The Ambassador

Delta Presbyterian Church
6100 W. Michigan Ave
Lansing, MI 48917

Volume 12 No 8 **September 2011** **www.deltapres@sbcglobal.net**

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Upcoming Events:

- *September 2*
  MSU Concessions
- *September 4*
  Change for Change
- *September 5*
  Labor Day
- *September 10*
  MSU Concessions
- *September 11*
  Advent House
  Communion
  Fellowship Meal
- *September 12*
  Resources Committee
  Mission Committee
- *September 18*
  Personal Needs Closet
- *September 19*
  Deacons
- *September 24*
  MSU Concessions
- *September 26*
  Session

Spiritual Gifts

This fall rather than studying Scripture for information, we will engage Scripture and allow it to form us. We will be shaped by God as we explore together the gifts God has given us for ministry and service. We will spend 7 weeks together exploring what the Bible has to say about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and what gifts we see in one another. We will be using **Understanding Spiritual Gifts** from the Meeting God in Scripture series published by Upper Room Books.

The class will be offered at two times: Wednesday evenings at 7:00 (beginning September 14) and Sunday mornings at 8:30 (beginning September 18) and will meet in our new Gathering Room. There is a sign-up sheet on the Commitment Center so we can order books for the class. Come join us as we begin this adventure and allow God to transform us.

News From The Session

Several months ago the session appointed a building use task force to make recommendations about the use of our building. The session approved their recommendations at the August meeting. Looking to the future, we are moving away from single use rooms. Specific changes that are being made:

- A Gathering Room is being created. This will be in the old Children in Worship room behind the nursery. More recently, the room has been used for storage. The room is getting some paint, white boards on one wall, shelves, speakers, and carpet. The white board wall will be used as a screen for a projector and also writing things down during meetings and Bible Studies. It will be a flexible space used for meetings, prayer services, and Bible studies. Interest from the endowment fund and the labor of the property team is making this transformation possible. There will be tables that can be put up for meetings and taken down for prayer services and small group gatherings.
- The room currently being used for meetings will become home to the quilters. Their shelves and supplies will be moved into the closet and cabinets in that room. This will give them more space and more light.
- The room currently being used by the quilters will become a storage room. It is a small, dark room that will serve well for storage.
- The room used by LaLeche League: Room dividers have been moved into this room for posters and signs. They can be turned around when other groups use the room.

The focus of session meetings continues to be on education and planning for the future. The session is rejoicing in the changes and excitement they see here at Delta.

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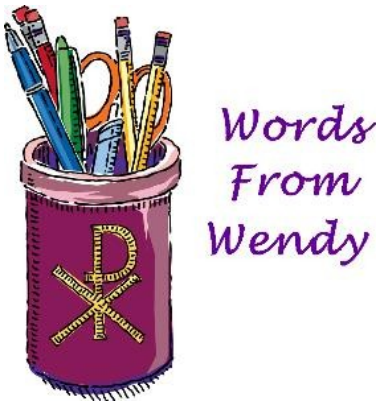
Words From Wendy

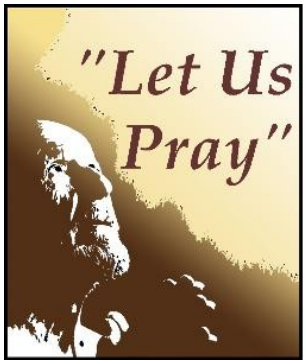


When you were seeking a pastor, the Pastor Nominating Committee told me that one of your top priorities was the spiritual growth of members. I was pleased to hear this, because churches that are growing spiritually are also growing in ministry and membership. Spiritual growth is the foundation for everything else we do as a congregation and individual Christians. At the session retreat in January, spiritual growth became one of our priorities for this year. We began to address that in the spring with our Lenten study. Now, as we move into fall, we are making it the focus of our September worship as we build a spiritual house together.

Recognizing that different people grow in different ways and find different spiritual practices helpful, we will be offering a variety of opportunities this fall. My hope is that each of you will want to be involved in at least one of them.

- **Spiritual Gifts Bible Study** will be offered at two times: Wednesday evening at 7:00 and 8:30 Sunday morning. I am looking forward to leading this class, and hope you will sign up to attend. We need to know if you are attending so we can order the workbooks.
- **Prayer Service** will start in October. This brief service will include music, Scripture, time for reflection, and prayer. There is a sign-up sheet to indicate your time preference. There are 3 options, all on Wednesday: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., or noon.
- **Let Us Pray** has already begun, and lists the ministries of the church that we are asking you to lift up in prayer this month.
- **Prayer Chain** is being refreshed and renewed. If you commit to this, you will receive a phone call if there is a prayer concern and then make a phone call to pass the prayer request on.
- **Email Prayer Concerns** we will be starting an email prayer group that will receive emails with prayer concerns and suggestions.

Come join us this fall as we strengthen our spiritual lives and discover together where God is leading us.



"Let Us Pray"

This month we begin our focus on building a spiritual house.

- Please pray that God would use this focus to strengthen and grow us as individuals and a congregation.
- Pray for the volunteers who will be working with our children, that our children may experience God's love and grace through them.
- Pray for the Spiritual Gifts classes, that they will be a blessing for all involved.

Fellowship Meal

Communion and Fellowship Meal

This fall, we will be holding our monthly Fellowship Meals on the same day as Communion instead of the Fourth Sunday of each month.

As we breaking bread together in Communion, let us continue that act by joining in the Fellowship Meal on the same day. Our next Communion date is Sunday, September 11.

Our Fellowship Meal on that day will be a Hawaiian Sundae (chicken and gravy served over rice or noodles, with a variety of toppings). The congregation is asked to bring either a salad or dessert to compliment the entrée. Please sign up for this event at the Commitment Center in the narthex.

Cause to Rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Philippians 4:4

God continues to work in and through us here at Delta, and we rejoice.

We look forward to the start of our 11th year of mentoring children in the Waverly District through the KIDS Hope program. We will be at Elmwood this year, and three new mentors are joining the program.

We celebrate the willing volunteers who have signed up to work the concession booth for the first football game Labor Day weekend. We have a full roster 2 weeks before the game for a holiday weekend.

We celebrate long life and new life: Gene Dexter will turn 92 on 9-2. The Meads have a new great granddaughter, Lillian Joan Losson born in Seattle. We celebrate the technology that has enabled them to visit with her via Skype.

We rejoice in the new opportunities that God is bringing us this fall, and the new Gathering Room we will have for programs and meetings.

We celebrate a successful mission trip to Sunset Gap, Tennessee in July. Twelve individuals made the trip and completed 3 separate projects.

We rejoice that a favor called in from a member enabled us to find the conduit supplying power to the sign out front. This is the first step to fixing the problem that has kept our sign dark for several months.

We rejoice in the volunteers who are working to create a new Gathering Room downstairs. We will be dedicating it during worship in September.

What gives you cause to rejoice? Let us know and we'll include it next month.

Have You Ever Wondered?

Have you ever wondered why we only have a chalice and bread on the table?

In the ancient world, sacrifices were offered to God on an altar by priests. The people would bring animals for the priest to offer as sacrifices on their behalf. There were a variety of reasons for offering sacrifices, including atoning for sins and in gratitude for blessings.

The tradition of priests, altars and sacrifices continued into the early church, only now, instead of sacrificing a lamb or a cow, Christ's sacrifice was reenacted in communion. The understanding was that the bread and wine literally became Christ's body and blood.

As the reformers (Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox) studied Scripture, they began to question the traditional understanding. As Presbyterians, we believe in the priesthood of all believers. Jesus is our high priest, so we don't need a priest here on earth interceding with God for us, we can approach God directly. That's why we have ministers, and not priests.

We also believe that Jesus' death on the cross was enough to cover our sins. It doesn't have to be repeated at an altar when we celebrate communion. So, we don't have an altar, we have a communion table. We gather at the table to remember Christ's great love for us. We gather to remember that he gave his life for us, and the breaking of the bread reminds us of that. We do it because Jesus instructed us to do it during the Last Supper, when he gave us this Sacrament.

By keeping the table free of other adornments, we are reminded of its purpose: to provide a place for us to gather and celebrate communion. We are reminded that we no longer need an altar, because Christ's sacrifice was enough to cover all of our sins. That's why we only have bread and a chalice on the communion table.

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September-October Birthdays

Sept 2 Gene Dexter

Sept 5 Roger LaPratt

Sept 10 Jack Van Court

Sept 11 A.J. (Pete) Mitchell
Bob Noble
John Elsinga

Sept 13 Jillian Dymond

Sept 14 Beau Benezette

Sept 15 Dee Deutsch

Sept 18 Martha Gearhart

Sept 21 Jan Buchanan

Sept 22 Maureen Dykstra

Sept 20 Jeff Jackson

Oct 1 Jane Thomas

Oct 3 Jim Constandt

Oct 5 Jan Oudbier

Oct 8 Kim Baczewski
Mary Stephenson

Oct 9 Bill Settle

Oct 15 Sandy Akright

Oct 18 Lee Filker
Karen Winn-Dobie

Oct 21 Art Baker
Tom Fort
Kathy Peters

Oct 23 Kelci Fech

Oct 25 Joann Dexter

Oct 29 Pat Baker

Oct 30 Sue Settle

Oct 31 Jeff Akright

Servants

Ushers

Sept 4 Randall

Sept 11 Reemsnyder

Sept 18 Ross

Sept 25 Ryan

Lay Leaders

Sept 4 David Brock

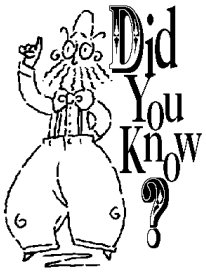
Sept 11 Kathy Peters

Sept 18 Sue Settle

Sept 25 Cory McElwee

Communion Servers

Sept 11 Richard Mead
Mary Mead
Jan Oudbier
Adrian Oudbier



Did You Know?

Betty MacDowell, a long-time member of Delta, has been working for 20 years compiling a census of the stained-glass windows in Michigan, and she is not yet done.

The following is from The Lansing State Journal on August 22, 2011: "I know there are roughly 1200 buildings that have been registered on our census," said MacDowell, who did her Ph.D. dissertation in the 1980's on the history of female stained-glass artists. "Some have only one stained-glass window, and some have 50. They may be churches, synagogues, public buildings, business places, even homes."

Check out her work on the project's new website: www.michiganstainedglass.org

Congratulations, Betty, on helping to preserve this important part of Michigan's history.

MSU Concessions

There is something new this year for everyone working at Spartan Stadium during the football games this fall. Everyone must fill out a form for a background check through Michigan State University. There is no cost for this and you only need to fill out one form for the entire season. Pick up your background check form at the Commitment Center and return it to Ellen in the office as soon as possible. You no longer need to included your social security number for the background check. We have a full booth for the first game on Friday, Sept. 2, but could use help with all the rest of the season. The second game is Saturday, September 10.

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 MSU Concessions vs Youngtown St.	3
4 Change for Change 10 am Worship	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6	7 9:30 am Quilting 3 pm Property Team	8 7:15 am Waverly HS Testing 6:15 pm Bellievers 7:30 pm Choir	9	10 MSU Concessions vs Florida Atlantic
11 Advent House 10 am Worship/ Communion 11:15 pm Fellowship Meal	12 6 pm Resources 7 pm Mission	13 9:30 am Presby-tery/Eastminster 10 am Great Parents/Great Start Play Group	14 9:30 am Quilting 10 am La Leche 7 pm Adult Ed.	15 6:15 pm Bellievers 7:30 pm Choir	16	17
18 Personal Needs 8:30 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship 3 pm Worship/Delta Retirement Center	19 6:30 pm Deacons 7 pm OCD Support Girl Scouts	20 10 am Great Parents/Great Start Play Group 7 pm La Leche	21 9:30 am Quilting 7 pm Adult Ed.	22 6:15 pm Bellievers 7:30 pm Choir	23	24 MSU Concessions vs CMU
25 8:30 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship	26 6:30 pm Session	27 10 am Great Parents/Great Start Play Group	28 9:30 am Quilting 10 am La Leche 7 pm Adult Ed.	29 6:15 pm Bellievers 7:30 pm Choir	30	

Ambassador News Deadline

The deadline dates for Ambassador News have changed. They are due the 15th of each month for the next month's issue.

October Ambassador News is due September 15, 2011. Please include your name and phone number with any article you submit.

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October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Change for Change 8:30 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship/ Communion 11:15 am Fellowship Meal	3 6:30 pm Spiritual Life Girl Scouts	4 10 am Great Parents/Great Start Play Group	5 9:30 am Quilting 3 pm Property Team 7 pm Adult Ed.	6 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	7	8
9 Advent House 8:30 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship	10 Columbus Day 6 pm Resources 7 pm Mission	11 10 am Great Parents/Great Start Play Group	12 9:30 am Quilting 10 am La Leche 7 pm Adult Ed.	13 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	14	15 MSU Concessions vs Michigan
16 Personal Needs 8:30 am Adult Ed 10 am Worship 3 pm Worship/ Delta Retirement Center	17 6:30 pm Deacons 7 pm OCD Support Girl Scouts	18 10 am Great Parents/Great Start Play Group 7 pm La Leche	19 9:30 am Quilting 7 pm Adult Ed.	20 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	21	22 MSU Concessions vs Wisconsin
23 8:30 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship	24 United Nations Day 6:30 pm Session	25 10 am Great Parents/Great Start Play Group	26 9:30 am Quilting 10 am La Leche 7 pm Adult Ed.	27 6:15 pm Believers 7:30 pm Choir	28	29
30 Reformation Sunday 8:30 am Adult Ed. 10 am Worship	31 Halloween					

"Come and See"

The Delta brochures have been updated for the fall. Please pick up a few (in the clear holder by the door), give them to friends, and invite them to "Come and See" what is happening at Delta!

2012 BUILDING A SPIRITUAL HOUSE
COMMITMENT CARD-September

I, _____, commit myself to building Delta's Spiritual House and plan to strengthen my spiritual life and that of my community by. . .

Building Stones of Prayer

___KIDS HOPE Prayer Partners
___Email Prayers
___Prayer Group/Service
___Prayer Chain
___Pray Daily for Delta

Building Stones of Learning

__Lenten Study & Meals
__Sunday School Leaders
__Spiritual Gifts Study

Building Stones of Planning

___Advent Team
___Lenten Study Team
___Spiritual Life Committee

Building Stones of Worship

___Communion Servers & Set up
___Hanging of the Greens
___Lay Leaders
___Drama in Worship
___Celebration Choir
___Singspiration Leaders
___Pianists
___Special Music
___Bellievers
___Video & Audio
___Delta Retirement Center

(Please mark all that apply.)

_____
Email address (for Email Prayers)

We will be dedicating our commitments on Sunday, September 25, 2011, so please bring this slip to worship on that day, if possible. You may also turn it into the church office at any time during the month, or mail it to the church.

_____
Signature Date

Building a Spiritual House Commitment Cards

And now you are living stones that are being used to build a spiritual house.
—1 Peter 2:5a (CEV)

As Wendy explained in the article on the front page, this fall Delta will explore our spiritual gifts along our journey to build a spiritual house. "We will be shaped by God as we explore together the gifts God has given us for ministry and service." Each month, starting in September, you will be asked to turn in a commitment card listing the spiritual gifts that you would like to commit to using here at Delta. Here is an explanation of some of the spiritual gifts listed on the above form.

Each of our KIDS HOPE Mentors has a Prayer Partner that prays for both the Mentor and the elementary student they are mentoring. An explanation of the other areas of prayer are included in Words From Wendy on page 2.

The Lenten Study is a weekly study during the period of Lent, that also includes a simple meal.

The Advent Team and Lenten Study Team meet to discuss and plan the church activities during those times of the year. The Spiritual Life Committee coordinates both Christian Education and Worship, so it deals with the children and adult Sunday School groups and all aspects of the worship experience at Delta.

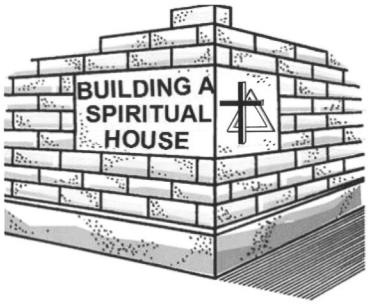
The Hanging of the Greens takes place the first Sunday of Advent. On that day, we have a short worship service and then spend fellowship time decorating the church for the Advent season.

Our Singspiration Leaders help guide the congregation in praising God through our singing.

When our Celebration Choir or Bellievers handbell choir are not performing, we welcome those interested in performing Special Music. It can be vocal or instrumental.

The roll-top desk in the back corner of the sanctuary contains the video and audio components of our sound system. It looks intimidating, but it is not as hard to operate as it looks.

On the third Sunday of each month, Delta conducts a worship service at Delta Retirement Center. Help is always welcome.



The Ambassador

Delta Presbyterian Church
6100 W. Michigan Ave
Lansing, MI 48917

SEPTEMBER 2011
Phone: 517-321-3569
E-mail: deltapres@sbcglobal.net

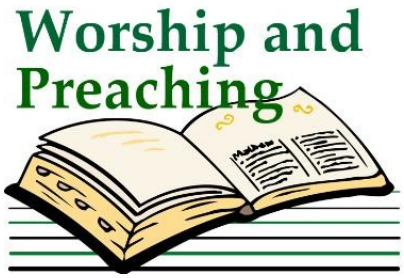
"We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us." II Cor 5:20 .

We're on the Web!
www.deltapresby.org

Delta Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Delta Presbyterian Church is a community of Christians committed to serving God through celebrating God's love in worship; studying God's Word; searching for God's truth and guidance; caring for each other in times of need, sorrow and joy; and, serving others to reflect Christ's example.

—Approved by Session, September 2009



Looking Ahead in Worship

Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011
12th Sunday after Pentecost
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20
The Debt of Love

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Communion
Fellowship Meal
Deuteronomy 6:4-9
1 Peter 2:2-10
Living Stones

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011
14th Sunday after Pentecost
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Mark 9:14-29
Only Through Prayer

Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 66
Revelation 4
Our Offering of Worship

ADULT EDUCATION STARTS SOON!

PLAN TO ATTEND

ON

WEDNESDAYS-7:00 PM
(Starting Sept. 14)

OR

SUNDAYS-8:30 AM
(Starting Sept. 18)