

The Missive, March 2022

First Presbyterian Church

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“The Deacon Brown House”

In the 33 years that I have been here, I think that at least a couple of times a year someone has asked me about the “house next door.” It’s an old white house that is similar in architecture to the church, similar enough that many people assume that it must be connected in one way or another to the church. Officially the house is “8023 Church Street,” and although it looks like it, it has never been part of the church. From the stories I hear, it has been many things. It has been a residence, an antique store, an art gallery, a computer repair store, and even one story says that it was a place that sold ice cream off the front porch back in the 1930s. Oh, the good old days!

But how did that house get built next to the church? Well, I’ll tell you the story as I heard it and have pieced it together over the years. Maybe this is true and maybe a little embellished, who knows? Our Village of Richland was founded in 1830 and soon after, in 1831, the Presbyterian Church of Gull Prairie was formed. However, the village itself was not officially plotted for several years. But since many of the settlers had New England roots, when the village eventually took shape, the founders wanted there to be a central village green like so many of their hometowns in the Northeast. The story goes that when the village was finally plotted out in about 1837, a member of the church, Deacon Samuel Brown, immediately purchased three of the lots on the west side of the green. He then gave two of the lots to the Presbyterian Church, and it was here, on the site of the present sanctuary, that we built our first church building in 1837. Deacon Brown kept the other lot so that he could build his own house there, desiring to “always live next door to the church.”

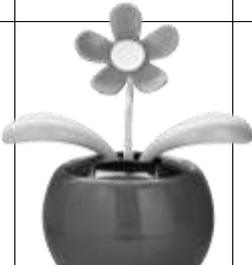
One of the previous residents of the house told me this story when he explained to me that the house at 8023 Church Street was built in 1859. In 1861, the Presbyterian Church needed a new building and so the sanc-

tuary of 1837 was moved across the street (eventually to become part of Richland Home Center) and a new church building was constructed, using the same builders as the house next door. I guess that’s why they look so similar in style. Many times, I’ve been asked if that house was ever the manse, the pastor’s residence, but it never was. For many years the manse was located on D Avenue west of the church and then the “Cottage” was built as a manse (the current Jack and Jill Preschool). For a decade or so, the church owned a house on N. 32nd Street for the pastor and family to live in, but with the arrival of Dr. Evor Roberts in 1976, the church sold the manse so the Roberts family could own their own home. Long answer to the question, but no, it has never been the manse. And I must admit that I’m just as happy not living directly next door to the church!

Now that we own the house next door, it has become a topic of discussion what we should call it. The White House seemed a bit pretentious, so that idea didn’t get very far. We started just calling it “The House Next Door,” but that got a bit confusing with the Jack and Jill building which is also next door. Many of us started calling it the “8023 House” which certainly differentiated it from any other building, but it still seems a little weird to call a place by its number, don’t you think? So given the story behind the house, it was soon dubbed by several folks to be “The Deacon Brown House.” And that name seems to have stuck. In the office we even refer to as the “DBH.” You know how we sometimes call the Gull Prairie Room the “GPR”? The session liked this name well enough that they officially decided to call it the Deacon Brown House. And I hope we will enjoy the building and that it will serve the church and the community for many years to come.

*Grace and Peace,
Mark*

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:30: Boy Scouts	2 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Senior Luncheon 5:30: Girl Scouts 7:00: Ash Wednesday Service	3 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 7:00: Mission Meeting	4	5 6:00: Young Adult Group Game Night at FPC KZoo
6 9:45: Worship - Communion 4:00: 4 th 5 th 6 th Group @ Kzoo 5:00: Youth Group @ Kzoo	7 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 2:30 Personnel Committee 6:30: Boy Scouts	8 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Girl Scouts 7:00: Shared Blessings	9 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Worship & Music 6:15: Session Meeting	10 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:00: Deacons Meeting 6:30: Girls Scouts	11	12
13 9:45: Worship 5:00: Youth Group	14 10:00: Christian Education 6:30: Boy Scouts	15 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:30: Boy Scouts	16 10:00: Food Pantry 4:00: FPC Kzoo Meal & Hot Cocoa, prep & serve 5:30: Girl Scouts	17 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 9:45: Worship 3:00: Youth Group Game Night @ Kzoo 4:00: 4 th 5 th 6 th Group @ Kzoo	21 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 6:30: Boy Scouts	22 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Girl Scouts	23 10:00: Food Pantry	24 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal 6:30: Girls Scouts	25	26
27 9:45: Worship	28 6:30: Boy Scouts	29 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Connected Threads 10:00: Food Pantry 6:30: Boy Scouts	30 10:00: Food Pantry 5:30: Girl Scouts	31 11:00: Bible Study 4:00: Choir Rehearsal		

March Birthdays

Wanda Clawson..... 1	Carolyn Chormann..... 16	Dave Fisher23
Craig Muss..... 2	Caroline Gray..... 16	Laura LaLonde23
Brieanne Ireys..... 6	Oliver Gauthier 17	Cheri Larson.....23
Megan Lebiecki 6	Mark Mittelbach..... 17	Kathy Hoorn24
Mike Sullivan..... 6	Ross Perigo 17	Brian Evely24
Kai Fiordalis..... 7	Nick Steele 17	Brady Slezak.....24
Larry Langshaw..... 9	Steve Saddler..... 19	Bob Hills.....25
Kathi Muss 11	Bronwyn Helmick..... 21	Mark Hittle25
Marv Hoekstra 12	Barry Martin 21	AJ Carpenter.....26
Marilyn Alman 13	Larry Reinhart 21	Kay Ireys26
Dori Jones..... 13	Mackenzie Deater..... 22	Allen Stupica.....26
Lois Martin 14	Catherine Gibson 22	Owen Osborne31
Arielle Mack 15	Chris Miller 22	

& Anniversaries

17..... Pam & Bill Mattes ~ 43



Carillon Hymns and Honoree for February

Date	Selection	Honoree
3/14	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>Alice Hill Kenworthy</i>
3/15	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	<i>Jeanne Gross Kalupa</i>
3/18	<i>In the Garden</i>	<i>Paul & Veda Robinson</i>
3/20	<i>For The Beauty of the Earth</i>	<i>Makena Clawson</i>
3/24	<i>It is Well with My Soul</i>	<i>Kathy Hoorn's birthday</i>
3/24	<i>Here I Am Lord</i>	<i>Alan & Marjorie Brundage</i>
3/31	<i>Old Rugged Cross</i>	<i>Billie Showers</i>





YOUTH GROUP



THE YOUTH ARE HEADING BACK TO WEST VIRGINIA JUNE 25-JULY 2

Looking for a way to support our mission? The Youth are selling BUTTERBRAIDS with delivery before Easter! You can find an order form in the office or contact Meredith!



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is meeting in-person for all 7th-12th grade students!

All meeting dates are subject to change as we keep the safety and health of all at the forefront of our planning. The most up-to-date information will be sent to parents directly via email.

March 6 – 5-7:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

March 13 – 5-7:00 pm @ Richland

March 20 – Game Night Fundraiser @ FPC Kzoo, 3-7:00 pm

March 27-April 3 – NO Youth Group

April 10 – 5-7:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

April 17 – NO Youth Group (Easter)

April 24 – CROP Walk

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Saturday, March 5

6-8:00 pm

@ FPC Kalamazoo

Join us for dinner and game night!

This group is for all young adults who have recently graduated from high school up to age 25. If you know someone who would like to be a part of this group, even if they haven't participated in our youth programs, please extend an invite!

All are welcome!

LOVINGKINDNESS

YOUTH MISSION FUNDRAISER

GAME NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, March 20

4-6:00 pm @ FPC Kalamazoo

The Youth Mission Team is in need of items and services for the Silent Auction.

Do you have a business with a product or service you could donate?

Sports tickets you won't use?

A vacation rental with a weekend availability?

The creativity to assemble a fun gift basket?

If so, contact Meredith!



Have you heard about the NEW group for 4th, 5th and 6th graders?

This group is very similar to our Youth Group, combining kids from the area Presbyterian churches.

March 6 – 4-5:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

March 20 – 4-6:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo – Youth Mission Game Night Fundraiser.

We encourage families to join us from 4-6:00 pm for this fun event!

April 10 – 4-5:00 pm @ FPC Kzoo

April 24 – CROP Walk

To be added to the email list for this group, please contact Meredith!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DID YOU KNOW?

Our church has partnered with First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo in support of their downtown ministry to help the homeless, hungry and those in crisis.

Each Wednesday evening from 5-5:30 pm, the First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo provides a meal for the downtown neighbors. The meal is served outside in front of the church, with tables and chairs set-up and heat lamps to help it feel like a safe time of fellowship - feeding souls as well as stomachs. All are welcome and guests this winter have been served soup and a sandwich, fruit, chips, dessert, water and coffee. Our church committed to provide the soup and dessert once a month - and has been doing so since October. This has been a wonderful way to show our faith in action, while collaborating on an existing program in need of additional support.



In addition to monthly meals, the Mission Committee has added our church to the downtown ministry by providing aid to those in crisis in the form of food and gas gift cards. The downtown church collaborative offers assistance in various ways, available at various churches.

It has been wonderful for our Richland church to be a part of this important ministry, adding our name to the list of resources available to those in crisis, in a way that makes it available and accessible.

The needs are vast and our small, but mighty church has answered the call.

If you would like more information - or to lend a hand providing soup/dessert, or to join in serving guests on a Wednesday evening, please contact Meredith: meredithalspach4@gmail.com



LENT

The first pillar of Lent is prayer.

Consider taking part in this practice during the 40 days of Lent by choosing one word to focus on each day, thinking about what the words means to you and in your life. If you are reading *40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Words* with us, the first word is *Community*. I invite you to join us in praying for, and about, *Community* on Ash Wednesday and to then choose a new word each day.

The second pillar of Lent is fasting.

Fasting can mean many things, from giving up food or treats, to eliminating screen time or a bad habit. Consider fasting from something each day of Lent - either the same thing for the duration or something new each day.

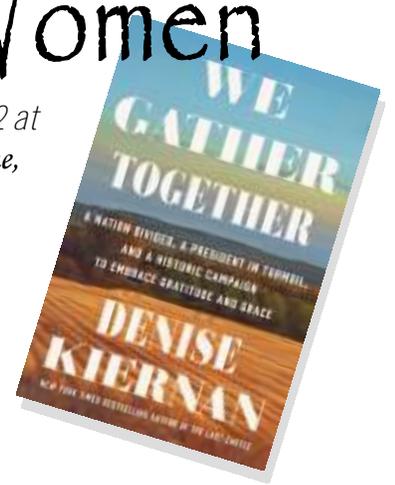
The third pillar of Lent is almsgiving.

Consider what you can give each day - donating food, clothing, time, services, or simply reaching out to someone in need.



Presbyterian Women

The Ladies Book Club will be meeting on April 20, 2022 at 1 p.m. at Jennifer Spengler's home (2544 Piers End Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49009). The book we are reading is "We Gather Together" by Denise Kiernan. Call Jennifer with any questions, 381-1195. EVERY WOMAN is welcome.

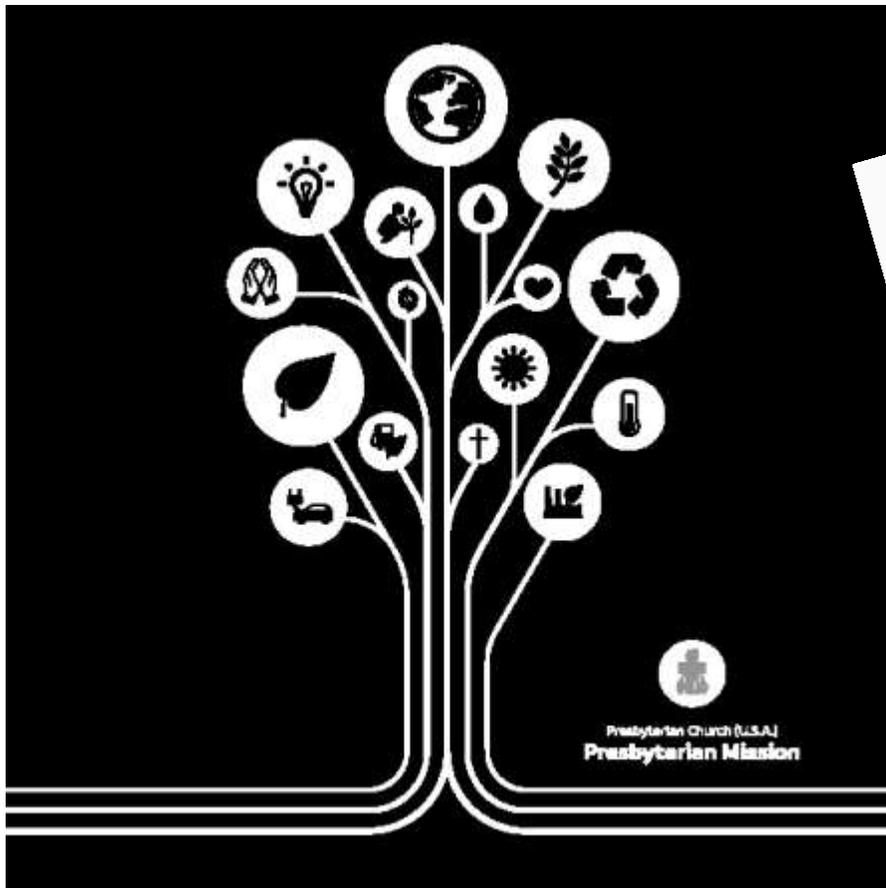


Rummage Sale Returns in June! Get ready for the return of the Rummage Sale. It is scheduled for the weekend of June 3rd and 4th. This is very exciting news, but we need to show a little restraint and bring their sale items in until May 31.

PW PURPOSE: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

LENT DEVOTIONAL OPTIONS

There are many ways to observe Lent. Here are a couple of your church staff's favorites this season. Mark has emailed the congregation a Lent calendar prepared by the Presbyterian Mission, **Tread Lightly for Lent Daily reflection-action calendar**. If you have not already found this in your inbox, let Mark know. Our Christian Education committee invites us all to read **40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Words** by Bruce Reyes-Chow. If you requested a copy, its waiting for you in the office. There are still a few extra copies for anyone interested.



Extras Available in the Office

Delivered electronically by Mark. Check your inbox.

Richland Food Pantry

Extended Hours

The Success of The Richland Food Pantry and the need in our community has required us to extend the pantry hours to two days a week. The pantry now serves clients Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am to Noon.

Food Pantry Shopping List

If you feel moved to help the food pantry with food donations, canned soups, vegetables, or chicken are always welcome. Pasta noodles like spaghetti or linguini are also helpful. Monetary gifts can also be directed to the food pantry by specifying it as the intended recipient on your donation envelopes.



LARRY'S BATTERY BOX

Have you noticed the new edition to the office doorway? Just outside the door, our own Larry MyLand had placed a lovely hand decorated cardboard box. With it comes the promise to recycle any dead batteries placed inside. So please don't throw your dead batteries in the trash to be taken to the landfill. Instead, bring them with you on Sunday and drop them in Larry's Battery Box and let Larry do the rest.



CATICOS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Tessa Sandum, member of local BSA Troop 294G, is planning an Eagle Scout Project to build CATICOS at the Cat Nap Lodge located just North of the Village.

What is a catico, you might ask?

A catico is a protected, outdoor play and exercise area for kittens and cats. Tessa hopes to build two caticos, one for adult cats and one for kittens, attached to the Cat Nap Lodge Community Center.



What is the Cat Nap Lodge Community Center, you might also ask? Cat Nap Lodge is a nonprofit rescue and foster home right here in Richland. Look them up on Facebook. Their mission is to reduce the homeless cat population by bringing the lost indoors and finding them loving homes. They are providing quality and consistent medical care, nutrition and social enrichment.

How can you help Tessa's Eagle Scout Project? The project has a fundraising goal of \$1,800 and donations are most welcome. Checks can be sent to Cat Nap Lodge (Eagle Scout Project), 10418 N 32nd St, Richland, MI 49083. You can also scan the QR code below to donate via PayPal. You are welcome to call (269) 275-5553 if you have any questions.



Bell Tower and Sanctuary Capital Campaign Update

By Rick Foster

Brief update on the Bell Tower/Steeple and Sanctuary Restoration Capital Campaign.

Phase 1 of the campaign started December 15, 2021 and is slated to continue through March 30th. Phase 1 was primarily an appeal letter to church members and community supporters. Phase 1 resulted in contributions and pledges from about 63 members and 10 community supporters which raised approximately \$127,000. This amount added to the starting balance of \$60,000 and building fund transfer of \$25,000 makes about \$212,000 currently available. We are still about \$60,000 short of our \$275,000 goal to replace the bell tower and steeple, build a bell memorial, restore the sanctuary floorings, pews, and wheelchair friendly areas, and then address badly needed floor coverings in the kitchen, pantry and Gull Prairie Room.

**Please continue to make your contributions
– we still need your help!!**

Phase 2 will take place from March 30 through June 30, 2022 and will consist of processing proposals to 3 or 4 foundations for contributions. However, as we all know, the odds of foundation support are minimal because of the huge need for charitable giving in so many areas of our society. In addition to foundation requests, options for utilizing Facebook and/or GOFUNDME opportunities will be considered by Session.

Construction and replacement of the bell tower and steeple will likely take place in May. The steeple is scheduled to arrive on May 11 and the work will commence immediately. Work on the sanctuary will begin after the bell tower portion is totally finished – that is the first priority. However, we believe both the sanctuary and GPR will be completed during the summer months easily.

We still need all the support we can get!!
Make your contribution ASAP!!

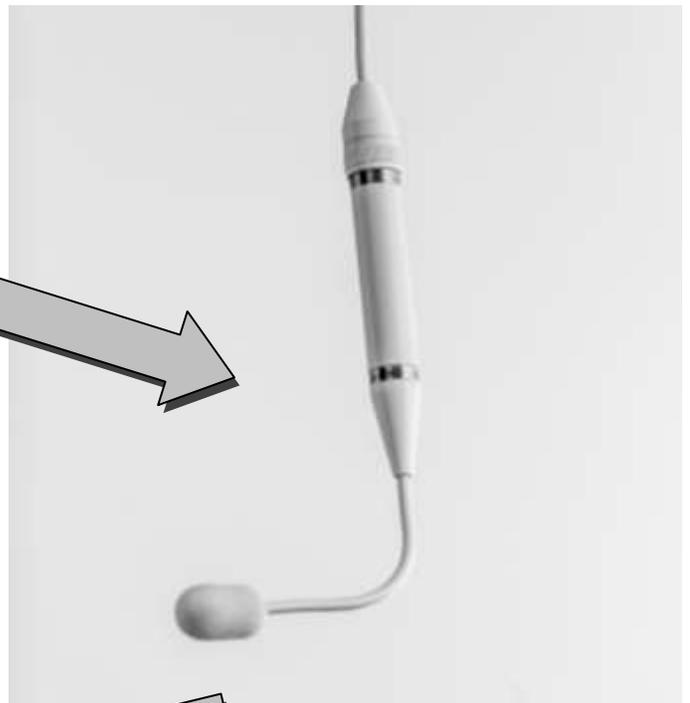


The New Look of Sunday's Sound

By Owen Rushford

I'm sure some of you have seen (or maybe even heard) the difference in our microphones for our choir on Sunday mornings. We recently were able to upgrade to brand new Earthworks large ensemble mics with the help of new Choir Director, Owen Rushford! These new microphones are huge improvements over what we had before, offering more sensitivity and being designed specifically to record the human voice.

Feel free to ask Owen about the new microphones on Sunday mornings, and please consider joining the choir for rehearsals on Thursdays from 4pm - 5pm and Sunday mornings for services! We would love to have you!



How a Pipe Organ Works

By Larry Myland

I often get questions about the workings of what no less than Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart dubbed the King of Instruments. Perhaps, first off, the most obvious thing that can be stated about the organ is that most of the physical part of it can't be seen. A colleague says of the organ, "It's music from elsewhere."

You know from seeing the most visible part of the organ, the console, that its keyboards look pretty much like a piano. How a piano key is struck determines a lot about the qualities of the tone produced. Not so on the organ. Striking an organ keyboard with a sledgehammer would have no effect on the tone. The organ's sound, including the loudness or softness, depends on the pipes the the player decides to use. Pipes come in a large variety of shapes, lengths and widths made from various woods and metals. There are four basic types of pipes: flute, string, reed and diapason or "principle." The last group produces the characteristic organ sound.

The length of the pipe determines the musical pitch that it produces. Pipes get wind from a wind chest they're mounted on. The wind is powered by a mighty blower. When wind whooshes into the foot of the pipe it causes a column of air to vibrate; the longer the pipe, the lower the pitch. Pipes range in size from that of a pencil that whistles an almost inaudibly high pitch, to 32 feet in length that creates pitches almost more felt than heard. Some gigantic organs have pipes 64 feet long that cause a wall-shaking experience. Pipes that produce standard pitch are said to be "8-foot" because the longest pipe is eight feet long.

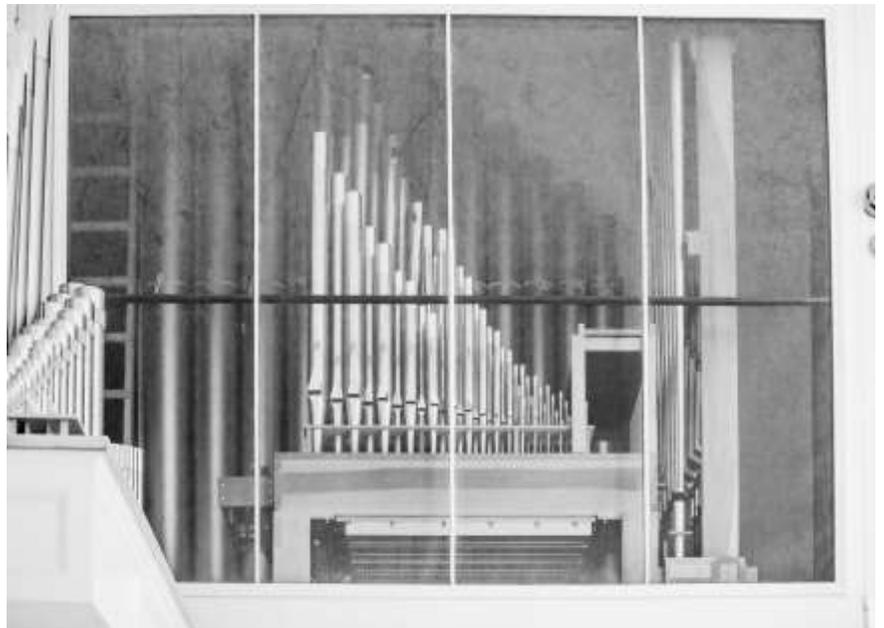
Pipes of any given tone quality, say, flute or string, comprise a "rank." One rank usually consists of 61 notes, one note for each corresponding key on one of the multiple keyboards. In addition, there are 32 pedals, a keyboard played by the feet. Our organ which was custom-made by the Schantz Organ Company in Orville, Ohio has 25 ranks, 44 stops and over 1500 individual pipes.

A pipe speaks by depressing a key on a keyboard or the pedal board. This in turn sends a signal to a valve or "pallet" in a wind chest that admits wind to a pipe. Stops turn ranks on and off. You've heard the expression, "pulling out all the stops." It comes directly out of the world of the organ.

As you know, the organ is capable of producing an impressive array of musical sounds, from prayerful reflections to volcanic outbursts. The art of registration, or "stop" selection, is the way various musical sounds are created.

Most organists would agree that whereas the art of organ registration (stop selection) is essential to playing the organ well, the most important stop is the room in which the organ is housed. That's why long, narrow high-ceilinged churches made of stone and glass sound so resonant and, well, heavenly.

There's a chapel of modest size in Plymouth, Michigan at the Inn at St. Johns that has these very characteristics. Stop by next time you're in the area. Or, next time you're in New York, visit St. Thomas Fifth Avenue or if you're in San Francisco don't miss Grace Cathedral. It's right on top of Nob Hill. You can't miss it.



First Presbyterian Church
8047 Church Street
Richland, MI 49083

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*,
Chris Gobble, *Financial Secretary*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Owen Rushford, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Director of Faith Formation*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Paul Gobble, *Interim Clerk*

