



HCC Connections

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

October 2008



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The Time Has Come! "I'll Be There Sunday"- October 5th

In the first week of this month the time for "I'll Be There Sunday" finally arrives. It will be an especially memorable day of gathering for worship, reflecting on the wisdom of our faith for life in family, celebrating Holy Communion and the fellowship and ministry we share with each other and with Christians all across the globe on World Communion Sunday, and dedicating the major

roof and door projects we've completed this past summer. We have much to celebrate and be thankful for and on "I'll Be There Sunday" we'll do it.

Here are a few final reminders about our plans for the 5th. The services will be at 8:30 and 11am with a brunch served in between from 9:45 to 10:30. We're grateful for the many responses we've received indicating folks' particular plans for attendance on this day, but we also

want to emphasize that if last minute changes mean you can only make it to a service different from the one you originally indicated then by all means still come. Or if you've first let us know that you won't be able to come, but it turns out later that you can, then by all means still do. Or if we've not connected with you about your plans and it turns out that you can be there, then by all means come. The idea from the start has been the more the merrier, so the more the merrier!



2008 -October, 12th, 1:00 PM

CROP-Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

Wow, that is quite an acronym! Members and Friends of the Haslett Community Church have been responding as a community for a long time to the effects of poverty by giving their talents and money to the Food Bank, mission trips and many other needy causes. Notably, we are consistently among the leaders in the Lansing area for the CROP Walk. I have been a walker since 1994, and this year I was asked to play a little larger role. Given the great commitment by many friends in the Church, it was easy to say "YES." And all of us are asking you to say "YES" as well..."YES, I will be a walker" and/or "YES I will make a pledge to help those in need."

Terry Carroll is the Honorary Chairperson this year. Many of you know Terry through his friends at Church and are familiar with his skills on the bag-



Pastor's Corner

Turning to God Community

*(Eighth in a series on connecting
with God in the ordinary)*

As Christians, we believe that all of us are made in the image of God. The God in whose image we are made is the Holy Trinity, the glorious Three-in-One who from all eternity dwells in the perfectly mutual, joyous, and loving communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As those made in this God's image, we are who we're meant to be when we live in loving communion with each other. In loving each other, we connect with the God who has made us for community.

Family, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, strangers- people near and far are part of our life every day. We live together, work together, and play together. We help each other, depend on each other, and shape each other. We irritate each other, upset each other, and fight each other. For good, for bad, and for everything in between our lives are intertwined.

Sometimes the bad we get from each other is so bad that it makes us wish we could be on our own. Desmond Tutu, one of the greatest Christian leaders of our time, knows all about that. Born and raised in apartheid South Africa, he knows more than most and at first hand how

bad we sometimes can be to each other. He has suffered plenty at the hands of those who've dismissed or even hated him just because of the color of his skin. But in his book, *God Has a Dream*, he offers this remarkable reminder of our creation in God's image, of the life in love God has made us for, and of how we can re-connect with that life even amidst the evil that we do and that we suffer.

"Many people ask me what I have learned from all the experiences in my life, and I say unhesitatingly: People are wonderful. It is true. People really are wonderful. This does not mean that people cannot be awful and do real evil. They can. Yet, as you begin to see with the eyes of God, you start to realize that people's anger and hatred and cruelty come from their own pain and suffering. As we begin to see their words and behavior as simply the acting out of their suffering, we can have compassion for them. We no longer feel attacked by them, and we can begin to see the light of God shining in them. And when we begin to look for the light of God in people, an incredible thing happens. We find it more and more in people- all people."

We find it more and more in all people because God has put it there. God has put it there through God's image shining in us. Shining with God's own light we remember the life together that God has made us for and that God lives. Joined with each other, day by day, in loving community, we connect with God. We join with the Holy Trinity who *is* love.




Church and
Ministry

The Ministry of
Crossroad

On Sunday, October 19th, we'll have a unique opportunity to learn much more about **one of the extraordinary ministries our congregation supports through our participation in the United Church of Christ.** For 125 years, **Crossroad Ministry in Fort Wayne, Indiana** has served young people in special need originally as an orphanage and now as a **home and service provider for those, ages 6-21, who suffer from emotional disabilities.** These young people often have been the victims of early childhood abuse or neglect and their need for love and support is frequently very deep. **Robert Strozier from Crossroad will be with us on the 19th as our guest preacher** to tell us more about them and Crossroad's work with them. **He'll bring information displays as well and will be available after worship for further discussion with anyone who's interested.** Come and be part of our welcome to this special guest and of our learning from him about this vital ministry with which we're privileged to be involved.



Children's Program

Hello Friends!

A five year-old mixed up her words in Sunday school when we sang, "You are my all in all." I heard her singing "You are my Tylenol". When I corrected her privately afterward she said, "O.K. but its true! God is like Tylenol because He makes me feel better, too."

I smiled and thought what a wonderful perspective – she is absolutely right!

I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers that have helped the children in September: Stefanie Zin, Barb Decker, Shannon Murton, Shannon Thelen, and Kathy Campbell. They are doing such a great job – the kids appreciate it so very much!

Giving is such an important theme that reappears again and again in Bible stories. Parents - I want to remind you that it is **important that you carry this theme over into your children's lives outside of church. One small way they can give is to save a little money every day for Lana (our HCC sponsor child).** All the children's offering goes directly to her so that she can have food, shelter, clothes and attend school. The offering lately has been so little – and the kids seem to disregard how important it is. Lana de-

pend on us sending her just \$35 dollars a month. Otherwise, her life would be quite different. She understands how fortunate she is and, in fact, just sent us a letter to thank us. It is posted on the children's ministry bulletin board at the top of the stairs. Please make sure that your child comes to church with 50 cents or a dollar to give to Lana. We have so very much and she has so little –let's all try to give a little more of what we have.

Our first Give and Serve day on September 7th was a huge success! The children packed 20 backpacks with school supplies for children in need in our area. The children also brought in 31 cans on food that was donated to the food bank. What a great day! Thank you to all that helped with this endeavor! **Our next Give and Serve day is November 2nd. Until then we will be collecting cans and books. The bins will be in Friendship Hall. The money from the cans will go to Lana and the books will be delivered to a few senior facilities and hospitals in the area – thank you!** On November 2nd, the children will be sorting and making bookmarks to be added to the books.

As a last reminder – October 19th is Bible Sunday for the third graders. It is an exciting time to publicly present our third graders with a Bible of their very own. I look forward to it – all parents of third graders will be getting a confirmation card in the mail as the date gets closer.

In closing, we had two new families join us this month. Please welcome them and their children. We welcome

the Canestraight family and the Koerner family! Annabelle, Ginny, Cole and Jacob were a wonderful addition to our Sunday school family!

We need teachers for October – please sign up in Friendship Hall!

Until next time –
Peace and Joy –

Susan

2008 October:

- 5th Communion, Children upstairs
- 12th, 19th, 26th: Joshua
- 19th is Bible Sunday for 3rd graders

November:

- 2nd: Give and Serve!
- 9th, 16th, 23rd: Elijah
- 30th: Communion, Children upstairs, Hanging of the Greens

Nursery Help Needed

We could use your help! Please check your calendars and see if you can help fill some of the voids left on the sign up sheet in the Friendship hall.



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

- To all of our **Food Bank Volunteers** for all the great work they do week after week all year round to make possible this essential ministry to hundreds of families in our township.



**High School
YOUTH GROUP**

Hello fellow worshippers!

We have had our first youth meeting and I can tell we are going to have a great year. The first meeting yielded a good turn out of over

twenty youth, and I know there are more who plan on joining us. I must say that I have rarely seen such an energetic group of youngsters! At times our group made the basement walls ring with voices. I have faith, though, that we can direct this energy to worship.

After a quick introduction and a talk about what to expect out of this year, I decided to take some time to get to know our church's denomination. Since "I'll Be There Sunday" is approaching, I thought that this might be appropriate and may even instill a sense pride and belonging. I developed a short list of questions involving our denomination and its history. These are a few of the questions:

- When was the UCC denomination founded?
- What is our motto and to where can it be traced?
- How did the UCC influence the civil rights movement?
- What is unique about our hymnal, the "New Century Hymnal"?
- Can you draw the UCC cross?

Most of the youth could draw, or at least recognize our cross, a good number knew the year that UCC was founded

(1957), and one of the youth knew our motto (from John 17:21) right off the top of his mind. As for the rest, I will let you look them up and maybe give you the answer if you get stumped.

This was a good lesson for me as well. Many of you know that I grew up Presbyterian so the UCC is fairly new to me. I do believe that knowing some history of our faith is important, not only to give us some sense of belonging, but knowing our history also helps us understand some of our beliefs and customs. I hope that the youth took something out of our discussion and as for the rest of the congregation, I encourage you to look up the questions and learn a little about our UCC!

Yours in Christ,
Chris Bawden
Senior Youth Pgm Director

CROP | Cont. from page 1

pipes. He'll get us started on the walk again this year. **In our morning worship on October 12th**, we'll also receive special inspiration from Brother **Kyle Carnes** who will be with us as our **guest preacher**. Kyle, as many of you know, grew up in our church, recently graduated from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and is in care of our congregation as he continues on his path to ordination in the United Church of Christ. I'm glad to recall, too, that in the past **Pastor Kirchoff** has worn a ketchup bottle suit for the Walk because we met a significant financial goal for it. This year we'll aim for pledges of \$10,000 and if we reach that goal **Kurt will wear a Chicago Cubs cap and t-shirt during this year's Walk** in spite of the fact that he bleeds St. Louis Cardinal red.

Twenty-five percent of the funds collected for the Walk are distributed locally, including some to the Haslett Community Church Food Bank. The main beneficiaries of this Church World Service effort, however, are people around the world. The money raised is used to provide food, medical care, disaster relief, and self-help development efforts for people around the globe.

Pledge envelopes are available or pledges for this year's Walk can be made by calling the church office during the week (339-8383). Or you can pick up an envelope and/or pledge to other walkers on Sunday mornings before and after worship at the CROP display table that will be set up through October 12th in Friendship Hall. Thanks for your support!

Larry Leefers



**FOOD BANK
and
PERSONAL
NEEDS
CLOSET**

We have identified the greatest needs and have made a list of items to concentrate on each month. So here is the list and let's see how much we can gather each month. **Oct** = pancake mix and syrup, saltines or snack crackers, cooking oil, adult toothbrushes **Nov** = canned fruit, brownie mix, potato dinners (scalloped, au gratin), rice-a-roni, toothpaste, dish soap.

**PAPER BAGS ARE NEEDED
FOR THE FOOD BANK**

Recycling

News



**2008 UPCOMING
RECYCLING EVENTS**

**FREE Document
Destruction Day**

October 11, 2008 9 - 12 noon

Friedland Industries, 405 E. Maple - East of Grand River. (No rubber bands or paper clips - staples O.K.)

Fall Recycling Event

**October 11, 2008 9 - 2 PM
Meridian Twp. Service Center, 2121 Gaylord Court - off N. Okemos Rd.**

Items accepted:

- #1,2,3,4,5,6,7 plastics (non-sorted)
- Paperback & Hardcover

**LOAVES & FISHES
MEALS**

This important ministry provides a hot meal, emergency shelter, and emotional support for people in need. **We provide meals on the third Monday of each month that serve up to 15 people. Next meals are October 20th, November 17th, and December 15th. If you can provide a main dish, vegetable dish, or dessert for the evening meal, please sign up.** The sign up poster for the is in the Friendship Hall. Thanks so much! If you have questions, please feel free to call Paula Fry at 641-7425.

books (sort by fiction & non-fiction) Will be available for purchase until 3 PM, 25-50 cents, free to nonprofits.

- Telephone Books
- Clear & all colors glass (no auto glass)
- P h a r m a c e u t i c a l s (prescription & nonprescription in original container - veterinary medication also accepted. (will be destroyed, not recycled)
- Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Clean & placed in clear plastic bags.
- Polystyrene Peanuts (Styrofoam) & Bubble Wrap-bag separately from other Styrofoam.

**EAST LANSING HAS A NEW
RECYCLING DROP OFF
LOCATION at 841 Timberlane St.**

Items accepted at this time:

- Newspapers
- Magazines Mixed paper - envelope windows OK
- Boxboard Corrugated cardboard
- brown paper bags, & paper egg cartons
- #1 & #2 plastic bottles

**Looking Ahead to Our
Events:**

- October 5th** "I'll Be There Sunday"
- October 12th** CROP Walk
- October 19th** Bible Sunday
- October 26th** Youth Ministry Dinner Auction
- November 9th** Stewardship Sunday
- November 16th** HCC Thanksgiving Meal

MEMBER CARING

You could help the Member Caring Committee....

The Member Caring Committee provides funeral receptions, coffee hosts and rides and meals for members of the congregation. Currently we are in need of folks to call workers for rides and meals. We also are in need of volunteer drivers. If you would be willing to help us please contact Jill Meyers (339-9487) or Suzanne Rock. (339-9312) Thank you.

Youth Mission Trip Auction

October 26, 2008

Sally Heisler is looking for people to serve on the committee. If you can help, please call Sally at 339-0194 or email her at sally.heisler@okemosschools.net. Also, please consider contributing to the auction with your donation of goods or services.



Choir News

The choir is off to a great start this year. We have some new members, some first timers and a few who have rejoined us after a leave of absence. A welcome to Michele Booher, Janiele Cannon, Mark Garrod and Kathy Swearingen. A welcome back to Mike Eberlein, Debbie Gulliver and Mary

Ellen Ottarson. A heartfelt welcome to all the returning singers. We have a great group and Barbara and I really appreciate all their enthusiasm and talent. We have a great year of music planned and there is still room for any others that might consider joining us.

A big thank you to all those who provided music during the summer services: Mary Trebilcock,

Nancy White, The Women's Choir, Kelsey Vorce, Jordon Walling, Mark Garrod, Judy Connelly, Bob Purosky, Mike Eberlein, David Zin and Joyce Bischoff.

This year we will present an Epiphany Cantata on January 11th during the service. Entitled "The Second Half of the Christmas Story" we will present hymns and anthems that tell the story from the visit of the Wise Men to the flight into Egypt. Mark this date on your new 2009 calendars.

Youth and Children's Choirs welcome any who would join. We meet on Thursday afternoon, Youth at 2:30 PM and Children at 3:30 PM. Here is a chance for you to participate in the worship services by singing, chime playing, movement and drama. Snacks are always a hit with these groups and they are provided each week.

IT'S AUCTION TIME!!!

The Mission Trip Auction will be held on **Sunday, October 26th at 4:00 p.m.** As in the past, there will be a silent auction, a dinner, and a live auction at the church. All of the proceeds will go towards helping the youth of our church travel and stay on their upcoming Mission Trip to help others in need.

You can participate in this event in a variety of ways:

- Making a donation of a service or an item that can be auctioned off. If you have something that someone else will buy, we will be grateful



for your donation and will sell it at the auction. Some examples include: window washing services, snow plowing services, gift certificates, homemade crafts and food, new items and business donations.

- Coming to the auction and dinner or bidding on the silent auction items before and after church on Auction Sunday.
- Volunteering your time and energy in helping to plan and make this event successful.

On upcoming Sundays, look for the Mission Trip Auction table located outside of the sanctuary. Your questions will be answered by members of the Auction committee and you can also pick up or turn in a donation form. Otherwise, give Sally Heisler a call at 339-0194 or e-mail her at sally.heisler@okemosschools.net.



Our Church Family

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



Welcome to Our Church

Our church holds an **Inquirer's Meeting** for those who may be interested in learning more about our church. The next meeting will be: **Sunday, October 19th at 3:00 pm in the Church Library.**

These meetings are led by our moderator, Tim Hiller, and Pastor Kurt Kirchoff, and offer a general overview of life and membership at HCC and our denomination, the United Church of Christ. They are purely informational and are designed to last about an hour and a half. If you would like to learn more about our church in that kind of setting, please know that we would love to see you there.



Pledge Giving Update

Full payment on our pledged giving has long been one of our congregation's strengths and we're looking forward to another great result this year. We need \$4766 each week in order to remain current in our pledged giving receipts for '08 and as of August 31st received pledges are \$8,854 short of where we should be for the first eight months of the year. If you are behind, and are able to bring your pledged giving current, it would be very helpful. Thanks for your giving that makes possible our church's ministry!



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 for October 2008 – May 2009 is on the kiosk in Friendship Hall. We encourage those who wish to host to sign up soon. Twelve to twenty women (and Pastor Kurt) attend. The next Women's Coffee this Fall will be held on **Tuesday, October 7th and hosted by Irmie Neils and Irma Henner.** If you have not been to this get-together before, think about coming. The conversations are delightful!

REMINDER to all Ski Trippers!!

Please look for the sign up for the **2009 ski trip** on the Social Committee board. Sign up **NOW** and plan to attend the informational meeting on Sunday, November 2nd after worship. Any questions, call Karla Hiller or Kim Carnes.

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.

Sunday after Worship

First Sunday - Book Discussion Group: Due to "I'll Be There Sunday" in September the next meeting of this group in the library for 2008-09, will be on Sunday, November 2nd. The current book is Every Day Graces by Marianne Williamson. Joyce Bischoff will lead the discussion and questions can be directed to her at 339-9935.

Third Sunday - Spiritual Development: Practicing our Faith: The October meeting of this group for the coming year will be in the library, Sunday, October 19th. Questions can be directed to the group leader, Kathy Swearingen at 575-5132.

Last Sunday - Sermon Discussion: Meeting in the Sanctuary, Kurt Kirchoff again this year will lead a discussion of the sermons from previous weeks. Sermons in '08-'09 usually will be from a series entitled, "Christian Wisdom for Daily Life" that Kurt worked on during his sabbatical time this past summer. The next discussion will be on Sunday, October 26th. Questions can be directed to Kurt at 339-8383, ext. 11.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will be preparing the breakfast on the Sunday, October 5th, "I'll Be There Sunday". Dave Vietti is also constructing an email list of all those interested in the Men's Group. Contact him at 3 3 9 - 5 7 3 1 o r vietti@msu.edu to be included on this email list or to ask questions.

Colloquium

Begun as a one-month discussion group with Kyle Carnes, Colloquium has blossomed into a long-lived group which has found a real community among its members. The upcoming meetings for October are on Tuesday, October 7th (2nd Tuesday) and Thursday, October 23rd (4th Thursday). Contact Dave Vietti at 339-5731 with any 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 for news about future meetings in the News and Events page of this month's Sunday worship bulletins.



When we receive the bread offered during Holy Communion, it's the spiritual equivalent of receiving free bread. No matter how you slice it in terms of your own denominational tradition, the "real" bread and "real" drink connect us deeply and spiritually with God through Christ. We are nourished by the grace we receive, encouraged by the diverse crowd around us and strengthened to live life to the full. There's no substitute for the love and life we experience when we break the Bread of Life. Like Peter we cry out, "Lord, to whom [else] shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68, NIV).

—Homiletics

October

HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH
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HCC Connection

October 2008

Worship for October 2008

Sermon titles and Scripture readings include:

Sunday, October 5, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

World Communion Sunday & "I'll Be There Sunday"
Christian Wisdom for Daily Life, V- "Family"
Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 & Mark 3:31-35

Sunday, October 19, 9:25 am

Guest Preacher, Robert Strozier,
from Crossroad Ministry

Sunday, October 12, 9:25 am

CROP Walk Sunday
Guest Preacher, Kyle Carnes

Sunday, October 26, 9:25 am

Christian Wisdom for Daily Life, VI- "Work"
Psalm 90:13-17 & Ecclesiastes 3:9-14

Haslett Community Church

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

www.haslettcommunitychurch.org

Contact us: hcc1@att.net

Pastor Kurt - pastorkurt53@att.net **Children's Ministry** - Susan Witkus - susanwitkus@peoplepc.com
Beverly Wegener - bev.wegener@att.net **Youth ministry** - Chris Bawden - crbawden@hotmail.com

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