

# THE TRUMPET

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Dec 2014/Jan/Feb 2015

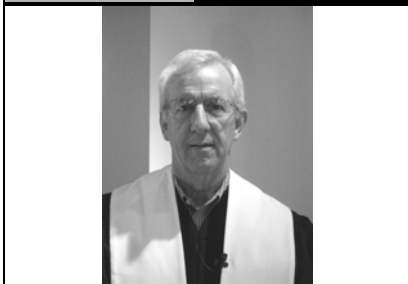
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## pastor's column



Greetings,

It can't be Advent already! Friends, Christmas will come whether we get ready for it or not. Christ will come whether we're ready or not. So now the greens have been hung, the candles have been placed, and the first Advent candle has been lit.

So as we approach, meet and go through this season of Advent we will begin the cycle of the church year all over again. We will look forward to Christ's advent into the world. We will gaze into the face of the babe of Bethlehem who came to lay down His life as a ransom for our tired souls.

Advent is the season when we prepare ourselves to receive God's gift of Jesus. It is a time of "getting ready" for the celebration of Christmas.

Advent invites us to fill the cup of today with a full measure of tomorrow. Advent is the season of the Christian church for expectation, waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

And what our children need this Christmas is not a bunch of things. What they need is time with people who love them, people who will affirm them. Don't spend more time at the mall than at the manger. Don't focus too much on what is under the tree and too little on who is in the stable. Don't get so caught up in the superficial busy-ness of Christmas that you forget the essential business of Christ.

My gift to you as your Pastor this Advent season is to bring the heartbeat of the living Christ to our congregations. To be there for you in the spirit of Christ in your joy's and your sorrows from the cradle to the grave.

Lois and I will receive many wonderful gifts I am certain of that, but one of the most treasured gifts that we will receive this year is the gift of *your* presence in our lives.

Make unwrapping Heaven's gift the first gift on Christmas morning. Merry Christmas and have a blessed and joyous New Year.

Grace, Peace & Love,

Pastor Tom

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**NEWSLETTER**

**DEADLINE:**

**February 9, 2015**

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**There'll Always Be A Christmas**

There'll always be a Christmas  
To bring us hope and peace,  
And nothing can destroy it..  
The joy will never cease.  
Whatever are our problems,  
Whatever we must face,  
We gain a new perspective  
Within this time of grace.  
There'll always be a Christmas  
Though every dream may fail,  
It's something we can count on

*Cont. pg. 2*

*There'll Always be A Christmas cont.*

through each December trail.  
The twinkling trees, and Santa,  
As carols flood the air,  
The church bells ringing gaily-  
While people kneel in prayer.

There'll always be a Christmas  
Because upon this day,  
Was born the blessed Jesus  
Who came to light our way.  
*Author unknown.*

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLLIGHT SERVICES:

Howarth: 6:30 p.m.  
Paint Creek: 8:00 p.m.

Pastor Tom and Lois will be on vacation from December 28<sup>th</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will be back in the pulpit January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015! (Enjoy that much deserved time off, both of you!)

All three locations of Modetz Family Funeral Homes are collecting new or gently used sweaters, sweat-shirts, warm hats, gloves or mittens to be given to veterans in the VA Hospital and to the homeless veterans at the Michigan Veterans Foundation in Detroit. All sizes for men and women are needed from medium to 3X. Items will be collected through January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Michigan Area **Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey** announced November 18 that she has regretfully accepted Blue Water District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Joanne R. Bartelt's request for an immediate disability leave.

In the announcement, Bishop Kiesey also named retired pastor and former superintendent Rev. Duane E. Miller to serve as interim Blue Water District Superintendent, effective December 1, 2014 until July 1, 2015. A permanent appointment will be announced in the coming months.

"It deeply saddens me to accept Joanne's request for leave." Said Bishop Kiesey, "She is a vital member of our cabinet, a faithful leader of the Blue Water District and someone deeply committed to the work of Jesus Christ and our denomination." Bishop Kiesey added, "We will miss her joyful and caring approach to ministry and pray for her quick return to full health."

Since 2009, Rev. Dr. Joanne Bartelt has served as the District Superintendent in the Blue Water District. Previously, she served Ann Arbor First UMC, Gladstone Memorial UMC and Rochester St Paul's UMC.

"I am deeply grateful for Duane's willingness to return to lead as the interim DS in the Blue Water District. "Commented Bishop Kiesey, "Duane's leadership has always been an exceptional gift to our conference and I look forward to working with him on the cabinet." Bishop Kiesey continued, "Please hold him in your prayers as he cares for the people of the Blue Water District."

Rev. Miller retired in 2011. In addition to serving as the Detroit East District Superintendent, he served Memphis: First/Lamb Charge, Seymour Lake UMC, Caro UMC, Macomb Community Church and the Gwinn/Ishpeming/Salisbury Charge. From 1986 to 1996, he served as the Associate Council Director of Stewardship and Evangelism for the Detroit Annual Conference.

Letters of appreciation and support can be sent to Rev. Dr. Joanne R. Bartelt in care of the Blue Water District Office, 3061 Commerce

Drive, Suite 5, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059.

### PAINT CREEK NEWS:

#### THANK YOU:

Big thanks to all who have participated in the decorating of the sanctuary for Christmas. Beautiful

Jerolyn Szuch for her musical direction each week. We appreciate your commitment to our choir.

As we near the end of 2014, it's time to say "Thank you" for your generous and faithful donations all year to Paint Creek UMC.

We try to take good care of all your contributions and to use them wisely.

Best wishes for the Christmas, and New Year seasons.  
Cal Devitt, Treasurer



#### Birthdays & Anniversaries: December

Cindy Jacklin	Dec 4
Clif Morgan	Dec 6
Laura (Devitt) Moggio	Dec 8
Pat Wise	Dec 14
Sandy Knaack	Dec 17
Martin Burkhart	Dec 21
Mike King	Dec 21
John Knoche	Dec 22

#### Anniversaries

Shaila & Lalit Herbert	Dec 21
Preston & Jennifer Burkhart	Dec 24
John & Miki Knoche	Dec 26
Bill & Jerolyn Szuch	Dec 28

## January

Nancy Nawrocki	Jan 1
Jerolyn Szuch	Jan 7
Clifford Keast	Jan 9
Tommy Barkham	Jan 9
Virginia Ferguson	Jan 14
Jean Lutz	Jan 18
John Taylor	Jan 21
William Smith Moggio	Jan 21
Elizabeth Reitz	Jan 22
Leslie Keast	Jan 24
Jeff Meirow	Jan 30

## Anniversaries

Robert & Reva LaFountain	Jan 4
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## February

Dolores Burkhart	Feb 2
Lalit Herbert	Feb 3
Linda Pasternak	Feb 7
Mary Taylor	Feb 7
Colleen Barkham	Feb 15
Judy Mair	Feb 19
John Mars	Feb 24

**Anniversaries** (none)

## PERSON OF FAITH:

Jan Van Dyke

Who drives the farthest to attend Paint Creek Sunday worship services? That would be Jan Van Dyke. She drives round trip 73 miles each Sunday from Hartland. What is Jan's story?

Jan was born in Detroit and lived in Redford until she was 1 year old when the family moved to Macomb township. Her dad worked for the Macomb County Health Department dealing with environmental health issues. Eventually he became an administrator of the health department.

Her mother was a stay-at-home mom until Jan was in high school. Mom worked part-time in the Chippewa

Valley schools in the kitchen, library and finally as a secretary. Jan had 3 siblings (one now deceased) - 2 brothers and a sister with Jan being #2 of these siblings.

Jan attended schools in 3 districts graduating from Chippewa High School. Her advanced studies were at Macomb Community College then transferring to Michigan State University where she graduated with a degree in elementary education. Due to a job lay off in 1982, Jan attended Eastern Michigan University training to teach emotionally impaired children. This course work allowed her to return to the classroom the following school year working with elementary children in the Special Education program for 4 years. The remainder of her teaching experience was in regular elementary classes.

Jan retired in 2011 after 36 years with the Huron Valley Schools. Her family was all the children she taught during her career in education.

Travel has been an adventure for Jan as she has camped across the U.S.A. and Canada.

Her favorite locations have been along Lake Michigan and the northwest area of our state. Jan use to hike, bike and horseback ride before caring for her elderly father in recent years. Now Jan enjoys reading and looking for new adventures and experiences.

Pastor Tom was surprised one June Sunday when Jan showed up to visit with Pastor and Lois. Pastor Tom had handled her father's funeral

weeks earlier. Much to her surprise she felt at home during this visit. Jan sensed "a feeling of warmth, joy and friendliness" so decided to attend Paint Creek each Sunday. Jan states: "She feels joy all week long after attending church." This is the first time she has felt this way in all her years of attending churches.

What does Jan enjoy about Paint Creek? She enjoys Pastor Tom's sermons, his delivery and that members welcome you with open arms.

She now feels her family is the Paint Creek membership. Paint Creek welcomes Jan and is glad to have her as a choir member and new member of our church.

## **8<sup>th</sup> ANUAL Christmas**

**Cookie** sale will be Sat. Dec. 13th, Pick up 9:00 - 1:00. One assorted decorated box of 3 dozen homemade Christmas cookies is \$20.00. The cookie selection has been made and bakers are needed, (recipes provided) also people to box cookies Friday the 12th, and sellers Sat. the 13th. See Becky, Colleen or Gretchen to sign up. We have always sold out so get your orders and money in prior to the sale, form in bulletins. A group bake will be held at Howarth's kitchen Monday Dec. 8 at 9:00 a.m.

**Serving Christmas Meal at warming shelter. 111 a.m. Christmas Day. Contact Paul Sandstrom if you would like to volunteer to help.**

## HOWARTH NEWS:



### Birthdays & Anniversaries: December

Penny Peterson	Dec 8
Shirley Reeves	Dec 12
Dick Hill	Dec 13
Tim Getz	Dec 15
Caden Nelson	Dec 27

### Anniversaries (none)

### January

Tami Wayne (Spencer)	Jan 1
Dennis Waite	Jan 12
Eric Everhart	Jan 12
Elizabeth Reitz	Jan 22
Katherine Thatcher	Jan 23
Matthew Spencer	Jan 23

### Anniversaries

### February

NONE

Anniversaries (none)

### Thank you to...

All of our devoted dinner helpers, pie bakers and clean-up crew. Without all of you, we would never be able to pull off the dinners!

All of our coffee hour hostesses (new sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.)

to Ray for all your help with the maintenance around the church.

Special thanks to Pat & John Pollitt for the use of their vehicle to remove the stump in the grass behind the church!



Thanks to everyone for your kindness, and patience this past year. You are a blessing to me and my family! "Christ Is Born - May the wonder of His love fill every waiting heart."

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!  
From, Sharon

### ANGELFISH

Once again we are purchasing gifts for children in need through the Angelfish program in Oxford/Orion. A big thank you to the shoppers: Lois Sayers, Pat Pollitt, Katie Nelson and Sharon. Special thanks to the UMW for their generous donation of \$600 to pay for these gifts.



### HOWARTH UMW NEWS:

Thank you to everyone who worked at our 2014 dinners. Special thanks to Paint Creek "sisters & brothers" who baked pies and helped serve. (Thanks to Suzy Kelly for the 10 pies she made for the turkey dinner!)

All of our dinners for 2014 were well attended & had great profits. Several of our missions benefit from a percentage of each. The turkey dinner made a profit of \$1,814, served 211.

UMW donated \$600 to purchase gifts for less fortunate children through the O/O

FISH. Christmas Bonuses will be given again this year. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a most Happy 2015!

Marilyn Foster,  
President UMW

### REMINDER:

Howarth is still collecting, used postage stamps, Campbell's labels and eye-glasses/and cases. Also, don't forget to bring in you quarters for the LOVE, Inc. Laundry Mission. Money in the "gas can" collected at coffee hour goes to LOVE, INC. to purchase gas cards.

\$200 dollars from the turkey dinner was used to purchase items for the Baldwin Center Holiday Store, where the less fortunate are able to select items for family members for Christmas.



### Partridge in a Pear Tree

1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning; the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

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The **partridge** in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.  
Two **turtle doves** were the Old and New Testaments.  
Three **French hens** stood for faith, hope and love.  
The four **calling birds** were the four gospels of John  
The five **golden rings** recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the testament.  
The six **geese a-laying** stood for the six days of creations.  
Seven **swans a-swimming** represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit- Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The **eight maids a milking** were the eight beatitudes.  
**Nine ladies dancing** were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit- Love, Joy, Self-Control.  
The **ten lords a leaping** were the Ten Commandments.  
The **eleven pipers piping** stood for the eleven faithful disciples.  
The **twelve drummers drumming** symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

So, there is your history for today. This was shared with me and I found it interesting and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol.

The Trumpet is published 6 times a year by the  
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**The most important part of Christmas...is the first 6 letters.**

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Merry  
Christmas