



The Meadowbrook Messenger

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

November 2007

A SIGNIFICANT TIME

As I look ahead into the month of November I see a calendar full of many celebrations and observances. While sometimes full calendars can make us feel like prisoners of busyness, as I consider November's activities, I find days filled with the meaningful use of our time. What we do in the month of November says a great deal about who we are as God's people and where we are going as a community of faith.

On **November 4th** we celebrate Consecration Sunday. This is the day we bring forward our Estimate of Giving cards for the upcoming church year. We give, not to meet our budget needs or to pay bills. We give because it is in giving that we set our priorities and offer a statement on our relationship to God. We give in response to what we perceive God has given us. Rabbi Norman Roman, a former colleague of mine in West Bloomfield, will offer us an inspirational message that day. A Victory Luncheon will follow.

On **November 10th** our church will hold its annual Service Auction. Items and service will be offered to the highest bidder. Everyone is encouraged to donate something enticing for auction. Everyone is equally encouraged to be there that evening at 7:00 p.m. to join in the fun.

On **November 11**, Veteran's Day, those in our fellowship who have served our country will be honored. Pictures of our veterans will grace the social hour in our Fellowship Hall.

Later that afternoon, Meadowbrook will host the "official" installation service for me as your minister. The service will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a reception following. The Rev. John Carson, an Associate Executive Secretary of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches will deliver the message at the service. There will be many churches from Novi, Southeast Michigan, and the Michigan Conference invited. I would hope that you would be there as we celebrate the meaning of our covenant in ministry.

Finally, on **November 18th** we will enjoy our annual Harvest Dinner. We remember and celebrate our Pilgrim heritage in such a gathering. There is a promise of good food, enjoyable fellowship, and for history buffs like me - the prospect of a good history lesson.

Don't miss out on this significant time!

Peace and grace,

Art

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**December Messenger
Deadline: Monday,
November 19**

BOOK CLUB

The November selection is *Cast of Shadows* by Kevin Guilfoile. In this thriller, a bereaved doctor undertakes a diabolical experiment to catch his daughter's murderer. Pick up a copy at your local library or book store and join us Tuesday, November 13th at 7:30 for a discussion.



Book Club Selections through June 2008

Second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

December 2007 - *For One More Day*
by Mitch Albom

January 2008 – *Tenth Circle*
by Jodi Picoult

February 2008 – *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*
by Laurie R. King

March 2008 – *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*
by Lisa See

April 2008 – *True and Outstanding Adventures of the
Hunt Sisters*
by Elizabeth Robinson

May 2008 – *Glass Castle: A Memoir*
by Jeannette Walls

June 2008 – *Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio: How
My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25 Words or Less*
by Terry Ryan

Jenkins ad



Are you ready to fly the coop? Are you on your way to Florida, Arizona, or warmer parts unknown? If you answered YES to the above, make sure your *Messenger* follows you! Let Nancy in the church office know your winter address, and she'll make sure you have all the news from your Meadowbrook Church family in a timely manner.

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE?

Please keep Reverend Ritter and the church deacons up to date on the important events in your family's life, by giving a call when:

- A new baby or child arrives
- The death of a loved one
- Hospitalization
- New address, telephone, or email
- Any concern regarding the life of the church



CHRISTMAS FAMILY WORKSHOP

The Christmas Workshop is a wonderful event for family and friends. The afternoon includes lunch and the making of holiday crafts for children and adults of all ages. The workshop will be December 2nd. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions feel free to call Jessica Hokett at home at 248-478-6502 or cell- 248-912-5065.

WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB

The Women's Service Club will meet Tuesday, November 13th at 9:30 a.m. at church. All women of the church are invited to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in the life of your church and make life long friends.

Church Attendance

September 30	164
October 7	107
October 14	175
October 21	140



Happy Birthday!



God's blessings on your

Richard Boerema	3	Shirley Wood	20
Phil Michalski	4	Barbara Miller	21
Bethany Scheller	5	Kathy Takeshita	22
Don Gaines	8	Amanda Bolton	24
Mark Malott	8	James Medeiros	26
Richard Lethemon, Jr.	9	Leland Mills	28
Tyler Vosgerchian	10	William Ahrens	28
Peg Pointon	11	Frank Maynard	28
Jane Ross	11	Jessica Vosgerchian	28
Christopher Boerema	12	Victoria Hilmer	30
Kristen Hague	12		
Sarah Scheller	16	Are you a November birthday,	
Mary Crockett	17	and you don't see your name on	
Edgar Vela	18	the list? Just give Nancy a call	
Dave Wonnacott	19	and she'll make sure to make the	
Lisa Campanella	20	correction?	
James Miller	20		



Those in the October Circle of Love were:

The family and friends of Bob Cook; Patrick Kuhl on the passing of his mother, Isobelle Kuhl; Lois Winters; Barbara Smith; Pat Canfield

USED READING GLASSES

The Lions Club of Novi is collecting used prescription reading glasses for people around the world. If you no longer needed glasses are cluttering that junk drawer or dresser top, please consider donating them. The collection box is in the Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Thanksgiving Day, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd.

November

Liturgists

November 4:	Vicki Gaines
November 11:	Carol Vandenberg
November 18:	Lesley Graham
November 25:	Lee Gross

Fellowship Hour

November 4:	Stewardship
November 11:	Nominations
November 18:	Deacons
November 25:	Christian Education

Greeters

November 4:
Shirley Weimar (Main)
Jody Scheller (West)

November 11:
Vicki Gaines (Main)
Katie Raeon (West)

November 18:
Shirley Wood (Main)
Geraldine & Lee Mills (West)

November 25:
Denise Parr (Main)
The Pearson Family (West)

Nursery

November 4:	Polidori/Broda
November 11:	Open
November 18:	Michalski
November 25:	Barry

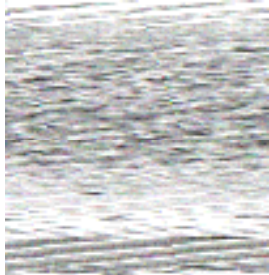
Deacon on Call

Bill Ahrens



USED CELL PHONES & CHARGERS

The collection box for used cell phones and chargers is located in the Fellowship Hall. The phones are used for social good as many phones are distributed for 911 (emergency only) services, providing battered women and senior citizens with a direct link to necessary communication. The collection also is a small fundraiser for the Christian Education Board.



2007 and 2008 Flower Charts

A flower chart for the remaining Sunday's in 2007 has been placed on the main bulletin board immediately outside the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in

signing up for flowers in November and/or December, 2007, please check out the available Sunday's on the chart.

The **2008 Flower Chart** is also posted and all Sunday's are available. If you would like to donate flowers to help beautify our Meeting House, please feel free to sign-up. You will be contacted by mail so we may appropriately dedicate your flower donation.

Meadowbrook Congregational Church Income and Expense Statement September 30, 2007

Income:

Total Income	
Current Period:	\$ 11,143.12
Year to Date:	\$174,869.67
Annual Budget:	\$292,008.00
Budget Received:	60%

Expenses:

Total Expenses	
Current Period:	\$31,232.34
Year to Date:	\$208,740.64
Annual Budget:	\$309,656.00
Budget Used:	67%

Excess Income/Expenses:

Current Period:	\$-20,089.22
Year to date:	\$-33,870.97

IS YOUR PLEDGE UP-TO-DATE?

VETERAN'S DAY RECOGNITION



On Sunday, November 11, Meadowbrook will be honoring its veterans and active duty service members during the worship service and also during coffee hour. Please assist us by bringing in framed pictures of yourself and/or family members in uniform, who are either veterans or currently serving in the military. Photographs will be displayed in Fellowship Hall and can be dropped off beginning Sunday, November 4. Please contact Nancy Barry or Katie Raeon if you have any questions.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

On November 4th, during worship, the members and friends of Meadowbrook Congregational Church will be given the opportunity to bring forward their Estimate of Giving cards for the next church year. Rabbi Norman Roman of Temple Kol Ami in West Bloomfield will present the message that day. Please consider how you may respond to the many blessings God has provided you throughout the year. There will be a Victory Luncheon following the service. Please sign up for the luncheon in the Fellowship Hall or call your RSVP into the church office. *The Stewardship Committee*

NOVI EMERGENCY FOOD BANK

For over 25 years, the Novi Emergency Food Bank has been providing food and general household items for the underserved of Novi, Wixom and Walled Lake. This month we are collecting **canned vegetables** for the families. The collection basket can be found in the Fellowship Hall.



The December *Messenger* deadline is Monday, November 19th. You may call (248 348-7757), email (office@mbccc.org), fax (248 348-0501) or drop off your articles to the church office.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Director of Christian Education
Colleen Foster

Heifer International

For the past few weeks, the Church School children and youth have been collecting loose change for Heifer International. In our 1st week, we collected over \$25! You can watch our progress on the Heifer chart in the back of Fellowship Hall. Heifer International is an organization that helps struggling families become more self-reliant by providing food-producing and income-producing animals as well as training in their care.

Grandpa Don

November is Heritage month in Church School. Don Gaines will be leading our children and youth as they learn about life for the Pilgrims on the Mayflower and on "Plimoth" Plantation. Don recently visited "Plimoth" Plantation in Massachusetts and is eager to share what he learned. There will be plenty of wonderful hands-on activities. Please make sure your children attend!

Stewardship

In the latest unit, Money and Time, the children and youth learned about the gifts of time, talents, and money within the context of Christian stewardship. Stewardship can best be summarized as the way we care for and share these gifts we have received from God. In order to promote the idea of being a good steward, the children will receive an envelope each week that asks them to think about how they can be givers. Encourage your child to think each week about how they can give back his/her time, talents, or money to God and to others and return the envelope the following Sunday.

BULLETINS, SERMONS, NEWSLETTERS...

Oh, My!

Did you miss last Sunday's worship service? Want to read the inspiring sermon Reverend Ritter preached? Want to know the time for the Harvest Breakfast, and can't find the copy of the *Messenger*? Not to fret—you will find Sunday's bulletin and sermon, plus an electronic copy of the *Messenger* online at www.mbccc.org.

MODERATOR VIEWPOINT

Paul Brown

As we go into the fall of 2007, all of the Boards are faced with many opportunities and challenges here at Meadowbrook. How they decide what is best for the remainder of this year and 2008 will be determined by our approach and ability to view change.

Facts About Change -

- Change is more complicated to sustain than to initiate.
- People at all levels have spent years preparing not to do this.
- If it is worth doing, it is worth doing slowly.
- More information and more skills are hardly ever the solution.
- New efforts almost always rely on old resources.
- Successful change seldom starts at the top.
- Learning is essential to change
- The most engaging change is so compelling that success seems secondary

One way to achieve this is to go beyond proactive to inter-active planning.

For example - A proactive manager gives his staff direction and a plan, assumes they will execute effectively, and waits for the results to roll in—management by assumption. By the time the results are reported, it's too late to provide productive guidance. To use an interactive approach, first reach an agreement with the staff on an action plan that defines specific behaviors about their activity.

Climate change is happening today -

Climate change is one of the most hotly debated issues in America today. There is a general consensus that the earth is warming and that human activity is a contributing factor due to man-made emissions of greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide (CO₂). Therefore, governments and citizens are searching for policy responses to address this risk.

This is a relatively new consensus. As recently as 1975, the more common view was that the earth was not warming, but cooling.

(Continued on page 8)

Pilgrim Fellowship

There will be meetings on November 4 from 6-8pm and November 18 from 5-7pm, this is after the Harvest Dinner. On November 11 all PFers are encouraged to attend the Installation Service for Rev. Ritter at 4:00. There will not be a meeting on the 25th, Thanksgiving weekend.

Greens Sales will begin in November. Please support the PF program and consider purchasing your wreaths and roping from the PFers. Michele Fecht and Katie Raeon will be coordinating the sales. Please look for order forms in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support.

HARVEST DINNER

Meadowbrook Congregational Church will celebrate our cherished tradition of the Harvest Dinner on **Sunday, November 18th** at 4 p.m. The meal will include: turkey, stuffing, potatoes, rolls and beverages. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to bring desserts, and to enjoy the meal.

Dinner is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children (under 5 are free). Please bring a canned good or nonperishable food item to be given to our adopted holiday family.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

On Saturday, November 10, Cub Scout Pack 54 and other Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from the area will be going door to door collecting canned goods as part of the 29th annual Scouting for Food service project. Scouts are distributing collection bags to homes this weekend. Please put your food donations on your front porch by 9:00 AM on Saturday, or bring your donations to Faith Community Presbyterian Church, 44400 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM Saturday. Food collected in Novi is distributed within the community by the food banks at Faith Community, Holy Family and St. James churches.

SERVING YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Each fall 6 people begin searching for fellow church members to fill open board positions. To those who have served and shared their passions and talents, your church community is thankful. To those members not currently sharing your interests and expertise, your church community is missing out.

The nomination committee invites you to share your interests and expertise by joining one of your seven boards. Opportunities are available for members who enjoy:

- Finance and Building management (**Trustees**)
- Helping members in need and participating in sacrament administration (**Deacons**)
- Participate in fund distribution to support Christian missionary services (**Benevolence**)
- Enjoy music for church services (**Music**)
- Education programs for all members (**Christian Education**)
- Volunteer for community assistance (**Social Services**)
- Getting to know other member's talents and interests for board positions (**Nominations**).

Please talk to any committee member (Nancy Barry, Tom Dewey, Doreen Lawton, Dave McKillop, Katie Raeon or Karen Lafayette) and sign up for any open position that reflects your passions and expertise on the nominations board in fellowship hall.

CAREER TRANSITION WORKSHOP

*Have you recently lost your job?
Are you worried about losing your job?
Are you looking for a career change?*

Joyce Fortier, a certified management coach and resume writer, and credentialed career master will lead a workshop on Monday, December 3rd from 7-9 p.m. at Meadowbrook. To RSVP, contact Joyce at careerist@aol.com

Holiday Families 2007



The holidays are just around the corner and it's time once again to be thankful for all we have. We are blessed at Meadowbrook Congregational Church to be able

to give in so many ways to those less fortunate. Once again the Board of Social Services is working with Holy Family Church in their "Christmas Sponsor-a-Family" program. This program allows our church to help families in need during this special time of year.

This year we have 3 families asking for our help. The Board of Social Services will be putting up our "Holiday Families 2007" board on Sunday, November 4th. There are a total of 66 gifts this year. We're hoping every tag is taken by a member of our congregation! If you are willing to help one of our families, please choose a tag (or tags!) from the board and fill in your name and phone number on the remaining tag. Return your wrapped gift or gifts by Sunday, December 9th and Social Services will deliver the gifts to Holy Family Church to be delivered to each family. (More detailed directions are on the Holiday Family board at church).

Thank you for your generosity and Merry Christmas! *The Board of Social Services*

THE SERVICE AUCTION

November 10th is approaching fast! In addition to the live auction items for the Service Auction, we are also collecting items for the silent auction portion of the event. Silent auction items include (but are not limited to) gift certificates, crafts, baked goods, and other gift items. Please give silent auction items to Kelly or Sharon Brown by November 4 if possible. For baked goods that can't be delivered early, please let Kelly know what items will be donated. Contact Kelly at 734-397-8628 with any questions.



SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION MISSION TRIP



The Southeast Michigan Association of Congregational Christian Churches is sponsoring a mission trip to New Orleans the week of January 20-28, 2008.

Volunteers will be doing projects under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity and staying in dormitory facilities at nearby Camp Hope. Those interested are asked to attend a meeting on Sunday, October 28th at North Congregational Church, 36520 West Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills beginning at 2:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Rev. Linda Anderson

Dear Congregation,

We are currently running about \$33,000 behind budget. It would be very helpful to bring your pledges up to date. There have been great number of repairs to the building this year. Some of the items repaired have been: re-roofing the meeting house, sealing the parking lot, fixing the hot water leak, repairing the furnace and office air conditioner, mending the leak on the roof above the wall between Art's office and the CE office, fixing the compressor on the large refrigerator, residing the end gables on the CE wing, fixing the dishwasher sanitation system, fixing the damage to the phone system, alarm system, and meeting house lights from a lightning strike (some of which was covered by insurance). Also, we bought a computer for Art and replaced Colleen's old computer which needed upgrading. Any help bringing your pledges up to date would be greatly appreciated.

David Gaines

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees



SMOKE FREE CANDLES



The Women's Service Club will be selling soy-burning "smoke free" candles during November and December in Fellowship Hall during the coffee hour. Please Sally Grattan or call 248 661-2827 for more details.

(Continued Moderator article) Carbon dioxide - often confused in the public's mind with poisonous carbon monoxide - has never been officially classified as a "pollutant" by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under either Democratic or Republican administrations. Indeed, scientific debate remains over the severity of climate change or the degree to which it is caused by human activity.

The debate over what to do about climate change is even more contentious. Lawmakers in the United States and across the globe are considering various approaches to limit the growth of - and eventually reduce - the greenhouse gas emissions that are believed to contribute to global warming.

Many analysts believe that these options would require significant, even revolutionary, changes in the way people live, work, travel, and use energy. The price of energy could rise substantially.

What can be done at Meadowbrook? –

1. Recognize it, it will often show up as adversity.
2. Act on it, change / opportunity is elusive, it exists all over the place, can you see it?
3. Some people fear it because change involves something outside of their comfort zones.

We can base our success on the ability to view change not as an obstacle, but rather an opportunity to move forward. By accepting the challenge of change we can create our own success / opportunities.

Speaking of change –

On November 4th, Daylight savings time will end and we need to turn our clocks back one hour.

BLOOD DRIVE

A special thank you to all blood donors who gave the gift of life at our Red Cross blood drive held here in October. We collected **36 pints of blood** for patients in our area. This was the most donations ever collected at Meadowbrook. In fact, 80% of the blood donations made to the Red Cross are collected at volunteer sites like us rather than at fixed donor centers. The Red Cross manages nearly half of the nation's blood supply, so you see our role is absolutely crucial in helping to ensure that blood is available to those in need.

Donors - you are someone's hero. You may have given a newborn, a child, a mother or father, a sister or brother another chance at life. You may have helped up to three persons with just one donation. Thank you.

And for you who were unable to donate, thank you for encouraging others to donate.

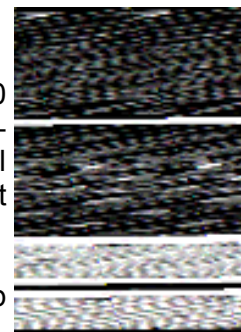
Our next blood drive is being planned for October, 2008. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Blood drive coordinators: Tom Dewey, Carol Riddell and Sandra Terry

MARS CLASS

Reverend Ritter will lead a new MARS class beginning Tuesday, November 6th, 7-8:30 p.m. This four week class will be part of a series called "Foundations of Faith". Foundations can be best described as a confirmation class for adults, with discussion of biblical and theological issues, worship and sacrament, and church history. The first four week unit will cover The Bible.

The class will meeting: November 6, 20, 27, and December 4. If you would like to sign up for this class, please call the church office or use the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



**Meadowbrook Congregational
Church Staff:**

Rev. Arthur P. Ritter
Senior Minister
Colleen Foster,
Director of Christian Education
Patrick Kuhl
Director of Music
Norm Kubitskey
Custodian
Nancy Ryder
Administrative Assistant

TIME CHANGE—SUNDAY MORNING, November 4th

**HOLIDAY GREENS**

Order forms for Pilgrim Fellowship's Annual Christmas Greens Sale will be available beginning Sunday, November 4. Members and friends may place orders for several sizes of wreaths, cedar and mixed roping and door swags.

Proceeds from the sale of fresh holiday greens will go toward Meadowbrook's Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) program. Members of PF will be taking orders during fellowship hour November 4, 11 and 18 in Fellowship Hall. Look for the Greens Sale table. Greens will be available for pick-up beginning Sunday, November 25. This is a great way to buy beautiful holiday greens while supporting Meadowbrook's PF program.



The Meadowbrook Messenger

21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, Michigan 48375-5245
248 348-7757 **www.mbccc.org**