

The Meadowbrook Messenger

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

January, 2012



NOTHING SPECIAL

As I write this reflection, Christmas is still a couple of weeks away. The tree is shiny and bright. The needles are fresh and intact. Anticipated presents are neatly wrapped or are hiding in familiar spots under beds and in basements. There is still anticipation and wonder in the air.

Yet I am aware that when these words are read, Christmas may be just a memory. The presents will be opened and the wrapping paper will fill the trash can. Some trees may already be down while others will be shedding their needles. The celebrations will be over. And the world perhaps will not have changed much. Christmas will have come and gone.

I am always puzzled at the reception that Jesus received when he preached his first sermon at the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. He read the words of Isaiah, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' What a disappointment! The reaction of the congregation was anything but good. "He's nothing special. He's just the carpenter's boy. He's not going to move us or anything else to change." With such small expectations, they were unable to hear and to see what God was about to do.

Perhaps this Christmas was nothing special. Maybe our celebrations were normal and routine. It may be that our world seems quite the same and our problems have moved no closer to a solution. But that does not mean that the message of the season is complete.

The gift of God has not yet been fully received. The babe born in the manger at Bethlehem has just been set loose to heal and to lift up, to teach and to inspire. God's gift of love is not limited to the human calendar or to our human expectations. We have to be open to surprise and receptive to challenge. While life may seem quite the same, because of Christmas there is the possibility of a different future. May our ears and eyes be open and receptive.

Peace and grace,

Art

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY

Happy Birthday		1/17	Kevin Daugherty Bob Fair
1/1	Matthew Lee	1/18	Virginia Beardsley
1/2	Sharon Brown	1/22	Melva Damerau
	Jim Valrance	1/24	Steve Pearson
1/3	Judie Gorden	1/26	Ruth Flammer
	Carol Vandenberg	1/29	Hope Goodearl
1/6	Karen Becker	1/30	Amy Kelly
	Logan Terry	1/31	Betty Breese Leo Devine
1/9	Melissa Lewis		
1/10	Sam Shinozaki		
1/11	Cynthia Lyon		
1/12	Robert Squire		
1/14	Fred Courville	1/3	Tina and Greg Goodearl
1/15	Diane Chambers	1/7	Denise and Carl Parr
1/16	Doug Browne	1/8	Rob and Tami Stawski
		1/26	Diane and Sam Ahlquist

Happy Anniversary

CIRCLE OF LOVE...

- ... the Gunsch family on the passing of long time Meadowbrook member, Ruben Gunsch.
- ... Molly Dailey, hospitalized after a fall.
- ... Nancy Ryder and family on the birth of their second grandchild, Kathryn Anne.
- ... Jim Paxton, heart surgery.
- ... John and Bonnie Hyde in celebration of the birth of their first grandchild, Riley Bridget Hyde.
- ... Susan Michalski and family on the passing of her grandmother.



FLOWERS WERE GIVEN BY ...

- ... Jody and Dave Scheller in honor of this year's Life Deacon, Jim Miller and in celebration of the birthdays of Sarah Elizabeth Scheller, Bethany Joy Grace, and Jeremy Grace, and to also honor the 32nd wedding anniversary of Dave and Jody.
- ... Nancy and Noel Huyck in honor of our daughters, Catherine Mimms and Mary Gibson. Also in memory of our son, James Donald Huyck.
- ... Joan and Fred Courville in memory of Phyllis Norton, Joan's sister.
- ... Bill and Barbara Jenkins in memory of June and Robert Redpath, Barbara's parents.
- ... Helen Galindo in memory of her parents, Richard and Frances Parsons.
- ... Tom and Joanne Dewey in memory of Catherine Grace Swartz Hulbert, Joanne's mother.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE ...

11/20 171
11/27 151
12/4 181
12/11 181



Kevin and Marney Daugherty
23548 Prescott lane West
South Lyon MI 48178



Acolytes

- 1/1 Open
- 1/8 Rachel Bayer
Makayla Smith
- 1/15 Amy Kelly
Harrison Foster
- 1/22 Rachel Bayer
Makayla Smith
- 1/29 Nathaniel Lewis

Deacon on Call

Judy Gress

Fellowship Hour

- 1/1 Deacons
- 1/8 Christian Education
- 1/15 Trustees
- 1/22 Nominations
- 1/29 Social Service

Greeters

- 1/1 Lucy Shinozaki & Marilyn Worth
Vicki & Dave Wonnacott
- 1/8 Carol & Dick Munerance
Katie Raeon
Jody Scheller
- 1/18 Marion Rowlette & Lisa Munerance
Dolores Hamilton & Jean Trout
- 1/22 Cindy & Jim Lyon
Betsy & Rich Mazurkiewicz
- 1/29 Barbara Perrett & Nancy Farkas
Jim Trout & Denise Parr

Liturgists

- 1/1 Frank Maynard
- 1/8 Steve Kellar
- 1/15 Bill Ahrens
- 1/22 Carol Vandenberg
- 1/29 Dorothy Swanson

Nursery

Please see posted schedule.

Tellers and Trustees

- 1/1 Charlie Hokett & Marilyn Worth
Joyce Fortier & Russ Gasser
- 1/8 Sue Darrow & Sally Gaines
Don Gaines & Tim Dieffenbaugher
- 1/15 Dave Wallen & Steve Kellar
Bruce Gress & Bryan Rief
- 1/22 Jim Trout & Katie Raeon
Dave Wonnacott & Paul Brown
- 1/29 Jim Miller & John Goodpasture
Dick Dunwell

NEW MEMBER SOCIAL

Our new members will be gathering on January 22, 7pm to get to know one another, learn a little more about Meadowbrook and enjoy an informal evening out. There will be snacks and sweets, some information and conversation. We hope that all our new members will be able to join us.

GIFT OF READING

The Board of Social Services would like to thank all for their donations to the Gift of Reading. Eighteen books were deposited in the gift of Reading box in the Livonia Library. It is one of the best gifts we can give to children.



LOGAN ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 8, Colleen Foster, Tina Goodearl, Hope Goodearl, and Gail and Dave McKillop attended the John Logan Elementary School Christmas Party in southwest Detroit. The party consisted of carnival games, a visit with Santa, and a Christmas concert by the Novi High School and Middle School glee clubs. It was a delight to see the smiling faces of the John Logan students as they participated in the different events, and the opening of their gift packages from Santa. The Board of Social Services would like to thank all the members and friends of Meadowbrook, for their donations and sewing of hats to make this outreach program possible.



THE CHURCH AUCTION,

held on November 12, is over and the results are in. The display of art work by our church members was outstanding as well as the artistic performances during the intermissions. It never ceases to amaze me the amount of the talent that exists in our church. A great deal of thanks goes to all of you that donated items to be auctioned, food to be served and of course bid and won the items being auctioned. Additionally we gathered as members of Meadowbrook and enjoyed an evening together. And last but not least, the auction raised over \$6,700 to help fund the various activities of our church. Thanks again for all of your support. - Don Gaines



THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Salvation Army during their Bell Ringing mission December 22 and 23. Gail and Dave McKillop, Clara and Michele Fecht, Art Ritter,

the Gorden family, Nancy and Grace Straub, Kim Henson, John Buckland, Marilyn Worth, Judie Gorden, Reola Graham, Carol Graham, Lisa Gross, and the Rief family.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS Holy Family Catholic Church Monday - January 30

Once again Meadowbrook Church will be participating in the COTS (Coalition of Temporary Services) homeless meal at Holy Family Catholic Church in Novi, January 30. Volunteers are needed to oversee the event, purchase the food, cook, serve and cleanup. A signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall. All volunteers must be 16 years of age and older.

JANUARY AT MEADOWBROOK

1/1	Worship: "In God's Time"	1/17	Adult Christian Education Class 10am
1/7	Greens taken down 9:30am	1/22	Sermon theme purchased by Sharon Brown Confirmation Information meeting 9:15am New Member Social 7pm
1/8	Epiphany Sunday and Communion "Pesky Spirit"	1/23	<i>The Messenger</i> deadline
1/10	Book Club 7:30pm	1/24	Adult Christian Education Class 10am
1/15	Worship: "Good Listeners" Annual Reports due	1/29	Worship: "A Day in the Life" Annual Meeting



THE POINSETTIAS WERE GIVEN BY...

- ... Judie Gorden in memory of her husband, James Edward Gorden.
- ... Ruth Flammer in memory of Norman and Curtis.
- ... Dave and Vicki Wonnacott in honor of their sons, Andy and Matt; and their parents - John and Marilyn Barker and Denny Wonnacott.
- ... Jim and Joyce Paxton in celebration of their love, marriage and continuing good health.
- ... Don and Sally Gaines.

- ... Dorothy Swanson, in honor of the Swanson family and in memory of Jim Swanson and Bill Swanson.
- ... Steve and Michele Fecht in memory of their fathers, David S. Fecht and Ezra "Mac" McElmurry.
- ... Roger and Barbara Abitz, in memory of Roger's parents Lorna and Erwin Abitz; and Barbara's mother, Myrtle Freeman.
- ... Nancy and Noel Huyck, in honor of their grandchildren, Caro Pinto, Amanda Geno, Ben Gibson and Tiffany Gibson.
- ... Allan and Marilyn Worth in celebration of their granddaughter.
- ... David and Jody Scheller in memory of Peter and Elaine Dietrich.
- ... Bob and Reola Graham in memory of their parents.
- ... John and Bonnie Hyde in celebration of the birth of their granddaughter, Riley Bridget Hyde.
- ... Eileen Cheek, in memory of Forrest R. Cheek.
- ... Bud and Ellie Steves in memory of Lysle and Dorothy Steves; and William and Edna Nicholson.
- ... Pat and Dick Dunwell in memory of Dr. and Mrs. J. Raymond Dunwell, Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Flowers, Sr., and Richard David Dunwell.

Meadowbrook Congregational Church			
Income and Expense Statement October 31, 2011			
Income:		Expenses:	
Total Income		Total Expenses	
Current Period:	\$ 30,801.36	Current Period:	\$ 26,088.24
Year to Date:	\$ 239,959.84	Year to Date:	\$ 228,399.86
Annual Budget:	\$ 285,747.00	Annual Budget:	\$ 285,747.00
Budget Received	83.98%	Budget Used:	79.93%
Excess Income/Expenses:		Bridge to the Future (Monthly):	
Current Period:	\$ 4,713.12	Pledged:	\$ 5,188.00
Year to date:	\$11,559.98	Received:	\$ 1,573.00

Meadowbrook Congregational Church			
Income and Expense Statement November 30, 2011			
Income:		Expenses:	
Total Income		Total Expenses	
Current Period:	\$ 28,545.07	Current Period:	\$ 22,129.94
Year to Date:	\$ 268,504.91	Year to Date:	\$ 250,529.80
Annual Budget:	\$ 285,747.00	Annual Budget:	\$ 285,747.00
Budget Received	93.97%	Budget Used:	87.68%
Excess Income/Expenses:		Bridge to the Future (Monthly):	
Current Period:	\$ 6,415.13	Pledged:	\$ 5,188.00
Year to date:	\$17,975.11	Received:	\$ 1,875.00



LIFE DEACON - JIM MILLER

On November 20, 2011 member, James Miller, was designated Life Deacon during worship service. Jim was recognized for his commitment

and service to Meadowbrook Congregational Church and its members. Jim was awarded a certificate and his name has been engraved on the Life Deacon's plaque in the Narthex. We thank Jim and congratulate him on his dedication.



Save the Date Spring Rummage Sale Week April 15 – 21, 2012

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

All Board Chairs - Please have your Annual Report into the church office by Sunday, January 15. The reports can be emailed to Nancy in the church office at office@mbccc.org or dropped off on her desk.



NOLA MISSION TRIP 2012

The Southeastern Michigan Congregational Churches' fifth annual mission trip to New Orleans will find volunteers rebuilding houses with St. Bernard Project as well as a day rebuilding the area with Camp Hope

Project. Five workdays (Monday-Friday) are scheduled, and the dates are: February 27-March 2. Travel days are on the weekends. Volunteers will drive carpools, others will fly or drive on their own. Expenses for the trip are: Transportation, meals, and housing. An INTEREST ONLY signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall. This mission is open to anyone 18 and over.



TAKING DOWN OF THE GREENS

Volunteers are needed to help the Board of Deacons box up the Christmas greens and ornaments. A signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall, Saturday, January 7, 9:30am.

VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

By Bob Smith, Moderator

One of our many 2011 events was going through the Discernment process: to discover those activities or traits that Meadowbrook can build on to be a strong and vital community of faith. This process began in late 2010 with a presentation made by Betsey Mauro of the National Association. As Betsey spoke about some of the long-term trends that mainstream churches have been experiencing over the last 50-60 years, she challenged us to take a "look from the balcony" at what Meadowbrook does, how we do it, and where we are going as a church. When Betsey asked for questions, she was met with silence. Truly, she had given the group a lot to think about – how do we ensure that Meadowbrook is a welcoming, active fellowship of faith and worship that puts into practice the teachings we hold so dear in our communities and in our world? In early 2011, the Meadowbrook group met once again to develop key areas of focus. The areas of focus identified are:

- Core Mission
- Education
- Hospitality
- Communication
- Worship
- Evangelism/Marketing
- Governance

I would like to focus on one of these key areas – communication. If you look around you will notice some key additions to the church. Several of the more noticeable additions involve technology – a large flat screen TV that is used in our teaching, and a monitor in Fellowship Hall to let us know of "Meadowbrook Happenings". These additions, plus a few others were made possible through the generous and foresighted gift of one of our deceased members. Choosing the right tools and then making these communication tools operational was made possible through the expertise of Meadowbrook members who are "in the business". Think about that for a moment – a generous and thoughtful gift was made by one generation and put into effect by another generation who knew how to use it. This was a wonderful gift and a great addition to Meadowbrook. But there are actions each of us can take to aid in communication. We can make sure that the mission of what we are doing is clearly communicated and understood. We can make sure that we appreciate and acknowledge the efforts and the viewpoints of each other. And we can always remember why we gather together in faith, fellowship and freedom. Think about it. And thank you for all you do.



BOOK CLUB

The January Book Club pick is Simon Winchester's *The Professor and the Madman*. This is the true story of the incredible obsessions of two remarkable men that led to the making of the Oxford English Dictionary. Copies of the book are available; see Colleen



Foster for one. We will meet on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:30 pm for discussion and treats.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION MEETING

January 22, 2012

All youth in grades 8 and up are invited to the Confirmation information meeting on Sunday, January 22 at 9:15 am. If you are interested in participating in the Confirmation class of 2012, please plan on attending. At least one parent should also be at the meeting as well.

If you are interested, please let Art or Colleen know.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

The PF group goes bowling at Novi Bowl on Sunday, January 8 from 3 to 5 pm. The cost is \$11 and includes 2 games, shoes, pizza and pop. All Middle and High School youth are invited. Friends are welcome too! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall so we can get a headcount.

On January 22, the PFER's will meet for dinner and an activity from 5 to 7 pm. We will be baking cookies for the meal for the homeless hosted at Holy Family Church.

The Senior High Winter Retreat will be January 27-29 at 1st Congregational Church of Greenville. Registration information is available at the website www.michiganpf.org Please let Colleen know if you are attending so that a carpool can be arranged.

The National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship hosts a conference each year for all PF Youth in grades 8 through 12 throughout the country. This year the conference will take place June 24-30, 2012 and will be a weeklong mission trip in South Dakota. Stay tuned for details of an upcoming meeting for those interested in attending.

BLANKET DAY

During Church School on January 22, the children and youth will take part in our 7th Blanket Day. We will put together no-sew fleece blankets to be delivered to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. As always, we need sharp sewing scissors for this project! If you have a pair that we can borrow for the day, please label them and put them in the scissors box in Room 2 (next to the office).

THANK YOU...



To all who donated material and/or helped make hats. Meadowbrook was able to donate 500 hats to Bridgepointe. These were then given to Detroit school children. A special thank you goes to the Goodearl family who made 200!

To the PF youth who donated money and time to shop for two Holiday Families in need. Great Job!

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

It seems like just yesterday that we had our last fall discussion group and now we are thinking of the start up session on January 17 at 10 am. We ended the last session discussing Peter and Thomas two apostles of Jesus which left me a little confused as I had not heard enough about their teachings in my past. So we will spend a little more time listening to what these apostles had to say. After that we will continue our study of more of the New Testament. Why not plan to join us as we continue to increase our knowledge of this important book. A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. - Don Gaines



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michael Drapeau

39953 Sandpoint
Novi MI 48375
248 697-0368
Child - Delaney

Mary Hoffman

44813 North Hills M135
Northville MI 48167
248 347-6115

Ashok and Terry Prasad

24080 Tottenham Ct.
Novi MI 48374
248 330-6384
Children - Alex and Haley

Ken and Denise Swartz

552 W. Dunlap Street
Northville MI 48167
734 564-0132

John and Marianne Webster

413 Larry Drive
Northville MI 48167
248 449-6116



NEW AND USED BAND INSTRUMENTS ARE NEEDED for a rural school district in southwest Michigan. Do you have a band instrument taking up space in a closet or basement that isn't played or you haven't been able to sell? 2001 Novi High School grad (and former Meadowbrook youth director) Elisabeth (Goodearl) Anderson is the Band Director of the Cassopolis School District (grades 5 – 12) near the Indiana border. The district has over 60% of the students on free or reduced government paid lunch, and many families can't afford to rent or buy instruments for their kids to participate in Band. The district will give receipts for fair market value of any donated instruments for taxes! That's better than the amount you could get selling it! If you can help or have any questions, please, contact either Beth at eanderson@cassopolis.org, or call the Goodearl family (248) 477-3385.

USHERS NEEDED

There are a few openings for Ushers for the coming year. Ushers work one Sunday per month preparing the meeting house, assisting worshippers at services, collecting the offering, and straightening the pews afterward. It only takes about a half-hour additional time per month. We also need substitute ushers, who serve as needed to fill vacancies. Training is provided. If you are interested in serving as an Usher, please sign the clipboard in Fellowship Hall. See Frank Maynard if you have any questions.

Meadowbrook Congregational Church Call for the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting

The Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the membership of Meadowbrook Congregational Church is called for Sunday, January 29, 2011. The meeting will be held in the church's Meeting House at approximately 11:30 am. Child care will be provided. The annual reports of the church officers, minister, boards, and committees will be available on Sunday, January 22nd and at the Annual Meeting. The financial position of the church will be disclosed and an operating budget for 2012 will be presented for the approval of the membership. Election of board members and officers will take place. The congregation will conduct any other business that may rightfully come before it. All members and friends of Meadowbrook Congregational Church are encouraged to attend this Annual Meeting. *Denise Parr, Secretary*



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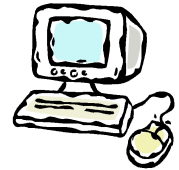
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Don L. Gaines—References Available

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**A Member of Meadowbrook
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The Meadowbrook Messenger

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248 348-7757

www.mbccc.org

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