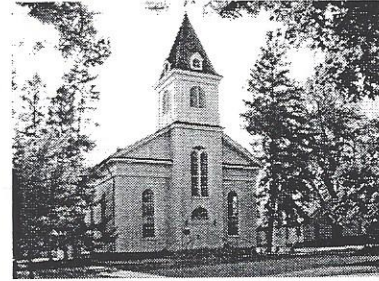


First Presbyterian Church

8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083
269~629~4944
269~629~4945 fax
fpcrich@firstpresrichland.org
www.fpcrich.com

Rev. Dr. Mark W. Jennings
revmarkj@tds.net
269~731~2519 home

Volume 49, Number 5, Monthly



"Legacy"

A few days ago Phil Curtis, one of Willard and Carolyn Curtis's sons stopped by the church with several boxes. It was part of the painful task of cleaning out their parent's house, now that both Willard and Carolyn have passed away in the last year. I have to admit that I was excited when he came by because I knew that he was bringing over many boxes of Willard's books. The family had told me that I could take my pick and then give the rest to the church library, and they could find ones for the church to use or donate the rest. I'm always excited by the opportunity to add books to my library, especially ones on biblical studies, the Holy Land, and the church, which were particular loves of Willard's. I called Murray Cooper, who has another year of seminary study ahead of him, and he and I went through the books to see which ones would be valuable additions to our libraries of pastoral study and sermon preparation.




As we were going through the books, I realized that it wasn't just that I wanted to add a new book to my office (I did, no doubt about that) but it was important to me that I had some books of Willard's. I like the idea that now there are books in my study that, every time I pick it up, will make me think of Willard. Soon one of the tasks we will need to do is to go through all of Willard's old sermons, scan them and save them to disks or to the cloud, and decide how to share those sermons. Willard hand wrote all his sermons, so in our history room there are now boxes with 35+ years of Willard's wisdom and reflections on the Christian life.

Willard left a legacy behind him. Not just the books that Murray and I get to inherit, but he left a deeper legacy on the people who knew him, upon our congregation, and the congregations in Hastings and Cadillac. His legacy is one of fine scholarship and churchmanship, of pastoral care and terrific preaching. But it is also a legacy of humor, of care through his baking, of integrity through his carpentry, and of an example to the pastors who come after him. It was not just his work as a pastor that form his legacy, but his love for his people, his family, his friends. I will remember for many years his wisdom and his ability to accept people who were different from himself, all of us as children before the same heavenly Father.

We all leave a legacy behind us. I pray in each of our lives individually and in our common life together we can leave a legacy as rich and faithful as Willard and Carolyn Curtis.

*Grace and Peace,
Mark*

May Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	<u>Teacher/Crafter</u>
3	McConnell	Rothenberg Irey	Coverly Mason	T. Steele	Inman Osborne
10	Polzin	Slezak Cazers Gray	Howard Hubbard	Deater	
17	Youth	Youth	Youth	Vantine	Youth Sunday 
24	Bryant	Lindenberg Pollock	Dishon Juodawlakis	Smith	
31	Alexander	Brundage/Barton Mandrell D. Odar	R,J,A,J Steele	Deater	Hart Gauthier

Serving Communion

Please remember that only ordained elders and deacons should serve communion.

May 3

Carol Coverly
Lee Coverly
Brenda Jones
Bob Jones
Karen Kendall
Tom Kendall
Greg Keusch
Leslie Keusch
Jean Kubiak

June 7

Barb Langshaw
Larry Langshaw
Cindi Lebiecki
Phyllis Leiter
Nancy Lynch
Amy Mack
Becky Mandrell
Lois Martin
Diane Meitz

July 5

Bob Nash
Sharin Noall
Tom Noall
Donna Odar
Val Osborne
Kay Polzin
Nancy Remley
Gene Rothenberg

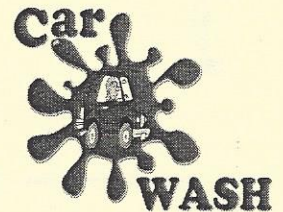
We rely on many members and friends to help Sundays run smoothly and be a good worship experience for those attending our church. If for some reason you are not able to help on the day originally selected, please find a replacement or someone to trade with, and let the church office know. The yearly list of volunteers can be found at www.fprich.com, under "Living the Faith", then "volunteer schedule". Or call Julie for a list of names. Thank you!

May

Tribe

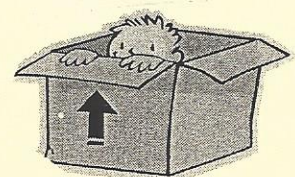
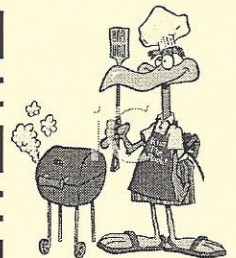


6th-8th Junior High
9th-12th Senior High



UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, TRIBE BEGINS AT 12:30
WITH LUNCH AT THE CHURCH, AND ENDS AT 2:30.

- May 2 SATURDAY ~ Car Wash, 10 to 2
- May 10 Kiss your mama today (no Tribe)
- May 16 SATURDAY ~ Youth Sunday Rehearsal
9:30 to 11:30
- May 17 Youth Sunday
- May 23 SATURDAY ~ Gospel Mission, Time TBA
- May 24 Relaxin' on this holiday weekend (no Tribe)
- May 30 SATURDAY ~ Kids-n-Boxes, Time TBA





Rummage Sale

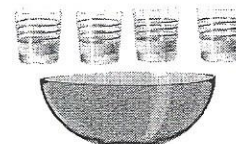
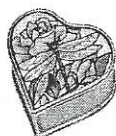


It's this week!! Friday May 1st from 9:00 to 3:00 and 5:00 to 7:00,
and Saturday May 2nd from 9:00 to 11:30.

If you're reading this on Wednesday or Thursday, you still have plenty of time to bring in your gently used items. We'll take almost anything (no TV's, computers, or microwaves)!



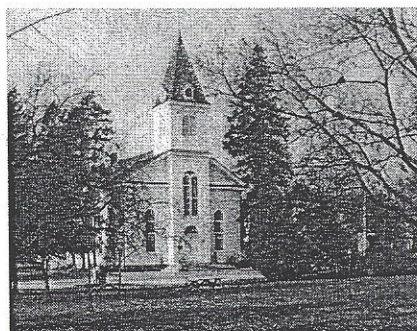
You also have plenty of time to come on in and help. We especially will



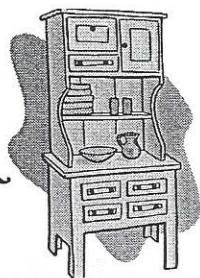
Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for May

5/8 "How Great Thou Art"
5/12 "Sweet Hour of Prayer"
5/13 "All Things Bright & Beautiful"
5/17 "God of Grace & God of Glory"
5/17 "O Master Let Me Walk with Thee"
5/21 "Hymn of Praise"
5/31 "Little Brown Church in the Vale"

Isaac Henry & Daisy Berg
Elizabeth
Dorothy Hubbell Stimson
Larry's birthday
Wanda H. Griffiths
Brad Hoorn's College Graduation
Millard Murphy's birthday



FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER



FOOD PANTRY

COLD CEREAL, GROUND BEEF,
TUNA, PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY,
ANY AND ALL PERSONAL ITEMS

May 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9-3 & 5-7 RUMMAGE SALE	2 9:00 - 11:30 RUMMAGE SALE 10:00-2:00 Tribe Car Wash
3 9:45 Worship - Communion 11:10 Sunday School 12:30 Youth going to Ministry with Community	4 9:00 Care Team 6:00 Boy Scouts	5 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scout Leaders	6 1:00 PW Meeting 6:30 Endowment Fund Meeting	7 9:00 Bible Study 12:00 Older Bunch for Lunch at St. Tim's 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Chancel Choir	8 11:00 Set up for 6:00 piano recital in GPR and Sanctuary	9
10 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal Happy Mother's Day	11 1:30 Office Staff 6:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 Sanctuary being used	12 10:00 Connected Threads 10:00-1:00 Jack & Jill Tea in GPR	13 7:00 Session	14 9:00 Bible Study 6:00 Deacons 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Chancel Choir	15	16 9:30-11:30 Youth Sunday Rehearsal
17 9:45 Youth Sunday Worship 11:00 Meet Your Deacon & Ice Cream 1:00 Girl Scouts	18 9:00 Care Team 6:00 Boy Scouts	19 10:00 Connected Threads	20 3:00 Richland Farmer's Market Begins! 7:00 Committee's Meet 7:00 Cub Leaders	21 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Chancel Choir	22 5:00-9:00 Home Again Preschool Graduation in GPR	23 ??? Tribe to Gospel Mission
24 9:45 Worship 3:00 Memorial service for Ruth and Don Anderson	25 Happy Memorial Day 	26 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00-8:30 Ryan Singers in Sanctuary	27 9:30 Flower Group in White Room	28 9:00 Bible Study 7:00 Pack Meeting 7:00 Chancel Choir	29 4:00 Memorial Service for Clif Hooks	30 ??? Kids-n-Boxes, in the Park
31 9:45 Worship (food pantry collection during service) 11:10 Sunday School						



Join our 2015 Relay for Life team!
June 27, 2015
8 a.m. to midnight
Richland Township Park (32nd Street south of the church)

Relay for Life is an event sponsored by the American Cancer Society at which teams of walkers occupy the track for the entire event non-stop. Cancer doesn't stop so we don't either. If you've never been, come out and see how much fun we have at the event.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) would like everyone to register online, especially if you'd like a t-shirt. It's not hard, but if you need help, your team captain, Debbie Sunden, can help you.

Here's how to register/donate online:

1. Go to www.RelayForLife.org/richlandareami
2. You can either **Sign Up** or **Donate**.
3. If you click Sign Up, then click **Join A Team**. Our team name is: **1st Presbyterian** Follow the onscreen directions to complete the registration
4. If you click **Donate**, click on "Donate to a team" to have your donation apply to our team. (You may also donate to a participant on our team and it will qualify for our team, too.) Find our team and follow the directions.

If you cannot join us on June 27th, and just want to solicit donations or give a donation you can do it online or offline to help reach our **team fundraising goal of \$1000**. We are looking for track walkers now.

We will be selling **Luminaria** bags (minimum donation of \$10 per bag) for the ceremony. If you would like to have your loved one's picture in the slide show, let Debbie know and she'll help you get it there. Pictures are needed by May 18th.

Any **survivors** who would like to be invited to the Survivor ceremony and free dinner, let us know also. We'll make sure you're invited! Dinner is served around 6 p.m.

Other Fundraising: The BBQ at Gull Lake Inn is NOT happening this year, but we can help out at the "Eat Bread to Raise Dough" **Panera event on Thursday, May 14th**. We need diners, but also greeters/workers.

This year's Relay theme is "**Cure Michigan**" a play on Michigan's state slogan. We haven't determined what we will be doing with this theme, but are open to suggestions. We may have Wishing Well onsite to accept donations to make a wish for someone touched by cancer.

Questions? Want to join us? Contact **Debbie Sunden (377-2392 or kenanddebsunden@comcast.net)** She or someone from the Mission Committee will be available each Sunday in the Gull Prairie room after service from now until June 21st.

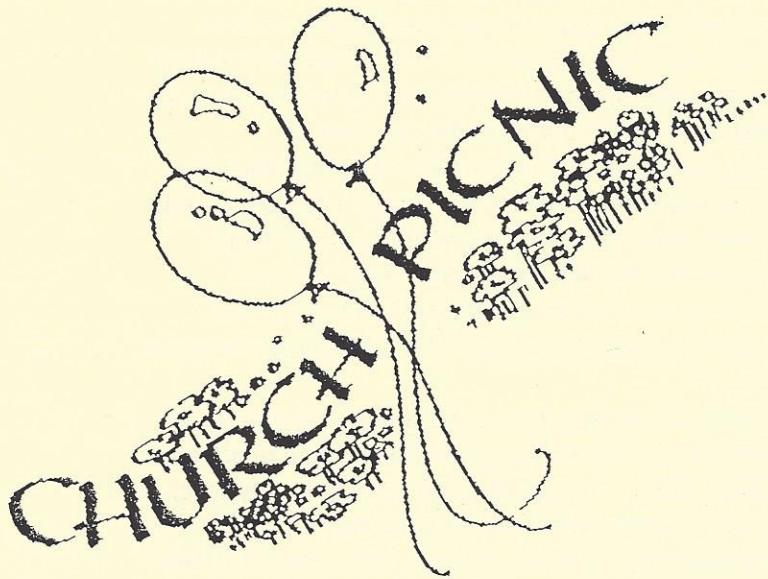
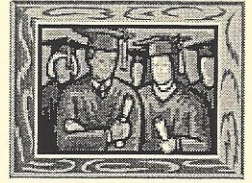


HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

We'd love to get a picture of you so we can show you off in the display case!

If you have an extra photo, please leave it in Julie's office or box.

A namecard and school announcement would be nice too! Thank you.

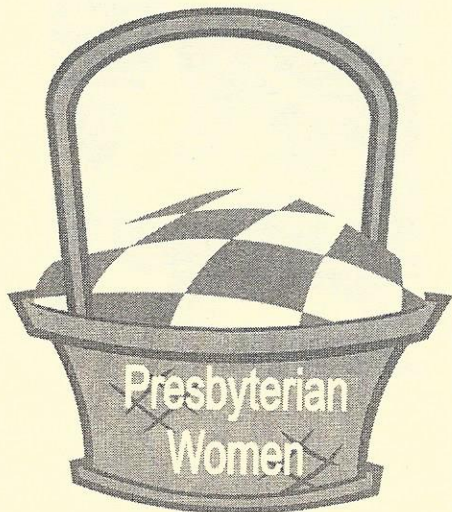


Join the Membership & Fellowship
and Christian Education committees
on Sunday, June 7th following
Sunday School (noon)!!

What a great way to end the season
of Sunday school,
and be excited for summer!

You don't need to bring anything
but yourselves.

PLEASE GATHER WITH US!



PW Picnic [All Are Expected]

June 13th

11:00 am

Kalli Inman's House

8980 East EF [EF & 32nd]

Richland, MI 629-5383

May 2015 Missionary Report
(Deng's report is a series of emails and
wedding photos –Deng's middle sister is in one photo)



4-2-2015 Dear Church Family, Hope all of you are enjoying Easter holiday in your respective places. It is my preference to take this opportunity again to give you an update on my marriage situation. First of all, I thank all of you once again for your contributions toward my dowry. The money you contributed made a huge difference. I will be having the total of 65,000 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) after I receive the money you have contributed. I will be going to Juba next week to pick up the money from a Money Gram agent in Juba, South Sudan. My marriage is expensive and the reason is because I was competing with somebody. The guy I was competing with has 4 heads of cattle and his father is a trader. Mary likes me and she told me she does not want my challenger. However, her parents are asking me to pay 100,000 South Sudanese Pounds next week and after they receive that amount, then they will give me my wife. I will be short 35,000 South Sudanese Pounds. I want you to keep praying for me. I don't know where I will get the money, but God knows. I am worried because my brother's wife is leaving for the US in late April and this is the reason I decided to affirm my marriage so that my wife can have an opportunity to meet my brother's wife before she goes to the US. My mother is doing okay. She has been cooking and washing dishes when my in-laws were in Malek, my village. I can see a smile on my mother's face and she will smile comfortably when I secure the needed amount. This is difficult and my marriage will be expensive because they know I came from the US and they assume I have lots of money in my account and this is the reason why they ask me to pay that amount. I know this will be difficult for some of you to comprehend and I don't blame you because this is part of my culture. Thanks, Deng Alier

4-15-2015 I have given my in laws some of the cows and money. I am supposed to pay the whole amount but due to circumstances, I was not able to pay them all. The good thing is, the relatives of my wife will hand over my wife to me on April 16th, 2015. I ask you to keep praying for my wife, my family and me. Thank you for your support. I don't know what I would have done.

4-22-2015 I have arrived in Kenya safely with my wife and my mom last night. Mary, my wife, and I will travel to Nairobi with my brother's wife. My brother's wife is going to the US with her kids and I am going to accompany her with my wife to the airport. My family in Bungoma, Kenya welcomed my wife and me last night warmly. Everybody was waiting for us until 1 am in the morning and when we arrived at home, everybody started dancing. **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!** Again, thank you for your prayers and support. Deng



MISSION

Mission Trip 2015 Update

The Mission Committee is pleased to say that people are signing up for this wonderful opportunity to serve God and the community. We are also receiving lots of inquiries from people who are interested in joining us. Here are the answers to some of the more frequently asked questions.

Q. How will we travel?

A. Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake is about a 2-2 1/2 hour drive. We plan to carpool to the camp.

Q. Where will we stay?

A. We will stay in the Worthington Lodge at Camp Westminster. The Lodge has rooms with bunkbeds, bathrooms and showers, a living room, and a kitchen.

Q. What about meals?

A. We will have three meals a day, including dinner when we arrive on Sunday, and breakfast before we leave on Saturday. We have our meals in the dining hall along with the campers.

Q. Can I bring my children/grandchildren?

A. Middle school aged kids are welcome to join the mission trip with a parent. High school kids can come without (or with) a parent. For younger kids, aged 7-11, there is a Day Camp run by Camp Westminster. Your young children can be campers during the day and stay with you at night.

Q. Will we have some time to relax?

A. A typical day will have us working between breakfast and lunch, and between lunch and mid-afternoon. We will then have time to swim, kayak, hike, or participate in a number of activities offered by the camp.

Q. What are the disaster kits we will assemble?

A. We will take a morning or afternoon during the mission trip to assemble hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. (see article below).

We hope you will prayerfully consider signing up for this mission trip. Any questions can be directed to Jennifer Spengler or Donna Webb. You can sign up any Sunday in the Gull Prairie Room, after church. We will give you a packet with more information and some forms to complete. The deadline is Sunday, May 17, so sign up while there is still room! We will have five days of fellowship, fun, and service!

July 19 - 25 * \$295 per person (includes all meals and lodging) * Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake
www.campwestminster.com

HYGIENE KITS

One of our service activities while on the mission trip in July, will be to assemble hygiene kits. Camp Westminster, a Presbyterian Camp, encourages work groups like ours to do a kit project. In doing this we have the opportunity to serve the church on an international level.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, a division of Presbyterian Missions, offers a number of different kits that groups can choose to assemble. The group must supply all the articles that go into the kits, assemble them, and send the kits to a central holding location. When a need arises due to a natural, or other disaster, the kits are sent to aid the victims. Kits are sent all over the United States and overseas.

If you are unable to join us on the mission trip, but would like to still be part of what we are doing, you may want to consider a contribution toward the hygiene kits. The required items for each kit are, a washcloth, a hand towel, a toothbrush (no toothpaste), a wide tooth comb, a nail clipper, a bath sized wrapped bar of soap, and Band Aids. You may donate any of these items listed, or you can make a monetary contribution. The Mission Committee has been pricing these items at various stores in the area and have determined that each kit can be assembled for about \$5. a monetary contribution will be used to purchase the items economically in bulk. Donations and contributions can be left in the church office with Julie, or at the "Mission Trip 2015" table in the Gull Prairie Room each Sunday after church. Thank you for your consideration!

This and that...



April 11

Dear church family,

This morning brings sunshine and all signs of winter are gone (for good I hope) and the first Lenten roses are blooming. I'm thinking of walking into church on Easter morning and seeing that glorious tribute to our risen Christ on the altar, with the fragrance of the lilies all through the sanctuary! The beautiful cross of nails, crafted by Earl Cramer years ago, was especially magnificent with flowers tucked in and around, by the congregation in memory of loved ones. What a lovely idea!

I'm also thinking how very blessed our family has been these past three years, during Ray's year of illness (and the two years since his death). The many kind notes of love, concern and encouragement were so heartening to Ray and me and all of our family. The delicious offerings of meals were enjoyed by all who sat at our table during those many months. Fortunately, Ray's appetite was good most of that time, and he looked forward to each lovely surprise on the table. Another of his good times was sitting or lying on the couch in the living room, with his knitted shawl around his shoulders, and enjoying the warmth and beauty of a blazing fire. Listening to Robin's country music group practice was an uplifting gift for us all!

From Martha, Myrle, Christopher and me, we send our sincere thanks to all of you for your prayers and presence in our lives. We feel so blessed to be a part of this caring congregation with Mark and Larry, Amanda and Julie, and the Pastoral Care members leading us through the good and difficult times.

Back to that amazing Easter service this year ~ Mark's sermon, Larry's music, the Choir (Ray loved it dearly), and Mike McMinn's trumpet, just blew all the joy right up to Heaven!

With love, Judy, Martha, Myrle, and Christopher Croasdale

Many of you know our very dear and very old friend, Phil Lyon. When we contacted him to tell about Willard's passing, he said he had such nice, fond memories of the old Richland church, and he felt sure there were still some of the old members still here, and to please relay his very best to them! Phil had nothing but nice things to say about this church and many of YOU.

We thought it might be nice to let you know where he's living.

**Allouez Parkside Village
1901 Libal St. #179
Green Bay, WI 54301**

**920-430-1963 cell
920-430-8500 Allouez office**

Since our friend and brother, Willard Curtis passed away, we've had several people ask for his children's addresses.

Joan and Dave Smith
63119 CR 652
Mattawan, MI 49071

Phil and Jenefer Curtis
1211 Montmorency Dr.
San Jose, CA 95118

Paul and Brenda Curtis
115 Granite Rd.
Williamson, MI 48895

Bruce and Sandra Curtis
1331 Helmsdale Dr.
Cary, NC 27511



May

Birthdays



Andy Alspach	1
Harold Gobble	1
Gavin Inman	1
Jason Lindenberg	2
Marcia Delf	3
Bruce Howard	4
Alexander Inman	4
Bill Mattes	5
Anna Miller	5
Vicki Janson	6
Jeannine Schott	10
Aynna Lloyd	11
Jonathan Reid	11
Lindsay Webb	12
Emily Mattes	13
Barb Brundage	14
Josh Murray	14
John Polzin	15
Kara Reinhardt	15
Joyce Gibson	16
Carolyn Gruys	16
Clif Hooks	16
Vicky Langshaw Thomas	17

Larry Myland	17
Joan Willemstyn	17
Shannan Deater	18
Alison Butler	19
Carolyn Venner	19
Sandra Gobble	20
Haylee Inman	21
Lee Coverly	22
Mara Juodawlkis	22
Ridge Robinson	22
Kathy Kreager	23
Vaughn Kubiak	24
Chloe Wieber	24
Anna Gross	26
Carrie Sutton	26
Tom Webb	27
Eric Wines	27
Erica Wines Smith	27
Tony White	28
Kaitlyn Quada	29
Lynne Quada	29
Jason Rairigh	29
George Becker	31



Anniversaries

2 Judy and Ted Ruser	34 years
5 Ken and Debbie Sunden	25
7 Cheryl and Bob Reinhardt	38
7 Leo and Diane Rench	38
7 Shari and Rick Wynsma	27
9 Sandra and Harold Gobble	51
10 Ken and Sandy Barts	35
11 Amy and Mike Juodawlkis	19
12 Gavin and Katie Inman	14
14 Lynne and Brian Quada	32
21 Mark and Jilisa Williams	21

22 Marcia and Robert Delf	39
22 Laura and DJ LaLonde	39
24 Mark and Erin Jennings	29
25 Jennifer and Mike Odar	19
26 Jean and Walt Stafford	53
27 Steve and Sharon Sorrell	32
27 Dan and Sandra Weigel	26
28 Jill and Tim Bair	32
28 Ed and Ronda Schaadt	49
30 Kim and Jim Saunders	33

SESSION SUMMARY

In March:

Pastor's Report PCC Annual Meeting and Update on 14-F.

Treasurer's Report will be reviewed at the April meeting of Session

Committee Reports

Mission Nine people have expressed interest in the Mission trip at Camp Westminster. Twenty people are needed for the trip and the deadline for sign up has been extended to May.

Personnel Lee Coverly will serve as Personnel Elder for one year upon resignation of Dick Gross. The committee will be developing plans for hiring of a new choir director. Jack Sizer has resigned as Historian. There is no replacement as yet.

Membership and Fellowship A celebration of members' 90th birthdays will be this coming Sunday. Beth Nimmo Scott will speak on Wednesday March 25th in the Sanctuary. A reception follows. Hot Cross buns will be served during coffee time on Palm Sunday.

Worship and Music The Nominating Committee requires a member upon Tara's resignation. W&M is beginning to draft requirements for a new Choir Director.

Christian Education The Eggstravaganza will be on Palm Sunday. Planning for VBS has begun. Sign ups are available for VBS committees. The High School Sunday School Class has been focusing on homelessness. Tribe served green pancakes March 15 for St. Patrick's Day. An Estate Planning class will be offered for Adult Education.

Property Canon copier \$3595. \$2100 savings/yr on service contract. Building Fund purchase.

Finance *Session approved a motion to elect Dave Butler and Laura Carisalez to the Audit Committee.*

In April:

Pastor's Report

Session approved a motion to baptize Abraham Smith, son of Shannon and Jeremiah Smith, April 19. Mark reported on the funeral service for Vic Zajac on March 28. Pastor Mark will be in Holt, MI on April 15 for CPM. He requested May 14-20 for family vacation.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed a filed for auditing.

Committee Reports

Personnel Job description for Program Coordinator. *Session approved a motion to approve the job description for Program Coordinator.* Historian position will remain open. A search committee will be formed for the position of Choir Director.

Mission Announcements will be made each week for the Mission Trip. The committee is hopeful that soon they will have a good idea of their numbers for the trip.

Christian Education Eggtravaganza was a fun event for all ages on Palm Sunday. Youth Sunday is May 17. April 26- Estate Planning for Adult SS. Tribe will be doing Helping Hands on April 19, Kids in Boxes in May. June 7 is Recognition Sunday and Potluck.

Finance • Per Capita collections are tracking well. We are at 98% of the budgeted amount for the year. Our members have covered 36% of the \$7,622 Per Capita cost.

- Last year we were 43% over budget in Q1 with Property expenses of \$17,651. The \$13,754 spent this year was an example of great budget, utility and building management. Outstanding work by our Property committee.
 - We agreed during to review proposed personnel cuts during the January Session meeting. This was also discussed during the Annual Meeting. General Fund pledges remain at \$209,102. We MUST monitor income and expenses each month. Any increase in shortfall equates to making cuts that we can't ignore. Our projected shortfall has been reduced to (\$5,700).
 - Pastor Mark is going to send Property and Finance committees a copy of the Richland Library snow removal agreement. Committees will decide appropriate action on current and future collection of that amount.
 - The Financial Audit is planned for 4/19 following church service, in the library.
- Appointment of Commissioner to Presbytery** Session approved the election of Sandy Carahaly as Commissioner to Presbytery on April 14.
-

Pentecost Offering

At Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life. Because of the Spirit's coming, we no longer need to settle for "business as usual" but can know the transforming and creative love of God that makes the impossible possible. Through our participation in the Pentecost Offering, we manifest that transforming love to youth and young adults and help make things possible for children at risk.

The Pentecost Offering is one of the four annual churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Through Pentecost Offering receipts, we minister to children at risk. We assist in guiding and nurturing the faith of Presbyterian young people. We call forth a new generation of leadership in mission service through the National and International Young Adult Volunteer Program.

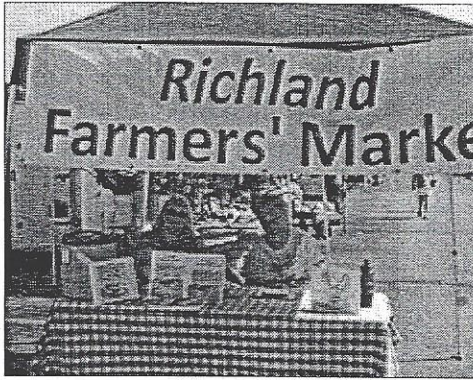
Forty percent of the offering receipts remain in our congregation to address the needs of children at risk. The remainder of the offering receipts will be sent to the General Assembly to support programs that benefit children at risk and ministries with youth and young adults.

The Pentecost Offering is a tangible way to demonstrate that Spirit within us! It gives us the opportunity to use 40% of the amount we receive to minister in our own community on behalf of children at risk. Through General Assembly ministries, the Pentecost Offering supports, guides, and nurtures the faith of the Presbyterian young people, calls forth a new generation of church leadership, and advocates for children at risk on a national level.

We will be receiving this offering on May 24th during worship, or you can send the church your gift, noting "Pentecost" on the memo line. You can also visit www.presbyterianmission.org/give/pentecost for information or to give online.

Thank you for your much needed support.

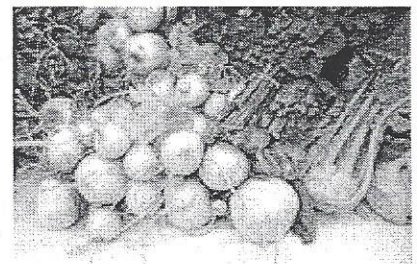
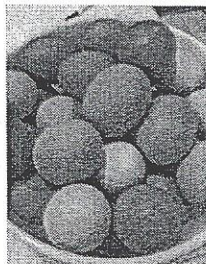
Coming This Month ...



The Richland Farmers' Market, a mission of the First Presbyterian Church, in its 8th year of operation, and is located on the grounds of the Gull Lake Middle School (former High School; 9550 East M-89, Richland, MI 49083). The market will be open Wednesday afternoons (3:00-6:00 p.m.), May 20th to October 14th. Vendors set up in a small parking lot behind the Gull Lake Middle School, which can be reached by turning south into the school complex at the stop-light. There is access to restroom facilities on-site in the middle school building, but no running water or electricity.

The goals of the market are threefold: 1) to be a profitable outlet for local farmers and craft vendors, 2) to create a gathering spot and opportunity for social interactions for Richland area residents, and 3) to provide a predictable, ample selection and variety of high quality fresh, locally-grown produce and crafts for customers.

We are a proud partner of the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) and the Food Assistance Partnership. We will again be accepting Bridge Cards at the market; come on out and use your cards for fresh, local, healthy food.



Hearing Earth Angels

Mark was in Georgia on church business on Sunday, March 15, so he asked me to do the announcements for our visiting minister, the Reverend Erin Hill VanHorne. I decided spontaneously to add a word about the appearance of the universally admired King's College Choir, from Cambridge, England, at Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church coming up the following week, a fact I'd just gleaned from the King's Choir website. I almost didn't announce it because I wasn't sure that anyone would take much interest in it, but something told me to do it anyway. I had been wondering about how I might make the trip to hear them myself, knowing straight off that I had no inclination to navigate I94 in my tiny Toyota Echo, especially considering the late night/early a.m. drive home.

The next day, Monday, there was a note from Julie Pixley for me to call Jean Stafford; not an everyday occurrence. I phoned Jean, and she said, "Were you serious yesterday about wanting to hear that choir in Chicago?" I replied that, yes, indeed I was. "Well," she said, "my father was baptized in Fourth Presbyterian and I look for every opportunity to return there." (Jean's father, John Marshall, was not only the proprietor of Richland Home Center, which is still operated by John's son and Jean's brother, Dick Marshall, but he was an ordained Presbyterian minister and also a former Sears exec. I always loved John.) So, I got down to business and secured tickets through the Chicago Symphony for Jean and Walt Stafford, for myself and Sue's and my daughter, Sarah, who lives in Chicago, and wanted to join us.

Tuesday, March 24, dawned bright and clear—a perfect day for a road trip. Jean and Walt picked me up in the early afternoon and off we went. Years ago, I suppose Richlanders would have had to make such a pilgrimage something of a week-long event by horse and buggy, with overnight stays along the way.

We arrived in downtown Chicago without incident, thanks to Jean's expertise at the wheel and Walt's navigational skills. We walked in the freezing Chicago chill, took shelter over steaming cups of coffee, and waited. At five, we all dined at an excellent little Chicago bistro. Is it possible not to have a good dining experience in Chicago? I myself never have.

The doors of Fourth Presbyterian opened at 6:45,

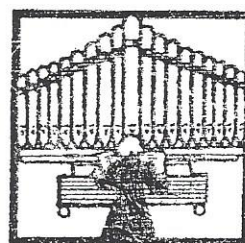
and since we were already at the head of the line, we got prime seats, right down in front.

Knowing something of the nature of great sacred choral music in the U.S., if you had asked me how many people might have bought tickets to hear King's, I would have ventured perhaps 500, at the outside. By 7:20, Fourth Church, which states its seating capacity at 1200, was nearly full. And, further to my surprise, the crowd numbered a large number of young people. Even little kids were there.

At 7:30, a hush fell over the church, and out came the choir, all decked out in their fine performance attire. They sang some of the best of the old and some of the best of the new. They even sang one of our choir's standard anthems, Fauré's sublime *Cantique de Jean Racine*. (Thank you, Tom Ryan, for teaching this treasure to our choir when you were at the helm.)

After the program, I stepped away for a brief moment, but Jean encountered Stephen Cleobury, the choir's famed director, as he was on his way out of the building. She approached him and said that someone was eager to meet him. I soon came up and gave him my church card, Japanese style. Though we had never met before, Stephen knows who I am because I am in occasional contact with him. We chatted briefly while Sarah snapped a few pictures. It was both an exhilarating and humbling experience.

I commend the King's College Choir to you, perhaps most importantly on Christmas Eve. They sing the traditional service of Lessons and Carols from King's College Chapel, built in the 1400s, there in Cambridge. The service is broadcast throughout the world. It comes on locally at 10 a.m. on Christmas Eve day. WMUK-FM at 102.1 has been carrying the broadcast. It's a wonderful way to prepare for the celebration of Christmas.



First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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