



Presbyterian Tidings

JUNE 2015, VOLUME 63—ISSUE 6

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN

Farewell Receptions for Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

Please plan to join us for one or both of the farewell receptions for our pastor, Reverend Doctor Tom Cook.

**Sunday, June 7, 2015
3:00-6:00 p.m.**

Open House at Spring Lake Country Club

Hors d'oeuvres, lemonade and iced tea will be served, cash bar will be available.

RSVP to sbryant@fpg.org, or call the church office

**Sunday, June 14, 2015
12:00 noon**

Potluck Reception

in the Lounge at First Presbyterian Church

Table service, beverages and dessert provided.

Please bring a dish to pass that will serve 8-10 people.

If your last name begins with:

A-G – bring an appetizer or salad

H-P – bring a main dish

Q-Z – bring a vegetable or other side dish

Help us celebrate Tom and Martha's ten years of dedication and service to First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven.

Upcoming Events

June 7 Farewell Reception for Rev. Dr. Tom Cook at SLCC

June 14 Last Sunday for Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

Potluck Reception for Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

Shoreline Symphony Concert at FPC

June 14, 16, 24 & 29
VBS Family Nights

June 21 Father's Day

June 21-27
Vine Nashville Mission Trip

July 11-17
Roots Lexington Mission Trip

From the Youth of FPC

A HUGE thank you to all who came out to support our youth on May 17 as they led our worship services, from beginning to end. As usual, they impressed and amazed us with their words and talents.

Another big thanks to everyone who donated and /or purchased items at our annual youth dinner and auction. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise over \$5,000 for our summer mission trips.

Lexington and Nashville, here we come!



Prayer Concerns:

Bill Blessing, Chick Borta, Nancy Holmes, Jeff Hurley, Helen LaVercombe, Ruth Mastenbrook, Katie Potter, Ron and Bev Purcell, Cathleen Pranger and Morgan Sahr

Our Sympathy:

to Katie and Todd Winkler on the death of Katie's father, Cal Bruins, on May 11, 2015.

to Linda Green and family on the death of her mother-in-law, Sally Green, on May 12, 2015.

to Carroll and Dorothy Bennink on the death of Carroll's brother, Gordon, on May 14, 2015.

to Lisa, Jeff and Makenna Hurley on the death of Lisa's mother, Yvonne Bellman, on May 24, 2015.

Thank you:

"Thank you one and all for cards of encouragement, inspiration and sympathy after the death of my nephew, Tim, and prayers that have been offered on my behalf.

'My grace is sufficient for you ... Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, ... for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.'" II Corinthians 12: 9-10

Blessings,
Ruth Mastenbrook

"Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly."

My heartfelt thanks to the treasured angel-friends from FPCGH (many from a number of years back) who have helped me with messages of love and encouragement, and prayers to come a long way toward recovery. I have truly been blessed. A few more miles remain.

Prayers are always appreciated.

Meriem Elwell
(a former long-time member)

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!



Thursday, September 3
7:00 p.m.
Fifth Third Ballpark

Join us for an all-church outing to a Whitecaps baseball game!

Mark your calendars for a fun night with your family and your church family at the Fifth Third Ballpark! We have reserved a great spot on the Pioneer State Mutual Insurance deck for our group. Price is \$10.00 per person, which includes an all-you-can-eat dinner and soft drinks (\$6 parking fee is not covered). Children under 3 years of age are free.

Please sign up for this fun night out at the Family Ministries desk, or contact Becky Yonan (byonan@fpg.org) or Caleb Zokoe (czokoe@fpg.org). Money is due by August 16.

First Sunday Food Collection

On the first Sunday of every month, our Mission Committee collects non-perishable food items, toilet paper, detergent, etc. for local food pantries.

This month's donations will go to the Salvation Army. Please bring items to the designated spot in the Gathering Area on or before the June 7. *Thank you!*



Every month, we publish upcoming birthdays of our members and friends who are no longer able to come to church regularly. We are sure that cards from their church family would be very welcome and appreciated!

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|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 6 | Wes Rohde
Grand Pines
1410 S. Ferry, Rm. C-9
Grand Haven, MI 49417 | July 25 | Claude Snyder
3855 Byron Center SW
Wyoming, MI 49519 |
| June 22 | Charlie Davis
Lakeshore Assisted Living
15331 Robbins Rd, Rm 4
Grand Haven, MI 49417 | July 27 | Sue Roper
Village at the Pines
1450 S. Ferry Street #331
Grand Haven, MI 49417 |
| July 22 | Meryl Slover
220 N. Cutler Street
Spring Lake, MI 49456 | July 28 | Laurel Hendrick
17880 Merrywood Lane
Grand Haven, MI 49417 |

All These Books

The most overwhelming thing I find myself contemplating at this time when I transition from Called/Installed ministry to a more mobile Interim Minister is “What do I do with all these books?” I have too many. That’s my first response. In thirty-six years of ministry, four years of seminary and four years of undergrad I have accumulated far too many books than one should own. Shelves full of books in many ways an indicator that I started in the ministry in a different era... when books were books and occupied places on shelves and accumulated space. Now I find myself reading most of the stuff I enjoy on my iPad and iPhone.

Some of the books are precious and hold high value, like a Robert Frost collection including a three-volume biography, which I once went on a

quest for in every used bookstore I could find. There are some sacred ones for me like my collection of Frederic Buechner, my favorite Presbyterian author, and Reinhold Niebuhr and Jurgen Moltmann, my favorite theologians. There are some that could be valuable to a seminarian, like a complete Interpreter’s Bible (all 12 volumes) and the Interpreter’s Dictionary to the Bible (4 volumes plus a supplement edited by my Old Testament Professor Lloyd Bailey). I confess there are even half-read and unread books on my shelf I have always wanted to finish but now confess probably won’t. Then there is stuff that will end up in the dumpster, for sure.

One of the best books I have read in the past two years is Richard Rohr’s Falling Upward: a Spirituality of the

Two Halves of Life. You may have taken the class I taught on it. It had a profound influence on my decision to retire from Called/Installed ministry and to turn and take a new path in my life journey by making myself available to be an Interim Ministry. In some ways Interim Ministry is a way of living unhinged. Many folks have asked if we are moving, the answer to the question as far as we know and can plan is “no.” Martha continues as the Assistant Director of Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging. She really likes her work and feels that it is her calling. But at the core of who I am is also a deep sense of Call.

In Rohr’s book he says that our lives are most often lived in two stages, which he calls the first half and the second half. The first half is spent building our egos - our senses of self. We do that by filling a figurative box that represents our lives with proven skills, knowledge, accomplishments,

(Continued on page 4)

First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven

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Grand Haven, MI 49417

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www.fpgh.org • staff@fpgh.org

Worship Services
Sunday mornings:
8:45 a.m. (traditional)
& 10:30 a.m. (contemporary)

Staff and Leadership:

Rev. Dr. Tom Cook, Senior Pastor, Head of Staff
Rev. Linda Male, Interim Associate for Pastoral Care
Rob Andersen, Worship Coordinator
Maryanne Beery, Director of Music & Fine Arts
Sally Bryant, Communications Coordinator
Dan Coulier, Maintenance Director
Marc Felt, Gathering Band Leader
Rob Hlebinsky, Organist
Kelli Jullie, Church Administrator
Karen Nienhouse, Membership Services
Christina Ramones, Assistant to the Administrator
Mark Sanchez, Church Host
Sally Segers, Joyful Noise Director
Patty Warner, Hospitality Coordinator
Becky Yonan, Director of Children’s Ministries
Caleb Zokoe, Youth Director

(Continued from page 3)

experiences, material things and what have you that we use to define ourselves in this world. It's an ego thing that says, "This is me!" Kind of like my shelves full of books. In the second half of life that stuff doesn't matter so much anymore, in fact it becomes an encumbrance and so we spend a good portion of that time deconstructing our egos and giving the stuff that defines us away. Rohr says this is the stage in life when we become more vulnerable and open in our relationship with God. We spend less time building up the self and more time working on our relationship with God with others. That's not a complete summary of the book and I encourage you to read it and absorb it. Especially if you are feeling like you are a transitional point in your life.

I believe God calls everyone to their own special ministries, no matter what the job might be, a butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker. I also believe God calls us to special places at special times for good reasons. As I look back on my life marked by this accumulation of books I will confess that I have been blessed by all the places God has taken me. To Plymouth, Michigan, where I met Martha, who I don't know how I could live without; to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where our children were born; then to Harbor Springs, Michigan, where Martha and I had the privilege of raising our children; and finally to Grand Haven, Michigan nearly ten years ago.

So here I am in my study surrounded by books that represent the voices I,

over a lifetime, used to define who I am as a person, as a minister, as a husband, dad, friend and now granddad. They represent the voices that have guided me but now, more and more, I find myself speaking with my own voice, which in some ways is a collection of all these voices; but there is more. At this point I find myself not needing them because God has helped me to discover my own voice. And so as I enter this second half of my life I find myself wondering... "What do I do with all these books?"

In Christ,



Tom Cook

In Our Church/Outreach

Report from the Clerk of Session: Pastor Search Update

At the May 17, 2015 special congregational meeting, the congregation approved the following items:

1. dissolution of the relationship between Rev. Dr. Thomas Cook and First Presbyterian Church effective July 1, 2015
2. withdrawal of session as the Associate Pastor with a Designated Term Nominating Committee, hence terminating the search for an associate pastor
3. election of Sally Kenrick, Mark Sanchez, and Ruth Suchecki to serve on the church's Nominating Committee
4. election of Mary Jane Boettcher and Julie Kremer to serve as Deacons in the Class of 2016

Session has started the process to identify and hire an interim senior pastor head of staff.

Session hopes you are able to attend one of the events celebrating Tom Cook's ministry.

Bill Bussell
Clerk of Session

Recycle Your Eyeglasses, Change a Life!

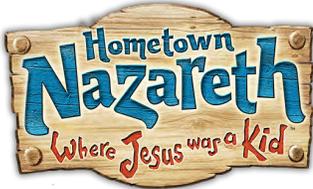
Do you have used eyeglasses cluttering up a drawer in your home?

We now have an eyeglass collection box in the church conference room where they can be dropped off. These glasses are then taken to be cleaned and catalogued according to their prescription and taken on eyeglass mission trips to Central and South America.



Your old prescription glasses are the perfect prescription for someone else!

Hometown Nazareth Vacation Bible School 2015



Everyone knows what it's like to hear your mom tell stories from your childhood. Can you imagine the kinds of stories Mary could tell? Take your kids back to Hometown Nazareth, where they'll stand up for their faith among people who doubt that the carpenter's son is really God's son.

We are looking for adult volunteers with a variety of interests to be a part of our marketplace—interests like acting, woodworking, jewelry making, farming, food, fabrics, leading games and activities, and being a teacher/ rabbi. We are looking for adults without small children so that families may participate together.

VBS meets from 6-8 p.m. (dinner is included) and there are events for the entire family. Dates and topics for Hometown Nazareth VBS are:

- June 14: Jesus had a family, we do, too
- June 16: Jesus had a name, we do, too
- June 24: Jesus went to church, we do, too
- June 29: Jesus served others, we do, too



Please contact Becky Yonan at 842-6760 or byonan@fpgh.org, if you are interested in volunteering with VBS.

Hometown Nazareth Canopies Needed

In order to transform our church into a "Hometown Nazareth" marketplace, we are looking for some "E-Z Up" type canopies to borrow (canopies must be able to be set up indoors - with no stakes involved).

If you would be willing to loan us your canopy for VBS, please contact Becky Yonan at 842-6760, x 14, or byonan@fpgh.org.

Thank you!

Make your light shine,
so that others will see
the good that you do
and will praise your
Father in heaven."



Matthew 5:16

Thank You from Hand2Hand Ministries

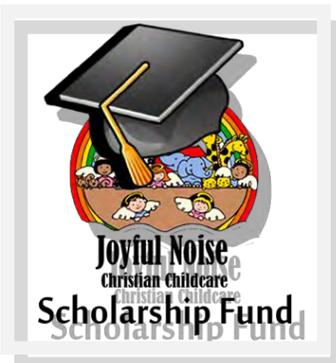
The coordinators of the Hand2Hand program at FPC, Rachel Cotton and Becky Yonan, would like to say "thank you" to all of you who make this program such a success.

So many of you have donated food, provided financial support, and given your time helping to double-bag, pack and deliver backpacks to local schools. It is truly inspiring to see how so many have risen to the task of feeding children in our own neighborhoods to ensure that no child is hungry.

Again, thank you for all that you do to support this ministry. We look forward to another great year in the fall.



Joyful Noise



When Families Struggle... you can help!

Financial hardships can sometimes make it difficult for families to afford childcare. Please consider donating to the Joyful Noise Christian Childcare Scholarship Fund through a designated envelope or by marking a pew envelope with "Joyful Noise".

Your contributions are so appreciated!



**FIRST
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CHURCH**

508 Franklin Avenue
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*If you are unable to attend Sunday morning worship:
Tune your radio dial to WGHN-FM 92.1
Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. to hear the previous week's sermon!
Or, visit our website: www.fpgh.org*

June 2015

deliver to: (or current resident)



Shoreline Symphony Presents "In the Spotlight" Solo/Duet Concert and Discussion

The Shoreline Symphony will present a performance entitled "In the Spotlight" on Sunday, June 14, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church.

All of the works on the program are solos or duets with orchestral accompaniment. Five of the featured players are musicians from within the Shoreline Symphony itself:

Allen Beck, playing the twelve-foot long alphorn on *Sinfonia for Alphorn and Strings* by Leopold Mozart

Lynn Middlebrook, playing piccolo trumpet on *Sinfonia con tromba*, T.V. 8, by Giuseppe Torelli

Katy Highwind, playing cello on *Élégie*, Op. 24, by Gabriel Fauré

Anita Lauterberg and Allison Langlois, playing the flute duet *Andante and Rondo*, Op. 25, by Franz Doppler

Rob Hlebinsky, organist at First Presbyterian Church, will close the program with his performance of *Concerto No. 2 in G minor*, Op. 177, by Josef Rheinberger. The piece also features the brass, timpani and strings of the Shoreline Symphony.

Preceding the concert, Director Annette Jurcevic will co-host a brief discussion with the soloists. Audience members are invited to ask questions and participate in a dialogue about the music, the composers who wrote it, and the process of preparing a solo with orchestral accompaniment. The pre-concert talk will begin at 4:00 p.m.

This performance is free and open to the public.

