

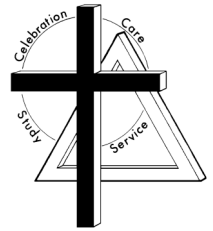
# The Ambassador

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

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## Upcoming Events:

- February 6  
*Communion  
Change for Change*
- February 7  
*Celebration & Study*
- February 9  
*Property*
- February 12  
*Presbytery*
- February 13  
*Advent House*
- February 14  
*Mission*
- February 19  
*Deacons*
- February 20  
*Personal Needs*
- February 27  
*4th Sunday Meal*
- February 28  
*Session*

## What's Happening!

# Commitment Center

### Introducing the Commitment Center:

As those who follow Christ, we are also called to serve him. We have designated the counter right inside the sanctuary as the Commitment Center. We have signs to help you quickly identify opportunities to serve Christ. There are many opportunities to serve God through Delta, and this month we highlight just a few:

### Advent House:

We have servers lined up through March, including 6 people who have never served before. We still need food for each month, and we need servers beginning in April. We continue to encourage veterans and novices to sign up together and meet in the church parking lot at 12:40 on your Sunday to go serve our hungry neighbors. When we serve them with a smile, we are serving Christ, who told us as we did it to one of the least of these we did it to him.

### Coffee Hour:

Are you willing to help with a snack, make coffee, or serve occasionally? The coffee hour is an opportunity for fellowship and connecting with friends, old and new.

### Greeters:

When a visitor walks through our doors they are going to be uncertain, wondering if this is a place they can belong. Welcoming them to the church as they walk through the doors and pointing them in the right direction is a wonderful ministry. Long time members, too, need that welcome and reminder that we are glad they are here and this is a place where they are welcomed and loved.

### Sunday School:

Will our children have faith? When our children are baptized, as a congregation we promise to teach them the ways of Christ. Signing up to teach Sunday School is a way to model Christ's love and share the Bible with our children, helping them build their foundation on Christ, which will enable them to face all the challenges life will throw at them.

### Toddler Room:

We have several toddlers in the church, and spending time with them on Sunday morning is an important ministry to them and their parents. We don't want them seeing church as a place where they are always told to sit still and be quiet. We want them to see the church as a place where they are welcome and loved by many people. We want them to look forward to coming to church every week. When you serve in the toddler room you provide an important ministry. For the children, your service helps them learn that church is a safe place where they are loved and accepted as they are. For the parents, your service tells them that we want them here and will provide a safe place for their children so they can focus on worship.

**Check out the signup sheets at the Commitment Center to answer God's call to serve the church and community in the name of Christ.**

## Words from Wendy



### Words From Wendy

Dear Friends,

This month I want to offer you a story and a challenge. The first church I served as pastor was in Gary, Indiana, and Lena was the first baby I baptized there. A couple of years later, I got a call from her mother asking me to take her "for the weekend." She was almost 3 years old.

Being the single parent of a toddler and pastor of a church made life challenging at times. There was someone to care for her during worship, but one Sunday morning I found myself rushing from Sunday School to worship. I needed to go make some final preparations for worship, and I needed someone to supervise Lena. There was a group of older women who would

come early and sit in the lounge visiting. I took Lena over to them and asked if they would keep an eye on her until the woman who kept her during worship was free to take her. I'll never forget the response of one of those saints, "Well of course we'll watch her. After all, we made promises at her baptism, too."

I cannot begin to describe the feeling of relief that washed over me. It was like a huge burden had been lifted from my shoulders. I was not in this alone. I was part of a community of faith that would watch out for my daughter. I was being supported in my care for her. These women had my back. Parenting is an enormous responsibility, and it's al-

ways a relief to know that we will be helped and supported.

You can give the same gift to parents that those women gave to me by signing up to teach Sunday School or be in the Toddler room. You can live out the promises you made at the baptism of our children by spending time with them on Sunday morning. The best part is, I suspect you'll get more out of it than what you give. Check out the counter in the narthex to sign up to carry out the promises you made. Provide the parents among us with the reassurance that they don't have to do it alone. We have their backs.

Peace,

Wendy

## Furnace Update

# UPDATE!

As many of you know (and have experienced), we've been having trouble with the furnace heating the sanctuary this winter. After many service calls, the most recent one seems to have solved the

problem. Should we have another Sunday when it is not working properly, we will move worship downstairs where it is warm. We have a portable projector now, so we will still be able

to make use of PowerPoint during the service. Come to church confident that you will be worshipping in a warm space and coats will not be necessary.

## Meet the Pastor Gatherings

Thank you to all who signed up to host a small group gathering to become better acquainted with me. As I write this, I have been to one and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to sit and chat. I left feeling like I

knew those who were there much better. I knew about their families. I had heard their perspective on the strengths of the church. They told me what they thought the congregation most needed. I really hope

that each one of you will sign up for one of these gatherings.

Thanks!

Wendy



## Personal Needs Closet

One of our mission projects at Delta Presbyterian Church is contributing to the Personal Needs Bank at North-Westminster Church. There are four personal Needs Banks operating in Lansing area churches, coordinated by Christian Services. Personal needs items are collected in the big brown box at the top of the stairwell. Although you may donate items at any time, we

designate the third Sunday of each month as a time to focus on this ministry.

Personal Needs items include toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry and dish soap, diapers and other items that cannot be purchased with a Bridge Card (food stamps). A full list of items and what we donated last month is posted on the Mission Outreach bulletin

board in the narthex. The items are delivered to North-Westminster by Tom and Mary Ann Martin.

In addition to donated items, Delta contributed \$1000 to the Personal Needs Bank at North-Westminster Church in 2010. Please read the thank you note from Joyce Spaulding also on the bulletin board. Thank you Delta for your long-standing participation in this project.



## Hannah's House

Another ministry supported by Delta Presbyterian Church is Hannah's House, which is located in downtown Lansing. Hannah's House is a Christ-centered non-denominational maternity home for homeless women. They sheltered 7 women and their babies in 2010.

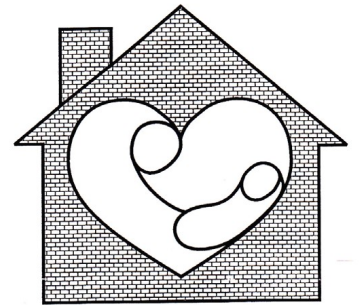
Our current Sparrow's Nest mom, Martha and her

daughter Lyndah, were living at Hannah's House before entering the Sparrow's Nest program. Martha was unable to work during part of this pregnancy due to complications that required bed rest.

In 2010, Delta contributed \$1000 to this ministry and also participated with a Girl Scout troop from Waverly High School on their project

to collect baby clothes, diapers and infant items from churches in our community, which were delivered to Hannah's House.

Thank you for your support of this local ministry.



## Quick Reminders About Evangelism



- An ever increasing number of our neighbors have no church background.
- We don't have to save anyone, Jesus did that.
- We don't have to sell Jesus.
- We don't need eloquent words or all the answers.
- Our job is to invite people to "Come and See" what God is doing among us.
- Once people come to worship, we can trust the Holy Spirit to take it from there.
- Pray that God will open your eyes for opportunities to invite people to "Come and See."
- Pray for individuals you would like to invite.
- Pray for words to answer questions people may ask you—the Holy Spirit will provide them when needed (not in advance).

- Pray that you will live your life in such a way that it will point others to Christ.



## Deacon Salute

Who knew that when Rhonda and Tom Fort got married in Louisville, Kentucky on February 25, 1961 and Mary and Richard Mead got married in Lansing, Michigan also on February 25, 1961 that their paths would not only cross in the future, but be forever intertwined.



### DEACON SALUTE

Both couples faced challenging weather conditions on their wedding day. In Louisville there was a freak snow storm which kept many of the invited guests from being able to attend the Fort's ceremony. Further north in Michigan, four to six inches of snow caused the Mead's to delay their ceremony for about 30 minutes while they waited not only for guests that were running late but also for the bridal gown to be delivered. Despite the challenge posed by nature, both couples did get married that same wintry day, fifty years ago.

In their respective communities the couples enjoyed their married lives and both started their families. Tom and Rhonda had three children: Pam 1962, Beth 1966, and Steve 1969. Richard and Mary had two children:

Lynn 1962 and Dale 1963.

In the mid 1970's a new church was forming in Lansing. Richard and Mary received a postcard in the mail inviting them to attend a new Delta Presbyterian Fellowship group in west Lansing. They decided to join the group and that led to them being among the charter members of Delta Presbyterian Church.

Somewhere in this same timeframe Tom's job transferred to Lansing, so he moved his family there. They found Delta Presbyterian Church in the phone book and decided to attend. Pastor Al, serving pastor at the time, asked Mary Mead if she would visit the young new mother of three that was temporarily housed in the Holiday Inn. Rhonda was more than happy to accept Mary's invitation to get out of that hotel room for a meal. That was the beginning of a long term friendship. The Fort's found new friends and a new church home at Delta.

The Fort children and the Mead children all became active members of the Delta youth group. And, as hap-

pens with young people, relationships developed. The Fort's daughter, Pam, married the Mead's son, Dale. The Forts and the Meads now shared more than an anniversary, a friendship and a church, they now shared family. As of current day, through their married children they also share two grandchildren: Alayna (18) and Nicholas (15).

Other grandchildren of the Forts include Beth's children: MacKenzie (15), Ashley (12), and Nathan (9); Steve's triplets: Savannah, Steven, and Sydney now age 8.

Meads other grandchildren include Lynn's children: Sarah (29), Rebekah (30). They also have great-grandchildren Amelia and Rena, from Rebekah and one more on the way, as Sarah is expecting.

We celebrate with the Forts and the Meads in their 50 years of marriage and enjoy their story of all they share together. It goes to show that it is a small world and you never know whose path you might cross at church.



### CALENDAR Notes

## Calendar Notes

**Celebration and Study** will both meet at 6:30 on Monday, February 7 at 6:30.

### Deacon Mini-Retreat

The Deacons will spend a Saturday at the church with

Wendy for training and planning on Saturday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00.

### Shrove Tuesday

Once again Delta will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday

dinner and inviting our sister churches. Save Tuesday evening, March 8, for a time of food and fellowship.

## Cause to Rejoice

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

God is at work in and through us, giving us cause to rejoice!

We rejoice in the leadership David and Holly Brock provided for mission through some challenging times of transition and change. They are stepping out of leading the mission committee and coordinating Advent House.

Fortunately, they have agreed to stay on the committee and support the new moderator for mission, Chuck Jennings. Trudie Frick has agreed to take over coordinating the Advent House meals. We rejoice in all who serve Christ through mission.

We rejoice in the work of all who give of their time for the concession stand during MSU football games. We are especially grateful for the

hard work of the leaders: Frank Jackson, Art Kelley, Richard Mead, and Steve Whiting.

We rejoice that we have had visitors in worship.

We rejoice in the in-home gatherings to get acquainted with Wendy.

We celebrate the way session is growing under the leadership of our new pastor.



## Per Capita

*Per Capita* is the primary way that Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly meet ordinary expenses. It also pays expenses for Book of Order committees like the Committee on Ministry and the Committee for Preparation for Ministry. Unlike churches, Presbytery does

not take up offerings to pay electric bills, postage, or salaries. This all comes from per capita which is based on a per member figure that does not discriminate between large and small churches. We all share the expenses equally. The total per capita that Delta pays

for the expenses of the larger church is \$24.25 per member. Any help with this amount is greatly appreciated. If you write a check, make it out to Delta Presbyterian Church and indicate "Per Capita" in the memo line. Thank you.



## Per Capita

## From the Session

The session spent Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the church for a day long retreat. We learned about the things that make an effective team and made plans for how we will work together. We developed ideas that we are going to take to the committees that we hope will improve the way things work. You'll hear more about those plans as they are completed and implemented. We set three priori-

ties for the Session: Implementation, Accountability, and Communication. We also set priorities for Wendy for the year: getting to know the congregation and equipping the committees and officers to do ministry. We had a productive day in which we made good plans, talked about good ideas, and prepared to move forward. We also know and understand one another better, making for a good team.

One change we are making that we hope will improve communication is that the Ambassador will now be distributed on the first Sunday of the month instead of the last Sunday. This will give us time to get news from session into it while it is fresh.



# February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 10 am <i>Great Parents/ Great Start Play Group</i>	<b>2</b> 9:30 am Quilting	<b>3</b> 6:15 pm <i>Believers</i> 7:30 pm <i>Choir</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Change for Change 10 am <i>Worship/ Communion</i> 11:15 am <i>Adult Sunday School</i>	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm <i>Celebration</i> 6:30 pm <i>Study</i>  Girl Scouts	<b>8</b> 10 am <i>Great Parents/ Great Start Play Group</i>	<b>9</b> 9:30 am <i>Quilting</i> 10 am <i>La Leche</i> 3 pm <i>Property</i>	<b>10</b> 6:15 pm <i>Believers</i> 7:30 pm <i>Choir</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 am <i>Presbytery</i>
<b>13</b> <i>Advent House</i> 10 am <i>Worship</i> 11:15 am <i>Adult Sunday School</i> 3 pm <i>Worship/ Delta Retirement Center</i> 3 pm <i>Alma College Choir/1st Pres.</i> 4:30 pm <i>La Leche Couples Dinner</i>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day  7 pm <i>Mission</i>	<b>15</b> 10 am <i>Great Parents/ Great Start Play Group</i>  7 pm <i>La Leche</i>	<b>16</b> 9:30 am <i>Quilting</i>	<b>17</b> 6:15 pm <i>Believers</i> 7:30 pm <i>Choir</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10 am <i>Deacons</i>
<b>20</b> Personal Needs 10 am <i>Worship</i> 11:15 am <i>Adult Sunday School</i>	<b>21</b> President's Day 6:30 pm <i>Deacons</i> 7 pm <i>OCD</i>  Girl Scouts	<b>22</b> 10 am <i>Great Parents/ Great Start Play Group</i>	<b>23</b> 9:30 am <i>Quilting</i> 10 am <i>La Leche</i>	<b>24</b> 12 pm <i>Lunch, Delta/Waverly Pastors</i>  6:15 pm <i>Believers</i> 7:30 pm <i>Choir</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10 am <i>Worship</i> 11:15 am <i>4th Sunday Meal</i>	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm <i>Session</i>					

## February Birthdays

2 Bob Potter	11 Cris Cone
7 Claire Bennett Juianne Hebert	18 Scott Venman
8 Bob Kull Wendy Pratt	27 Mary Ann Martin
10 Ruth Armitage-Kempf Kyle Dymond	28 Brad Venman

## March Ambassador News is due February 15, 2011

Ambassador news is due the third Tuesday of each month. Please include your name and phone number with any article you submit.



## Ushers

Feb. 6 Cone	Mar. 6 Dykstra	Apr. 3 Hulliberger
Feb. 13 Cruz	Mar. 13 Dymond	Apr. 10 Jarrard
Feb. 20 Gene Dexter	Mar. 20 Michele Dymond	Apr. 17 Lena Pratt
Feb. 27 Joann & Jim Dexter	Mar. 27 Elsinga	Apr. 24 Johnston



## Close Encounters of the Christ Kind

Fasten your seatbelts and come aboard as we experience Close Encounters of the Christ Kind this year during Lent. Beginning March 13, Sunday mornings will focus on the encounters that Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and others had with Christ. On Wednesdays, we will focus on our own encounters with Christ as we consider John Ortberg's book, *The Me I Want to Be*. As we explore the Bible together, it will have an impact, bring unity, and deliver growth.

Our hope is that we will:

- Sense a deeper connection with God
- Find a growing sense of joy
- Discover an honest recognition of our brokenness
- Fear less and trust more

We will begin our experience on Wednesday, March 16. We are considering offering this program both at noon and in the evening. Each time we would begin with a light meal of soup and bread. We hope you will want to have your own close encounter of the Christ kind this Lent. Help us with our planning by signing up at the Commitment Center. Let us know if you would attend at noon or in the evening.

Signing up does not mean you will attend all the sessions, it means you intend to be involved. This will help us make plans and order books. We hope there will be enough interest to offer the study at both times.



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## *The Ambassador*

Delta Presbyterian Church  
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FEBRUARY 2011  
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**“We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us.” II Cor 5:20 .**

**We're on the Web!**

**[www.deltapresby.org](http://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**

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## **Worship in February**



# **Worship**

**Sunday, February 6,  
2011**  
Fifth Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:13-20  
Beyond the Letter

**Sunday, February 13,  
2011**  
Sixth Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:1-28  
Growing

**Sunday, February 20,  
2011**  
Seventh Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-  
23  
Matthew 5:38-48  
Building

**Sunday, February 27,  
2011**  
Eighth Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
Isaiah 49:8-16a  
Psalm 131  
Matthew 6:24-34  
Beloved by God

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