

The Communiqué

FEBRUARY
2010

FROM PASTOR KEN'S PEN (UH...PC!)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you. In every prayer of mine I always make my entreaty and petition for you all with joy (delight). (I thank my God) for your fellowship (your sympathetic cooperation and contributions and partnership) in advancing the good news (the Gospel) from the first day (you heard it) until now. And I am convinced until the day of Jesus Christ (right up to the time of His return), developing (that good work) and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you." (Philippians 1:3-6)

It seems hard to believe that in just two months, I will begin my sixth year of ministry at Community Church! Pat and I have much to be thankful for in your ministry to us. From the very first day, you have loved us unconditionally and time and time again you have gone above and beyond the call of duty in your support of us, once again demonstrated by your sacrificial giving toward a retirement annuity program for the Pastor of Community Church. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts! The special gifts of cash, peanut brittle, cookies, ornaments, candy, etc. during the recent holiday season were also greatly appreciated.

Now I must personally ask you for yet another favor: **"Don't give up the ship!"** In June of 1813, Captain James Lawrence, in command of the U.S.S. Chesapeake, engaged the British frigate H.M.S. Shannon just outside Boston Harbor. After a short, bloody battle, the Chesapeake was seriously damaged and her captain lay mortally wounded. Reportedly, Lawrence died with his last command still on his lips: *'Tell the men to fire faster, fight 'til she sinks, boys. Don't give up the ship.'* The Americans lost the battle and were compelled to surrender the Chesapeake, but Lawrence's dying words lived on. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, who is frequently and incorrectly credited with being the source of the phrase, had Lawrence's words stitched onto a battle flag. Perry later coined his own phrase: *'We have met the enemy and they are ours.'* You may be ask-

ing yourself, "How does this relate to church?" Well, sometimes when things don't go according to our own plans or personal desires, we are convinced by the enemy that the best thing we could do is to surrender the command and concede defeat.

Defeat is exactly what our Adversary would want us to accept. May I remind you that none of us have come to Community Church by accident, chance, or randomness. First of all, I don't believe that God's plan for the church includes such things. Every one of us is here by divine providence because we have something to offer, as well as something to receive. When I think of the tremendous potential and abilities represented by our somewhat small congregation, I am overwhelmed and truly humbled to be your pastor. Sure, there are things that we would like to see move along faster, or changed, or added, or eliminated—but Solomon said it well when he said, "To everything there is a season..." (Eccl. 3:1). We are here for such a time as this!

The advances made in the last five years are staggering—not because of me, but often in spite of me! Ministry is happening visibly and behind the scenes. Lives have changed spiritually, people are more adept biblically, and we have direction for our future. Don't allow the things that you desire that have not yet come to fruition bring discouragement. Don't become cynical or pessimistic. Don't look for greener pastures. **Don't give up the ship!** Pat and I have committed the remainder of our ministry years to our congregation (Lord willing). Are there things I'm not fond of or would prefer to see changed? Of course, I'm human! But, our Father knows best, and we should be confident of the One who has begun a good work in us. My heartfelt desire is to see many children running around our facility, young married couples, all age groups represented, etc.



Celebrations	2
Bits from Betty	2
Upcoming Events	2
Budget	3
Stewardship/Finance	3
Clerk's Corner	3
Christian Education	4
Capital Campaign	4
Property/Maintenance	4
Outreach	5
Worship	5
Presbyterian Women	5
Calendar	6
Fellowship	7
Music	7
Building Committee	7



Your desire may be to see a praise band in our worship or tightening the traditional "belt." Whatever it may be, don't give up the ship! Let us all devote ourselves to being a part of the solution and not just pointing out the problems! Blessings to all, and I'll see you in church.

Ken

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Billy & Arei McGahey
- 12 Joe & Shirley Rieger
- 16 Dan & Wreatha Crowder
- 19 Jim & Rosemary Marschke
- 20 Clyde & Mary Small



THANK YOU

To our lay readers, ushers, greeters, communion servers and flower arranger for the month of January:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Jim Brate | Pat Polit | Pete Newkirk |
| Nick Newkirk | Joni Newkirk | Linda Dattler |
| Jan Doetsch | Bill Foster | Barbara Kyle |
| Bob Ronna | Billie Ronna | Rosie Hawthorne |
| Murray McMahan | | Wallace Hoffman |



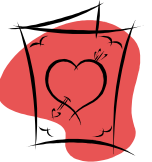
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Barb Sandlin
- 2 Marilyn McMahon & Ruth Spicuzza
- 5 Corbin Miles
- 15 Don Burke
- 18 Billy McGahey
- 25 Jim Marschke
- 26 Arlene Morford



QUILLING CLASS

Quilling will start again on Friday, February 5. New quillers welcome. Beginner’s kit is \$5.00. Learn to make greeting cards, pictures, place cards, name tags, etc. Do join us from 10:00—11:30 AM in Deatherage Hall. Contact Lois Weber (323-8939) to register.



BITS FROM BETTY

You should have received your yearly financial statements. If you have not received yours, or if you have questions, please call me.

New directories were printed on January 18. Please pick up one, if you haven’t already done so, in the Narthex. As always, I will post corrections in the newsletter for you to update your copy until the next printing. One to a family, please.

The membership committee is asking for all to wear their name tags. If you do not have one, or if you have lost yours and need a replacement, please contact me. If your name tag is broken, I now have replacement “hooks” available.

CPR CLASS

Thursday, February 18, from 9:00—12:00 at Deatherage Hall. There will be a \$10.00 fee per person to cover the cost of the lungs used in the class. If interested, contact Sallyann Astaldi at 365-2803.



GRIEFSHARE PROGRAM

GriefShare is a 13-week support group to help people grieving the death of a family member or friend. The presentations are by DVD videos and workbooks that will be provided. Pastor Ken and Pat will co-facilitate the group on Sunday afternoons (2:30PM) beginning February 14. Your loss need not be recent and is open to anyone who is still struggling with their loss. This group is not designed for grief brought about by other losses (e.g. loss of job, etc.) but is geared specifically for loss through death. If interested, let Ken or Pat know as soon as possible.



GOLF OUTING

Plans are in the works for the first Annual Community Church Golf Outing. All golfers are invited. Men, women, good golfers and duffers, anyone who enjoys the game. If you are interested, please contact Tom Astaldi at 365-2803 or tomnsala@embarqmail.com. Once we get an idea on the number of golfers interested, we will work out the details.



THE PROFITTS COMING TO COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Profitts are an established husband and wife ministry team consisting of Jim and Shirley Profit. Jim is an ordained minister of the Church of God, has pastored for 17 years and is currently serving as an evangelist. Shirley is an inspirational song-writer/singer and a motivational speaker at many women’s conferences. They have been privileged to minister in song and word all across America as well as internationally. Their goal is to see more people come to the knowledge of Christ and to see Christians draw closer to God.

The Profitts will perform at Community Church on Friday, February 26 at 7:00 following a covered dish dinner at 6:00 in Deatherage Hall. Why not invite a friend and be part of a special Gospel sing!



Community Church **FINANCIAL RECAP** as of 12-31-09

Operating Account

Beginning Balance	\$31,580.96
Disbursements	-\$29,338.24
Deposits	+\$34,084.00
Ending Balance—Operating Account	\$36,326.72

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget 2009</u>
Pledge Receipts	\$7,202.00	\$87,277.00	\$100,000.00
Non-Pledge Receipts	\$10,525.00	\$53,566.09	\$ 65,000.00

Contributions Received—Capital Campaign	\$ 92,603.37
Balance Land Purchase Mortgage	\$309,317.73

P & L Recap YTD

Year-to-Date Operating Income	\$142,951.08
Year-to-Date Operating Expenses	\$151,992.61
YTD Income (Loss)	- \$ 9,041.53

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

As of January 22, 2010, the Stewardship and Finance committee has met multiple times for multiple hours, and shared multiple e-mails in order to prepare a budget proposal for the Session for 2010. Every expense in the budget has been carefully reviewed and several items have been reduced from the 2009 budget while other items were reduced from the 2009 actual. These reductions have cut deeply into the programs and witness of Community Church. This is a situation that we should not/cannot allow to continue.

We closed the books in 2009 with a \$9,200 loss. That is, we spent that much more than we contributed. Now, as this is being written, the committee is struggling with a 2010 budget in which a \$10,000 deficit is projected. Currently our fixed costs, i.e., payroll, maintenance, office supplies, and utilities, consume about 95% of our budget. That leaves only 5% of our budget with which to support our primary purpose which is to increase



our witness to the glory of God and His love for all people, by spreading the “Good News” and bringing more people to the Lord. But, while we start here in Howey in the Hills, we must also enable ourselves to reach out to surrounding neighborhoods.

Something to consider: Billy Graham once said, “Give me five minutes with a person’s checkbook and I will tell you where their heart is.” This tells me that we support that which we love the most! So, if we truly love our church, we will support its mission and its current facilities, while providing the income that will allow for our future expansion.

Many churches have endowments that provide income to support specific missions or the continued growth of the church. We each need to be prayerfully considering how we can create our own endowment for the future of our church. In future articles, we will share some ideas on how that can be done.

Dave Hoffmeyer, Chair
Stewardship/Finance

CLERK’S CORNER

The Session and Pastoral Care Committee wish to thank you for the generous response to their letter asking for donations for the pastor’s retirement fund for 2009. It was the first year of the fund’s implementation, and it was gratifying to see how well the concept was received. We not only met the goal of putting \$10,000 into the annuity that has been opened for this purpose, but we have a good start towards 2010 with the excess amount of \$3,200 being carried forward and put against this year’s \$10,000 deposit. This fund was established by your church leaders to supplement the almost non-existent pension for the current and future pastors of Community Church. It was agreed that monies collected for this purpose would come strictly from donations and not be a budget item. The goal is to put \$10,000 into the annuity at the end of each calendar year and to continue funding such a savings plan for all future pastors of Community Church. “Ask and you shall receive” has been this church’s mantra for as long as I can remember, and once more that proved to be true.

Rosie Hawthorne, Clerk

PROGRAMS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Here we are in the second month of 2010. Have you “stepped” into any Christian education classes yet? Just look at all the paths awaiting you.

If you are interested in learning more about various world religions, wander over to Grace Place on Sunday mornings at 10:00. You will find a group of 18—20 adults enjoying fellowship, goodies and discussion. Contact Billie Ronna (324-1223) for more information.

We are hoping to rev up our 10:00 Sunday School program for children. We need some volunteers who are willing to teach the class. Then we will be ready when the children arrive. If interested in helping, contact Pat Polit (638-6139).

On January 26, we began a new study on the death and resurrection of Jesus. This series will run for ten weeks and better prepare us for Easter. We meet in Deatherage Hall at



5:30 for refreshments and then begin our study from 6:00—7:30. If you would like to participate, call Betsy Folk (407-402-9180).

Pastor Ken’s 4:00 Thursday class in Deatherage Hall is wrapping up their study of election. A new topic (TBA) will begin in the next week or so. Why not join us to see what it’s all about?

Approximately twelve people have been actively participating in Elder Dan Crowder’s seminar series on Saturday mornings from 10:00—11:30 in Deatherage Hall. Upcoming topics include Fundamental Human Equality, The Open Class Society, The Idea of Progress and Puritanism: The Ethic of Work and Self Reliance. For more information, contact Dan Crowder (242-2633).

We hope you will choose to join us and take a “closer walk with God.”

Pat Polit, Chair

Christian Education

IMPROBABLE JOURNEY

Time is running out to purchase your copy of Dan Crowder’s **Improbable Journey**, a sequential autobiography recounting the author’s extraordinary life experiences, including jobs held, personal and professional writings, and the impressions he has made on others. It reveals his deeply-held views on a variety of subjects from religion, to politics, and especially education.

In this book the reader will find a compelling true story of the faith and determination, trials and tribulations, of a Depression-era American farm boy who dropped out of school at 15 to support himself, his widowed mother and younger brother, and went on to realize his fondest dream—to become a college professor and college president and to make a significant contribution to the building of a better world.

If you like uplifting, inspiring stories, this book is a **must** read. So be sure to contact Dan for your special autographed copy. Proceeds go to the Capital Campaign fund.

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE

I hope everyone had a Happy New Year. This month we installed a new water heater in Grace Place. We went to the Bushnell property on January 18th to clean up the yard. We will be having a meeting with all the people who want to help with the maintenance of the grounds and buildings some time in February. There will be a notice of this meeting in the Sunday bulletin soon!

Many, many thanks to Les Deatherage for all of his work at Grace Place. He has repaired the garage door opener and the drainage spouts. Thanks also to everyone who stepped up to clean the church in Russ Spitzer’s absence.

God bless,

Marvin Pool

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS PIPES

Have you noticed that the paint on the white plastic pipes has been gradually moving up, like a thermometer taking the temperature of our congregation? Two upright plastic pipes, one outside the Narthex east door and the other, marking a corner of the church’s 10 acre property on Highway 19 south of Howey, are being updated on a monthly basis with red and green paint, as visual indicators to remind us how the Capital Campaign is progressing.

The total height of the pipe indicates the amount of the mortgage remaining from the original \$320,000 note. The red indicates the amount pledged as a result of the capital campaign, and the green indicates the money collected for the land purchase.

As of the end of 2009, the amount of mortgage remaining was \$310,178.09. The amount pledged over the three year period as a result of the capital campaign currently is \$243,904 (red), representing 78.63% of the mortgage remaining. The money actually received in the original land purchase fund combined with capital campaign contributions to meet the pledges is \$107,984.73 (green), representing 34.81% of the mortgage remaining, with another approximately two years of collections to go on the capital campaign pledges.

As you can easily see, even if 100% of the pledged amount is received at the end of the three year campaign period, we could still see a shortfall in paying off the mortgage, unless additional funds are received. The status of the mortgage on the land purchase will be updated on the pipes every month, so watch the green creep up the pipe. We pray that with your consecrated help, and additional contributions, we can paint the entire pipe green, right to the very top of its entire height! So please remember to pay your pledges.

Les Deatherage

REACHING OUT WITH OUTREACH

When you look on publications that the church prints and distributes, whether it be a bulletin, newsletter or brochure, you will see that the pastor is listed with Pastor Ken's name, then below that is listed "Minister" with the words "every member." How often do we think about those words? How often do we think about the word "minister" and its meaning? According to the 1982 edition of the World Book Dictionary, minister means: "n. a person who is given charge of a department of government, a servant or attendant; v. to attend, serve, to

be helpful; give aid." Okay, so now that you have some meat to chew on, where are we, as a church, ministering to the community of Howey in the Hills/Lake County? Where are YOU serving, attending or giving?

The Outreach committee does just that—reaches out. We are writing cards and calling our first time visitors, making contact and building relationships. We host several events, yearly, to bring our love to the community. Without some of these things, as a church, we would surely die in twenty years.



We must continue to think out of the box, come out of our comfort zone and reach out!

So, when someone from ANY committee asks for help "think not what your church can do for you but what can you do for your church?"

Outreach committee meets at 6:30 PM on the second Thursday of every month in Grace Place. Every "minister" is encouraged to attend!

God Bless,
Pat Folmsbee
Outreach Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE—A LOOK BEHIND AND FORWARD

As we close out the Advent season, we look back at the memorable events that made this a truly wondrous season. We started with the Hanging of the Greens service and followed that up with the choir's outstanding presentation of the Christmas Cantata on December 20th. During the Advent season, we used the new oil filled Advent candles (courtesy of the Presbyterian Women). All of this was capped off

with our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Now we can look forward to our Lenten season just ahead. We begin this with the Ash Wednesday service on February 17th at 7:00 PM. Palm Sunday services will be held on Sunday, March 28th. Maundy Thursday on April 1st will follow, and Easter Sunday will feature two services plus the sunrise service on the lake on April 4.

Plans for a Good Friday service are still being discussed and will be presented at a later date.



We welcome any and all interested persons to our meeting which are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in Grace Place. See you there.

Bill Foster, Chair
Worship Committee

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Are you interested in learning how to save money in your home? If so, come to our February 11th meeting and get some practical tips from a SECO representative on how to really save energy in your home this year. Conserving energy will not only lower your electric bill, it's also good for the environment.

Looking ahead, we want to remind you to be putting aside clothing and household items that could be sold at our annual **Thrift Sale** on March 12 and 13. Also, the PW will be offering the opportunity to sponsor an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one on Easter Sunday. Look for



order forms in the March 7 and 14th Sunday bulletins and March Communique.

Do you know how long it takes for the Habitat for Humanity Stamp Program to save \$55,000 to build a house? It all depends on the number of cancelled stamps contributed to the program. To date the Lake County stamp program has built two houses, and we can help them build the next one. Instead of throwing away your mail you can give them the following: cancelled stamps with some paper left around the stamp, stamped post cards, and stamped envelopes. We'll put a collection box in the Narthex so we can all support this project.

PW will sponsor "Blanket Sunday" on February 21 for Church World Service. The theme of the program this year is "BLANKETS+ you can blanket the world with love." From something as simple as a blanket, amazing things can happen...with your help. \$5.00 can provide warmth and protection to victims of a disaster, seeds and tools to struggling farmers, and water and health to impoverished communities. Let us give generously to BLANKETS+ on February 21. Last year our donation was \$515. Special envelopes will be in the pews on February 14 and 21. Checks should be made payable to Presbyterian Women.

Anne Preston
PW President

FEBRUARY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH Worship 6:30 GP Christian Educ 7:30 GP	3 Choir 6:30	4 Finance 2:00 GP Bible Study Cancelled AA 7:00 DH	5 Art Class 9:30 DH Quilling Class 10:00—11:30 DH	6 Dan Crowder's seminar 10:00—11:30 DH
7 Communion Sunday	8	9 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Membership 10:00 GP Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH	10 Food Pantry 9:30 GP Choir 6:30	11 PW 10—12:00 DH Bible Study 4:00 DH Outreach Mtg 6:30 GP AA 7:00 DH	12 Art Class 9:30 DH Quilling Class 10:00—11:30 DH	13 Dan Crowder's seminar 10:00—11:30 DH
14 Fellowship Luncheon GriefShare Program 2:30 Session 6:00	15	16 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH	17 Newsletter deadline 9:00 Choir 6:30 Ash Wednesday service 7:00	18 Bible Study 4:00 DH Deacons Mtg 6:30 GP AA 7:00 DH	19 Art Class 9:30 DH Quilling Class 10:00—11:30 DH	20 Dan Crowder's seminar 10:00—11:30 DH
21 Blanket Sunday	22	23 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH	24 Choir 6:30	25 Bible Study 4:00 DH AA 7:00 DH	26 Art Class 9:30 DH Quilling Class 10:00—11:30 DH The Profitts Pot Luck 6:00 Concert 7:00	27 Dan Crowder's seminar 10:00—11:30 DH
28						



OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 8:30—1:30



I'm now a true believer in the power of prayer even more than before. I wanted/prayed for cold weather for our soup luncheon, and it was SOOOO cold that there was almost more soup than people! Everyone who braved the cold was rewarded with an abundance of soup, sandwiches and desserts. Believe me, we made a huge dent in all of it! We were lucky that Wallace Hoffman brought his camera to church because he captured the icy fountain outside Deatherage Hall. We

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

may never see that again in our lifetimes—at least I hope not.

February's upcoming fellowship luncheon just happens to fall on Valentine's Day. Here in my development, we're having a Valentine Day dinner and will be serving red spaghetti and red cherry cheesecake. Let's adopt the same red theme and bring something with red in it for the February luncheon. If you



lack imagination (like me), anything you bring will be welcome.

By the time you read this, our cold snap will hopefully be over, and we'll be enjoying some warm Florida weather again. Remember, wear red and cook red in February!

Rosie Hawthorne

Fellowship Elder

NOTES FROM NORINE

Greetings All,

While I am writing this note to you, the choir is preparing to sing a medley with 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'Stand Up for Jesus'. We, as Christians, are all God's army, the soldiers of the cross, and we, as a Christian nation, need to take up that cross and not be afraid to speak up for Jesus, the Lamb of God. We can all start by portraying Christ-like behavior. Remember several years ago when everyone was wearing pins and necklaces that had the initials, WWJD? WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Perhaps we need to revisit that question and keep it constantly on our minds and in our hearts. We, as the Lord's soldiers, need to keep Jesus in our hearts in order to show others that we can make this world a better place. He never fails us, and we must not fail Him.

We have many different medleys planned this year, and many new anthems. The choir has already started learning the music for our Easter service. The service (both 9:00 & 11:00) we have planned for you will include some congregational participation, the choir singing inspirational songs, and narration and stories that are sure to touch your heart. In addition, we are working on many new anthems for the Sunday worship services.

Did you know that you can make a donation to the choir in honor of a loved one for their birthday or anniversary? You may also make a donation in memory of a loved one who has gone to be with the Lord. The music purchased with your donation will be imprinted with your name in honor or



in memory of the name of your loved one. Should the Lord speak to your heart and lead you to make a special donation to the choir, you simply put a note with your check including the dedication information.

Lastly, just a reminder that we are hosting a Gospel sing on February 26th featuring The Profitts. I am counting on each of you to give this couple your warmest welcome. The Profitts are just one of the many groups we have seen on our Pigeon Forge trips. This will be a great opportunity for all of you to see and hear what we experience for three days in Pigeon Forge. I hope to see each of you on February 26th so as to make this the blessed event that we are planning for you.

Keep a song in your heart,

Norine

BUILDING COMMITTEE

A site plan for our 10 acre property south of Howey, required for zoning purposes, has been developed and submitted. As part of the process, we have an unofficial floor plan encompassing 18,300 square feet. This representative plan includes most of the features requested by the various groups of the membership: 252 seat sanctuary/chapel, gym-sized multi-purpose room, choir room, pastor's suite, kitchen and pantry, and seven rooms for school, nursery, and hospitality.

The estimated cost for the required site preparation which includes a well, septic and pumping systems,

irrigation, parking, and acceleration/deceleration lanes is approximately \$500,000. The final building including all services and completed, furnished rooms could be four times the site preparation cost.

We also have agreed upon a proposed final phase building elevation; a colored rendition should be available some time in February.

We have been advised that it will be to our advantage when the time comes to seek a combined mortgage on the property and the building. Banks are more likely to give us a mortgage when our money is in the bank versus money in the property.

The Session has now charged the building committee to develop lower cost options due to the probable financial burden. This will result in a multiphase approach in which we may proceed to the final facility in several steps featuring—an initial smaller and/or sparser building which would be capable of expansion.

More details will have been covered at the January 24th informational meeting and may be in the long range planning portion of the forthcoming annual report.

Jim Reasor, Chair

Building Committee

COMMUNITY CHURCH

420 N. Palm Avenue

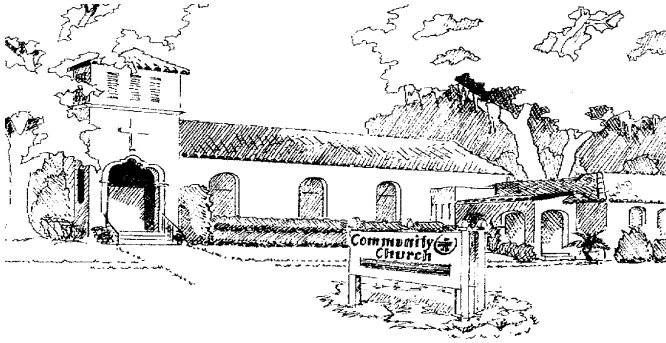
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737

“The Heart & Soul of Hills & Lakes”

352-324-2639

kayjay420@embarqmail.com

www.hithcc.org



The Communiqué

A monthly publication of

Community Church

Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida

Worship Services	Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Sunday School (Children)	Sunday 10:00 AM
Nursery Provided	Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Pairs and Spares (Adult)	Sunday 10:00 AM
Children's Church	Sunday 11:00 AM
Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday (2nd) 12:00 PM
Women's Bible Study	Tuesday 6:00 PM
Choir Practice	Wednesday 6:30 PM
Presbyterian Women	Thursday 10:00—noon (2nd)
Crafters	Thursday 9:30—noon (4th)
Bible Study	Thursday 4:00 PM
Art Group	Friday 9:30 AM