



# HCC Connections

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

September 2008



**Special points of interest:**

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## The Time Will Soon Be Here!

### "I'll Be There Sunday"- October 5<sup>th</sup>

*In* September, after the slower time of summer and in keeping with the usual rhythm of our HCC year, the full program life of our church will be underway again. The rest of this newsletter will inform you of many of the details of that, but right here on the first page we want to remind you again, as we have in our last three newsletters, of the very special event we're planning for early October.

For worship on **October 5<sup>th</sup>** we'll be trying something new for the sheer celebration of it. **We'll have two services at 8:30am and 11am, and aim to have ALL our members and friends at worship** on that particular day.

**It will be World Communion Sunday** and the idea is for all of us to be together simply

to celebrate the connection that we have with each other in Jesus Christ as the people of Haslett Community Church, the bonds that we share with Christians all around the globe, and the ministry that's ours to all of God's people every-

would like him to, Pastor Kirchoff will be happy to bring Holy Communion to you in your home during the following week. But for everyone else, **our hope is that these advance notices will make it possible for each of us to set aside everything else in our busy schedules and**

## "I'll Be There" Sunday

where. **We'll also host a breakfast between the services to celebrate the completion of the major roof and door projects that have been done this summer.**

We know that some of our members and friends are homebound for health reasons and because of that won't be able to be with us on October 5<sup>th</sup>. For those in that situation who



say, **"I'll be there!** Further reminders will be coming your way including a special letter that we'll send out in early September. **So mark your calendar for October 5<sup>th</sup>, and plan to be there for the celebration!**



## Pastor's Corner

### Turning to God Thinking

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

**A**t this time of year, many of us who are parents are sending many of our children who are younger back to school. Schooling is something we commit them to for most of the months of most of the years of their life right up through high school then often into college and beyond. We introduce them to a whole host of subjects- from the basics of language arts, math, science, and social studies to the great variety of more specialized studies that are available in any college or university. Of the many things we hope they'll learn through their many years of schooling, among the most basic is the ability to think well.

Thinking is almost as commonplace to us as breathing. In ordinary, everyday life our minds, as a matter of course, maintain and develop ideas about ourselves and about the world around us that are fundamental to the ways we feel and act. We frequently have them and live on the basis of them without being particularly aware of which ones they actually are. But then some-

thing happens to throw us off track, something that we don't quite expect, something that causes us to ask, "What was I thinking?" and we realize again what a big difference there can be between thinking and thinking well.

To think well is to adopt the attitudes and maintain the practices that enable us to develop ideas that conform to, that fit, that are true to the reality of ourselves and our world. If we want to live well, we can do so only on the basis of ideas that connect us to the way things really are, not to the way we would like them to be or assume them to be. More to the point, the God who really is God is the God who is present in and to all things as they actually are, not as we might want them or mistake them to be. God is the God of truth so that to think in ways that connect us to the way things really are is to connect with the God who truly is the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of all things.

From our own experience, we know that none of this comes easily. To think well is always a major challenge because we, this world in which we live, and the God who's in and through it all are complex and multi-dimensional. There's also the fact that in the short-term it's often more comforting to take refuge in make-believe than to keep seeking after what's true. To think well requires energy, focus, openness, flexibility, courage, humility, and, above all, devotion to the truth no matter how difficult or painful it sometimes can be. Yet for us as Christians, it's also a great joy because it is one

of the most basic, ordinary, and everyday ways we have of connecting with God. Every day we live with ideas about how things are. To think well so that those ideas are true puts us in touch with our Maker.

Turning with you to God,



### COMMENDATIONS ARE IN ORDER



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

- To **Dick Ledebuhr** for his almost daily presence at the church this summer taking care of various property matters from cleaning up downed trees to keeping tabs on the progress of our roof and door projects.
- Again to our **Member Caring Committee** for their continued efforts in providing receptions after funerals and memorial services. Since the end of May they've graciously hosted six such receptions.
- To **Bob Frederick, Romi Chaffee, and Carol Ingells** for providing emergency pastoral care, to **Carol Ingells, Kathy Swearingen, and Romi Chaffee** for providing preaching and worship leadership, and to **Judy Connelly** for providing worship leadership this summer while Kurt Kirchoff was away on vacation and sabbatical time.
- To **Wayne Mason** for the truly fine website that he created and maintains for our church.



## Children's Program

Dear Friends:

Welcome back! *Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.* (Romans 15:7) I hope this note finds you healthy, happy, and ready to begin another great year of Sunday school. We have had an entertaining summer learning basic values through two bugs named Hermie and Wormie! Thank you to all the teachers that volunteered their time to teach: Barb and Steve Decker, Kathy Campbell, Brandi Hughey, Stef and David Zin, Kathy Swearingen, David Arnosti, Kelly Hammerle, Shannon Thelen, and Bill and Diana Burrus. Thanks so much!

Below you will find the schedule for the entire 2008-2009 Sunday school curriculum. Please look at your calendars and commit to teaching a three week unit. If you do not want to teach, contact me and you can help on one of our service project days. The sign-up is in Friendship Hall or e-mail me at [susanwitkus@peoplepc.com](mailto:susanwitkus@peoplepc.com).

### Children's Program for 2008-2009

*Nursery:* Birth until potty trained.

*Godly Play:* 3 and 4 year

olds.

*Kingdom Makers Workshop:*  
School grades - kindergarten through fifth grade.

Give and Serve! is a day to give to the community and serve people who are in need. All children are asked to come to church with a canned food to donate to the food pantry. Then we will worship together in gathering to complete a service project.

Children's Choir: 3:15 - 4:30 on Thursdays beginning September 11<sup>th</sup>. New members are always welcome!

Family Fun Nights: These nights will be announced throughout the year and generally will be on a Wednesday or Friday night at 6PM. It is an informal time to have dinner, fellowship and a movie together.

Children's Ministry Team: Periodic meetings to discuss topics concerning the children's program. All are invited to attend!

### 2008

#### September:

- 7<sup>th</sup>: welcome back activities, Give and Serve!
- 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>: Jacob and Esau

#### October:

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

#### November:

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Give and Serve!

- 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>: Elijah
- 30<sup>th</sup>: Communion, Children upstairs, Hanging of the Greens

#### December:

- 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Shepherds
- 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve - 4 PM family worship
- 28<sup>th</sup>: Give and Serve!

### 2009

#### January:

- 4<sup>th</sup>: Give and Serve!
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Communion, Children upstairs
- 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>: Jesus, the rich young ruler and Nicodemus

#### February:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Jesus, the rich young ruler and Nicodemus
- 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>: Jesus blesses children
- 25<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday

#### March:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Communion, Children upstairs
- 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>: Jesus' wise stories
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Give and Serve!

#### April:

- 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>: Emmaus Road
- 5<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday
- 12<sup>th</sup> is Easter
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Give and Serve!

#### May:

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Cantata, and Teacher Appreciation. Children upstairs

See Children | page 4



## High School YOUTH GROUP

### Greetings HCC!

We are beginning to experience the m u g g y Michigan late summer weather and the first signs of falling

leaves are appearing. You know what this means; school for the young ones coupled with youth group!

It should be obvious by now, but in case it isn't clear, I have returned for another year as the senior youth leader. I have gone through many prospective employers with out great yield and still find myself in the Lansing area. I am not too disappointed though because I know this means another great year at HCC and another year full of activities.

This year I am hoping to plan a trip to Potter Park Zoo, return to the corn maze, go putt-putt golfing, revisit the Hindu temple, hopefully find a few other places of worship to visit and of course partake in all of our traditional activities like Hanging of the Greens.

I will be working on the dates of all these events very soon, but the big date to keep in mind for now is **Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm** when we will hold our annual youth group kick-off picnic. We have large amounts of soda and a couple gallons of ice cream left over from Pop-and-Dog and I need help consuming them, plus

I greatly look forward to seeing everyone again and I would like to meet the freshmen and welcome them into the group.

I hope everyone is anticipating the year as much as I am; I feel as though I have grown greatly through the last year and I am expecting this new found knowledge and experience to enhance the curriculum this year. Please come to me with any and all suggestions and questions that you may have and I will see you at the kick-off picnic!

Sincerely,  
Chris Bawden, Senior Youth  
Program Director



**G**reetings to all Middle School Youth and parents-September is fast approaching so that means Labor Day, start of school and the start of another year of Middle School Youth Group. We hope you all had a great summer vacation. Mike and I are looking forward to another full year and hope that we will have many returning youth as well as new youth.

With school starting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and a Middle School open house on September 9<sup>th</sup>, we are planning to begin our meetings on Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup>. We will again be having pizza and soda that night. We have also been making plans for another hay ride in October. We are planning some different discussions and different activities to keep us going for the upcoming year.

We would like to welcome all 6<sup>th</sup>., 7<sup>th</sup>. and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to come to Youth Group. You are also welcome to bring friends. If you or your parents have any ideas of activities you would like to do this year, please let us know.

We have a new e-mail address and new phone numbers since last year. E-mail is dan-namike@comcast.net and the phone is Mike 517-316-5379 and Danna 517-316-5378. Feel free to contact us at any time. Hopefully we will see a lot of the youth on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mike and Danna Dixon

## Children | Cont. from page 3

- 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>: Timothy
- 31<sup>st</sup>: Communion, Children upstairs

### June:

- 7<sup>th</sup>: Senior Sunday, Children upstairs
- 14<sup>th</sup>: Summer program begins

We appreciate our Sunday School volunteers! Volunteer and be part of the fun! THANK YOU!

You can always contact Susan Witkus at [susanwitkus@peoplepc.com](mailto:susanwitkus@peoplepc.com) or 339-0676 with any questions, comments or concerns. You are the church!

*Susan "*

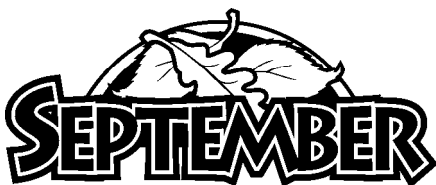
## Social Committee News



The Social Committee invites everyone, family and friends, to our annual **Chicken BBQ on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon**. There will be plenty of barbecued chicken, rolls and drinks and you are asked to bring a **large dish** to pass and your own place settings.

This year we are having a **"homemade ice cream contest"**. If you want to participate, bring your ice cream maker and ingredients, and let us share in the tasting of your favorite ice cream creation. We will provide the toppings for sundaes. (Yes, there will be a prize for the winner!) Please contact Karla Hiller or Kim Carnes if you are planning on being in the contest so we know how many to count on.

There will also be games on the lawn for all ages. The cost for the dinner is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids 12 years and younger. Please sign up on the Social Committee board (we need grillers, too) and come join us for good food and fun on the **14<sup>th</sup> of September**. **Don't be late.....dinner is at NOON!!**



## Camping With HCC

What a great time we had at PJ Hoffmaster State Park in early August! We had thirty-one campsites filled with family and friends of Haslett Community Church. The weather was sunny and warm, even though we heard it was raining just about everywhere else around us.

As we set up tents and campers on Friday night, the fire was ready (thanks to the Gardners) at the group site for cooking hot dogs, hamburgers and s'mores. Lake Michigan was a bit cold (58 degrees) on Saturday, but many brave souls played in the waves anyway. Several of us took a couple hour bike ride, some read books, some played cards, some walked the beach, and many of us tried to build a dam for the river ( again!)

Saturday afternoon so many people shared in the fun of building the fire, preparing the food for the garbage can ( big thanks to Dick Ledebuhr for building and bringing our new deluxe "garbage can", and pizza making in the dutch ovens, and

watching and waiting for our dinner to cook.

As we gathered around the group site we counted off 109 of us joining hands to give thanks for each other and the food we shared. Stories and laughs were shared over the campfires while trying to be quiet during quiet hours. We are truly blessed to have this wonderful family that so wants to be together that we travel several miles and hours to be together in a beautiful setting on Lake Michigan! Can't wait 'til next year!!



Dick's "garbage can" creation

## 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](mailto:sally.heisler@okemosschools.net). Also, please consider contributing to the auction with your donation of goods or services.*



# Choir Activities Resume

## Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord.....

and what better way to do that than to get involved with the music program here at HCC. Would you like to find your singing voice, play an instrument, learn to read music, sing and enjoy some great fellowship? This is the place! Judy and Barbara would be excited to welcome you.

Adult choir which meets on

Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm offers an opportunity for students and adults to prepare anthems for Sunday services as well as prepare for a few extra events. We try to sing all types of music and practice at least 6 weeks ahead so that if you have problems with missing some rehearsals or Sundays we can be very flexible. If you want to spend a little extra time to find your voice or learn your part in the music there is help available.

Middle School choir meets on Thursdays from 2:30 - 3:15 pm. This group helps prepare chime pieces and accompaniments as well as singing during services. Again flexibility is key here as many need to take some time off to participate in occasional after-school activities.

Children's Choir meets also on Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:30 pm. Following a snack, there is time for some creative movement, singing and chime playing. Ralya students walk over right after school and car pools could be arranged from Murphy and Wilkshire. We plan that this choir will sing once a month during the Call to Worship so they can then go down to their classes in The Kingdom Makers Workshop.

Please consider whether you or your children might join one of these groups. You will be most welcome.

## A Great Opportunity to Sing with the



## Children's Peace Choir

Calling all former and future Peace Choir Singers! - The Children's Peace Choir will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays in **September from 4:45 to 5:30 pm** in preparation for their performance at the Great Lakes Society for

Friendship and Culture dinner on **Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**. The rehearsal dates are **September 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**, (the last two Thursdays being just after Children's Choir rehearsal is over). Sinem Yaldizli and Barbara Freeman are again coordinating their efforts to help the kids bring some fascinating, broadening sounds to people of all cultures and faiths. The English-language song this year is "Under One Sky", a beautiful song the Children's Choir did last year in church.



Please give some serious thought to this short but sweet commitment. The music is fun and lively and there is a base (not bass) choir already in full swing to rely on! If you can make it to all four rehearsals, great, but three out of four is okay. You can see me or phone 339-2818 for more information, and an informative flyer is posted on/near the community events board.

Sincerely,

*Barbara*



## 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, September 21<sup>st</sup> 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

We ended our pledged giving on a high note again last year, having received 99% of all the money our members and friends had pledged for 2007. 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 and as of July 31<sup>st</sup>, received pledges are \$7,000 short of where we should be for the first seven months of the year. If you are behind, and are able to bring your pledged giving current, it would be very helpful." Any effort we can continue to make to keep our pledges current is a big help to our church's cash flow. In any case, hearty thanks to everyone whose giving makes possible the ministry of our church!

## 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 first Women's Coffee this Fall will be held on **Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**, and hosted by Virginia Daly. If you have not been to this get-together before, think about coming. The conversations are delightful!

## *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:** The first meeting of this group in the library for 2008-09, will be on **Sunday, September 7th**, and will be a time for sharing books that we've read. Everyone is welcome to bring books that they've enjoyed reading and the next book for the group to read will be chosen from those shared at this time. Joyce Bischoff will lead the discussion and questions can be directed to her at 339-9935.

**Third Sunday - Spiritual Development: Practicing our Faith:** The first meeting of this group for the coming year will be in the library, **Sunday, September 21st** and will be used to decide the direction for the group's discussions for '08-'09. 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. These discussions will resume on **Sunday, September 28th**. Questions can be directed to Kurt at 339-8383, ext. 11.

### 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.

### 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. Meetings in the sanctuary will resume this fall on **Tuesday, September 9th** (2nd Tuesday) and **Thursday, September 25th** (4th Thursday). Contact Dave Vietti at 339-5731 with any questions.

### MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group has been meeting for breakfasts, book discussions, barbeques, and a fishing trip up north. The next activity will be "Breakfast at Blondie's" on **Saturday, September 13th** at 8:00am. This group will also help with taking down the equipment after the next blood drive on **Friday, September 26th**. These talented men will be preparing the breakfast on the **Sunday, October 5th**, "I'll Be There Sunday" as well. Dave Vietti is constructing an email list of all those interested in the Men's Group. Contact him at 339-5731 or [vietti@msu.edu](mailto:vietti@msu.edu) to be included on this email list or to ask questions.

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1427 Haslett Road  
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HCC Connection

September 2008

## Worship for September 2008

Sermon titles and Scripture readings include:

**Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am**

Christian Wisdom for Daily Life, I  
"Using Our Minds"  
Proverbs 2:1-10 & Romans 12:2

**Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 am**

Christian Wisdom for Daily Life, III  
"Honoring Our Bodies"  
Psalm 139:13-14 & John 1:1-5, 14

**Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am**

Christian Wisdom for Daily Life, II  
"Knowing Our Emotions"  
Psalm 103:8-13 & Philippians 4:4-7

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am**

Christian Wisdom for Daily Life, IV  
"Living in Time"  
Psalm 74:12-17 & Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

### Haslett Community Church

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

[www.haslettcommunitychurch.org](http://www.haslettcommunitychurch.org)

Contact us: [hcc1@att.net](mailto:hcc1@att.net)

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

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