I forgot to be sad. I forgot to feel lonely. It sounds corny, but it's true. It's the God's honest truth."

Yes, it is. Get beyond ourselves, dwell in God's love, share it with others, and then comes joy- joy that's the second fruit of the Holy Spirit, joy that comes from our life with God, joy that never depends on our life's outward circumstances. Whatever situation we're in, whether pleasant, terrible or somewhere in between, we can know with Psalm 16 that in God's presence there is "fullness of joy" and with St. Paul that it's possible to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4).

I think it's a safe bet that 2012 won't always be a happy new year for us. But in our life with God, it can always be a joyous one. Get beyond ourselves, dwell in God's love, share it with others (as love servolutionaries, for instance, see page 1), and then comes joy. A joyous new year to all!




January

**Children's
Ministry @ HCC**

If there are 168 hours in a week, **why are we at HCC just ministering to children 1 hour a week?**

1 out of 168?

The Children's Ministry Consultant who came last year offered a different perspective on it. He asked what our marquee programs were. Other than Sunday School, we didn't really have one. Now, that has changed a little since his visit. Folks like Joyce Bischoff and Missy Lilje have come up with creative ways to offer more opportunities to families with children through their movement and music groups, but I think there are still **opportunities for us to grow** our children's ministry at HCC.

We are going to take the momentum that comes with a new year and RE-START the Children's Ministry Team.

Join us January 15th after worship for our first meeting!

We welcome and encourage anyone with an interest in helping our youngest members. This could be the New Year's Resolution you have been seeking...

If you cannot attend but are interested in being involved with the program please contact **Katie Riley** at kriley@eatonisd.org or 339-6978 or talk with Erin Heisler.



**Kingdom Makers Workshop
2011 Schedule:**

January

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

February

- 5th: Jesus' baptism cont.
- 12 & 19th: Healing Miracles
- 26th: Communion (children upstairs)

March

- 4 & 11th: Healing Miracles (cont.)
- 18 & 25th: Garden of Gethsemane



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

January 22nd, February 12th and March 18th.



**Children's Library
Re-opening this February!**



**Parent-Child Movement
Group**

**Tuesday, January 3rd
10 - 11am**

Missy Lilje, of Happendance, will be leading this fun group for parents and children to dance and move together! No experience is needed. For children from birth through age 5!



**Parent-Child Music Group
Tuesday, January 17th**

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 groups. There are sign-up sheets & more information on the table outside of the sanctuary.



**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 January**



I picked up a book last week and was struck by the first question I read: Do you ever feel stuck? It was followed by the assurance that “stuckness” is a normal feeling, something we’ve all experienced a time or two. But the question becomes “what are you going to do about it”? Stay stuck (that’s what most people do), change something, or do something about it?

“You know God is calling you to a life more abundant than the one you’re experiencing right now, but you’re not sure how to start anew...” (Doug Fields)

I was so captured by this question that I bought the book and have found it to be a gold mine of good stuff, good stuff I’ll be sharing with the high schoolers this January. We will be starting 2012 fresh with one another, on a journey to find the life abundant promised in Scripture.

The book is Doug Field’s *Fresh Start: God’s Invitation to a Great Life*. Pick up one and join us on this journey! Read it and talk to the high schoolers about it- or join us on Sunday nights!



Grade Dinners

12th grade	6th grade
Jan. 16 th	Jan. 23 rd
6-7pm	6-7pm



The middle schoolers at HCC are all about going MAD this year. We’re learning about how we are each made to Make A Difference (get it? MAD) in the world.

This January we’re starting a new chapter of that and learning about how Scripture can Make A Difference in our lives. So we’re issuing a challenge- we’re aiming to read through the entire Bible in a year. If you want to join us on this journey, calendars will be available in the church office, so feel free to pick one up! And then talk to us- tell us how reading the Bible every day is affecting you and Making A Difference in your life! Share your story as you read THE Story!



A Taste of HCC

JANUARY 22nd!

Back by popular demand, this January you are invited to **cook a favorite recipe of yours** (need not be in the church cookbook) and prepare bites for our HCC family to sample at our **2nd Annual Taste of HCC on January 22nd**.

Watch the mail for more information about how to be involved, then spread the word, invite friends, start cooking and work up an appetite!

Youth and their families are asked to help with this important fundraiser!



We are En Route to SpringHill for our winter retreats!

The sign-up sheet is filling up (on the youth bulletin board outside of the sanctuary).

Money is due (\$145) by January 1st.

The **high schoolers** leave the church Friday, January 27th at 4pm (and will return by 3pm on January 29th).

The speaker for the high school weekend is Brooklyn Lindsey. The band is The Great Romance.

The **middle schoolers** leave the church Friday, February 3rd at 4pm (and will return by 3pm on February 5th).

The speaker for the middle school weekend is Mark Oestreicher, and the band is Lee Roessler.

Drivers and chaperones still needed for high school trip! A very fun winter weekend is in store, so think about joining us. Cost for adults is \$100!

Youth Movie Night
Saturday, January 21st
at 7pm

We will be watching the Golden Globe nominated film **“MoneyBall” (PG-13)**

Partners In Ministry

In Sunday worship last month we distributed individual Partners in Ministry sheets that included the ministry opportunities you'll see below. We've combined them all on this sheet so that if you were not able to fill out the forms in worship, you can do so here. Our aim is to have all our members and friends consider specific ways to volunteer in our congregation's ministries, mindful of St. Paul's teaching that each of us are given abilities to share as a "manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Filling out this form indicates your openness to learning more and being directly approached about the opportunities that you check. You can mail or bring the form in to the church office or drop it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning. Thanks very much!

Name _____ Contact number and/or E-mail Address _____

Sunday Morning Worship & Fellowship

- _____ Serve as a greeter*
- _____ Serve as an usher*
- _____ Read Scripture*
- _____ Host Coffee Hour
- _____ Sing in a choir
- _____ Play an instrument
- _____ Provide special music in summer
- _____ Be a communion server
- _____ Light an Advent Candle or Christ Candle
- _____ Help operate the sound system
- _____ Help make banners and/or hangings
- _____ Support a new member
- _____ Take pictures for new member display
- _____ Reach out to visitors
- _____ Help set up the Children's Library (monthly)
- _____ Count the offering after worship
- *Would an actual schedule be helpful or would you prefer to continue to sign up?
 _____ Sign myself up _____ Schedule

Member Caring

- _____ Help provide meals in times of illness
- _____ Provide rides to Sunday worship
- _____ Provide rides to medical appointments
- _____ Help host funeral/memorial service receptions
- _____ Provide food for funeral/memorial service Receptions
- _____ Help with occasional kitchen cleanup
- _____ Participate in Prayer Chain

Children's Ministry & Sunday Morning Church School

- _____ Give care in the nursery
- _____ Teach Godly Play (preschoolers)
- _____ Teach in the Kingdom Makers Workshop (K-5th grade)

- _____ Teach FaithSpeak (Middle School Sunday School)
- _____ Provide food for special events
- _____ Provide child care during special events
- _____ I am interested in learning more about Children's Ministry/Church School
- _____ I am interested in reviving Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Youth Ministry

- _____ Provide transportation
- _____ Provide food
- _____ Assist with Wednesday Middle School Group
- _____ Assist with Sunday High School Group
- _____ Mentor a Confirmation student
- _____ Help chaperone a special event
- _____ Help with mission trip fund raiser
- _____ Go on the mission trip
- _____ Host a Youth Group event

Mission Outreach

- _____ Help sort clothes for Children's Closet
- _____ Transport clothes for Children's Closet
- _____ Sort food and/or stock shelves for Food Bank
- _____ Shop for Food Bank
- _____ Lift and haul boxes for Food Bank
- _____ Provide a Loaves and Fishes meal
- _____ Help with CROP Walk promotion
- _____ Help with Meals on Wheels
- _____ Work with Habitat for Humanity
- _____ Help promote AMU orphan ministry
- _____ Assist with Blood Drive setup/takedown
- _____ Call Christmas Giving recipients for gift needs (2012)

(continued on next page)

Care of the Property

- Help with general grounds maintenance and/or cleanup
- Help with occasional odd jobs, repair, or remodeling
- Particular interests/skills I might share
 - Carpentry Landscaping
 - Electrical Gardening
 - Plumbing Painting

Others _____

United Church of Christ

- Serve as a delegate to Covenant Association meeting (fall and/or spring)
- Serve as a delegate to Michigan Conference annual meeting
- Serve on a Michigan Conference committee

Church Office

- Help assemble worship bulletins, newsletters, mailings
- Answer phone and cover office when needed
- Help with paper recycling

Other Special Skills or Knowledge I Might Share

- Adult education
- Artistic (please list) _____
- _____
- Computer
- Financial planning or auditing
- Legal
- Medical
- Other _____

Spiritual Life Opportunities

I'm interested in participating in

- Bible study
- Book discussion
- Current events discussion
- Faith Sharing group
- Film group
- Men's group
- Women's retreat
- Peace Circle
- Adult mission trip

Others _____

Committees/Ministry Teams

- Church Council
- Children's Ministry Team
- Church and Society Committee
- Church Growth Committee
- Financial Stewardship Committee
- Member Caring Committee
- Mission Outreach Committee
- Property Committee
- Social Committee
- Spiritual Life Committee
- Youth Ministry Team



The Christmas Giving Project distributed gifts and food to 100 families. We are especially thankful for the tremendous congregational and community support of the project through gifts, money, and volunteer assistance from dozens of people. Increased community group support was especially important this year with the large number of families served.

A huge thank you goes to the core team members: **Nancy and Paul White, Sylvia Davis, Betsy McLernon, Mary Nelson, Kelly Flagg, Wendy Johnson, and Mary Trebilcock.** It would be impossible for me to be the project coordinator without their strong support, experience, and countless hours of making things happen.

Look for a complete project report in the February newsletter.

Ruth Linnemann

Celebrating Bert Willems

Imagine living in the “Wild West”, a time when an Indian reservation and the old Chisholm Trail was your next door neighbor. Such was the life of Mary “Bert” Roberta Willems as a little girl, living four miles outside the small Oklahoma town of Marlow, which is located 70 miles south of Oklahoma City. Bert was born in Oklahoma on August 14, 1908. She recalled her grandparents living nearby in the town of Rush Creek, Oklahoma. Around 1914 to 1916 Bert and her sister, Jo, rode a horse to their grade school, which was about a mile away. The horse would stay tied up outside the school until classes were dismissed, and then Bert and her sister would climb back on the horse and head for home. Bert also remembered celebrations held around hot air balloon ascensions near Marlow, and small Indian children enjoying ice cream cones at the celebration.

Around the start of World War I, Bert’s family moved to Jackson, Michigan where her father began work in one of the factories producing war material. At an unknown time later, Bert’s family moved to Lansing for a short time, living near a school building on Kalamazoo Street. The family then moved to Charlotte to be near a grandfather who lived in town. During the family’s time in Charlotte, Bert’s dad ran a store, presumably, a grocery or general store. The whole family helped in the store, including the children. Bert remembered her mother would get upset when her father cut too generous a slice of meat or cheese for a few of the less fortunate families in town.

Bert attended high school in Charlotte, but finished her high school credits at Olivet College at age sixteen, where she also earned a teaching certificate. Apparently, during that time period, a person could get a teaching certificate without a four year college degree, because Bert remembered not being able to find a full-time teaching job after graduating from Olivet at the age of 17. Lacking a job, Bert traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she enrolled in a business school. After earning her business degree, she returned to Charlotte. Bert was an avid golfer- so much so that she didn’t want to be tied down to a full time job. Instead, she took a substitute-teaching job in Charlotte so that work would not interfere with her golf game.

At an undetermined point in time, Bert came to the Haslett/Okemos area and taught 7th grade in the Okemos school district. She also remembered living on Lake Lansing, formerly known as Pine Lake. The lake was once a popular resort destination and amusement park

Bert was a charter member of Haslett Community Church. During the formative years of our church, Bert would telephone church members and urge them to come to church on Sunday. She recalled that, in the early year, members would take turns leading Sunday services since a permanent minister had not yet been selected. One particular Sunday, Bill Youatt, Sr. was conducting service when a tornado warning was sounded. For safety purposes, everyone went to the basement. Thereafter, the running joke was that when Bill Youatt, Sr. preached, members needed to be cautious – their safety could be in jeopardy.

As Bert recalled, an early choir director, Bill Gillis, was pretty strict. If a choir member didn’t attend choir practice during the week, they didn’t sing the following Sunday. Eventually, this director moved to Florida, and our current “temporary” director, Judy Connelly, took over. [Ask Judy about the temporary designation] In order to raise funds for a proposed choir tour of Germany, church members provided manpower at the concession stands at MSU’s home football games. Charles, Bert’s husband, would drop her off at Spartan Stadium before the game, and then pick her up after the game. One day, Bert was not to be found after the game, so Bette Hundt walked completely around the stadium looking in every restroom for Bert. Charles reflected on how generous of an act it was on Bette’s part.

Bert once made a trip to the Holy Land which was organized by another local minister. On the trip, Bert was re-baptized in the River Jordan. Thereafter, Bert liked to say, “I went everywhere that Jesus went.” With the passing of Bert on December 19, 2011, it can be said that she has now gone to another place that Jesus has been.

[Information for this article was provided in a conversation with Bert and Charles in early November. A second interview was planned to complete Bert’s story, but was not completed before Bert’s passing. However, much of Bert’s life with our church is captured very nicely in Judy Connelly’s eulogy of Bert. In next month’s newsletter, we’ll include Judy’s eulogy to give you the remainder of Bert’s story.]

Wayne Mason



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.

Commendations Are In Order

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

- To **Pastor Erin Heisler** for all her work and creativity for this year's confirmation class
- To **all** who contributed and walked for the CROP walk
- To **all** who contributed to the food drive
- To **all** who helped with Hanging of the Greens
- To **Ann McKinney, Sally Heisler, Kelly Hammerlee and Lynn Wilson** for teaching this month
- To **Kim Huston** and her music group for performing during Hanging of the Greens
- To **Michele Booher, Becky Leefers and Donna Ellis** for leading the mid-week Advent services
- **Nikki Corr-Lennemann, Steve Decker, Debbie Gulliver, Tami Jackard, Wendy Johnson, Katie Riley, Rose Roberts, and Laura Roumpz** for driving on the high school and middle school shopping trips for the Christmas Giving Project.
- **Michele Booher, Debbie Homminga and Bob Purosky** for driving and chaperoning the middle school overnight (and to **Rich and Liz Newport** for sharing their light display with us as well as hot cocoa and sweet treats)!
- **All** those who helped wrap gifts or who brought gifts in to be wrapped by the youth in our wrapping fundraiser!
- **Kelly Hammerle, Sally Heisler, Lynn Wilson and Anne McKinney** for teaching Sunday School in January.
- **Kaye Gardner** from all the women at card-making night. We also appreciate all your preparation and guidance for our enjoyable evening.

Carol Ingells on January 8th

We'll be delighted again to have Carol Ingells as our guest leader and preacher for our regular morning worship on Sunday, January 8rd. She'll be substituting for Pastor Kurt who will be joining the HCC ski trip to Treetops once again this year.

Crop Walk Update

CROP Hunger Walk 2011-HCC reaches new heights...broke \$11,000 this year!!

Every year, HCC walkers and pledgers set the standard for giving to those in need. Our "unofficial" combined efforts for the 2011 CROP Hunger Walk totaled \$11,111.11, over \$500 more than 2010 effort. This reflects the generosity of talent and dollars from many people to the "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty" program. A multitude of people from around the Lansing area participated in the Walk, and many more contributed to making it a success. HCC walkers, with your support, again solicited after church, knocked on doors and used the internet for pledges.

A number of HCC people provide leadership in the Lansing area-Bob Purosky, Mary Trebilcock and Richard Ledebuhr. **Give them a pat on the back or hug when you see them the next time.** A number of others were there to provide refreshments during and after the Walk. The following people took pledge envelopes: Amy and Richard Baumgartner and Anne Pierce, Michele Booher and Julia and Bob Purosky, Heidi and Pat Dalton, Barbara Freeman, Paula Fry, Joe Hess, Kathy Baker, Pat Kelley, Sophia and Kurt Kirchoff and Kathy Swearingen, Becky and Larry Leefers, Rachel and Ruth

See Crop | page 12



The following is from HCC's newsletter, January, 1957:

The First Wedding Ceremony

held in our new church was held on December 28 at eight o'clock in the evening, uniting in marriage the niece of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kopp, Hildegard, to Mr. Leonid Chernousov of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The lovely ceremony held by candlelight was officiated by Mr. Erickson, and the traditional organ music was played by Dr. Roelofs.

The bride, escorted to the chancel by her uncle, Mr. Robert Kopp, wore a lovely bridal gown of white satin covered with nylon lace styled on bouffant lines with a train. Her veil was finger tip length, and she carried the traditional bride's bouquet.

The reception was held after the ceremony in the downstairs social rooms of the church. Refreshments were served from the bride's table centered with a large wedding cake, and silver appointments were used on the table tall white tapers. Members of the Women's Fellowship of the church arranged the reception and served as hostesses.

Mr. and Mrs. Chernousov are honeymooning to Washington D.C., and will make their home in Toronto.

Personals

We welcome the Erickson's new daughter, Beverly Jane, born on December 1, 1956.

The Jay Jennings family spent the holidays in the Upper Peninsula.

The Herb Pifers "spent" the holidays having the measles . . . Sons, Ricky, David, and Stevie were so inflicted.

Terry Roelofs has recovered nicely from a badly infected knee.

Doris and Bohn Musgrave are enjoying a visit from their daughter and son-in-law, the Bob Nelsons, and their year old son from the University of Iowa.

Dr. and Mrs. B. Bussard with their daughter, Julie, and Miss Janice Caton spent the Christmas holidays visiting relatives and friends in Minneapolis.

Mrs. Charles Sheppard is recovering from major surgery at Sparrow Hospital.

Mrs. Arthur Reid is now home after surgery at Sparrow Hospital.

Esther Roege Memorial Enrichment Fund

At our congregation's Annual Meeting in 2003, we announced and made our first requests for contributions to the Esther Roege Memorial Enrichment Fund. This fund, in support of the continuing Christian education of our children and youth here at HCC and in memory of Esther, was generously established in 2002 with a \$15,000 gift from Esther's husband, Mr. William Roege. As we look forward to our 2012 Annual Meeting later this month, we especially remember both his benevolence to our church and Esther's honored place in our history.

For those of you who may not have known Esther, our former pastor, Bob Frederick, has provided the following reminiscence of her:

"Esther Roege was a member of the Haslett Community Church from December 1970 to her death in September 2001. A woman of strong faith, positive spirit, modesty and patience, she was at the heart of the church through nearly all the years of her church membership.

There was no responsibility or task that was either above or below Esther's doing. She could always be counted on to help in small ways and in large. Esther headed the financial drive for the church building and renovation project in the 1970's. She also became the first woman moderator of the church in 1979 and 1980.

One of her true loves was teaching children. She saw them as both the present and the future of the church. The words of Jesus: "Let the children come to me..." were taken very personally by Esther.

Her husband, Bill, has provided a most generous gift to establish this permanent fund to enrich programs and opportunities for children and youth."

By all accounts, Esther Roege was a major pillar of support to the ministry of our church for many, many years. In support of her particular concern for the Christian education of our children and youth, we once again encourage your donations to this fund set up in her cherished memory.

Women's Coffee

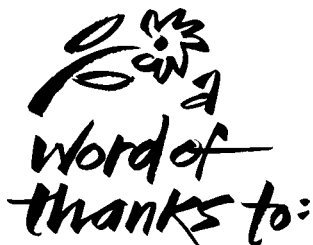
All women of the congregation are invited to join in the fun and fellowship at the occasional gatherings of the Women's Coffee. These get-togethers are held on the **first Tuesdays at 10:00 AM when hostesses**



sign up. A sign-up sheet through May 2012 is on the Social Ministry bulletin board next to the name tag board. We encourage those who wish to host to sign up soon. The next Women's Coffee will be held on **Tuesday, January 3rd and hosted by Sylvia Davis.** If you have not been to this get-together before, think about coming. The conversations are

Confirmation

We again welcome the following youth who were confirmed as members of Haslett Community Church at our Sunday, November 20th service: Amy Baumgartner, Gabriella Fedewa, Katie Flagg, Nick Gulliver, Katie Harris, Sophie Kirchoff, Rachel Linnemann, Adam Marsh, and Jordon Walling. Thanks again, too, to their mentors: Maria Cowan, Heidi Dalton, Danna and Mike Dixon, Sally Heisler, Becky Leefers, Devin Mongrain, Laura Clark-Roumpz, and Dave Vietti.



Dear HCC Friends,

On behalf of my brother Eugene's family and my family, thank you for your prayers over the past 16 months. And thank you for the many cards, prayers, hugs and other expressions of love you have shared since he passed away recently. It is a true reminder of the community of Christ we have here.

*Bless you,
Larry Leefers*

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 is using II Corinthians and following 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, January 15, 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 this month and next, discussions will be based on this topic from

Faith Practices: Living and Playing Joyfully

Men's Group: The Men's Group has been meeting for breakfasts, book discussions, barbeques, and fishing trips 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.

Jesus Seminar: A Jesus Seminar will be offered in East Lansing this spring at People's Church - April 20th and -21st. 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 is available, it will be found and registrations can be made through events@westarinstitute.org and then mail-in forms will be available on the Spiritual Life board. In addition registrations will be able to be made by phone at 877-523-3545 (tollfree).

College-Age Young Adults: A new group for College-Age Young Adults has begun this past 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 Co (at Grand River and Hagadorn in East Lansing). The theme for discussion is "Adjusting to Opportunities and Challenges of College Life". Contact Erin Heisler (339-8383) or Don Ricks (655-3641) for more information.

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 leads after worship on the last Sunday of each month. These groups are a follow-up to a previous "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 on Sunday, January 22. The location will be announced that Sunday (since the sanctuary will be in the process of preparation for Taste of HCC).

Current Issues in a Christian Context: In this new year, we will be hosting discussions of current events and issues in the context of our Christian lives. Plans are just beginning to be made, but our thought is to have several discussions on Sunday evenings during January and February. If there are any issues that are of special interest to you, please contact someone from the Spiritual Life Committee so that this can be included in the discussion.

Women's Retreat: We haven't had a women's retreat in several years. Who would be interested in resurrecting this tradition? Please contact Becky Leefers (337-0560) with ideas about theme, location, dates, etc.

Come to the Cabaret!

Thank you to all who have already reserved the date for the **Saturday, February 11, 2012, Cabaret, Spaghetti Dinner and Basketmania Raffle!** Come join our HCC friends and family for an excellent spaghetti sauce recipe, the choir members' infamous desserts, unprecedented talent, and a chance to win a themed basket! Please contact Judy Connelly at 517.339.8478 by January 15, 2012, if you have a talent to bring to the Cabaret this year. We are trying something different this year in lieu of the silent auction. Instead, we are asking for item donation to prepare themed baskets. People will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for a chance to win their favorite basket. If anyone would like to volunteer

for this event or donate an item for a basket, please contact Laura Clark-Roumpz at 517.712.0976 (can text too) or at laura_roumpz@hotmail.com.

Tickets for dinner are \$5/person or \$20/family. Tickets will be available for pre-sale beginning January 15, 2012, after worship. Anyone who purchases a dinner ticket in advance will also receive 5 Basketmania tickets for a chance to win!

We are looking forward to seeing you at the event and making this night a successful fundraiser for our beloved HCC!

Thank you in advance!
Looking forward to seeing you all there!



Talent Needed

January means it's time for the choir to begin rehearsing songs and skits for our annual Cabaret show which will be presented on Saturday, Feb.11. We begin with a delicious spaghetti dinner from 4:30 until 6:00, live entertainment and Basketmania Raffle. (See adjacent article)

Our theme this year is "Starry, 'Starry Nights" where we feature several members of the choir as our home-grown "stars". This

is an open invitation for others who would like to perform also. We are looking at all types of songs that have the word star in them but you'll find a few other ones too. If you are at all interested in being in the show, please contact either Judy Connelly (339-8478) or Barbara Freeman (881-9976) no later than Jan. 15th so we have enough time for rehearsal.

Many, many thanks to the members of our choir who gave so much of themselves during the Christmas season. There was a lot of extra rehearsing for the cantata and for all the other special anthems that were presented. These people are truly dedicated and love to make beautiful music.

Crop | cont. from page 9

Linnemann, Jill Meyers, Carolyn Malmstrom, Tom Nelson, Kirk Riley, and Mary Trebilcock.

In addition, the following Middle School and High School youth participated: Amy Baumgartner, Bronti Belanger, Claire Cowan, Maria Cowan, Frances Fernandez, Jake Gornick, Aly Homminga, Josh Jackard, Alexis Kelley, Sophie Kirchoff, Rachel Linnemann, Tara Mahon, Brey Otlewski, Mariah Otlewski, Craig Pitchford, Brisbane Roumpz, and Tara Wilson. The "coin challenge" for the youth netted \$857.86 with the Middle Schoolers edging the High Schoolers by a few dollars-Reverend Heisler will reward the winners. This is awesome!!! Of course, people in the Lansing area and around the world are the real winners.

Please offer a prayer of thanksgiving for all involved. I'll update you on the official results when they are compiled. Until then, thanks to everyone who walked or pledged.

**Haslett Community Church
January 2012**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM – Ski Weekend mtg	2	3 10:00 AM Women's Coffee	4 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir	5	6 HCC Ski Trip to	7 Treetops in Gaylord
8 9:30 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM - Member Caring 5:30-7:00 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - HS Youth Group	9 2:30-4:30 PM MS/HS Study Hours 7:00 PM Mission Outreach 7:00 PM Youth Ministry	10 7:15 PM Church Council	11 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir	12	13	14
15 COMMUNION 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 5:30-7:00 PM - Confirmation 7:00-9:00 PM -HS Youth Group	16 2:30-4:30 PM MS/HS Study Hours 6:00 PM 12 th Grade Dinner	17 8:00 AM Newsletter items due 10:00-11:00 AM Children's Music 7:30 PM Social Committee	18 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir	19	20 1:00-7:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive	21 1:00-4:00 PM Circle of Friends 7:00 PM HS/MS Movie Night
22 TASTE OF HCC 9:30 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 11:00 AM Life Stories, God Stories 11:30 AM - Bible Study 5:30-7:00 PM - Confirmation 7:00-9:00 PM -HS Youth Group	23 2:30-4:30 PM MS/HS Study Hours 6:00 PM 11 th Grade Dinner	24 8:00-5:00 PM Lifeline Screening 7:00-9:00 PM HS Study Hours	25 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir 7:00-9:00 PM HS Study Hours	26 7:00 PM Church Growth Comm	27 HS Youth to	28 Springhill
29 9:30 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM Annual Meeting 11:30 AM - Bible Study 5:30-7:00 PM - Confirmation 7:00-9:00 PM -HS Youth Group	30 2:30-4:30 PM MS/HS Study Hours	31				

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 judyleeonly@earthlink.net Barbara Freeman can be reached at bff7@comcast.net

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HCC Connection

January 2012

Worship for January 2012

Sermon titles and Scripture readings include:

Sunday, January 1st, 9:30 am

"A Matter of Time"

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 & Luke 13:6-9

Sunday, January 8th, 9:30 am

Carol Ingells, Guest preacher

Sunday, January 15th, 9:30 am

"No Other Gods"

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 & Mark 12:28-31

Sunday, January 22nd, 9:30 am

"Graven Images?"

Psalm 8:1-6 & Mark 3:31-35

Sunday, January 29th, 9:30 am

"God's Name in Vain"

Exodus 3:1-7, 10-14 & Matthew 7:21-23

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.