

# Chapel Chimes

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## *Growing a Faith That Must Be Shared*

Dear Friends:

It has been wonderful to have Pastor Sigita with us for October and these early days of November. One of the reasons why she is with us has to do with the work of our Synod (the Synod of the Covenant includes all the Presbyterian churches of Michigan and Ohio) in expanding our understanding of the ministries and mission of Christ's church here and worldwide.

For over 20 years the Synod has been hosting ecumenical mission partners from various places around the globe. This year the emphasis was on the churches of Eastern Europe. We did not know who would be assigned to Chapel Lane, but I think we have all been very grateful that we have had this time to get to know Sigita. I hope you have had the opportunity to meet her and to hear her story and learn a bit of what life is like for followers of Christ in Lithuania. We have been blessed by her presence in worship and her sharing of her observations on our life here in Midland.

Thank you to the Steering Committee, members and others who have offered their help to show Sigita around and to extend hospitality to her. Thank you to the choir for welcoming her into your ranks during her time with us. Thank you to the family of Chapel Lane who have opened your hearts to her. One of the reasons why Sigita and other mission

partners have been able to be with us is because of your commitment to mission and the belief that as we broaden our understanding of the work of Jesus Christ in the world our compassion is increased and our appreciation for the way in which God provides for all our needs is deepened.

Along with being an issue of mission, it is also a question of stewardship. How will we express our belief that we are all one family under God's gracious and loving care? How will we grow spiritually as we give financially and in other ways? How will we view the blessings we have received and the responsibilities that we incur along with those blessings?

These are important stewardship questions to consider. I hope that as we move closer to a time of dedication of our financial commitments for 2010 it will be with a larger vision and a deeper faith and a willingness to express our trust in God even as we show our gratitude for the rich blessings that we have received.

Oh, and yes, did I mention JOY? That is always the dead-giveaway of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Responding to the opportunity to give of ourselves should increase our joy. It shouldn't add greater weight to our spirits.

### November Highlights

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I hope that your spirit is lightened by the thought of ways that you can partner with brothers and sisters in this place for the sake of sisters and brothers in every place who are called and claimed by the same Lord and Savior and who, like us, find joy in Christian community and service.

May it be so for us!

Pastor David

## A rainy day in Midland – a word from Pastor Sigita



Today is a rainy day in Midland. It's supposed to be in autumn, right? But indeed, it is a rainy day also in my heart. That's partly, because it reminds me my homeland - Lithuania. By the way, the name of Lietuva derives from Lithuanian word "lietus", which means "rain" in the

Lithuanian language. We have a lot of rain in our country as well, for the earth, and for the human souls.

I think you know how wonderfully a rainbow looks after the rain; how fresh the air becomes; how beautiful the fields look; and how the sunshine is more welcome than any other time. Most of the time rain is a blessing, but...sometimes it is an awful experience in our lives. (It reminds me that poor people that were laughing at Noah). And then, as Noah, we need to be patient, and wait until we will recognize the colors of God's blessing rainbow in our lives.

Another part of my heart "rains" for that short, but unforgettable experience and friendships in Christ – the kind I got in your church, in your town, and in your country.

God gives to us different seasons in our life journey: There is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and time for rising. We need courage to enter into transformation process. God gave this beautiful season for me

- even this short time - to be with you at Chapel Lane. He gave me courage to take a step into my transformation process far away from home – in Michigan.

God also gives us an autumn, when trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been.

We all have our moments of surrender with all the insecurity and risk. Help us, God, to leave, when we need to do so. Help me to say goodbye to the Chapel Lane people in HOPE waiting for a new blooming season of my life. I am sure that one of my most beautiful blooms will be my experience in faith with you.

As I see the fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, I recognize a beauty of our lives; each one that has its own patterns. My pattern of life now has much more colors and beauty, much more faith and courage, because of you, my dear friends! As we see the patterns of our growth, may we learn from them.

What beautiful misty days and harvest moon nights in autumn! Have you ever seen it? There is always time for mysteries and wonder in our lives. I pray that God will never let me forget the power-filled presence here, and may I get strength from this, while I continue on the journey of my life.

Autumn is a time for harvest. Harvest what was planted in our lands, planted in our fields of life. Many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest

with faith and hope. A few times during my stay in Midland I asked myself, "Why me God?" I am praying for God to grant me patience when I don't see the blessings. I am thankful for all blessings. What I got was a huge harvest wagon from you, through Jesus Christ. Autumn also is a season of geese going south for another season. I know, God's wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind, and what needs to be carried into the future. I hope, my stay, even for this short time with you, will give you a new perspective and new understanding of what you can carry into future of your personal life and your church growing in Christ.

I experienced here with you the first signs of cold. Already flowers were touched with frost, and soon all the ground will have a white bedcover. Winter is coming soon... I pray to God that His LOVE, what we shared during six weeks, will keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty season; keep FAITH in the darkness; keep HOPE in a season of rain. Hope to see each other again through HIM, who is LOVE: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Jn.3:16

Stay in PEACE until we meet again in the Kingdom of God!

Sigita


## Worship with us in November

Chapel Lane offers three opportunities for worship each week – all with very different formats. The Sunday 8:30 a.m. service offers a less formal atmosphere in which to worship and recharge for the coming week. Enjoy a service rich in Presbyterian tradition and music Sundays at 10:45. Join us Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. for a mid-week “boost” in a contemporary, informal setting.

Lectionary Readings	8:30 a.m. Worship	10:45 a.m. Worship
<b>Nov 1: All Saints' Day</b> Isa. 25:6-9; Ps. 24; Rev. 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44	Worship Leader: Dan Veresh Ushers/Greeters:	Worship Leader: Dave Willing Ushers/Greeters: Clarence & Joyce Licht Bill Ewing, Jim Wallace
<b>Nov 8: 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Ps. 127; Heb. 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44	Worship Leader: Carol Jacobs Ushers/Greeters:	Worship Leader: Dan Hein Ushers/Greeters: Harry, Renee & Greg White Bev Kraus
<b>Nov 15: 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 1 Sam. 1:4-20; 1 Sam. 2:1-10 Heb. 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8	Worship Leader: Howard Lewis Ushers/Greeters:	Worship Leader: Diane Hobson Ushers/Greeters: Bill Ewing, Jim Wallace, Shirley Gransden, Carl Vander Woude
<b>Nov 22: Christ the King/Reign of Christ</b> 2 Sam. 23:1-7; Ps. 132:1-12 (13-18) Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37	Worship Leader: Ron Hynds Ushers/Greeters:	Worship Leader: Howard Lewis Ushers/Greeters: Shirley Gransden, Bev Kraus Dan & Karen Hein
<b>Nov 29: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Jer. 33:14-16; Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Thess. 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Worship Leader: Alice Wiltse Ushers/Greeters:	Worship Leader: Eldon Ault Ushers/Greeters: Clarence & Joyce Licht Bill Ewing, Carl Vander Woude

Chancel Committee for November: Diane Hobson

Steward of the Month: Gene Down



We will decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias this year on December 13 and 20. There will be sign-up sheets in the kiosk (next to the regular flower chart) for those who would like to purchase poinsettias to make our church look more festive. The poinsettias may be given in honor/memory of a loved one. Please indicate the information on the sign-up sheet. Please use the envelopes provided for your payment. The cost is \$12.00 each. Make your check payable to Chapel Lane and note “flower” in the memo line. Place the envelope in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. The deadline for ordering is November 29, 2009. The flowers may be taken home after the 10:45 service on Sunday, December 20. If you have any questions please call Gwen Down, 832-6286, or email at [gene.down@chartermi.net](mailto:gene.down@chartermi.net).

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting an ecumenical worship service on Nov. 25 at 7pm. Pastor David will be participating and our choir members will be taking part in the combined choir for the evening. The service is followed by a “Pie Fest”. If you are in town and would like an opportunity to express your Thanksgiving in worship, this service is a wonderful annual event for all.

## Learn more about Pastor Sigita's Homeland – Nov 1

By now, you have probably met Rev. Sigita Svambariene, of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Lithuania. She has been with us since October 1 as a mission partner with Chapel Lane. She has been very involved in our ministries and we are learning the Words of Institution for Communion, the Lord's Prayer, and the Benediction in Lithuanian!



On **Sunday evening, November 1**, Pastor Sigita will share her country, culture and culinary samples!

- At 6 p.m., there will be a potluck dinner, which will include samples of traditional Lithuanian dishes.
- Then, at 7 p.m., Pastor Sigita will share slides and answer questions about her homeland.

If you plan to attend the potluck dinner, please sign up on the poster near the bulletin board with Lithuanian

information.

Pastor Sigita and the Mission Partnership Committee all thank you, the members of Chapel Lane, for your warm welcome and involvement as Pastor Sigita "experiences" American life. We will all miss Pastor Sigita when she departs on November 11.

The Mission Partnership Committee  
Kathy Rightor, Tom and Linda Kennedy, Joyce Osborne, Jill Cook,  
Carol Brown and Pastor David.

### Presbytery News

Memorial Presbyterian Church here in Midland will be installing its new Associate Pastor, Rev. Cathy Chang, on **Sunday, November 8**, during a worship service at 4pm. As moderator of the Presbytery, Rev. Young will participate in the service. All are welcome to celebrate with Memorial and with Ms. Chang the start of their new relationship in ministry.

### Session Retreat – Nov 15

Our Session will hold a retreat here at Chapel Lane on Sunday, November 15, from 1:30 to 5 p.m. This will be an opportunity to reflect on our life together and the directions in which our ministry is heading.



A big **Happy Birthday** to those who will be celebrating their birthday in November!



- 2 Gail McGee
- 3 Nida O'Dell
- 4 Lani Witherspoon
- 4 Al Sowle
- 5 Sue Kimmel
- 6 Trish Martin
- 6 Sandy Miller
- 6 Kathryn Mass
- 7 Connor Stark
- 8 Emily Witt
- 9 Kate Siegel
- 10 Holly Roenicke
- 11 Robert McGee
- 14 Victoria Willing
- 14 Ashley McDaniel
- 15 Don Boyer
- 15 Donald Buckingham
- 16 Dirk Westbury
- 17 Bob Martin
- 20 Larry Clark
- 20 Ian Kullgren
- 20 Michael Starch
- 20 Stephanie Starch
- 22 Nancy Vander Woude
- 23 Eldon Ault
- 23 Margaret Wilson
- 24 Lindy Emmons
- 25 Kathi Cook
- 25 Ann Moe
- 25 Christina Druskins
- 25 David Druskins
- 25 Roseline Achoh
- 26 Elizabeth Kornacki
- 28 Sarah Rouech
- 28 Tyler Wetherell
- 29 Kyle Rouech
- 29 Michael Kapanka
- 30 Carolyn Cole

Contact the church office if you notice any errors to this list or you would like your name added.

## Deacon's Doings

### Highlights of the September 2009 Meeting of the Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons met on Tuesday evening, September 22, 2009, in the home of Betty Martin.

1. Bob and Sue Martin described various aspects and experiences of their ministry in Alaska. (Chapel Lane supports them with an annual donation of \$750.)
2. The Mobile Food Pantries on September 25 and October 28 will be at West Midland Family Center. Chapel Lane will be sponsoring a MFP in June of 2010 as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The Deacons also will plan to budget the amount (\$600 at present) to sponsor this activity once each year in the future.
3. Carol Brown said that \$150 is needed to mail cookies to the youth ages 12-25 in October.
4. The Habitat for Humanity home in Coleman will be dedicated on October 4, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
5. Chapel Lane will not sponsor a Sharing Tree. Trees are available in the community for anyone who wishes to take tags.
6. Ingathering and sorting of food for the Thanksgiving baskets will be on November 22 at Aldersgate Methodist Church. Our youth will help sort food during the 3-5:00 p.m. shift.
7. Financial activity since the August 25 meeting included the following: 3Q09 General Mission of \$3,250; initial expense for Sigita Svambarieni of \$500 and pastor emergency fund disbursements of \$350 (possible because of anonymous donations totaling \$790).

The Deacon's met on October 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. Watch December's newsletter for minutes from that meeting.

*Additional Note: Financial activity during July and August 2009 included the following: health mission trip support for Gail McGee to Haiti of \$700; 2Q emergency relief to Gaza of \$500; 3Q emergency relief to Kenya of \$500; 3Q Emergency Food Pantry Network of \$375; 3Q Midland Area Homes of \$250; and congregational care for rent assistance of \$100.*

When my son Nic died in July, I was touched by the outpouring of care by so many in the Chapel Lane family, including our pastor, David Young. I have thanked many of you personally, but now I want to thank you all once again for your continuing support. On Oct. 7, Bennigan's held a fundraiser for the Education Fund for Nic's daughters. If you were able to participate in that event, thank you for that as well.

Sincerely, Jim Moe

### The Power of Prayer

*Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.*

Mathew 21:22

These words are very encouraging to me.

We all know that when our prayers are given and we have an abundant amount of faith; we often

find our desires are not always given to us by our Heavenly Father. In Psalm 121:3b it tells us that "He who keeps you will not slumber". From these words, I believe that God is aware of any and all things that are brought forth to Him in prayer.

In my own case, I had my cousin's husband Michael Schwab in prayer because his brain was terribly injured from a fall; he was never expected to live. The doctors told him that he was saved by a miracle.

In another situation God took someone from me to be with Him. It was hard to understand at that time why it happened the way it did. I now believe that when things happen the way they do, I should just truly believe that God has complete charge of everyone's life.

Chapel Lane's prayer chain consists of many folks who pray for all requests that come to them from church members who ask for prayer for any and all things that come forth in their life. Thank you Prayer Chain members. Your dedication is extremely appreciated by everyone!

Betty Martin  
Deacons



## Income and Expenses through September

As over the past few months we remain quite close to our annual income and expense targets. Income is again being helped with larger than planned loose offering. Available funds remain in good shape (\$43,078), which reflects good payment against pledge during the summer months. September expenses were up, but that is expected as we begin our program activity in the fall. Another comparison at this time of year is actual income compared with actual expense, (101%).

	September	Actual (thru Sep)	Plan (thru Sep)	% of Plan
Pledge Income	\$21,389	\$183,149	\$195,514	94%
Loose Offering	\$ 1,054	\$ 16,722	\$ 13,125	127%
Other Income	\$ 798	\$ 7,877	\$ 5,691	138%
Total Income	\$23,241	\$207,747	\$214,330	97%
Total Expense	\$26,299	\$205,680	\$210,296	98%

## Summary of October Session Meeting

The Session met on September 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel Lane parlor. In addition to receiving the regular monthly reports from the clerk, pastor, finance and other boards, the session highlights are as follows:

- *Reported* that on October 10, 2009 Richard Adam Enszer and Lori Lynn Sutherland were married at Chapel Lane, with the Rev. David Young officiating.
- *Received* into active membership at Chapel Lane the following persons: Jim and Kim Cross and Barbara Pettersson (letter of transfer); and Larry Pryce (reaffirmation of faith).
- *Called* for a special session meeting at 10:30 a.m. on October 25 for the purpose of meeting and voting to receive Jason and Freedom Scott as active members of Chapel Lane.
- *Scheduled* that all new members will be welcomed by the congregation during the 10:45 a.m. worship service on October 25.
- *Authorized* the baptism of Deegan Brandle, son of Jason and Kelly Huggard Brandle to take place at Chapel Lane on a date to be determined, with the Rev. David Young officiating.
- *Approved* the appointment of Cynthia Ladd to serve as Church Historian. The position will be part of the Board of Membership and Growth.
- *Reported* that the electronic fund transfer for church pledges is in effect, and will be available for all those wishing to use the service.
- *Scheduled* a session retreat to take place following the 10:45 worship service on November 15.
- *Designated* the Rev. Sigita Svambariene as a Pastoral Ambassador from the Evangelical Reformed Church of Lithuania.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:45 p.m. The next stated session meeting will be November 10, 2009.

Suz Miller  
Clerk of Session

### Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) A new program for Chapel Lane

Beginning with our Stewardship campaign this fall, we will introduce an automatic transfer program that allows you to contribute to the Church without writing checks or enclosing cash. An information sheet along with an authorization form will be included with the Stewardship packet being mailed on October 29. This is an optional, monthly payment method for adult pledges. If you choose to use this new payment method, the authorization form should be returned with the pledge card in the sealed envelope and turned in on **Dedication Sunday, November 15.**



The stewardship theme this year is Chapel Lane's vision statement

### **Growing a Faith That Must be Shared**

Over the past few Sundays we have heard from each of our Boards and their many activities aimed at giving us the opportunities to grow our personal and collective faith and to share it with ourselves and others. We have had a very exciting opportunity to grow our faith from the Rev. Sigita Svambariene from the Republic of Lithuania. We have all learned a great deal from her time at Chapel Lane. We continue to experience a very effective Prayer Chain as an active sharing of our faith with others. The list can go on, but that is what the Boards have shared with us.

Through our personal stewardship we provide the time and finances to grow these activities.

This year's stewardship goal is to build off last year's decisions that were made in the light of a growing financial crisis. We set our 2009 budget with three objectives

1. No growth in expenses (actual decrease from 2008 budget),
2. Which implied no salary increases, and
3. Recover from a very low "cash available" position

Thanks to the partition of everyone, we have not increased our expenses and the "cash available" position through the summer was improved.

Now the Session has set a target of 5% (or \$13,000) increase in pledge amount to:

1. Provide a salary increase for a very capable staff,
2. Cover increased maintenance and utility costs,
3. Have a modest 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and
4. Increase budget for some programs.

Dedication Sunday will be Nov.15, with first results available at the Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 22. You will receive a pledge card in early November. This year we are also adding the capability for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) as a way to automatically pay your pledge on a preset time.

As you listen and read about all that is happening at Chapel Lane, please prayerfully consider what God is saying to you about your gift to support our activities so we are

### **Growing a Faith That Must be Shared.**

For the Session,  
Leon Crossman

## Christian Education Happenings

### Sunday Christian Education Hour

All classes meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Contact Chrissy Westbury, Director of Christian Education, for more information on any of the following classes. All are welcome!

#### Meeting in the Activity Room:

Bible Explorers (Preschool and Kindergarten Sunday School Class)

The R.O.C.K. Rotational Sunday School for 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Youth Forum Sunday School Class, for 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Meeting in the Youth Room:

Confirmation Class for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades

### Adult Classes:

#### Adult Forum

Adult Forum, facilitated by Susan Hillman, meets in the Parlor and is a topic-based discussion format class.

#### Library Forum

The Library Forum is a more traditional Bible study using curriculum from *The Present Word*. They meet in the Library.

### More Study Opportunities!



#### Breaking Bread: New Study Opportunity for Youth and Young Adults

Beginning on September 21, a new small group study is being offered for high school youth and young adults (up to age 25). This group will meet on the **first and third Monday of each month from 5:30 – 7**. We will eat dinner together and spend some time in Bible study and discussion. The first meeting of this group will take place at Chrissy Westbury's home on Monday, September 21. Please email [education@chapellane.org](mailto:education@chapellane.org) to RSVP.

#### Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Wednesday Night Bible Study meets at 8:00 P.M. each Wednesday evening at Chapel Lane. All adults are welcome to attend. Topics vary based on class selection. For more information, contact Johanna Jozwiak.



Mark your calendars now!

Chapel Lane will present the Church School Christmas Pageant, on Sunday, December 13. This year's pageant will be *Light of the World* by Mark Patterson. Parts are available for children grades 3-6. There are speaking and non-speaking roles. Rehearsals will be during the Sunday School hour on November 30 and December 7; and December 6 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. The Dec 6 rehearsal will be followed by a pizza lunch.

We could use 2 or 3 adults or teens who are willing to help out "backstage".

Contact Chrissy Westbury at 839-0198 or [cwestbury1@yahoo.com](mailto:cwestbury1@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

### Thoughtful Christian Take-Home Study

In the education kiosk, there are copies of a Featured Study from *The Thoughtful Christian* curriculum for you to work through on your own schedule. The studies offered will change each week, and will address topics from Bible and theology, spirituality, popular culture, “in the news,” and contemporary issues.

If you would like a copy of this week's lesson, and find that they have all been taken from the kiosk or you are unable to attend service on a given Sunday or Wednesday, call or email Chrissy Westbury for a copy. 631-2081 or [cwestbury1@yahoo.com](mailto:cwestbury1@yahoo.com). You can also sign up in the kiosk or by email to have each week's study sent to your home by email.

### Thursday Afternoon Study

The Thursday afternoon study group, led by Pastor David, meets weekly at 1:00 p.m. in the church parlor. The fall study topic will be **the book of Genesis**. Bring a Bible and we'll see you there!

## Youth Fellowship – 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

### November 13

Friday Night CLUB ROCK at the Rock Youth Center. Hang out with friends, play games, shoot some hoops or play video games. Club ROCK takes place every Friday night for youth in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Normally there is a \$2 cover charge, but for this one night, Chapel Lane's Youth Group gets in free. There is a café with pizza, fries, pop, candy, etc, so bring some cash for food, if you wish. Everything else is free. We will meet at the church at 6:00. Parent volunteer drivers are needed!

### November 22

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. - We will help out at the Midland County Emergency Food Network Food Pantry, to organize Thanksgiving baskets for area families in need. We will meet at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 2:55. After our shift at the food pantry, we'll head back over to Chapel Lane for the SHARE Fair and the Thanksgiving Dinner.

**Contact Chrissy Westbury or Al Collins with any questions.**



Several readers in our congregation have been lately interested in fiction stories about the Amish. These titles have been donated to our library: *The Parting*, *The Forbidden*, *The Longing*, *Hannah's Dream*, *Sarah* and *Sarah's Son*. We also have *Levi's Will*, which was purchased by the librarian.

A non-fiction book has recently been purchased and added to our collection called *Stories: How the Mennonites Came to Be*. This church history starts with the Pentecost story from the book of Acts, about the beginning of the Christian Church. Our common background is carried through Catholicism and the Reformation to the Anabaptists. Today's Amish strictly follow Mennonite practices. This book tells their story.

Sue Lane  
Librarian

Chapel Lane  
Presbyterian Church

Chapel Chimes

The CROP walk was a lot of fun this year for Chapel Lane's Youth Fellowship. We had a group of 7 adults and 12 youth walking and raised over \$1400 to fight hunger around the globe. GREAT WORK!



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

Be a part of Presbyterian Women's Bible Study. It is a time for study, fellowship, and friendship. We invite you to come to one of our Bible Study Circles with the hope of RE – CREATING your Spiritual Life. Our 2009 – 2010 Bible Study is: *JOSHUA: A JOURNEY OF FAITH*. Lesson books (\$6.00 each) are available on the Presbyterian Women's table in the foyer.

The **Monday Evening Circle** will meet on Monday, **November 2** at 7:30 at the home of Nancy Frederixon - 1806 Dilloway. The study is Chapter 2 *A Leader is Called*, from our study book. This is a very interesting study and we invite other women to join us. It is a wonderful time for fellowship and study. If you would like to know more about this study or would like to come, contact Winona Willing, 631-2858...or just come.

The **Wednesday Afternoon Circle** will meet on **November 18** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Church library. We will discuss the third lesson in the study of Joshua. New members are always welcome. Questions may be directed to Sally Ann Sutton at 835-2428.

## Haiti Mission Report

by Gail McGee

In late August, I journeyed back to Haiti. I did not go with a medical team this time. I was blessed with the company of my friend Kim, who is very involved in water well drilling in different parts of Haiti. I had two main goals for this trip; one was to bring Max to Midland to study for 6 months at Dow High and second to venture into new places in Haiti. The Lord wants me to spread my wings to other areas of need. This turned out to be the most incredible venture into the unknown.

The first part of the week, we stayed at the Providence Guesthouse, which was located near downtown Port-au-Prince. This was definitely a more dangerous part of town. We had armed guards at night and vicious guard dogs that paced the perimeter of the property. On Sunday we attended a three hour church service, which was powerfully spiritual and uplifting. We spent the rest of the day playing with the orphans at Three Angels. It is hard to believe that I have known these kids for almost 2 years!

On Monday, we rented a van and planned on visiting several orphanages, schools, and medical clinics. I was very excited to get out and see several other areas that desperately needed medical attention. The Lord had a totally different plan for me this day. We stopped at a village that is located right outside of City Solie, where my friend Mallery has a school and clinic. Mallery is the founder of The Foundation Against Poverty. I have joined her organization and will begin serving as a nurse in clinics starting in January. As we were leaving the clinic, I noticed a mom with a baby bundled in her arms. She was following me as I walked throughout the village. I was wearing scrubs, so she knew I was some sort of healthcare provider. I finally approached her and asked to see her baby. I was appalled at the condition of this dying child. This little girl was severely malnourished and unresponsive. Death was just hours away. I immediately started to pray, Oh Lord.....what am I to do??? For I have no medical supplies with me and no IV's to start on her! The answer

became very clear. Baby Shellsie was in my arms and ended up spending the whole week with me at the guesthouse. We jumped in the van and headed for a hospital that was over an hour away. I knew a nurse who works there and she helped me. During the long drive, I dripped water into her mouth with a washcloth. She weighed 7 pounds and was probably 5 to 7 months old. There is a reason why I was in the village that day! I was blessed with this little one and I will never forget the smile she gave me on my last day in Haiti.

On Tuesday, I visited Christian Light Ministries, which has a large school of 200 kids and 28 orphans. Sheri, a retired schoolteacher, visited Haiti nine years ago and never left. She was so excited to find out that I was a nurse. She wanted me to visit some very sick children down in the ravine. I had no idea what I was getting into! We walked a long distance in 108 degree heat. The area was very crowded and I did not feel very safe. We had a Haitian man with us, who is the "medicine man." I was going to see the kids, diagnose their

*(Continued on page 11...)*

(...Continued from page 10)

Illness and the “medicine man” would Return later with the medication. I was told that you could be killed if you had the medicine with you. The ravine was several feet down in a gully. Garbage was stacked feet deep and raw sewage flowed down the middle. Hundreds of people lived in shacks along the raven. I cannot find the right words to describe the poverty, filth and sickness that I saw. On that day, I truly feel that I served the poorest and the sickest. I also know that the Lord protected me in this area of Haiti that is very dangerous.

Wednesday was our last day on this side of town. We would be moving closer to Three Angels and staying at the Methodist Guesthouse. We rented a van and drove an hour outside of town to visit a very large orphan compound. This place housed over 200 older kids. Once again, the opportunities are bountiful! They have an empty medical clinic that just begs to be served. Upon leaving the compound, the driver took a wrong turn and we found ourselves driving through a village. The shacks were small, filthy, and covered with vegetation. I was suddenly very uncomfortable and weary of my surroundings. I could see people hiding in the bushes and watching our every move. I was traveling with Kim, Jon, and a pastor that I had met at the guesthouse. We pulled up to a very colorful, yet very eerie house. It turns out that this was a voodoo village and this was the House of Voodoo! Against my better judgment, we somehow ended up in this house. This pastor was determined that we go inside that evil place and pray as loud as we could for Jesus to come and save this village from Satan! We stood in a circle holding hands over an altar of

skulls from sacrificed babies. The more scared we got, the louder we yelled and chanted for Jesus to come! I really have never been so scared and after 20 minutes we ran out of that place and drove out of the village. I know that the Lord walked with us that day and I continue to pray that He will break down the walls of voodoo and save that village from oppression.

By Thursday we were settled in at the guesthouse and spent more time with the kids at Three Angels. We visited Mother Teresa’s in the afternoon. This is a hospital, hospice and orphanage for dying children. The nuns were very shorthanded and I spent several hours there helping feed, change, and praying over these babies. Many were just hours away from going home to Jesus. The pain and suffering is indescribable!

On Friday we organized a VBS for the kids in Mr. Bellefleur’s organization, BATJA. BATJA focuses on education, Christianity, and skill development. We had 30 kids signed up and planned on crafts, singing and praying. Kids in Haiti do not get this opportunity, so we just wanted them all to have a great time! The church pews began to fill.....and fill.....until 30 kids, turned into 175 kids! WOW!! What can I say....organized chaos! We rocked the Lords house that day. Our singing and chanting could be heard all over. People on the streets stopped to listen and join in on our praises to Jesus!! What God loving people they are. Haitians live in the poorest and most dangerous country in the world, yet their love for the Lord is truly overwhelming!

My week-long adventure, was over much too soon. At night in my dreams, I hear the chanting of praises and the singing of hopes that these people will soon be delivered from their pain,

suffering and poverty....I hear the cries of baby Shellsie as she fights her HIV and starvation....I hear the whimpers of the dying babies at Mother Teresa’s.....and I see and smell the poverty and sickness that has taken over the people in the raven...

Oh, Lord..there is so much left to do and so many more to serve.....Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying “Whom shall I send and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I: send me!” Isaiah 6:8

God bless the people of Haiti!

I wish to thank all those who have provided a meal to the congregation of Chapel Lane when the need arose.



Interested in providing a meal or part of a meal to members who are ill, had a new baby or returning home from a stay in the hospital? You may add your name and phone number to the list on the clipboard located on the table below the Presbyterian Women (PW) bulletin board. If you are called, I will ask if the timing is convenient for you to help out.

Thank you.

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Email: [Ta2hoe@aol.com](mailto:Ta2hoe@aol.com)

## November Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Christian Education <b>9:30 AM</b> Confirmation Class <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship <b>12:15 PM</b> Youth Choir & Bells <b>6:00 PM</b> Pastor Sigita Pres	<b>2</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters Squared <b>5:30 PM</b> High School/Young Adult Study	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bd of Worship <b>7:00 PM</b> Membership & Growth	<b>4</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:00 PM</b> Bd of Stewards <b>7:00 PM</b> Wednesday Worship <b>8:00 PM</b> Bible Study	<b>5</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>4:00 PM</b> Children's Choir <b>5:45 PM</b> Adult Bells <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Women of Churches United	<b>7</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Fall Clean up!
<b>8</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Christian Education <b>9:30 AM</b> Confirmation Class <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship <b>12:15 PM</b> Youth Choir & Bells <b>4:00 PM</b> Assoc. Pastor Installation at Memorial	<b>9</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters Squared	<b>10</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Computer Club <b>7:00 PM</b> Session	<b>11</b> <b>12:45 PM</b> Quilting Bees <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Wednesday Worship <b>8:00 PM</b> Bible Study	<b>12</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>4:00 PM</b> Children's Choir <b>5:45 PM</b> Adult Bells <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Youth Fellowship: CLUB ROCK	<b>14</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Suzuki <b>8:00 PM</b> Grove Music Concert
<b>15</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Christian Education <b>9:30 AM</b> Confirmation Class <b>10:45 AM</b> Pledge Dedication <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship <b>12:15 PM</b> Youth Choir & Bells <b>1:30 PM</b> Session Retreat	<b>16</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> High School/Young Adult Study	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters Squared <b>6:30 PM</b> Board of Christian Ed	<b>18</b> Newsletter Deadline <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Wednesday Worship <b>8:00 PM</b> Bible Study	<b>19</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>4:00 PM</b> Children's Choir <b>5:45 PM</b> Adult Bells <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir <b>7:15 PM</b> Tall-in-the-Saddle	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Share Fair Setup
<b>22</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Christian Education <b>9:30 AM</b> Confirmation Class <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship <b>12:15 PM</b> Youth Choir & Bells <b>6:00 PM</b> Thanksgiving Dinner	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> BoPOM <b>7:00 PM</b> Deacons	<b>25</b> <b>12:45 PM</b> Quilting Bees <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Thanksgiving Eve Service	<b>26</b> Office Closed Thanksgiving	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b>
<b>29 First Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Christian Education <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bd of Worship <b>7:00 PM</b> Membership & Growth	<b>2</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:00 PM</b> Bd of Stewards <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship <b>8:00 PM</b> Bible Study	<b>3</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study <b>4:00 PM</b> Children's Choir <b>5:45 PM</b> Adult Bells <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Suzuki

