First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge

Revelations

Dear Church Family, as many of you know last week I swapped pulpits with my friend and colleague Rev. Larry Rubingh of the Stockbridge and Munith United Methodist Churches. It was good fun to visit these other congregations and get a fresh perspective of worship and as well as get a better picture of Larry and his ministry. While preparing to preach for these two congregations I brushed up on my Methodist history and theology. And in doing so, I discovered the story of George Whitefield and John Wesley and their friendship. These men where two of the most important figures in the history of Christianity. With his (at the time) controversial ideas about worship, mission and personal spirituality, Wesley became the father of American Methodism. Whitefield, also influenced by these ideas, led the Great Awakening, one of the largest Christian revivals of all time. This fervor of religious sentiment spread like wild fire through Great Britain and the colonies in the 1730's and 1740's, opening countless hearts to Christ with his highly emotional preaching to crowds numbered in the thousands gathered in the open air. Not coincidentally, these two great men became close friends at Oxford University were they were both

servitors. (They were both from poor backgrounds and did not have the means to pay for tuition, so in return for free tuition, they were assigned as personal servants to higher ranked students, i.e. morning wake ups, polishing their shoes, carrying their books and even doing their coursework!) While at Oxford, the two formed the Holy Club, whose members spent time



George Whitefield & John Wesley: close friends yet bitterly opposed in doctrine

together praying, fasting, examining their spiritual lives and studying the bible. In addition, they took food to poor families, visited prisoners, and taught orphans how to read. The Holy Club celebrated Holy Communion frequently and also studied and discussed the Greek New Testament. Many from this group went on to become prominent Christian figures in their day. But of all the members, it was Whitefield and Wesley who had the most significant and lasting impact on Protestant Christianity. Sadly in the

Evig's Corner:

Dear Church Family,

Fall is here, at least that's what the grown ups in my life keep saying. All I know is all of a sudden everybody says its too cold to jump in puddles and now I

have to wear shoes outside and a coat too. What a great way to ruin playtime! Next thing I know I'll be forced to wear hats and mittens and scarves. Then, how will I be able to have any fan outside at all? I guess I'll have to find more ways to have fun inside like finger painting! I love finger painting,

in the years following their days at Oxford, a doctrine difference arose between them and led to a split in their relationship -a fight that lead them to part ways in ministry. This caused serious strains on the relationship between Whitefield and Wesley, with Wesley becoming quite hostile toward Whitefield in what had been previously very close relations. In time their friendship was restored, though they never again worked together. Ironically their reconciliation was seen by many of their followers to be a doctrinal compromise. As a final testimony of their friendship, the sermon Wesley preached at Whitefield's funereal was full of praise and affection. It seemed it was only at the end that both could remember and publically acknowledge the ways God had used each in each others lives and how their friendship had spurred each other on in living out their faith, with deep and abiding commitment. Reading this story reminded me of the important role of friendships in our lives, especially our faith lives, and the need for love to triumph over all else. May we not have to wait to the end to see and acknowledge how God works in our lives through our friendships and other key relationships. May we give thanks for our friends, especially our friends that strengthen our faith now and always. Amen.

Pastor Shannon

And arm painting, and leg painting, and nose painting and dog painting, and table painting. But mom says it may be a while before I get to paint again! why? Love, Evie October, 2009

101 S. Center P.O. Box 62 Stockbridge, MI 49285

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's letter calendar1,2 3prayer list, schedules4Spec. events, birthdays, an- niversaries gift5-7Polity Pages8- 10Polity Pages8- 10letter10Rev. Shannon M. O'Leary0'LearyElders Susan Daily Dan Dancer Al Davis Jon Fillmore Ralph Geistler Denise Houle Tom Taylor10Deacons Katy Dancer Doug Dault Hester Fillmore Lib Ford Ella Love John Love10							
schedules 5-7 Spec. events, birthdays, an- niversaries gift 90 Polity Pages 8- 10 letter 10 letter 10 Rev. Shannon M. O'Leary <u>Elders</u> Susan Daily Dan Dancer Al Davis Jon Fillmore Ralph Geistler Denise Houle Tom Taylor <u>Deacons</u> Katy Dancer Doug Dault Hester Fillmore Lib Ford Ella Love John Love Cindy Schoenberg		· ·					
birthdays, an- niversaries gift Polity Pages 8- 10 letter 10 letter 10 <u>Pastor</u> Rev. Shannon M. O'Leary <u>Elders</u> Susan Daily Dan Dancer Al Davis Jon Fillmore Ralph Geistler Denise Houle Tom Taylor <u>Deacons</u> Katy Dancer Doug Dault Hester Fillmore Lib Ford Ella Love John Love Cindy Schoenberg		4					
10 letter 10 letter 10 Rev. Shannon M. 0'Leary O'Leary Elders Susan Daily Dan Dancer Al Davis Jon Fillmore Ralph Geistler Denise Houle Tom Taylor Deacons Katy Dancer Doug Dault Hester Fillmore Lib Ford Lib Ford Ella Love John Love Cindy Schoenberg	birthdays, an- niversaries	5-7					
Pastor Rev. Shannon M. O'Leary <u>Elders</u> Susan Daily Dan Dancer Al Davis Jon Fillmore Ralph Geistler Denise Houle Tom Taylor <u>Deacons</u> Katy Dancer Doug Dault Hester Fillmore Lib Ford Ella Love John Love Cindy Schoenberg	Polity Pages	-					
Rev. Shannon M. O'Leary <u>Elders</u> Susan Daily Dan Dancer Al Davis Jon Fillmore Ralph Geistler Denise Houle Tom Taylor <u>Deacons</u> Katy Dancer Doug Dault Hester Fillmore Lib Ford Ella Love John Love	letter	10					
	Rev. Shannon M. O'Leary <u>Elders</u> Susan Daily Dan Dancer Al Davis Jon Fillmore Ralph Geistler Denise Houle Tom Taylor <u>Deacons</u> Katy Dancer Doug Dault Hester Fillmore Lib Ford Ella Love John Love Cindy Schoenberg						



October 2009

Sat	5 Play Group starts back up, 9-12	10 Play Group starts back up, 9-12	17 Play Group, 9-12 noon	24 Play Group, 9-12 noon	31 Play Group, 9-12 noon
Fri	2 AA Mtg, C.E, 8 pm Play Group starts Nominating Com- back up, 9-12 mittee mtg. 9:30	9 AA Mtg, C.E, 8 pm	16 AA Mtg, C.E, 8 pm Play Group, 9-12 Tom Taylor	23 AA Mtg, C.E, 8 pm Play Group, 9-12 noon	30 AA Mtg, C.E, 8 pm Play Group, 9-12 noon
Thu F	1 Loners, 11:30 Werner	8 Loners, 11:30 Werner	15 Loners, 11:30 Werner Ena Tait	22 Loners, 11:30 Werner Session, 1:00 p.m. Tim & Carrie Johnson	29 Loners, 11:30 Werner
Wed		7 Choir 7 p.m.	14 Bell choir 7 p.m.	21 Choir 7 p.m.	28 Morning Circle, 9:30 a.m. 29 Bell Choir 7 p.m.
Tue		6	13	20 Joel Fillmore	27 Mark Gorrell
Mon		ى ا	12	19	26
Sun		4 World Com- munion Sunday Peacemaking Of- fering International Luncheon, 12 noon	11 2 Cents a meal	18	25 Deacons Mtg. fol- lowing the service Amanda Cooper

In Our Prayers

Debbie Burkhart (terminal cancer)

Barbara Busse (ministry to Tajkistan, Paleistan & Iran)

Brian Clark (leukemia)

Leonard Clark (severe stroke)

Betty Dancer

John Dancer

Joan Dancer (terminal)

Connie Fisher (Joan Bumpus' sister, spot on liver)

Kelly Grumelot (health)

Mark & Denise Houle

Bill Johnson (Carrie Johnson's father-in-law)

Erika Johnson

Grace Kester

Kylie (strength, courage, direction-Linda Cooper's niece)

Pure Mangsong (child in Bangladesh)

Archie McKay (Joan Bumpus nephew, brain tumor)

Kim Manoogian (cancer)

Brian Mason (prostate cancer)

Richard Middlebrook

Ron & Nancy Montange

Bob Munsell

Ed Newell (colon cancer)

Christian Powell

Bobby Price

Jack Schaible

Lymon Shanes (Heidi Shanes' grandfather-in-law)

Jeane Stephens

Robert Suyzer (orphanage in Uganda) Ena Tait

Don Tippin (bone cancer)

Joanne Topping

Henry Van Hall (Kimber Glenn's dad, chemo)

Amy White

John Workman (Iraq)

The Pastor and Leaders of our Church,

The Nominating Committee,

Camp Greenwood Presbyterian Church Camp

Our President and other world leaders,

US soldiers, Iraqi and Afghani citizens, and others at risk in the Middle East,

The families, survivors, and

workers in all the disaster areas,

Iraq Presbyterian Prayer List

National Protestant Evangelical Church, Mosul, founded in 1952.

Assyrian Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Baghdad, founded in 1921.

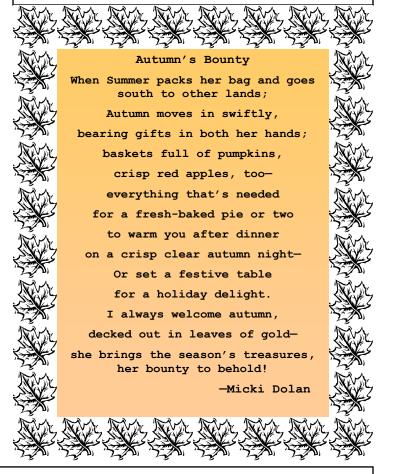
National Evangelical Church, Kirkuk, founded in 1958.

National Presbyterian Church, Basra, founded in 1940.

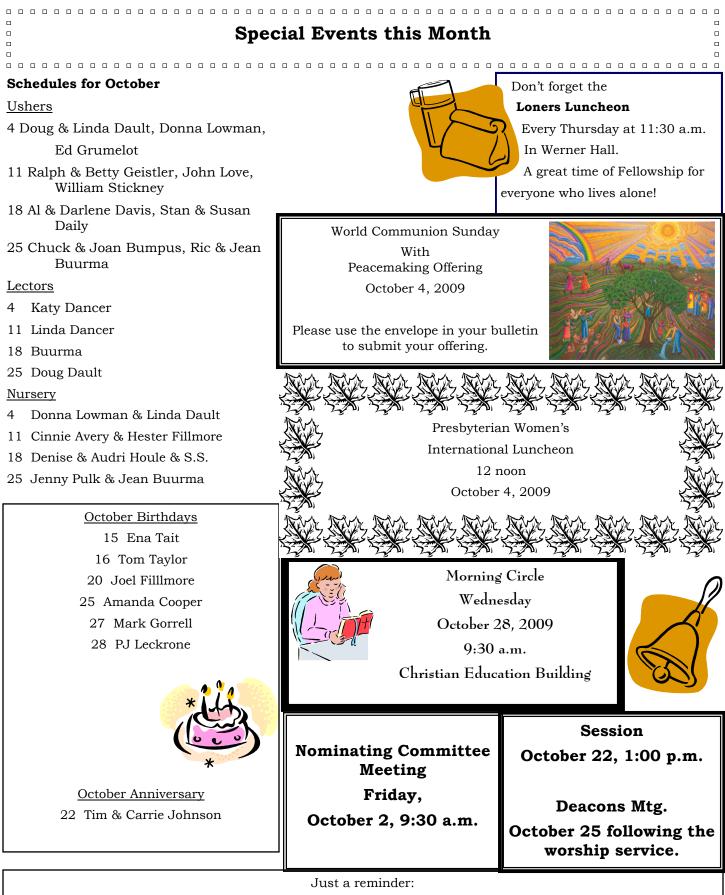
Do you have **prayer requests** that you would like to share with us? If so, please either write them on the

form in the Sunday bulletin or give them to the office. We would be happy to include them in the bulletin as well as the newsletter until you tell us your prayer has been answered. You can email, drop in the mailbox outside the C.E. Building, drop in and say "Hi" or put on the bulletin form.

Also, if you have any updates for our list, please let us know. Thank you.



We choose the kind of clothes we wear-the food we eat and drink. But even more important are the thoughts we choose to think. —M.H. Goodman



Stockbridge Community Outreach is in need of bar soap, shampoo, dish soap, toothpaste, adult toothbrushes, and laundry soap for the month of October. Please support you local community through this great outreach effort. Many people and families have been blessed by your gifts.

The Polity Page

This page is the continuance of a series to be in each month's newsletter. You will learn about the government of the Presbyterian church, the worship in the Presbyterian church and the discipline in the Presbyterian church. We hope that in this series, you will gain a better understanding of how your church works and see new opportunities for serving. Excerpts are taken from the Book of

From G10.0302 - G10. 0401 Book of Order on Government

The Session (continued)

3. Minutes and Records (continued)

b. The session may delete names from the rolls of the church in the following circumstances:

(1) when requested, the session shall issue a certificate of transfer to a particular church setting forth the membership status of the person. The church receiving the certificate shall determine whether to receive the person as a member and the conditions upon which that person shall be received. When a certificate of transfer has been issued, the name of the member shall be retained on the appropriate roll by the church issuing the certificate until the person is received into member ship in the other church. As soon as the person is received, the receiving church shall notify the session issuing the certificate of the member's reception, whereupon the session shall delete the name.

(2) When a church is dissolved, the presbytery of jurisdiction shall take possession of its records, have jurisdiction over its members, and grant them certificates of transfer to other churches.

(3) When a members, whether active or inactive, requests that membership be terminated, the session, after making diligent effort to persuade the member to retain member ship, may delete that person's name from the active or in active roll.

(4) When a member joins another church without a regular transfer or renounces the jurisdiction of this church, the session shall delete the member's name from any rolls on which it habeen listed.

(5) When a nonresident member has been given the notices required above, and that member's name has been on the inactive roll for one year, the session may delete that person's name from the roll without further notice.

(6) When a member moves and the session is unable, after due and diligent search, to ascertain the member's place of residence, the session, after one year of absence, may delete that person's name from any roll on which it has been listed.

(7) When a resident church member has been trans ferred from the active to the inactive roll, it shall be the duty of the session to provide that member pastoral care. If pastoral are for a period of two ears fails to accomplish that person's restoration as an active member, the session may without further notice delete the person's name from the roll.

(8) When a member dies, the session shall record the date of death and delete the name from the roll.

Registers. The session shall keep complete registers of

c.

(1) Marriages, including marriages of all members of the church, all marriages conducted by the ministerial staff of the church, and all marriages performed on church prop erty:

(2) Baptisms

(a) Infant Baptisms. Include name, parents' names, and date of birth of those being baptized and the names of persons presenting the children for Baptism.

(2) Adult Baptisms. Include name, parents' names and date of birth of those being baptized.

(3) Elders, with the name of the church in which each was ordained, the date of ordination, terms of active ser vice, and the record of removals;

(4) Deacons, with the name of the church in which each was ordained, the date of ordination, terms of active ser vice, and the record of removals;

(5) Pastors, co-pastors, associate pastors, interim pastors, stated supplies, and parish associates serving the church, with dates of service.

4. Church Finances

The treasurer shall be elected annually be the session, if permitted by the state in which the church is located, and his or her work shall be supervised by the session, or by specific assignment to the board of deacons or trustees. Those in charge of the various funds in the church shall report at least annually to the session, and more often when requested. The following minimum standards of financial procedure shall be observed:

> (a) The counting and recording of all offerings by at least tow duly appointed persons, or a fidelity bonded person;(b) The keeping of adequate books and records to reflect all financial transactions, open to inspection by authorized church officers at reasonable times;

> (c) Periodic reporting of the financial activities to the board or boards vested with financial oversight at least annually, preferably more often;

(d) A full financial review of all books and records relat ing to finances once each year by a public accountant or public accounting firm or a committee of members versed in accounting procedures. Such auditors should not be related to the treasurer (or treasurers). Terminol ogy in this section is meant to provide general guidance and is not intended to require or not require specific audit procedures or practices as understood within the profess sional accounting community.

Next month we will begin looking at the Presbytery

More polity pages to follow on next page. Please keep reading!

The Polity Pages

From W-3.0000-3.2001 Book of Order on Worship

The Ordering of Christian Worship

1. Principles and Sources of Ordering

Those responsible for ordering Christian worship shall be faithful to the authority of the Holy Spirit speaking in and through Scripture. Beyond Scripture no single warrant for ordering worship exists, but the worship of the church is informed and shaped by history, culture, and contemporary need. Thus the worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) should be guided by the historic experience of the Church at worship through the ages, especially in the Reformed tradition.

a. The Church has always experienced a tension between form and freedom in worship. In the history of the Church, some have offered established forms for ordering worship in accordance with God's Word. Others, in the effort to be faithful to the Word, have resisted imposing any fixed forms upon the worshiping community. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) acknowledges that all forms of worship are provisional and subject to reformation. In ordering worship the church is to seek openness to the creativity of the Holy Spirit, who guides the church toward worship which is orderly yet spontaneous, consistent with God's Word and open to the newness of God's future.

b. Manifestations of the Spirit in worship edify the whole church. When actions in worship are present only for personal expression, call attention to themselves, or are insensitive to the congregation at worship, they are not in order and call for the counsel and guidance of the session.

The ordering of worship should also reflect the richness of the cultural diversity in which the church ministers, as well as the local circumstances and needs of its congregations. While the authority for ordering worship belongs to those so designated and leadership in worship is assigned to those with gifts, training, and authorization., the order for worship should provide for and encourage the participation of all.

Children bring special gifts to worship and grow in the faith through their regular inclusion and participation in the worship of the congregation. Those responsible for planning and leading the [participation of children in worship should consider the children's level of understanding and ability to respond, and should avoid both excessive formality and condescension. The session should ensure that regular programs of the church do not prevent children's full participation with the whole congregation in worship, in word and Sacrament, on the Lord's Day.

Next month we will look at Days and Seasons.

From D-8.0000-8.0300 Book of Order on Discipline Appeal In A Remedial Case

1. Initiation of an Appeal

An appeal of a remedial case is the transfer to the next higher governing body of a case in which a decision has been rendered in a lower governing body, for the purpose of obtaining a review of the proceedings and decision to correct, modify, set. aside, or reverse the decision.

An appeal may be initiated only by one or more of the original parties in the case, and is accomplished by the filing of a written notice of appeal.

The notice of appeal shall not suspend any further action implementing the decision being appealed unless a stay of enforcement has been obtained in accordance with the provisions of D-6.0103.

On application; , the permanent judicial commission of the higher governing body may grant a petition for withdrawal of an appeal. The permanent judicial commission shall deny a petition if its approval would defeat the ends of justice.

The grounds for appeal are

a. irregularity in the proceedings;

b. refusing a party reasonable opportunity to be heard or to obtain or present evidence;

c. receiving improper, or declining to receive proper, evidence or testimony;

d. hastening to a decision before the evidence or testi mony is fully received;

e. manifestation of prejudice in the conduct of the case;

f. Injustice in the process or decision; and

g. error in constitutional interpretation.

2. Filings in Appeal Process

A written notice of appeal shall be filed within fortyfive days after a copy of the judgment has been delivered by certified delivery or personal service to the party appealing.

a. The written notice of appeal shall be filed with the stated clerk of the lower governing body which elected the permanent judicial commission from whose judgment the appeal is taken.

b. The party appealing shall provide a copy of the notice of appeal to each of the other parties and to the stated clerk of the governing body which will hear the appeal.

The written notice of appeal shall state and include

a. the name of the party or parties filing the appeal, called the appellant or appellants, and their counsel if any;

b. the name of the other party or parties, called the appellee or appellees, and their counsel if any;

c. the governing body from whose judgment the appeal is taken;

d. the judgment or decision, and date and place thereof, from which the appeal is taken (enclose a copy of the judgment or decision with the notice of appeal);

e. a statement of the errors of the permanent judicial commission which conducted the trial or hearing on appeal that are the grounds for the appeal; and

f. A certification that a copy of the notice of appeal was

The Polity Page

provided by certified delivery or by personal service to each of the other parties and to the stated clerk of the governing body that will hear the appeal.

Upon receipt of the notice of appeal and the decision being appealed, the stated clerk of the higher governing body shall transmit them to the officers of the permanent judicial commission.

(Next month we will look at Disciplinary Cases.)



The following letter was received from the General Assembly Mission Council

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for your congregation's contribution of \$1,044.31 to the One Great hour of Sharing. The theme of this year's One Great Hour of Sharing was "Where is your treasure?" For, as Jesus told the multitude in the Sermon on the Mount, where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Clearly, your hearts are in the ministries of healing, compassion, and justice that your gift will support.

At a time when most Americans are feeling some economic pinch due to the global economic crisis, the impact of the same crisis on our sisters and brothers who lack any economic cushion is often literally a matter of life and death. So especially at a time when many Presbyterians may be cutting back on their giving, I want to thank you for your generous gift. May the Spirit of thanksgiving with which you gave it continue to overflow abundantly within both your own lives individually and that of your congregation.

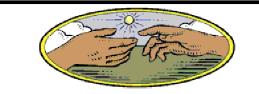
If you have suggestions or comments about the Offering, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the Churchwide Special Offerings team. We are here to serve you in any way we can.

Grace,

Alan B. Krome Associate for Special Offerings Mission Interpretation



Watch for the "Polity Pages" again next month to learn more about your church and how it functions.



The following note was received from Outreach:

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your continued support of Outreach. The recent donation of dish soap and laundry soap was just what we needed at the time. Most every one who comes in needs soap and laundry soap.

> Sincerely, Evelyn Kay And Stockbridge Community Outreach

Pastor's report to Session from July 10, 2009-September 24, 2009

Presented at Stated Session Meeting of September 24, 2009

Worship & Sacraments *Planned & led worship and preached: July 12, July 19, July 26, August 2, August 23, August 30, September 6 *Planned and/or led worship: September 13, September 20 *Served communion: August 2 *Special worship services: Church on the Square-September 6 Rally day-September 13 Shepherding & Teaching *Funeral & Visitations: Family of Wannie Allen; Family of Shirley Basore *Hospital visits: Grace Kester (2), Norm Earles (had already been discharged) *Other visits/Home communion: Barbara Beird (2), Kaci Schoenberg, Angela Dault (2), Donna Frazier, Steven Zalen *Pastoral Correspondence/Phone calls: Linda Dancer, Dale Schoenberg, Janet Hanson, Tracy Bumpus *Planned & taught adult Sunday School (6) Fellowship & Congregational Life *Open house for Kaci Schoenberg *All Church Potluck Pig Roast at White Oak Township Administration & Leadership *Planned and led Session retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center at Dewitt *Attended Annual Two Day Presbytery Retreat/Meeting at Camp Henry Newaygo, MI Planned and led Congregational Meeting, September 13 *Planned & led Session Meetings, September *Curriculum shopping with Chair of Christian Education *Represented Stockbridge First at the Funeral of Rev. Oyo Nsefik *Facilitated Closing of Manse Property Sale (lots and lots of paper work and meetings) *Arranged and Participated in group trip to the City Rescue Mission Family Center *Met with Nominating Committee Chair for training *Met with Nominating Committee *Met with Gideons of South Ingham *Planned and led annual Joint Meeting of Session and Board of Deacons *Discuss with Church Music Director (3) *Attended Deacon's Meeting (1) Professional Development & Spiritual Support *Attended PLM Jackson Cluster Clergy group meeting (2) *Prayer with Rev. Heidi Demott-Shanes (3) *Spiritual Direction at St. Francis Retreat Center with Rev. Patti Kenney

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STOCKBRIDGE STATED SESSION MEETING AUGUST 27, 2009 APPROVED MINUTES

The meeting was held in the CE building and opened with prayer by the moderator, Pastor Shannon O'Leary at 1:10 p.m.

The following quorum of Elders was present: Jon Fillmore, Susan Daily, Tom Taylor, Al Davis, Ralph Geistler, Denise Houle.

Elders unexcused: Dan Dancer

Motion was made to approve docket with the following addition: Building and Grounds submitted an estimate from Daryl Anderson regarding installing a handrail for stairway to choir loft **Motion seconded. Motion carried.**

CLERK'S REPORT

Motion was made to approve July 10, 2009 Called Session Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve July 15, 2009 Called Session Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve July 28, 2009 Called Session Meeting Minutes. **Motion seconded. Motion carried.**

Membership

Motion was made to update the membership roll with notation of the passing of beloved member Wannie Allen, Reg. #872. **Motion seconded. Motion carried.**

Review of Clergy Duty to Report Child Abuse and Neglect as Mandated Reporters has been reviewed by Session. The statewide phone number of 1-800-942-4357 and clarification made by Pastor Shannon regarding legal requirement stated in the July 9, 2009 Stated Session Meeting Minutes was also again discussed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income and Expense Statement (unaudited) General Fund and Account Activity, July 2009 - August 2009 were submitted. Motion was made for the approval of Pastor Shannon O'Leary to use the Church credit card to access the Emergency Fund at her discretion for mission related purposes. **Motion seconded. Motion carried.**

PASTORAL REPORT

Pastor Shannon asked Session to consider 10% tithe on the manse sale with 1/2 to Community Outreach and 1/2 to Presbytery Mission Ministry. Discussion followed with prayer.

Reverend Shannon O'Leary officiated the funeral service of Wannie Allen on Friday, July 17, 2009.

Reverend Shannon O'Leary officiated the funeral service of Shirley Basore on Saturday, July 18, 2009.

WORSHIP

Motion was made to have Church on the Square September 6, 2009. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made to have a pulpit switch with Larry Rubingh on September 27, 2009. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made to abstain from communion on September 6, 2009 due to the Church on the Square scheduled for that Sunday. **Motion seconded. Motion carried.**

Communion was served during worship on Sunday, August 2, 2009. Next communion scheduled for October 4, 2009.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Motion was made to approve the reimbursement of \$435.00 to Presbytery Women's Association for the repair of air conditioning unit in the Church basement. **Motion seconded. Motion carried** (*With notation from Pastor Shannon that Repairs and Maintenance Line Item be revisited in the near future*).

An estimate from Aspen Heating & Cooling Inc. was submitted to Session for the following: Furnish and install (2) Comfort-Aire SMA24SA-1 24,000 BTU 13 Seer ductless mini split air conditioning system to include: condenser, evaporator, line set, remote thermostat, wiring, drain, clean up, start up and labor. *Session decided to table discussion until end of the year*.

Also submitted were 2 estimates for a new boiler system: 1). Furnish and install (1) Lochinvar CBN215 84% efficient 215,000 BTU boiler adapted to existing piping to include: (3) Honeywell zone valves, back flow preventor low

water cut off, secondary high limit, automatic fill valve, #60 extrol tank, Honeywell spiral air vent, gas piping, wiring, venting, clean up, start up, permit and labor. 2). Furnish and install (1) Lochinvar KBN210 95.7% efficient 210,000 BTU boiler adapted to existing piping to include: (3) Honeywell zone valves, back flow preventor, low water cut off, secondary high limit, automatic fill valve, #60 extrol tank, Honeywel spiral air vent, gas piping, wiring, venting, clean up, start up, permit and labor. *No action was taken on this at this time*.

Motion was made to accept the bid from Daryl Anderson for a new handrail and installation of same. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made to list the current session members as the board of directors on our State of Michigan non profit paperwork. **Motion seconded. Motion carried**.

Confirmation was made of annual Session and Deacons meeting to be held September 20, 2009 after church.

Meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:10 p.m.

Next Session Meeting, Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Denise Houle, Clerk of Session

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**Please note that in an attempt to save paper the original 3 pages of this document have been decreased to 1 and 1/2. Nothing has been left out from the original except the spaces between lines. The content remains the exact same. **



Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! Psalm 150:1-3