

Haslett Community Church



HCC Connections

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

July 2010



Special points of interest:

- OGHS, Thanks, Golfest - p5
- Men's Fishing Weekend - p6

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During our worship services, we hear many requests for prayer and keep them with us. But many folks miss this opportunity to ask for prayer or to hear these requests. Back when telephone was the main communication tool, we tried a Prayer Chain as a way of extending

our church's prayer life, but messages often didn't get through or the chain was otherwise broken.

We think e-mail can help us overcome that problem, so now we'd like to try again. If you have e-mail and would like to be one of those who pray as part of the Prayer Chain, please e-mail Kurt Kirchoff, pastorkurt53@att.net, to let him know. If you don't have e-mail, but would like to be part of a phone Prayer Chain, we're happy to try that again, too. Give Kurt a call at 339-8383, ext. 11.

Once we get the chain set up, we'll start soliciting your prayer requests for it. Look for information on that in future newsletters.

CROP Walk's 10-10-10 Challenge

This year's CROP Walk, which will be on Sunday, October 10th, has been offered a special challenge grant. If a church sends a representative to the CROP Walk Rally on September 9th, \$50 will be added to that church's total CROP Walk contribution. Fifty more dollars will be added to the contribution of any church that meets **one** of these three goals:

1. A 10% increase over the number of CROP walkers the

church had in 2009.

2. A 10% increase over the amount of money the church raised for the Walk in 2009.
3. A 10% increase in the average dollars per CROP walker the church had in 2009.

Here's to doing our best to make sure HCC is one of the churches that contributes an extra \$100 by meeting the 10-10-10 challenge. If enough churches do it, the Walk will receive an extra \$4000 this year!



Pastor's Corner

Turning to God Heat

(Twenty-seventh in a series on connecting with God in the ordinary)

"Hot town, summer in the city"- that first line in an old song from The Lovin' Spoonful still rings out in my memories of summer camp from my early adolescence. (I apologize to those of you who are not of my generation and who may never have heard of The Lovin' Spoonful, but please bear with me.) Summer is the time when temperatures rise and the weather warms. There's no better time than July to consider the gift of heat and how it connects us with God.

It's hard to appreciate heat unless we've been cold. Cold shrinks us in both body and spirit. When we're cold, we huddle and shiver. In our struggle against freezing, we draw ourselves in. Anyone who lives in Michigan knows all about that.

Warmth, on the other hand, expands us. We take off our coats, loosen our ties and relax. We "let it all hang out". Our pores open, our blood vessels dilate, and our sweat pours as our bodies heat up. Emotionally speaking, we refer to "warming" to a topic or "growing hot under the collar". Our emotions, whether positive or negative, expand as they warm. They get ready to burst with expression. If we look to the most basic physical level, we see that heat powers the universe. The Big Bang, the gargantuan explosion that originally expanded everything, reached temperatures of 10 to the 32nd power degrees. Our experience of falling in love is a Big Bang of a different kind. In the heat of romance, our hearts warm and expand towards the one we love. In sexual intimacy, our bodies get hot. At the very least, we always need to keep our bodies warm if we want even to stay alive. To grow too cold is to die.

That's true in the life of our spirits, too. Letting our souls go cold can lead to spiritual death. As with an untended fire, our spirits reduce to a few glowing embers. Eventually,

even those collapse into a heap of dead ashes. Thankfully, time in prayer, in honest spiritual retreat, with a truthful, inspiring book, in a lively community of faith and worship- all these can fan us back into flame. Our souls can re-ignite with the heat of the Spirit and we can "burn" again for God.

When God said, "Let there be light," God must also have meant, "Let there be heat." Light bears heat and heat generates light. In God's design, physical, emotional, and spiritual heat come together to shine with the Light that keeps our lives pulsing. In this summertime then let's especially appreciate the sun's heat that allows our bodies to expand, loosen, relax and even sweat. In the wintertime let's appreciate the shelters, furnaces, coats and blankets that keep us warm against otherwise deadly cold. And the whole year around, let's appreciate the gifts of faith practice and spiritual community that are the sun, shelter, furnace, coat, and blanket of our church's life. They keep our souls warm, hot, and on fire for God.




Pastor Kurt Kirchoff will be gone on vacation and sabbatical time from June 28th through August 15th. While he's gone, Carol Ingells and the Rev. Erin Heisler will serve as guest worship leaders and preachers. In his absence, emergency pastoral care will be provided by Bill Burrus. Call the church office, 339-8383, or Bill's cell at 410-1347 to get in touch with Bill should the need arise.

Spiritual Life

Opportunities for Adults

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.

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 will resume meeting in the fall, using the book of Romans and following the life of Paul as the basis of their discussion. Kim Huston is the organizer of the group and she can be contacted at kimahuston@gmail.com or 339-2610 (before 3:00pm or after 7:00pm).

The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus has taught us to forgive "70 times 7". Why, when it is so hard to do? The Spiritual Life Committee is sponsoring an opportunity to gain insight into this teaching through the movie, *THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS*. This movie is part of a national outreach effort that includes a community conversation campaign. The focus is on the emergent understanding of contemporary clinical and academic research that shows forgiveness is validated as having real potential for personal and spiritual transformation. At the same time the film points to the centrality of forgiveness as a virtue in many of

the world's great religions and the struggle that people of all faiths have in honoring it. The film combines character-driven stories of dramatic transgressions with those of more commonplace annoyances, examining the role forgiveness can play in alleviating the resulting anger and grief and physical, mental and spiritual benefits that come with forgiveness. These stories assure us there is hope if we are open to seeking it and accepting it. We've hosted two showings and discussions of the film this spring and another discussion of it will take place this summer. Further discussions based on the film's accompanying book will continue in the fall. Watch the Sunday announcements for further information. Questions can be addressed to the facilitator of the group, Joyce Bischoff, 339-9935.

Sermon Discussion

Beginning again in the fall on **Sunday, September 26th**, Kurt Kirchoff will lead a discussion of the previous weeks' sermons. This once-a-month discussion will occur in the Sanctuary after worship. Questions can be addressed to Kurt at 339-8383.

Spiritual Development: Practicing our Faith

This group is deciding how to precede – when to meet and what to discuss. In the fall, there will be a meeting to wrap up the discussion of the book *Winning with People*, by John Maxwell. Then discussion will be centered on the new UCC curriculum materials, *Faith Practices*. Questions can be addressed to Becky Leefers at 337-0560.

PeaceCircle

PeaceCircle was begun as a way to get to know our neighbors, especially those from different religious and ethnic backgrounds. The premise is that by beginning peace gestures on our local scale, the ripples can be felt globally. Already, those coming to PeaceCircle have met many new friends and have learned much about other religions. World Peace is an awesome goal and PeaceCircle is reaching towards that. Watch the Sunday Announcements for details about further meetings. Please contact Joyce Bischoff at 339-9935 or Becky Leefers at 337-0560 with any questions.

Men's Group

The Men's Group has been meeting for breakfasts, book discussions, barbeques, and a fishing trip up north. Please see the related article on page 6 about the upcoming 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.

Jesus Seminar

Last April, Haslett Community Church co-hosted the Jesus Seminar at People's Church in East Lansing. 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 early Christianity evolved and to share this information

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Commendations

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

- The **Boy Scouts** for planting trees on our church property. Under the leadership of **Assistant Scoutmaster Chuck Wegener, Scouts and Scouters from BSA Troop 97** dug four deep holes and installed one sugar maple, one honeylocust and two white oak trees that replaced our dead ash trees. They demonstrated the notion that "many hands make light work." Thanks to them for outstanding service to the Haslett Community Church. **Dick Ledebuhr, Rich Newport** and **Larry Leefers** also helped in this effort.
- To **Pat Dalton** for taking the suction cups off the windows. He also took apart the wreaths after Christmas.
- Thank you to **Dave Vietti, Bob Heisler, Dave Fry,** and **Cheryl Edwards,** and **Mary and John Trebilcock** for their special efforts in the recent refinancing of our church mortgage. We now have a mortgage with a private lender for a straight 20 year loan at 5% interest. We estimate this will save us at least \$70,000 over the full course of the loan if we choose not to pay it off in advance (something that we can do at any time without penalty if we wish.)
- Thank you to **Judy Connelly, Barb Freeman,** and the **Adult Choir** for Choir Sunday.
- A special thank you to **Ron Rowe, Fred Schrepfer,** his granddaughter **Sierra, Paul White,** and **Tom Nelson** for their help Saturday June 12th with the Haslett Boy Scouts Food Drive. Thank you to **Sylvia Davis** who has continued to bring food to the food bank from the Haslett L&L daily and shop for needed items.



This column is left blank intentionally to protect the privacy of our members.

Is Your

Pledge

Up to Date?

This year we need \$4660 each week to remain current in our pledged giving receipts. As of the end of May, we're \$2948 **ahead** in the amount of those gifts we've received.

We continue to be very grateful for all those who are doing such a great job of keeping their pledges up-to-date. It's a huge help to our cash flow, especially as we move further into the summer months. We encourage everyone to keep our giving flowing in these days ahead, since summer is a time in which giving traditionally slumps with people away on vacations. A big thanks again to all those whose giving makes possible the ministry of our church!

One Great Hour of Sharing Total

Huge thanks go out to all those who contributed to this year's One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The need for our gifts to this year's offering was especially great as OGHS funds are particularly needed to support the enormous relief and re-development efforts that are going on in **Haiti** after the January **earthquake** there. As time goes on and there continue to be catastrophes like the Haiti earthquake and the **oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico** OGHS monies continue to be needed to help in the aftermaths of these disasters. So the **\$3178.24** given this year in our OGHS collection (**more than double last year's total**) is being put to great and necessary use. Thanks again to all who gave!

Social News

Looking ahead:

- **Saturday, July 10th at 7:05 pm** - Lugnuts Baseball Game
- **Sunday, July 18th** - Potluck Picnic Day - **right after church!!**
- **August 6-8th** - HCC camping weekend
- **Sunday, September 19th** - Annual Chicken BBQ at noon.

Letter to Our Congregation

In late May our church received the following letter:

I am writing to offer my thanks for Haslett Community Church's generous sharing of Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support last year. When we asked your Conference Minister for the names of churches that have made exemplary gifts in 2009 for Basic Support, your church was on that short list!

The gifts you have given from your church enable significant mission- mission that belongs to God and that all of us do together. I believe that our partnership through our Church's Wider Mission is truly changing lives! We work hand in hand with your Conference to support and encourage congregations like yours that are on the front line of mission every day. And together, we carry out mission across the nation and around the globe.

I know very well the financial challenges faced in every setting of the church today, among the many other challenges and joys of our faith. These challenges make your leadership especially critical in these days. I am personally grateful for your leadership at Haslett Community Church and your support of Our Church's Wider Mission giving. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Edith A. Guffey
Associate General Minister
United Church of Christ

Golfest - Can You Help?

Our Mission Outreach Committee wants us to know that the service clubs of Meridian Township along with the Community Resources Commission invite us to participate in their **13th Annual fundraiser for the CRC emergency Needs Fund**. Our support can be a cash donation to the fund, a gift certificate and/or a prize that is awarded at a public drawing.

The monies in this fund are generated entirely by this fundraiser, with 100% of all cash donations going to the CRC fund. The money raised in 2009 benefited many Meridian residents that our own Food Bank strives to serve - residents with emergency needs such as electrical shut offs, evictions, medical bills, and prescriptions.

The 2010 Golfest will be held on July 31st, at the Meridian Sun Golf Course. All sponsors will receive recognition before and after the event on HOM-TV 21 and promotional flyers for the Golfest. To donate or for more information on how we can help, call Sylvia Davis at 339-6466.



Seminar | Cont. from page 3

with the general public. Someone from The People's Church said, in summarizing a particularly valuable lesson from the Seminar, "...before we were a people of faith, we were a people of the way." The Seminar emphasizes that digging deeper into the words and deeds of Jesus helps people today uncover what inspired people in the first 300 years of Christianity to transform their lives, often at great personal risk, by following the way of Jesus. This knowledge can similarly inspire us to move beyond belief to action and change.

That's why we want to inform you of another Jesus Seminar that will be held in Jackson, MI on Fri. and Sat., September 17th - 18th. The speakers will be Bernard Brandon Scott and Arthur J. Dewey, with the topic "Rediscovering Paul". Deadline to register with a reduced cost is August 27th. More information about Westar Institute, the Jesus Seminar, the topics to be presented, and registration can be found at <http://www.westarinstitute.org/index.html>.

In Spring 2011, we at HCC will be co-hosting another Jesus Seminar, and it may be held right here at our church! As a co-hosting church, we would be responsible for supplying volunteers to help with hospitality, registration and selling books. We would also be asked to supply cookies for the break-times during the seminar. Please contact Becky Leefer, 337-0560, about helping out. Again, all are invited to attend any of the Jesus Seminars to get a po-

tentially transformative interesting perspective on the life and times of Jesus and of our early Christian heritage.

Next Fall

As usual, the Spiritual Life Committee is looking for ideas of activities, discussion groups or topics that will encourage the congregation on their spiritual journeys. We will be incorporating a new curriculum developed by the United Church of Christ called Faith Practices into many of the existing discussion groups. In the fall, we will have an information table set up after worship to let you know the suggestions for discussion groups and topics and to find out who is interested in them. Please contact Becky Leefer (337-0560) or any of the Spiritual Life Committee members with any suggestions for next fall.



Thank you to all families who scheduled a portrait session for HCC's 2010 Photo Directory. Your participation netted the Hallett Community Church Food Bank a donation of \$106 from Life-touch, the organizing company of our photo directory.



HCC Men's Group Fishing Weekend

It's that special time of year again!! It's the time where men head north with rod and reel to embark on a fishing adventure. This year the Men's Fishing Weekend will be **July 9th-11th** at Paul White's cottage on beautiful Tee Lake in Lewiston Michigan. Guys typically arrive throughout the day on Friday and if they arrive early enough head right out to the lake. Friday usually includes something quick and easy on the grill for dinner and a campfire to top off the evening. Saturday some of us wake up at the crack of dawn while others leisurely roll out of bed! The



day is spent fishing, paddle boating, biking and/or just relaxing lakeside. Paul expertly grills something wonderful for Saturday's dinner and we always hope to add fish to Paul's creation.

It's a great time to kick back with the HCC guys. You don't even have to fish!! You might, however, need to sit through a couple of fish stories!! If you'd like more details about the fishing weekend or want to get on our E-mail list to find out about other HCC Men's Group events either E-mail Dave Vietti at vietti@msu.edu or call at 339-5731.

Haslett Community Church July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:25 AM Worship Nursery care provided	5	6 5:30 PM Wisdom Heart	7	8	9	10 Lugnuts Game
11 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; Nursery care provided	12	13 8:00 AM Newsletter deadline 5:30 PM Wisdom Heart	14	15	16 1:00-7:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive	17
18 POTLUCK PICNIC 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; Nursery care provided	19 4 PM - closing CULVER's Food Bank Night	20 5:30 PM Wisdom Heart	21	22	23	24
25 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; Nursery care provided	26	27 5:30 PM Wisdom Heart	28 7:00 PM Mission Trip Sunday planning meeting	29	30	31

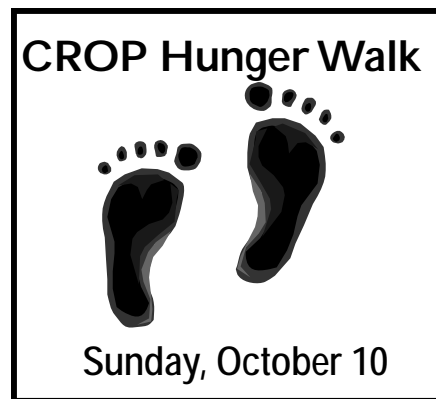
Newsletter articles are due the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00 AM.

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

"Late Bloomers" to Spruce Up Church Landscape

The "Late Bloomers" Gardening Group met Tuesday night, June 15th, to begin talking about the state of the gardens/shrubbery around the church. The first priority is to attend to the flower beds that need attention most, which is the west bed just off the end of the sanctuary. So, you will begin to see some changes there over the summer.

Plans are not chiseled "in stone", as gardens are a constantly changing project, but we do hope to attend to and improve all gardens around the church within the next three years. Your ideas and suggestions will be welcome and seriously considered. Right now you can contact Barbara Freeman, bff7@comcast.net, but this is a group-led effort.



HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH
1427 Haslett Road
PO Box 217
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HCC Connection

July 2010

Worship for July 2010

Sermon titles and Scripture readings include:

Sunday, July 4th, 9:25 am
"Bearing Burdens"
Psalm 30; Galatians 6:1-18

Sunday, July 18th, 9:25 am
"You'd Laugh, Too!"
Genesis 18: 1-15; Colossians 1: 15-29

Sunday, July 11th, 9:25 am
"The Word is Near—Choose Life!"
Psalm 25: 1-10; Deuteronomy 30: 11-20

Sunday, July 25th, 9:25 am
The Reassurance of God"
Psalm 85; Luke 11: 1-13

Carol Ingells will be guest preacher for the month of July during Pastor Kirchoff's vacation and sabbatical.

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 Ministry - **Susan Witkus** - susan.witkus@att.net

Beverly Wegener - bev.wegener@att.net

Youth Ministry - **Rev. Erin Heisler** - erin.heisler@att.net

Worship and Church School, Sundays at 9:25 a. m.