



HCC Connections

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

November 2010



Special points of interest:

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"Flowing free..." - the Stewardship Drive for 2011

By now, most of us will have received the initial Stewardship Drive letter from this year's Stewardship Team. In that letter we defined the goal of the 2011 drive as having our treasure, time and talent flow free with the living water that Jesus gives.

We also went on to identify some of the key ministries 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 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 or "Flow Free..." 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.

There is no question that we are living in a very challenging time - 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. That is why our budget goal for next year is basically the same as in 2010.



Pastor's Corner

We're in a season of turning. Autumn leaves of red, orange, and yellow are falling. They spill over into our yards and onto the streets. Early November elections are a turning point for our country. Schools move past the midpoint of fall terms and students get ready for the home stretch to the holidays.

Times of turning can be shaky as we're forced to shift in significant ways. In this one, for example, the weather turns colder and flu season gears up. Darkness lengthens. Our bodies and spirits tend to tire more easily and we incline to more rest and sleep. In turning times it's wise to slow down and take especially good care of ourselves. That's the opposite of what our wider culture usually urges us to do.

But we're Christians. We have the Sabbath to remind us of the importance of slowing down. We have our faith to remind us that taking especially good care of ourselves in turning times and in every time means turning to God. In this time of year it's especially fitting to turn with gratitude for God's presence with us in the year past and in hope for God with us in the year to come.

What are we most thankful for as we move into this traditional Thanksgiving time? Is it for a job, a roof over our head,

good health, loving family and caring friends? Those are great gifts, all worth giving great thanks for. Yet in the deepest sense we may be even more grateful for something else. We're grateful, above all, for being lost yet found.

In worship in early September our lectionary gave us several of Jesus' most famous parables to ponder. They're in Luke, chapter 15 and all of them are stories of the joyous thanksgiving that comes when something or someone that's been lost is found. A shepherd throws a big feast when he recovers his lost sheep. A woman cleaning her house hosts a grand party when she finds her single lost coin. A waiting father invites his neighbors to a giant celebration after his prodigal son has returned home. His beloved yet wayward child has been lost, but now is found.

In their first thanksgiving, our Pilgrim forbears were keenly aware of this. They gave intense thanks for the basics of food and shelter that enabled at least some of them to survive their first and brutally harsh year on this continent. It was food and shelter made available to them through the life-giving hospitality of Native Americans who were here long before they arrived.

At the most basic level, though, the Pilgrims gave thanks for being lost yet found amidst terrible loss. First, they had lost their home in England. They had fled to Holland to escape religious persecution, but had suffered more of it there. Seeking religious

freedom here, they lost their way to Virginia, ending up in what is now Massachusetts. During their first winter in their new home, nearly half of them died from starvation or disease.

To say the least, those who made it through to that first Thanksgiving had suffered awful loss. They saw so many empty places around their table and felt so many raw wounds in their hearts. Still, they gave overflowing thanks to the One who had saved them from despair. THAT, they knew, would have been the worst kind of loss - to give up because of their hardships.

But with God they kept being found in hope. They kept turning to the One who they knew was with them every step of the way, no matter how difficult some of those steps were. They kept giving thanks to the One who was with them in the generosity of their Native American neighbors. They kept on in the gratitude that comes from turning over and over to the God who is our help in ages past and our hope for years to come.

That's the turning we do as Christians every year in this Thanksgiving time and in the stewardship season which every November also brings to us at HCC. In gratitude we dedicate pledges of money, time, and talent to the ongoing ministry of our church. We turn and turn again from despair to hope, from fear to trust, and from self-centeredness to love. That's what the pledging of our

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ HCC

This November in Kingdom Makers Workshop we will be learning about Ruth & Naomi. The Archbishop Desmond Tutu retells this story in his book, *Children of God Storybook Bible*.

“One year, the rains did not come. There was no food or water in the whole land of Israel, so Naomi and her family left their home in Bethlehem and went to live in the land of Moab. While they were there, Naomi’s husband died. Eventually, her sons married Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth. After ten years living in Moab, both of her sons died. Naomi was heartbroken.

She said to Orpah and Ruth, “I am returning to my own land and my own people, and each of you should go back to your mother’s house.”

Orpah kissed Naomi goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. She loved her as much as her own mother.

“Wherever you go, I will go,” Ruth said. “Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die.” So Ruth and Naomi wiped their tears and together returned to Bethlehem.

But when they arrived, there was no family left to take care of them. A kind man named Boaz let Ruth pick grain from his field, even though she was a foreigner. When Boaz heard how devoted Ruth had been to Naomi, he fell in love with her. Before long, Ruth and Boaz married. They were the ancestors of Jesus, who would also be born in Bethlehem.”

Archbishop Tutu loves this story because it not only tells of God’s care of Ruth and Naomi, but it also teaches an important message about loving and welcoming people, even when they are different from ourselves.

Archbishop Tutu includes this prayer at the end of the story, “Dear God, let me love all people no matter where they come from.”

May your family pray that prayer together this month as we learn about Ruth and Naomi.

Eui



This month, as we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember the story of Ruth & Naomi and give thanks for the people who love us. The activity below can help us to welcome people into our lives just as Boaz welcomed Ruth and Naomi!

THANKSGIVING NAME CARDS

When you set your table this Thanksgiving, use these homemade name cards with a special message for each guest.

What you need:

- Index cards, any size (one per person)
- Markers
- Fall stickers (optional)
- Fall foam shapes (optional)

What you do:

1. List everyone who will be at your Thanksgiving dinner.
2. Fold each index card in half so it can stand.
3. On one side of each card, write a person’s name.
4. Decorate around each name with markers, stickers or foam shapes.
5. On the blank side of each card, write a different Bible verse about blessings or giving thanks. Suggestions include 1 Chronicles 16:34; 1 Chronicles 29:13; Psalm 107:8; Psalm 118:21, 28; or 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
6. Another idea is to write one or more words from one verse on each person’s card (depending on the number of guests and words). You can write the verse in order and have people read around the table, or you can mix up the words so guests have to put them in the correct order. (Remember to list the Scripture reference.)



YOUTH

News & Events

As many of you know, we did not offer Confirmation last year. We used this time to re-evaluate our program. What I have enjoyed most during this time is hearing and reading stories from different churches about what Confirmation looks like in their congregation.

A church in Ohio has their youth write the prayers that form the Confirmation worship service. May this prayer, written by a 9th grader, be in our hearts as we, the HCC family of faith, prepare to embark on the journey of Confirmation with our 10th graders:

Dear God,

Today is a great day. I can feel your presence in the sunshine, the wind, and in my heart. I know you are with me, holding my hand, keeping me from falling. I know you will be with me tomorrow, and the next day, and as far into my future as you carry me. On the day I was born, we embarked on a journey, you and I, one that will last a lifetime. We've hit potholes, roadblocks, construction, and detours, but ultimately, we've come to a place, together, where we can grow and develop a relationship. We've had help along the way. You've given me so much to believe in and so many who believe in me. You've helped these people lead me to

a quiet place where you are waiting for me. There I received from you a strong faith, a loving family, and a wonderful community of supporters who have watched and guided me as I developed into who I am. I realize, at this turning point in my faith, one thing—that I want you in my life. I need you in my life. I know our journey will never end, as long as we continue on it together. Amen.



is
November 21st!

The middle school and high school youth will be leading us in worship on that morning.



GRADE DINNERS:

8th grade dinner
@ **Erin's House**
November 2nd 6pm

11th grade dinner
@ **church**
November 16th 6pm

The high school mission trip is to a state that ends in a vowel



Saturday, November 6th @ 7pm

We will be watching:

“The Answer Man “

Starring Jeff Daniels & Lauren Graham.

(It is rated R for language)

The high school mission trip is at least 800 miles away



HCC Cookbook
on sale **SOON!**

Just in time for the holidays, the HCC Cookbook will be for sale beginning mid-November. It's the perfect stocking stuffer or Christmas present! It's filled with all of our favorite church family recipes (even the legendary HCC Garbage Can Dinner recipe).

Winter Coats for Those in Need

This year St. Luke Lutheran Church will again gather winter coats for those who otherwise might not have one. They invite us to donate any new or "gently used" winter coats that we may have for distribution through this ministry. The coats can be dropped off at St. Luke, 5589 Van Atta Road in Haslett, at any time during their weekday office hours which are normally 9am-3pm or on the second Saturday of each month from 9am-noon, October through February. Any questions can be directed to their church office at (517) 339-9119.



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So, between now and Sunday, November 7th (Pledge Sunday), 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 2011.

"Everything in life is most fundamentally a gift. You receive it best and you live it best by holding it with open hands."

Let's open our hands wide together!

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gifts really means. That's what our conscious dedication to the mission of this church enables us to do. With it, we give thanks for being lost yet found. With it, we turn again and say yes to God.

Giving thanks for you and



Inquirer's Meeting

is about 90 minutes long and is held in the Frederick Library. These meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month **3:00 p.m.**, and there is no need to sign up in advance.



Choir Chairs are Still Missing

One of the "luxuries" of singing in the choir is being able to rehearse on a nice padded seat at the Wednesday rehearsals. On Sunday, October 3 at around 10:00 a.m. someone borrowed 6 of them and they have not been returned yet. If you know anything about this would you either please return them or let Judy or Barb know. Thanks.

New Composer In Residence

For many years we have all enjoyed the original music that Barbara provides for the congregation including the wonderful "Haslett Hymn" that she composed for the 50th anniversary of our church. Add to her company now the talent of Michael Eberlein who has undertaken the project of composing new "Amens" in a variety of styles and harmonies to follow the benediction. From time to time you will hear the results of his skill and as a choir we are grateful to be the group to do the "premiers". Thanks, Mike.

Hallelujah Chorus is coming!!!

Your big chance to sing along with the choir is coming up on November 28th as we will be using this famous work as our closing hymn. You will be surrounded by the choir as we sing together and there will be some music provided for you to aid in your singing. I know that you all can do the first couple of pages without looking!! If you get a chance check it out on YouTube. I know that you will be able to "Handel" it.

Is Your Pledge Up to Date?

This year we need \$4660 each week to remain current in our pledged giving receipts. At the end of May, we were \$2948 ahead in the amount of those gifts received, but now as a result of folks being away on vacations during the summertime we're behind at the end of September by \$9865. Any effort we can make to catch up and keep our pledges current is a major help to our congregation's cash flow and to the ministry that everyone's giving makes possible. Thanks to all!

Women's Coffee

On Tuesday, November 7, 1973, Marilyn Harper, Parish Assistant, and Marilyn Larson invited all women of the church to come and bring a friend at 10:00 am for an informal coffee hour. Sixteen women attended. Everyone had such a good time that it was decided to continue and two other women agreed to be hostesses for the next month, but on the first Tuesday. Since then, this group has continued to meet nearly every month during school year, taking turns being hostesses. In the early years, there was even a salad luncheon with a speaker or some other entertainment in June. Over the years many stopped coming for various reasons, but new ones came, and these women became better acquainted, with many friendships developing.

We realize that times have changed and few women are available on a week day, but Joyce Bartels and Irma Henner would like to invite those of you who are able, to come to the church on **Tuesday, November 2nd, 2010** (we know it's election day, but we've worked around that since the beginning!) for a cup of coffee and maybe a cookie or a doughnut hole. Kurt always joins us and there is very apt to be some lively discussion.



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

Kitchen Clean-up Time

The Member Caring Committee will be doing their **Fall Kitchen Clean-Up on Monday, November 15th**. During that time, we will be sorting out items in the cupboards and on the counters which have been left and perhaps forgotten. We will also compile a list of kitchen items which have been borrowed and are currently missing. We will have the forgotten items on a table for pick up following worship on Sunday, November 21st.

Thank you,

The Member Caring Committee



Commendations

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

- To all those who have taken the stones on which we “wrote the vision” in worship on October 3rd and have spread them far and wide “so that a runner may read it”. They have been or soon will be spread all the way from the Eastern seaboard to the high country of Arizona!
- To Tom Musolf and Hammond Farms for generously providing all those stones on which we wrote the vision.
- Sandy Vietti, Stefanie Zin, Blake Weston and Mike Mahon for teaching Sunday School in September
- Kelly Hammerle, Stefanie Zin, Zsa Mahon and David Arnosti for teaching Sunday School in October
- Katie Riley for providing a wonderful rest stop complete with treats during the youth CROP walk around Lake Lansing!
- Nancy White and Katie Riley for driving the high schoolers to Cleveland for the fall retreat
- Devin Mongrain for leading youth group on October 3rd

Social News

HCC Annual Ski Trip

Now is the time! Sign up for the 14th Annual HCC Ski Trip. As always, Treetops Resort in Gaylord will be our destination! 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 being watched, eating, laughing, swimming, eating, worshipping, tubing, laughing, and just having a great time being together! The dates for it are **January 7th thru January 9th, 2011**. The cost is \$118 per night for a Standard Room and \$135 per night for a Deluxe Room. There will be discounts on skiing and the Learn to Ski Michigan program will be available again this year.

So, sign up on the Social Committee Board right away, to reserve your room for this always fun-filled weekend. **There is a NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT of \$135.00 due by November 21st**. This can be made payable to Kim Carnes. We will be having an **informational meeting on November 7th** right after our worship service for more details. If you have questions before then, please contact Kim 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 14th 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, aunt, uncle, 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, as we give thanks for all that we have received. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids (12 and under). We ask you to bring your own place settings, to sign up on Social Committee board to attend, AND to indicate your willingness to help set up, clean up and to cook and/or carve a turkey or two!

Spiritual Life

This fall, the Spiritual Life Committee has had 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. A list of these suggestions is posted on the Spiritual Life bulletin board. Please stop by and check them out. We will be incorporating a new curriculum developed by the United Church of Christ, called *Faith Practices*, into many of the existing 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 after worship in the Frederick library. As the basis of their discussion, the Bible Study group will use the book of Romans 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 21** at 11:00am, in the Youth Room. Using the new UCC curriculum materials, *Faith Practices*, as a basis for the discussion, the November topic will be "the characteristics of people who are outstanding in practicing their Christian faith in daily living"

and will be led by Don Ricks. Please notice that this group is not discussing a book that should be read ahead of time – so no homework!! Questions can be addressed to Becky Leefers at 337-0560.

Sermon Discussion: Continuing on **Sunday, November 28**, 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.

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 by showing 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. On a Sunday and time to be determined, the film will be shown again with time afterwards for discussion. Questions can be addressed to the facilitator of the group, Joyce Bischoff, 339-9935.

Men's Group: The Men's Group has been meeting for breakfasts, book discussions, barbecues, 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.

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.

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 Christianity evolved and to

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share this information with the public.

In Spring 2011, we will be co-hosting another Jesus Seminar, but this time the Seminar will be held at our church! As a co-hosting church, we will be responsible for supplying volunteers to help with hospitality, registration and selling books. We are also asked to supply cookies for the break-times during the seminar. Please contact Becky Leefers, 337-0560, about helping out. All are invited to attend the Jesus Seminar to get an interesting perspective on the life and times of Jesus and our Christian heritage.

The Little Things

Robert Shahan, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Phoenix, was recovering in a hospital after heart surgery. He caught the attention of a nurse and asked her to please bring him some ice.

"I have a choice for you," the nurse said. "You can either have a new BMW or some ice chips."

Immediately, the bishop said, "Ice!"

The nurse replied, "Don't ever forget that."

Shahan says that was a good reminder of the importance of life's little things. Now he tries to always be thankful — even for such common things as ice or a glass of water.

Prayer Chain Is Thriving & Expanding

In its first few weeks our new prayer chain has received many requests for prayer to which we've been honored to respond. We've also welcomed several new members to the chain so that our number is now at thirteen. Many thanks to **Liz Newport, Mary Nelson, Karen Klein, Bev Wegener, Rich Baumgartner, Carol Reid, Paula Fry, Georgia Davidson, Becky Leefers, Sandy Vietti, Carolyn Swanson, Cindy Brown, and the Rev. Erin Heisler** for volunteering to take part in it.



If you have a prayer request that you'd like to pass on to them or if you'd also like to join the chain, let Kurt Kirchoff know at 339-8383, ext. 11 or by e-mail at pastorkurt53@att.net. This is a terrific ministry that everyone is welcome to take

Thank You Whoever You Are!

We recently received the following letter from Hannah's House thanking an unknown person from our church for gifts given to their ministry. We don't know who the giver is either, but we want to make sure the word of thanks reaches you, whoever you are!

Dear Haslett Community Church,

Someone from your church delivered bread, vegetables and cake to help us with our ministry. We at Hannah's House would like to thank you so very much for the recent donation.

The food that was given will go towards providing for the needs of the women who reside at Hannah's House. It is only with the help of caring people like you that we can do the work of helping homeless pregnant women and their babies.

We are truly blessed to be able to count you as friends of Hannah's House. Thank you again for your generous donation.

*Sincerely,
Stephanie K. Johnson
Executive Director, Hannah's House*





Giving Project

On **Sunday, November 14th**, 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 15th**.

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 the bulletin and December newsletter.

Dates for your calendar:

Sunday 12/19—Packing night

Monday 12/20— Merge gifts with food

Tuesday 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. **NEW for 2010** — 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 would include hair ac-



cessories, combs, inexpensive jewelry, makeup, bubble bath or bath gel, girls' crafts. For both boys and girls: books, notepads, crayons, colored pencils, chalk, yo-yos, small games, and card games. Items especially for boys might include matchbox cars, action figures, fun soaps, and hairbrushes. Donations do not need to be wrapped and can be left any time at our Food Pantry marked for Christmas Giving. Any questions – call Kelly Flagg at 339-8841.

Food Bank Update

L & L Turkey Feathers

L&L continues their turkey feathers program to be used toward discounts on turkeys.

Please place them in the folder on the Food Bank door. Thank you for your donations to all those involved in CROP Walk, 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.

Congregational Food Drive Sunday November 14th

We will have our fall food drive the same Sunday of our Thanksgiving dinner. The items listed below are greatly needed:

- Egg noodles
- Canned fish/meats
- Mayo/ salad dressing
- Jam/jelly/honey
- Cooking Oil

Please call if you have any questions. Betsy McLernon



Members in Ministry

The following tasks need volunteers for this month. Can you help fill in the blanks?

November 7th

READER:
USHERS:
GREETERS:
COFFEE HOSTS:

November 14th

READER: Mike Mahon
USHERS:
GREETERS:
COFFEE HOSTS:

October 21st

READER: Youth Sunday
USHERS: Youth Sunday
GREETERS: Youth Sunday
COFFEE HOSTS: Youth Sunday

October 28th

READER: Cheryl Edwards
USHERS:
GREETERS:
COFFEE HOSTS: Liz & Rich Newport

November 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

We Will Carry Your Water

Prior to worship on September 26th as part of our promotion for HCC's participation in this year's CROP Walk, Kathy Swearingen made the following presentation. Several of our members asked that it be made available elsewhere for our whole congregation. (It can also be found on our web site under the "Program Ministries/Mission Outreach" heading) In lifting up this year's Walk, Kathy provided a sketch of HCC's relationship with Rose Gakwandi's work in Rwanda and of the latest developments in our support of Rose's ministry.

"There is an expression from central Africa that says, 'We will carry your water.' It is a term I learned from our fellow HCC members Germain and Jeanine Bindika from Congo. It means something like this: We are behind you. You can depend on us. We'll be there for you. We will carry your water.

I thought of this as I thought about our upcoming CROP Walk as well as my recent trip to Rwanda. While there I saw people walking everywhere. Women and children carrying water in jerry cans like this. Rwanda is lush and beautiful with streams and rivers everywhere. But you still have to get to the water source and haul it back to your home. Even short distances become long when you carry water.

The good news? This church has been a faithful community that has embodied this African expression, "We will carry your water". I want to lift up all of you this morning, all of us, for being a people who are willing to

be there for others- to help carry the load.

You have been leaders in carrying the water for hundreds of families in our community through our food bank, our Loaves and Fishes ministry, our long and generous support of the CROP Walk.

But not only that- almost a decade ago Haslett Community Church raised the funds to fly a woman you had never met, Mrs. Rose Gakwandi Mukankaka, from Rwanda to the U.S. You all opened your hearts and homes so as to learn from her how it is that one woman turns personal loss and tragedy into forgiveness and healing for thousands. By your willingness to carry her water, you opened doors for her ministry. Contacts with folks at MSU, such as Laura Apol in the Education Department, and Ken Bialek with his entrepreneurial vision, have expanded into ongoing projects with Rose which support thousands in Rwanda to this day.

Can you believe it? You all- Haslett Community Church, along with the Church and Society Committee led so well by David Arnosti- supplied the means for these contacts to blossom and grow. You were the first to carry the water, to take that leap of faith which now waters these ministries to flourish. One morning in Rwanda, I woke up beside Lake Kivu with this thought: Rose's ministry in Rwanda could provide fertile soil for the education of divinity students. What a place for students to learn about the global church and the ways one woman can transform pain and evil into compassion and hope.

At breakfast, when I shared that idea with Rose, her eyes grew large, her energy quickened, and she embraced this idea with open arms and great enthusiasm. She wrote up a proposal.

The Rev. Erin Heisler, our fantastic Minister for Youth and Children's Programs, gave me a contact name and number at Princeton. That person directed me to another person. After six months of phone calls, e-mails, and letters, I can tell you that Princeton Theological Seminary is now going to list Rose's Beloved Child Association as one of its ten international sites for field education for Princeton students.

Not only that, but Professor Elsie McKee at Princeton, upon learning more and more about Rose through our conversations, wants to build an entire course on Women Christian Leaders in Africa. In fact, Dr. McKee wants to help Rose write her own story so that Rose's faith and work can be shared with even more people and become the centerpiece of this graduate course.

Jesus always spoke of the mustard seed and a widow's tiny coin as the genesis for great miracles. And wonders still unfold! Let these good tidings give us renewed energy and joy. There are endless ways to carry water. Our upcoming CROP walk offers another opportunity. If you haven't walked before, maybe this is your year to join in. Bring a friend. Have that friend bring a friend. It's fun. The river is wide and God is still speaking. The water we have carried has borne great fruit. Let all of us continue to carry the water."

Haslett Community Church November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 PM Mission Outreach	2 VOTING DAY 10:00 AM Women's Coffee 5:45 PM Wisdom Heart 6:00 PM 8 th Grade Dinner	36 2:30-4:30 PM HS/MS Study hour 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7 PM Adult Choir	4	5	6 7:00 PM MS/HS Movie Night
7 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM – Bible Study 10:45 AM - Member Caring 7:00 PM HS Youth Group	8 7 PM Youth Ministry	9 5:45 PM Wisdom Heart 7:15 PM Church Council	10 2:30-4:30 PM HS/MS Study hour 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7 PM Adult Choir	11	12	13
14 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM – Bible Study 12 noon -Thanksgiving Dinner 7:00 PM - HS Youth Group	15	16 8 AM Newsletter articles due 5:45 PM Wisdom Heart 6 PM 11 th grade dinner	17 2:30-4:30 PM HS/MS Study hour 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7 PM Adult Choir	18	19 1:00-7:00 PM ARC Blood Drive 8:00 PM – 9:00 AM HS Overnight	20
21 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM – Spiritual Dev 10:45 AM – Bible Study 10:45 AM – Fair Trade Coffee 3:00 PM – Inquirer's Meeting 7:00 PM - HS Youth Group	22	23 5:45 PM Wisdom Heart	24 No Study hours 5:30-7:00 PM MS Youth Group 7 PM Adult Choir	25 THANKS- GIVING DAY	26	27
28 COMMUNION 9:25 AM Worship and Church School; nursery care provided 10:45 AM – Bible Study 10:45 AM - Sermon Discussion 4:00 PM – Hanging of the Greens NO HS Youth Group	29	30 5:45 PM Wisdom Heart				

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

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HCC Connection

November 2010

Worship for November 2010

Sermon titles and Scripture readings include:

Sunday, November 7th, 9:25 am
"Flowing Free"

Isaiah 44:1-4 & I John 3:16-18

Sunday, November 14th, 9:25 am
"When No Stone Is Left Upon Another"

Isaiah 65:17-25 & Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, November 21st, 9:25 am
Youth Sunday

Sunday, November 28th, 9:25 am
"The Messiah"

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-18 & Isaiah 40:1-5

Haslett Community Church

Church Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00, M~F PHONE – (517) 339-8383 Fax (517) 339-8526

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Beverly Wegener - bev.wegener@att.net **Minister for Youth & Children - Rev. Erin Heisler** - erin.heisler@att.net

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