

THE TRUMPET

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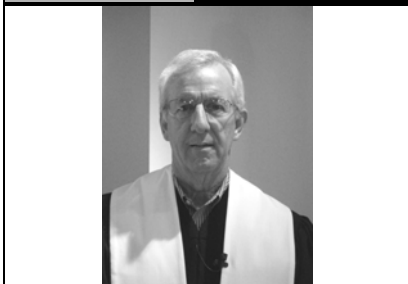
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pastor's column



As I write this article for the Trumpet I am preparing for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. And as I remember that this will be my last article that I write for you, I am thinking about “last things”.

In the Old Testament, the Book Of Daniel, that “*looks into the future to foresee the events of the end time when the Lord will, for one last time, reveal Himself and bring the earthly ages and their tribulation to a close, and establish His eternal reign, bringing full salvation to His people*”.

In the New Testament, *our resurrection and the assurance of Christ's second coming*.

This will be our last Good Friday Service with you, our last Easter Sunday celebration. We have 14 Sunday's left to spend with you as your Pastor and spouse. Our last service with you will be on Sunday June 26.

My, how time flies! The SPPRC sent you a letter last August 6 that

said in part “The good news is that we still have 11 months with Pastor Tom and Lois.....” Now it's down to 3 months and 14 Sunday's.

For most people in the ministry it's a marathon. For us it's been a sprint. Our ministry and all of you have been joined at the heart.

During this time my emphasis has been on my passion for Exceptional Pastoral Care, and the fourth principal factor John Wesley believed, in his Wesleyan Quadrilateral (*Scripture, Reason, Tradition & Experience*), “*my understanding and appropriating of the faith in the light of my own life and common sense knowledge of everyday experience.*”

My competence as a Pastor to Teach, Reach and Preach through Exceptional Pastoral Care, has been judged by you, the congregations that I serve, through the Annual Pastoral Leadership Assessment, as it should be, and it's really been quite remarkable.

Together we have built a bridge from the Pulpit to the Pew that has emphasized that our Spiritual formation is “being conformed to the image of Christ for others.” To love and serve our neighbor.

On August 10 in a letter to you we asked that “*you cherish the time we have had together and embrace the time we have left, and leave the rest in God's hands*”.

This was a journey that we never thought we would take and your love, kindnesses, compassion, caring and support will be cherished always and forever.

The Bible is a love story. We hope our ministry has been a love story for all of you too. You have certainly made it that for Lois and I. Thank you!

Grace, Peace & Love,
Pastor Tom & Lois

Editor's note: Pastor Tom's last Sunday at the churches will be June 26th. Be sure to attend!

I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say; we appreciate you and Lois for all you have done for us. We wish you the best in whatever direction God has chosen for you. We will miss you.

WARMING SHELTER

I would like to say THANK YOU to all the wonderful people that helped this spring at the shelter. What a wonderful experience it was once again. We had a full

house the first 3 nights we worked at the shelter. The menu this year seemed very pleasing to the guests with a breakfast for dinner on Friday, a lasagna dinner on Saturday and a full turkey dinner on Sunday.

Woke up Monday morning to an e-mail informing me that the shelter needed people to supply food or work at the shelter on Easter weekend. Once again the wonderful people of Howarth and Paint Creek came through. The meal was a spaghetti bake which was very pleasing to the guests and the compliments were flying high. One man said he loved it when we showed up because he knew the meal would be great.

We served approximately 240 first times through meals with many seconds and thirds. This would not be possible if it wasn't for all the people that work at the turkey dinner in November at Howarth to raise the money and for Paint Creek, that joyfully pays half of the expenses for the meals.

We also did the Christmas dinner this past December and fed approximately 80-90 people on Christmas day. I can't express how much I enjoy being a part of these churches and the wonderful mission work we do as a group.

When I got the e-mail about Easter weekend I called Sharon and she said she would put out an e-mail to see if anyone is available to help. We had to turn down peoples offers to help because too many wanted to help! That tells me that JESUS is alive and well within our churches.

I know Kathy is looking down and smiling with every meal that is handed out, she really loved doing the Christmas dinner she felt no

one should be hungry and alone on such an important day in our lives. It has been 3 years since she was diagnosed with cancer and 6 months since Ashley passed away, I can truly say that I have never felt love like I have from all of you, during this period in my life. I may have a house and food and the other things we take for granted but I truly feel the love. I see that same love being extended to the guests at the shelter. This is what being a CHRISTIAN is all about, Matthew 25: 31-46, being the sheep not the goats, not only do you all talk the word you show it also in all that you do.

I hope that you all had a great Easter and know that Christ has Risen and lives in all of YOU.

P.S. I am sure there will be some openings this summer at the shelter, watch for future e-mails.
God Bless,
Paul Sandstrom

Michigan endorses two for episcopacy

LANSING — Members of the General/Jurisdictional Delegations of the Detroit and West Michigan Conferences endorsed the Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai and the Rev. Laurie Haller as their episcopal nominees at their February 20, 2016 meeting.

By Rev. Elizabeth A. Hill, Blue Water District Superintendent

It has been exciting to meet so many laity and clergy from the Blue Water District (BWD) since my arrival as the BWD Superintendent last July. I have had opportunities to hear the stories of many of the churches and to share my story of how I understand the church and the work of the church.

At the Charge Conferences, I shared a piece of my journey and how I learned the role of the laity in the life of the church. I have been asked to share this in the newsletter in order for others to understand my view of laity.

As a young person in the church, I was warmly welcomed by members of all ages. People would ask me questions about school, my interests and later my major in college. Most often, the individual would close our conversation with, "I am praying for you." I always felt supported as a shy person learning to be a Christian in the world.

Shortly after being married, my husband, Dick and I were asked to be youth counselors. I felt that we didn't have the time, I was in graduate school, however, Dick felt it would be 'fun' and that we could find the time. Our pastor said he would pray for us as we undertook this new responsibility. Well, those prayers were powerful because within a year we became the lead counselors. For ten years we enjoyed the work of leading a wonderful youth group, while watching the youth develop and grow in their faith and their understanding of what it meant to be a Christian.

As our children grew, the church began to ask us to do 'new things' in the life of the church. I was a teacher and felt very comfortable with education, but the nominating committee was asking me to step into leadership. I hesitated and the people who cared for me as a youth said, "We will be praying for you because we see you have the gift." Well, it wasn't long until I said yes and began by first serving on Staff Parish. Over the years, I served on most committees in the church, but with each invitation to serve I was told, "We are praying for you." The final years as a lay person, I served as the church Lay Leader. It was something I had never thought of doing, but once again those prayers and the Holy Spirit guided me as I served in new and exciting ways.

After several years as Lay leader, my husband and I were asked to take the youth on a mission trip. We said yes, and while there one evening, I found myself having a long conversation with God on a mountain top. I felt certain God was asking me to do something more and so I was asking God how I was to take on one more thing. My life was full with college age children, a full time teaching posi-

tion, parent care, working on the Saturday tutoring program at the church and still serving the church. As clearly as if someone in a room was speaking, I heard God's voice saying, "Not one more thing, a new thing. Lead my people." I left that mountain top with fear in my heart and sought my husband for confirmation that what I had just heard was wrong. When I shared with him that I was sure I wasn't being asked to go into the ministry he shared that he felt I was. What a surprise! We covenanted to pray together over the next school year to see if this was where God was leading me. About January, individuals from my church family began to ask if I would consider going to seminary. They felt I had the gift to lead people into a deeper faith. I quickly responded, "no" and they responded with, "We will be praying for you." In a few more weeks several people, on the same evening, said that they were waiting to hear when I was going into the ministry. I went home very annoyed with Dick thinking he had been sharing my secret with others. When I confronted him he said, "I've only been talking with God!" It was then that I knew those same individuals who had been praying for me as I discerned a college, and a major, a spouse, and leadership were still praying for me. They were hearing from God that I had gifts for ministry that I hadn't recognized.

This is why I believe the laity of the church has a very strong role in the church. Through their prayer life they discern the gifts for themselves and others in their church family. The laity serve together in missions, study, worship and outreach. The Holy Spirit allows them to recognize the gifts in one another through all of these areas. I invite you to be in prayer for one another and allow God to use you in ways that you might not even know you have gifts. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak through those who know you and pray together to discern how you can use your God given gifts together to bring God's kingdom here on earth. Together we can make Disciples of Jesus Christ who will transform this world!

**NEWSLETTER
ARTICLE DEADLINE:
June 26th.**

Spring means CROP Walk against Hunger. Last year we raised \$615 from Howarth and an all-time record of \$1,790 from Paint Creek! Can we top that on Sunday, May 1st? Pick up your pledge envelopes from Elizabeth Reitz and Judy Mair, or pledge a walker today!

Thank you to Sharon for ordering and delivering the Easter flowers. They were beautiful! (You are welcome)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

• Our neighbor, the Crossroads District would like to know if you can help. They need volunteers on a regular basis.

Every **Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 PM**, we have full semi-loads of water delivered and distributed at **Calvary UMC, 2111 Flushing Rd., Flint, 48504.**

Every **Thursday around 11:30 AM** we have 10 skids of water delivered and distributed at **Asbury UMC 1653 Davison Rd., Flint, 48506.**

Contact Peter Plum plum@miareaumc.org, if you can help.

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, June 29th. Retirement party for Pastor Tom. Rochester Community House. More details to follow.

May 8th



PAINT CREEK NEWS:



Birthdays & Anniversaries:

April

Anna Jacklin	Apr 1
Chris Lutz	Apr 3
Violet Moggio	Apr 7
Trevor Barkham	Apr 10
Andy Knaack	Apr 11
Robert LaFountain	Apr 20
Spencer Powell	Apr 24
Cal Devitt	Apr 25
Pia Tucker	Apr 27

Anniversaries

(none)

May

Betty Wilber	May 2
JoAnn Bourez	May 4
Emily Barkham	May 5
Floris Stoner	May 9
Ethan Gomez	May 12
Amy Devitt	May 13
Suzy Kelly	May 13
Lois Sayers	May 13
Dottie Spitsbergen	May 13
Frederick Barkham	May 18
Bob Jackson	May 18
Caryl Chamberlin	May 19
Charlie Bonten	May 21
Luke Wylie	May 22
Allie Buchner	May 30

Anniversaries

Jean & Chris Lutz	May 1
Dick & Jo Ann Bourez	May 25

June

Patty Powell	June 1
Kathy Ferriby	June 3
Colleen King	June 4
Vera Rhine	June 10
Lizzie Chisholm	June 12
Reva LaFountain	June 14
June Rosvold	June 19
Tom Tucker	June 20
Isabelle (Izzy) Bonten	June 23
Jan Van Dyke	June 27

Anniversaries

Mike & Colleen King	June 17
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A special thank you goes to Cal Devitt for his twenty-five years of service as church treasurer. Cal has been a dedicated treasurer serving longer than any Paint Creek treasurer. We appreciate all the time Cal spent on the many tasks his job included. Judy Mair has taken over the treasurer's position (thank you). Cal will be doing Judy's former job as financial secretary.

We would like to thank Judy Mair for the years she spent as Outreach chairperson. Under her leadership, Paint Creek won the Golden Shoe award for 2 years. This award was for the greatest increase of money on a percentage basis from 1 year to the next for the May Crop Walk. Stepping up to take charge as Outreach chairperson is Gail Stoner.

Paint Creek appreciates the willingness of all members who volunteer their time to carry out church duties and activities. This makes for a smooth running church. Thanks to all who have helped in the past and in future events.

PERSON OF FAITH GAIL STONER

Gail Stoner was born and lived in Detroit until she was fourteen. The family then moved to Redford Township. Her father worked at Ford Motor Company while Gail's mother was a stay-at-home mom. When Gail, an only child, started high school her mom began working for a printing company.

Gail attended elementary school in Detroit then graduated from Redford Union High School.

While in high school she worked for 3 years at Topps, an area department store selling jewelry and cameras.

After graduation, a friend asked Gail to accompany her to AT&T to apply for a job. A test was required. Gail passed the test while her friend did not. To obtain her position, Gail was required to sign a paper stating she would stay for 2 years. She hesitated but then signed. Gail worked at AT&T for 38 years. She was a key punch operator and later worked as a service rep at various locations in the Detroit area for 34 years. One of her memories while working at an AT&T center near the Republican convention in 1980 was having a chance to see Nancy Reagan and Elizabeth Taylor. Now Gail works 1 day a week at a framing store in Lake Orion.

Gail married Steve Stoner (son of Chuck and Floris Stoner) in 1982. They first met at AT&T's Southfield facility when Steve was hired in 1978. Steve's father Chuck was also a longtime AT&T employee. Steve and Gail have 2 sons. The oldest lives in Seattle and works as a robotics programmer. Their youngest son lives in Royal Oak and works at an area hotel.

Gail loves to go antiquing looking for pottery, old post cards from 1910 era, cameras and Halloween items. She spends a month each year decorating inside and outside for Halloween and Christmas.

Her hobbies have included photography, decorating, gardening, listening to all types of music (especially rock 'n roll) and attending concerts.

How did Gail find Paint Creek? Chuck Stoner kept inviting her to visit our church, but she never came until Chuck passed away and she started driving Flo to church. Gail started at Paint Creek a year ago and was in the last membership class.

What does Gail like about Paint Creek? She finds the church membership to be "warm and welcoming, a family atmosphere and also very personal."

We can thank Gail for the many food dishes she prepares for Sunday fellowship. Recently she agreed to serve as Outreach Chairperson and on the church council. Gail has previous experience at AT&T running their Christmas gift giving program. This experience will be helpful as our chairperson.

We are delighted Gail has joined our church family as she is a wonderful addition.

Missions FLINT WATER CRISIS APPEAL

Paint Creek raised \$475.00 to help the residents of Flint faced with lead in their water supply. Thank you members for supporting this important fund raiser. (Donations are still being accepted).

REMINDER
The first Sunday of each month is a pot luck meal for fellowship time. Bring in those tasty dishes that your families enjoy.

Memorial Day May 30th





HOWARTH NEWS:

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

April

Brianna Howden	Apr 3
John Pollitt	Apr 4
Robert (RJ) Key	Apr 6
Tim Spencer	Apr 7
Mathew Landon Spencer	Apr 7
Ashley Howden	Apr 13
Stephanie Lamas	Apr 18
Nickoli Nelson	Apr 24
Barb Hill	Apr 26
Ruth Lambert	Apr 26
Hunter Lamas	Apr 28

Anniversaries

Randy & Stephanie Lamas	Apr 10
Ray & Rita Sauls	Apr 15
Dave & Sue Linsenman	Apr 19
Scott & Jennifer Howden	Apr 24

May

Dawn (Pollitt) Key	May 1
Katie Nelson	May 1
Angela LaCourse	May 7
Erika LaCourse	May 8
Lois Sayers	May 13
Thomas Spencer	May 14
PJ Sandstrom	May 15
Paul Hamman	May 19
Rick Rowden	May 30
Ray Sauls	May 30

Anniversaries

John & Pat Pollitt	May 9
Jim & Pat Staley (50th)	May 14

June

Casie Rowden	June 8
Trent Davis (Getz)	June 12
Adam Sandstrom	June 13
Cheryl Everhart	June 19
Rose Ann Spencer	June 19
Randy Lamas	June 23
Pat Staley	June 25
Marie Dillenbeck	June 26
Marilyn Foster	June 28

Anniversaries

Rick & Sharon Rowden June 10
Paul & Kaye Hamman June 12

THANK YOU TO:

Jim Staley and Steve Ferrell for installing the new light in the women's bathroom.

Rick and Sharon for the purchase of a freezer.

All the great cooks who helped out at the Easter Breakfast. Great food.

MISSIONS:

Howarth is still collecting, used postage stamps, Campbell's Labels, fronts of greeting cards and eyeglasses/and cases.

Also, don't forget to bring in your quarters for the Love, INC. Laundry Mission. (If you need a container to collect your quarters in, see Sharon).

Money in the "gas can collected at coffee hour goes to Love, INC. to purchase gas cards.

HOWARTH UMW NEWS:

Spring is finally here (hopefully)! Tuesday Musicales will be held on May 10th (second Tuesday of May), 6:30. Volunteers needed to help serve and clean up. Contact Marilyn.

Dinner season has come around again. Schedule below:

- May 25th: Turkey
 - June 22nd: Pot Roast
 - July 27th: Swiss Steak
 - Aug. 24th Pot Roast
 - Sept. 28th: Swiss Steak
 - Oct. 26th: Pork
 - Nov. 12th: Turkey
- Dinners served 4:30 – 7 pm

UMW sponsoring Casie Rowden's 4-H Dog Show in May with a donation of \$100.

Our church will be advertised at each arena. More information about the dog show is available in the fellowship hall.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 17th, 10:45 am.

Marilyn Foster

REMINDER:

Upper Rooms, a daily devotional magazine, are available for free in the hallway by the nursery. Help yourself to one today.

There is a box in the narthex for items being donated to Love, Inc. Items needed, household items, bedding, dishes, pans, towels, just about anything you use in your own household. Clothing needed also (summer clothes only please)!

BRYAN'S HOPE MEETINGS

are held the 4th Thursday of each month at Howarth, 7 pm.

The Trumpet is published 4 times a year by the Howarth/Paint Creek UMC.
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Father's Day June 19th



The General Board of Global Ministries event, Ministry With the Poor will be hosted by Cass United Methodist Church.

This national “best-practices” experiential training will focus on housing, employment and community development, geared toward those looking to implement such programs in their own communities.

Rev. Faith Fowler

The Rev. Faith Fowler, pastor of the church and founder of Cass Community Social Services, directs one of Detroit’s most effective and original charitable agencies.

Creation is key at Cass, from apartment buildings for transitional clients to a green warehouse turning city garbage into sandals and floor mats selling globally online.

“Homeless people are coming right off the street, moving into transitional housing and they are staying. There are people sticking around to be role models to others saying, ‘Hey! I made it!’”

The event is May 18-20, 2016 at Cass Community UMC, 11850 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit MI. Cost is \$100 and a limited number of scholarships are available.

The experience will focus on:

- job creation using community resources and volunteers;
- the theology of work;
- the story of Cass Community Services;
- how to recruit and manage volunteers.

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