



THE MILFORD
messenger

From the Pastor

MARCH 2018

There are exciting things happening right now at the church on the corner. My guess is that you have heard or seen some part of it but may not feel like you have the big picture, so I want to bring you up to speed on where things stand regarding our building and the future of our life together.

For three or four years now, the Finance & Facilities Committee has been carefully cataloging and reviewing aspects of our building and systems that are (or will soon be) in need of attention. We obtained preliminary quotes for a number of projects, allowing us to compile a very realistic assessment not only of our building's needs, but also many of the costs associated with those needs. In the fall of 2016, it became clear that our operating budget and (healthy) reserves were insufficient to address the cumulative cost of the building improvements we had been discussing. It was at this point that we began to think about the possibility of a capital campaign.

We contacted a small handful of church fundraising firms in early 2017 to get a handle on what the campaign process might look like.

We also sat down with a representative of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program in order to learn what resources the PC (USA) offers churches during seasons of physical renovation and improvement. That summer, we hired an expert in church construction and maintenance to review our facilities top-to-bottom and make recommendations. His recommendations helped us hone our thinking about our building's needs as well as expand our discussion about who we are as a church and what sort of ministry God is calling us to do in Milford.

Last fall, we interviewed campaign consultants from two different firms (and had phone conversations with two others). At its meeting in November, the session approved the hiring of Rev. John Laster of Horizons Stewardship to lead us through a process of discernment to help determine our readiness to undertake a major capital fundraising effort, a process which began in January of this year. John had in-person conversations with twenty-nine households, and forty-one additional households provided

input by responding to a survey that was sent by mail to the entire congregation. Using the feedback thus provided in conjunction with a wide range of church data and further conversation with me and the session, John produced a comprehensive feasibility report for us. Following worship on Sunday, February 25, he presented his report to the congregation.

The centerpiece of his feasibility review was a sense of great hope for the church on the corner. He estimates that right now we could expect to raise \$500,000 in a campaign. But he also emphasized important areas of focus for us if we want to ensure vital ministry in the decades ahead. We need to more fully engage the membership of the church, so that everyone has a place to belong and a place to serve. We need to clarify our vision for ministry. And we need to address the needs of our facilities with that vision in mind.

On Tuesday, February 27, the session held a special meeting in order to discuss how best to proceed in light of the feasibility review. After prayer

Events & Activities

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday, March 7, 6-7:30 pm

Join us for a delicious dinner and Family Game Night. We are asking families that would like to participate to bring their favorite game and challenge others to play.

Sunday Brunch

Sunday, March 18, after worship

You are invited to stay after worship and enjoy a delicious hot brunch in Fellowship Hall provided by MPC's Men's Presbyterian Association. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, \$2 for children under five, and \$10 for the whole family.

Everyone Eats

Wednesday, March 28

Sign up sheets are on the office windows for the 2018 "Everyone Eats" program at Spirit of Hope Church in Detroit. We are in need of 8-10 volunteers and 14 dozen cookies for each scheduled date. Volunteers meet at the Liberty door entrance of the church at 9:00 am to load supplies and car pool to Detroit. Cookies may be delivered to the MPC kitchen on the Sunday before or before 9:00 am on the dates we go to SOP.

Please mark your calendar for our dates to serve in 2018: April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 28 and December 26.

New Member Class Now Forming

Begins Sunday, April 15

If you are interested in joining the church on the corner as a member, please make plans to join us on Sundays April 15 & 22 immediately following worship. To sign up, visit milfordpc.org/membership. Contact Pastor Anderson for more information.

Blood Drive

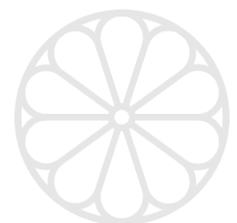
Monday, April 23, 1-7 pm

The Church on the Corner is sponsoring a Blood Drive. To make an appointment, please contact Barb Klein, (248) 437-6193 or visit redcrossblood.org.

Rebuilding Together

Saturday, April 28

We need your help—mark your calendar! We will take part in the Rebuilding Together Oakland County spring project again this year. We will need many volunteers to help make minor home repairs and outdoor cleanup for a home in our community.



Music

Dearly Missed

Members of our Chancel Choir are mourning the recent passing of long-time friends and fellow singers, Billie McLeod and Jeannie Matson. We send our sincerest sympathies to their families. And we will remember them often in our singing and our worship. In just 18 months, three members of the choir have passed away.

Handbells

On February 11, our Westminster Handbells performed at Highland United Methodist Church for their annual concert. We were blessed to have Mary Baldwin join our group on violin for one selection and Jennifer Ginther who conducted not only our group by the full

mass handbell group of over 30 ringers! Thank you to all the family members of our ringers and other helpers who pack, load, carry, and schlep the many pieces of equipment that are required to move the handbells from one venue to another. And as always, thanks to Marilyn Burklund for coordinating this musical collaboration with our fellow area ringers!

Palm Sunday

We are looking forward to a spirit-filled anthem on March 25, Palm Sunday, when the Praise Team and instruments will join the Chancel Choir to “Sing Hosanna!”

Youth

Spring Hill Report

Spring Hill was another fun-filled weekend retreat for our Youth Group. 14 MPC representatives made it to the Finals in the popular Spring Hill Broomball tournament. We only had three visits to the infirmary this year (matching 2016’s record)... though fortunately, no major sustained injuries. The Youth Group owes special thanks to LaFontaine Cadillac/Buick/GMC (for providing a van for the weekend) and to our courageous parent chaperones, Christin Bracken, Carolyn Gatesman, and Mark Sacher. Our Youth experienced several powerful worship messages that used Saul/Paul as an example to show the value of God’s grace as well as the possibility and power of making a positive change. And of course there was paintball, ziplining, sledding, basketball, high ropes courses, trampolining, gagaball, and endless fruit punch! Thank you also to those in our congregation who continue to financially support the Youth programming- allowing some Youth to participate who otherwise would not be able to. We’re already looking forward to next year!

Spring Break Mission Trip

Philadelphia, April 1-5

On April 1, MPC will send a group of youth to spend five days at St. James School in Philadelphia. This is a school that was founded nearly ten years ago in a poverty-stricken area of North Philadelphia. Part of the school’s mission is to ensure “that students attend, learn, meet high standards and succeed—in school and beyond.”

Our team will assist the school in a variety of service and outreach opportunities while interacting with their students and staff. Some of these school activities may include bee-keeping, light maintenance/painting needs, harvesting eggs from school chickens, tutoring students, serving school community families in need, and more.

Please consider supporting our youth in this unique opportunity through prayers and financial support. The cost for one youth is \$100 for the five-day/five-night experience. Checks should be made out to “Milford Presbyterian Church” with “Youth Mission Trip” in the memo line.



A Look Back

When the Circus Almost Didn't Come to Town

True story from 1857. Can't make this stuff up!

Two little girls, Dosithea and Julia, were neighbors and best friends. They went to each other's house after school and sometimes spent the night.

Now the circus was due in town. It was coming from Fenton to Milford along the usual route past Julia's house on Hickory Ridge Road (south of the Lone Tree Intersection). But the girls were at Dosithea's house that day and would miss all the hoopla and excitement of the circus going by. That was not going to happen on their watch!

See, back then the circus did not travel by train. It made the journey from town to town, and always in the dead of the night after the last evening performance. Horses and wagons hauled tents, equipment, and cages with wild animals. The mighty elephants brought up the rear (I guess due to smelly and messy accidents along the way). They would arrive in the next town in the early dawn.

Milford folk would awaken bright and early to get a glimpse of the spectacular sight. Roads were even worse back in the day and moving the circus was a long, slow process. A scout would ride ahead and place a stick at the intersections for the drivers to know where to turn or go straight.

Those two little girls had a plan of their own: move the stick so the circus will go right past Dosithea's house on Lone Tree instead of Julia's. That seems fair right? They both woke early and selected their favorite spot in the front lawn maple tree.

Not long after, they could see the drivers at the intersection having an argument. Slowly, they turned and headed towards Dosithea's farm. Elephants trudged along with their keepers, followed by gaily painted wagons, all making the slow journey over the poorly maintained dirt roads. The girls could hear a type of profanity they had never heard before from the drivers. And they were "going to town" with it. Something was up!

By the time the circus was at the Stone House they knew they made the wrong turn. But the stick said otherwise. The elephants were tired, hungry and thirsty. They were not budging until they had been taken care of.

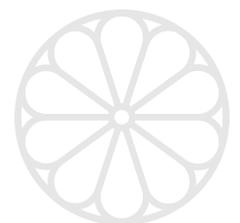
Squire came out of his barn when he heard strange animal sounds in front of his house. He was shocked to see a whole circus with elephants destroying his lawn. After the herd was fed and watered they started to head toward Milford. Of course they were late and missed the annual parade they always had before the performances to entice town folk to come. Dinner was late and everything connected to the circus was off-schedule, the girls learned later.

Dosithea's father was fit to be tied about his lawn, so the girls decided to keep the whole "stick incident" to themselves. It wasn't until years later that they dared to tell why the circus almost didn't come to town.

Speaking of wild and exotic animals, did you know that seventeen Milford area residents (many MPC members) will be getting "up close and personal" with these wild beasts—literally?

Marcus La Pratt is taking more than fifty adventurous souls halfway around the world to the World Choir Games in Johannesburg, South Africa. Also on their plate is a stay in Pilansberg National Park, with two safaris and interacting with the Key of Hope Zulu children in Durban on the Indian Ocean. More wild adventures will be safari on horseback, hiking with lions roaming freely about, and taking selfies with cuddly baby cubs crawling all over you. I'll let you know how that ends.

Sandi Muirhead, MPC Historian



Community Notes

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Kim Seagraves, Larry and Pat Teal, Tammy Baker, Christopher Cooper, Alana Hoeft, Janette Gabel, David & Barb Burtch, Liam Klagges, Bill & Linda Baden, Joy Ballard, Steve Baker, Sean McMullen, Jim Burley, Marty Martin, Sam Carollo, Chrissi & Jerry Emerick, Beaman Smith, Chris Beebee, Marie Webster, Tom Reynolds, Roger Voorheis, Barbara Good, George Wootton, Mary Weisheit, Jim Morrow, Mary Lou Gharrity, Pat Oman, Larry Cepruen, David Renny, Dorothy Bonnell-Tracy, Eddie Bahan, Chelsea Heron, Tom Neff, and all military personnel of our congregation.

Service persons of our congregation:

- Sgt. Maj. M.A. McClenahan
- AP2 Kevin Warford
- Cpl. Rebecca Whitworth
- Senior Chief Renata Wilcox Adams

Please call the church office if you wish to renew or add someone to our Prayer List.

Easter Lilies

Throughout March we are accepting contributions for Easter lilies that will decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. If you would like to order one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please visit milfordpc.org/lily or fill out the bulletin insert and leave it in the designated box near the front entrance. The last day to submit orders will be Sunday, March 25.

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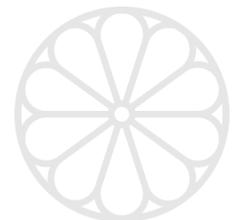
and much reflection together, the session has decided to take two important steps. First, over the next few months we will engage in a very intentional process of developing a vision and a strategic ministry plan. We believe that now is a critical time in the life of our church and we want to seize upon this opportunity to clarify who we are and to move forward into the exciting future that God is opening for us.

The second decision the session made is to proceed with a capital fundraising campaign in the fall. We feel that our efforts to hone our sense of identity and purpose as a church will lay a strong foundation for an

even more successful campaign, and a fall campaign will allow us the time we need to involve as many people as possible in the process of communication, planning, and execution.

The specifics of our plan for the building are still somewhat fluid as we reflect deeply on what sort of ministry God is calling us to do in Milford and beyond. The session looks forward to your involvement in this exciting process in what ways you will be able, and we are confident that God will work in us and through us during this season of change to strengthen and deepen the faithfulness of the church on the corner.

Byrant



Session Report

At its stated meeting on Tuesday, February 20, the session took the following actions:

- reviewed the membership roll (total membership as of February 20 is 466);
- approved our annual statistical report, which will be shared with the Office of the General Assembly;
- approved the wedding of Sydney Borlace and Timothy Gordiner on Friday, August 24, 2018;
- agreed to return the Fellowship Hall grand piano to the family who donated it in order for them to dispose of it as they see fit; and
- approved a schedule of special offering envelopes for 2019.

The next stated session meeting is Tuesday, February 20, at 7:00 pm.

This 'n' That

Chancel Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers for the chancel in honor or memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, forms are located in the narthex. You can also complete the form online at milfordpc.org/forms.

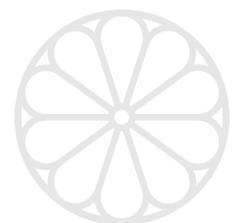
Izzard Memorial Garden

Niches are available for members and their immediate family in the Izzard Memorial Garden. If you are interested in more information, contact Hanne Bishop at (248) 882-4415 or haneloreetb@gmail.com.

Thank You!

Another Way Pregnancy Center (A Women's Pregnancy Choice) sends their sincere thanks for prayers and financial support during this year's Baby Bottle Drive. Your contribution helped AWPC help women and men facing unplanned pregnancies and difficult choices during challenging times. Your donations help pay rent and keep the doors open to those needing life-affirming options. Bottles were picked up on Wednesday, February 28.

Blessings,
Virginia Mantela



Get Involved

Bible Study Opportunities

Please join one of our adult Bible study groups available here at MPC

Adult Bible Study

Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Westminster Room.
Barb Muirhead, (248) 684-2702.

Women's Agape Circle

Second Monday of each month at 10:00 am in the Westminster Room. Joyce Herriman (248) 714-8779.

Women's Hope Circle

Third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm in the Parlor. Sharon St. John (248) 684-6489.

Men's Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday morning at 7:30 am in the Parlor.
Bob Trombley (248) 887-2878.

Community Women's Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Westminster Room. Jan Keef (248) 685-8738

Warm Hats, Happy Heads Ministry

A handful of MPC Ladies are now totally addicted to Loom Knitted Hat making. These warm hats are made on a loom, take about 90 minutes to make, a no brainer while watching your favorite movie, and they are warm and attractive.

MPC will be dividing these store-quality hats between Everyone Eats, Second Mile Center in Detroit, and Common Grounds in Pontiac.

Hats are being made for men, women, and children. The color schemes are endless (just have Katie Burley and Lee Vandebussche show you their designer collections!). This winter over 100 hats will be given out. This is a perfect pastime for those who enjoy knitting and crocheting. It is instant gratification and helping a worthy cause. And can help keep hands from grabbing that extra cookie. Maybe...

If this seems like something you would like to look into, please contact Sandi Muirhead at 248-310-4286. We will get you making a hat in just one night.

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 29, 7:30 pm

Join us for an evening to remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion. We will celebrate that meal together, followed by a service of darkness, or tenebrae, in which the story of Jesus' suffering and death will be read as the sanctuary darkens.

Community Good Friday Service

Friday, March 30, 1 pm

This year's community Good Friday service will take place at **Milford United Methodist Church**, with Pastor Anderson delivering the message. The service brings

together our church, the Methodist church, and St. George's Episcopal Church. We encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to this time of community worship.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 1, 9:00 & 11:00

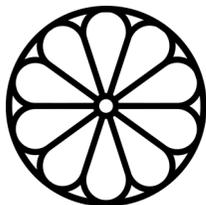
We will hold two worship services on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord together.

Please note that there is no 10:00 service that day.

A note about parking

While the former "Pita House" restaurant (corner of Main & Canal) remains vacant, please feel free to use the parking lot on Sunday mornings.





Milford Presbyterian Church

238 North Main Street
Milford, Michigan 48381
www.milfordpc.org

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"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news!"

Isaiah 52:7

Staff & Contact

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Marcus LaPratt, Music Director

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Marcus LaPratt, Youth Director

Rick Moore, Organist

Lisa Nathan, Office Administrator

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Dianna Speier Wedding Coordinator

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Harold Swenson, Treasurer

hswenson@milfordpc.org

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Web: www.milfordpc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/milfordpc



Dates to Remember

March 7

Wednesday Night Live

March 11

Daylight Saving Time begins

March 18

Sunday Brunch

March 29

Maundy Thursday Worship

March 30

Community Good Friday Worship @ MUMC

April 1

Easter Sunday
