

SENIOR PASTOR

GIVING OF OURSELVES

A year ago, I issued a challenge.

Now, I am ready to cut my hair.

On Wednesday, May 20, I will join with many other members and friends of our church community as local stylists bring their scissors to Snider Social Hall to cut off our donations for Children With Hair Loss.



We will join the ranks of many others in our community, who already have donated their braids and ponytails since I first issued the "Challenge to Love" last spring.

Children With Hair Loss is a Michigan-based organization that provides prosthetic hair pieces at no cost for children who have lost their hair as a result of illness or medical treatment.

Friends, I encourage you go online and visit www.ChildrenWithHairLoss.us to see the ways this wonderful organization helps provide dignity and joy to children in need of hope.

When we see our brothers and sisters hurting because of illness and tragedy, we are called by our faith to



respond with healing presence and support. I can think of few things more painful than medical treatments for devastating illnesses and conditions that seem to provide additional discomfort, loss of self and frustrations as they work to heal a hurting body.

There is an important lesson we learned during Holy Week as we journeyed with Jesus to the Cross. In his humanity, Jesus experienced all that we experience, including the hurt and sorrow. During his Passion, he was tortured with physical pain, as well as mental and emotional anguish.

Our Lord has called us to care for all people, to heal the sick, and provide comfort for those in need. I am honored to be a part of a congregation that takes this call to heart.

I invite you to join us in the Snider Social Hall on May 20 for our weekly *Wednesday Night Live!* community meal at 5:30 p.m. Stick around after to cheer on the men, women and children who will be shorn out of love for others! I would even encourage you to consider giving your own hair, if you have eight inches to give.

Above all, please pray for the children who will receive these donations as wigs, that they will understand God's love and compassion through the community of their neighbors.

Peace and grace,
Pastor Andrew



SPECIAL OFFERTORY & CONCERT FOR NEPAL

SUNDAY, MAY 10

To support relief efforts following the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that devastated Nepal on April 25, the Community Engagement Ministry of The Peoples Church has pledged \$3,000 in aid and called for a special second offertory to be taken up at worship services on May 10.

Doctoral students from the MSU College of Music also will perform a special concert at 4 p.m. on May 10 at The Peoples Church to benefit relief efforts in Nepal.



TALENT SHOW MAY 3

Join us for the annual Peoples Church Talent Show in Snider Social Hall following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on May 3. Lunch will be served. Entertainment will be enjoyed.

PEOPLES FORUM

Join us each Sunday for interesting and informative "Voices of the Community" at 9:30 a.m. in the Robertson Room.

MAY 3 | ELDERS PANEL

Members of the Council of Elders

IMPORTANT | Our Summer
Worship schedule begins on

MAY 24

8:30 a.m. - Chapel
9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

MAY BIRTHDAYS

*80 & OVER

- 1 - Luella Erbes
- 2 - Doug Pearson
- 5 - Maxine Ferris
- 7 - Cathleen Gardner
- 10 - Lee Wolford
- 16 - Trish Larson
- 16 - Yvonne Hafner
- 18 - Fredric Henry
- 18 - Stewart SirLouis
- 21 - Eleanor Stubbs
- 22 - Marion Heil
- 29 - Merlyn Dickson
- 30 - Margie Kinzley
- 31 - Walter Wiedbrauk

ANNIVERSARIES

*MILESTONE & 60+

- 12 - Greg & Barb Houghtaling (25)
- 25 - Rob & Amy Buttery (30)

If we missed you, please accept our apology. Contact the office to make sure we have your correct information on file.

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

FINANCIAL REPORT: 'ON TARGET' FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 2015

During the Apr. 28 monthly meeting of the Council of Elders, church Treasurer David Ronk, Jr. reported that the 2015 budget was "right on target" through the first quarter of the year. General Fund revenues came in at 26 percent of budgeted income (\$270,483) while expenses were at 25.3 percent of projected spending (\$262,388).

OUTREACH

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MAKES GIFT TO RESCUE MISSION

During its Apr. 14 meeting, the Community Engagement Ministry approved a \$1,000 donation to the City Rescue Mission of Lansing and a \$1,000 donation to the Maplewood Center for women and children on behalf of The Peoples Church.

It also was reported that last month's special Sunday offertory for Holiday Food Baskets raised \$1,504.50. The cost of more than 30 food baskets provided to families in the Lansing area came in at \$1,516.24, leaving a balance of about \$700. Holiday Food Baskets are distributed at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter each year.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

RENOVATION WORK BEGINS ON SOCIAL HALL BATHROOMS

During its Apr. 14 meeting, members of the Building & Grounds Ministry reported that scheduled renovations and upgrades on the bathrooms near Snider Social Hall will begin on May 14 and are expected to take about six weeks to complete.

A planned remodel of the gymnasium storage room was recently completed as well.

More than 25 volunteers helped clean up the church grounds during the annual Spring Yard Day, including our Troop 2 Boy Scouts on April 25. Thank you to all who came out that morning.

SERVE AND SHARE

THE KNITTING PEOPLE | MAY 28

The Knitting People will gather again on May 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Robertson Room. We invite interested knitters to join us! We will share patterns and bless items that people have made. We welcome your knitting fingers as we work to bring warmth and care to area residents in need. Please bring completed projects for blessing and distribution to local schools and shelters. Questions? Contact Mary Anne at 517-214-1487.

A NEW HOME FOR YOUR ARTIFICIAL TREES, PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Are you spring cleaning? Consider donating your no-longer-wanted, pre-lit artificial 10-foot Christmas tree and/or large silk green plants, such as ficus trees or palms to the church decorating committee. We are also in need of long stems of silk branches and flowers. Contact Pat Brogan 517-337-1446 or Val Nilson 517-349-1722 to make a donation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AS CONVERSATION

This past winter I taught a series on parables and it was the most enjoyable class of my pastoral career.

It was a simple four week study of parables that are found in the Hebrew Scriptures, the teachings of Jesus and some from modern day.

During the final session, we heard parables from the participants who had been inspired to write their own. I loved listening to people discuss parables they had never heard, ones that they could quote by heart and the ones written for the class.

Throughout the class, I kept reminding participants that these stories are not the final word on issues. Rather, they are an invitation to a conversation.

Jesus' parable of the Shrewd Manager, for example, ought to draw us into conversations about usury and money and what it looks like to call out those who are using their wealth to oppress others.

At The Peoples Church, our Christian Education programs place a high value on conversation.

What do the people gathered think about a certain biblical passage or current event? How have these ideas impacted them?

What do the people who have



come before us say about this topic: theologians, historians and commentators? What stories from our own life do they want to share in regards to this topic?

When I am teaching a class, I love to hear all the voices of all those in the room.

There are those who have been in the church since they were children, studying the Bible for 60 years and their voice is valuable.

There are those who are new to the Bible and faith, and their voice is just as necessary, as is every voice in between.

This spring, as I begin to plan Christian Education programs for fall, I hope we can maintain an open dialogue in all of our offerings.

Whether we have gathered to discuss current events or local happenings, the Hebrew Scriptures or Jesus' teachings, our conversations ought to lean toward the question, "How does this influence our faith?"

It is from these conversations that we are informed and inspired to better live a life of purity, unselfishness and service which Jesus exemplified to the world.

May we learn to listen to the voices of others in all that we do in order to better understand the world in which God has placed us.

- Pastor Drew

CONNECT AND GROW

BAKE SALE | MAY 10

The Phoebe Circle of Women of Peoples Church will host a Bake Sale before and after the 10:30 worship service on May 10.

STRAWBERRY BREAKFAST | MAY 13

The Women of Peoples Church annual Strawberry Breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. on May 13 in Snider Social Hall. The theme is "Michigan Women of Faith" with Emily Fijol, executive director of the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame. Tickets are \$8.

FISCHBACH LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE

Snider Social Hall

and the

WOMEN OF PEOPLES CHURCH JEWELRY & MORE SALE

Gymnasium

MAY 16 & 17

During the
**East Lansing
Art Festival**

WOMEN OF PEOPLES CHURCH

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Meeting times vary. For more information, contact Rachell Pomerville at 517-580-4904.

DORCAS CIRCLE

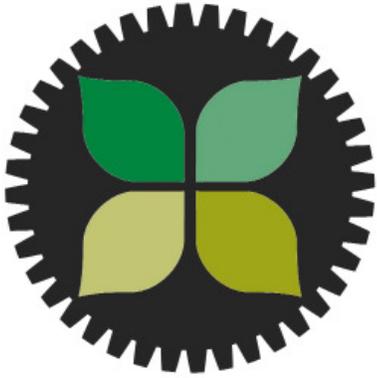
Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Dee Toth at 517-482-4414 or Susan Coopes at 517-339-0450.

PHOEBE CIRCLE

Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of September, November and January April at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Renate Carey at 517-324-0262 or Lois Huldin at 517-332-3160.

REBEKAH/HANNAH CIRCLE

Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of each month at 12:30 or 1 p.m. For more information, contact Cindy Carson at 517-862-8896 or Gretchen Rosenbrook at 517-332-5132.



PASTOR DREW'S PEOPLES PEDAL 2

Pastor Drew's Peoples Pedal is a fun ride around the beautiful MSU campus and the surrounding area. On May 17 following our 10:30am worship service, riders will gather on the north side of the building. There will be a light lunch of sandwiches and snacks. There are routes for people of all ages and abilities. We will start at The Peoples Church and ride through MSU campus and spend most of the ride on Lansing's River Trail. Please join us for this fun day of exercise, fellowship and fun. Children 13 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Register for free at ThePeoplesChurch.com

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ThePeoplesChurch.com
MAY 2015 PORTAL
THE PEOPLES CHURCH

