

# The Grapevine

A monthly newsletter of  
The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

January 2019; Volume 19, Issue 1

## Some Thoughts on Faith

As a child at New Year's, my family observed a potpourri of holiday traditions. My American grandmother (the only one of 4 grandparents who was born in America) insisted that we should eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day. My Scandinavian grandparents brought pickled herring and something called "head cheese" for the New Year's buffet. While living in New Mexico, my family was introduced to the tradition of eating tamales on New Year's, a custom that we still observe. All these foods and customs were based on the premise that good luck and good fortune were attached to each of these foods.

There are a host of such customs, superstitions, folk traditions. For instance, there is a Russian folk tale told at the new year about an old woman—Babushka—who kept the tidiest house and garden in the village. She could always be seen sweeping out the house, cleaning and tidying, no matter the time of year.

At the New Year, as she was sweeping, three travelers stopped at her house, asking for hospitality and looking for a place to spend the night. Babushka welcomed the guests into her house and soon learned that they were on a journey to see a new born king. They showed her the treasures that they were bringing to honor the child—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They invited the old woman to come with them and see the child.

The old woman felt that she still had too much cleaning to do and, in the morning, she bid her guests farewell and went back to her many chores. But it was not long before Babushka regretted her decision. She quickly put some small gifts in a bag and set off to catch up with her night visitors.

Unfortunately, everywhere Babushka went, she found that she had just missed the three visitors who had pushed on before her. When she arrived in Bethlehem, the three magi had already left, and so too, had the holy family. Townspeople showed her where the baby had lain and she placed one small gift at the place. Then she resolved to keep looking for the child until she found him.



Christian tradition understands that the three magi were latecomers to the manger. This Russian tale maintains that there one more who is even later. Babushka is the gift giver, the one who leaves a gift at the bedside of every child. Not knowing what Jesus looks like, or how old Jesus is, she treats every child as a potential Christ, worthy of gifts of love.

Our culture treats the new year as a time for self-improvement. We are encouraged to think of what is lacking in our lives in material terms. We are not wealthy enough, not skinny enough, not healthy enough, not good enough; in short, we are encouraged to think ourselves unworthy. We think that by eating the right foods, exercising more, or whatever... we can do something to tilt the universe in our direction.

The Christian theology of the latecomers—which includes the three magi, Babushka, the Apostle Paul, and Pharisees like Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea—is built on the premise that we are all latecomers to receiving the grace and love of God. God is not created in our image; rather, we are created in the image of God.

Jesus tells a parable about workers in the vineyard. At the end of the day, the generous Master pays those who arrived to work at the 12<sup>th</sup> hour the same wage as those who have been working since dawn. In the Roman world that Jesus lived in, a full day's work was paid one denarius. The Roman's also had a coin called the *pondion* which was valued as one twelfth of a denarius; in other words, the value of one hour's work. Early on, however, Christian thinkers understood the meaning of this parable: there is no such thing as receiving a twelfth part of the love of God.

Fred Buechner said it like this: "The grace of God means, 'Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are, because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it.' Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift, too."

Happy New Year. See you in church,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred".

## JOYS & CONCERNS

**Giving thanks** for the wedding of Bill Ruddock and Laura Damschroder on January 1.

### Please hold in prayer:

- ★ John Geske
- ★ Mary Lou Gifford
- ★ Mary Kaye Goldbatt
- ★ Lyleen Haller
- ★ David Hoekstra
- ★ Wally MacLean
- ★ Harriet McDaniel
- ★ Mike Morgan
- ★ Phil Prygoski

**Our sympathy** to Louis Boyd on the death of his wife, Becky in Georgia. Both were charter members of PCO.



## Thank You Notes

I would like to say **thank you** to so many members who sent beautiful cards with words of sympathy, comfort and support since the passing of my mother. It meant a lot to know that you were thinking of me and sending your prayers. Thank you so much.

*Michele Arbour*

**Thank you** to all the people who offered meals, rides, recovery good wishes, flowers and prayers; both before and after my surgery in November. Pathology report stated that the surgery cured the problem. No further treatment will be needed. Pray we all experience a healthy 2019!

Thank you again,  
*Mary Lou Hatfield*

My dear church and choir,

You sure brought me a warm heart and music to dream about. Thank you for braving the cold and bringing music and love to an old lady [when you came caroling on Sunday afternoon, December 16]. God bless you all. I thank God for your coming here. I just wish Pete were here to enjoy it too, but I think he was. Merry Christmas,

*Jean (and Pete) Weinert*

P.S. Christmas music is the best.

## Giving Tree Project

The Giving Tree Committee, Jane Bobay, Candy Boldrey, Ellen Camann, Becky Gillespie, Trudy Sturk, and Dorinda VanKempfen want to **thank everyone** for their generous donations to our refugee families. Thanks also to Judi Harris for her coordination of all of it.

We were able this year, to use the generous \$300.00 grant from Meijer to buy each person on our list a blanket. Along with that, we used the cash donations to buy all four families a set of towels, a set of sheets, a first aid kit, two flashlights with batteries, and pots and pans. One of the families needed hygiene and safety items for the 3-month-old baby and we added a few extra toys for the children. Every family also got \$125.00 in gift cards to Meijer for their holiday dinner. This is in addition to all of the gifts that were contributed by everyone who took a tag from the tree.

We had great help sorting all of the gifts after church on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. We offer a special thanks to Kelly Locke for staying to help us sort. On Monday, Judi and her intern picked up all of the gifts and Keith Camann and Gary Sturk added their muscle to all of the rest of ours to carry all of the gifts to the St. Vincent's van.

Thanks to Laurie Horstman who helped to print all of the tags and gave much moral support (plus supplies).

A great big thank you to the committee, both ministers, the congregation, and everyone else who made this another very successful giving project for PCO.

*Trudy Sturk*



## From out Youth & Children's CE Director: Sue Schnackenberg

**Christmas Eve** here was wonderful! It surely takes a village to create a Pageant. Below you will find the list of pageant writers, actors, directors and music. A special shout-out to **Eunice Creswell** who is a big part of all things "kids" in this church! **Emily Conroy-Krutz** and **Matt Pearson** opened the space for our children to write a meaningful script. **Jennifer Gordon** helped with setting up the board room with all the costumes, **Angie Boldrey** greeted young ones at the door to guide them into the board room to get a costume. **Barb Fretwell-Cook** helped all the little ones decide what they wanted to be and get into costumes. **Kelsey McKinnie** and **Jonathan Townley** worked with our young vocalists, **Mike Townley** and **Jacob Gierman** worked the lights and sound, **Sandy Detrisac** and **Marlene Brewbaker** accompanied on organ and piano. **Alice Townley** and **Emily Conroy-Krutz** were the dual directors who pulled it all together. We are blessed beyond measure that there are so many adults in our congregation with huge hearts, great love and gifts that they are willing to share with our young people, a true Christmas "present."

The rest of the cast list is below.

Narrator 1: Rebecca Stokes

Narrator 2: Olivia Meland

God: Isabella Beckhorn

Mary: Sarah Bollman

Joseph: Connor Haskell

Inn Keeper: Lucas Meland

Inn Keeper's daughter: Jenna Malscheske

Cows: Will Pearson

Sheep: Evan Haskell

Donkeys: Gabe White & Aiden Urban

Star: Addison Beckhorn

Angel Gabriel: Owen Locke

Angel 1: Megan Bollman

Angel 2: Maddie Pearson

Angel 3: Grace Townley

Angel 4: Tasneem Qurashi

Shepherd 1: Simon Kwilinski

Shepherd 2: Evan Malsheske

Shepherd 3: Spencer Locke

Shepherd 4: Omar Qurashi

Shepherd 5: Gideon Kwilinski

King Herod: Jake Stokes

Wise One 1: Laurel Boldrey

Wise One 2: Lizzie Conroy-Krutz

Wise One 3: Becca Boldrey

And here it is **2019, Happy New Year!**

**Youth Group and Upper Elementary** will start the year at Arts Unlimited on **January 6 to glaze bowls for the Souper Bowl of Caring Supper**. We will leave at noon and eat pizza there while glazing. We should be finished by 2:00 P.M. Please pick up your child there.

The rest of January is fairly standard in our CE Department except that there will be **no Youth Group on January 20**.



Looking ahead, our **Souper Supper of Caring** is February 3 after the all-church meeting. If you have to leave early we will have to-go containers or you could bring your own. Parents, I will need our youth on Saturday February 2nd to help prepare the soups. It's a great day of team work! We finish up on Sunday morning.

It looks to me like 2019 is off to a good start!

## SAVE-THE-DATE for the 13<sup>th</sup> & Final Foundation Fighting Blindness "Fun" Raiser!

Yes, it is true. This is our last big event.

**When:** Saturday, January 26, 2019

**Where:** The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

**Why:** To support research, treatments, & cures for blinding retinal eye diseases

**What to do:** Bring your crafts: scrapbooking, knitting, crocheting, card-making, or come to read, finish that project, or chat with friends new & old.

Join us for a day of food, fun, and friendship to support the FFB. As always, there will be raffles, make-&-takes, and yummy food & drinks to enjoy all day.

Sign up NOW! Contact Sandy Detrisac at church, or email at [detrisacsd@comcast.net](mailto:detrisacsd@comcast.net) or by phone 349-0324. Thanks so much for your past support! We are hoping to break a few records - don't miss the fun!



## Public Policy Report from Mission Committee

When this article was written, the Michigan legislature was still in session at 8:00 p.m. on its final day of session, December 20, 2018. Numerous bills always fly through the Capitol during the final two weeks of session, though fortunately in Michigan we have the constraint of the “five day rule”, which requires that newly introduced bills must “lay over” for five days prior to action by the second house.

To give you some sense of how quickly bills can move, in the past four weeks, over 300 bills have passed either the House or the Senate. Things have speeded up even more in the final two weeks.

There has been substantial press coverage of actions the Michigan legislature has been taking to limit the authority of incoming elected officials in the executive branch, following the lead of several other states. Additionally, some legislation has passed substantially amending legislation which otherwise would have been on the November ballot as initiative resolutions. In both these instances, expect legal challenges regarding the legislature’s authority.

Because health has been one of the Committee’s major foci, let’s look at SB 1175, introduced by Senator Mike Shirkey from Clark Lake. This bill very substantially reduces the impact of the sick leave legislation passed prior to the election. Because of the large number of exclusions and the limitation to people employed by employers with 50 or more employees, the bill is now estimated to affect only 45% of Michigan’s workforce. The bill as amended and now enacted provides one hour of sick leave for every 40 hours of work, up to a maximum of only 36, half of what was allowed by the original legislation.

As a reminder, the sick leave law that is being amended was passed by the legislature in an effort to keep a proposal on that topic from being on the ballot in November. Had that sick leave ballot proposal been approved by voters as an initiative resolution, amending it would have required a three-quarters vote by both chambers. Passing it as legislation meant that it required only “50% plus one” votes to amend. The proposal to raise the state’s minimum wage through an initiative resolution met a similar fate and both have been sent to the Governor and signed into law.

In other news:

**\*\*Legislation codifying juvenile mental health courts** has been approved by both chambers unanimously and will be on its way to the Governor. HB 5806-5808 are the bill numbers. In recent years, the legislature has established various kinds of “problem solving” courts, the most familiar of which are the drug/sobriety courts, which offer some individuals the option of trying to eliminate the cause of their arrest rather than going to jail or prison.

**\*\*Michigan is now the second state to have received federal approval to negotiate Medicaid prescription drug prices base on patient outcome.** This is good news.

**\*\*A multiple-bill package of bills raising the age from 17 to 18 when a defendant in a criminal case is automatically tried as an adult will not make it through the legislative process this session.** However, its bi-partisan sponsors hope that the next legislature will finish action of this bill.

**\*\*A recent University of Michigan study shows that poverty in Michigan is lower than it had been but that there are significant variations.** The average rate of poverty in the state as a whole is 14%, with a low of 5.3% in Livingston County and a high of 23.8% in Isabella County. The statewide average rate of childhood poverty is 20.5%.

**\*\*A three bill package called the foster children’s bill of rights (HB 5121-5123)** has, just today, been approved by both chambers and ordered enrolled, the procedural step before bills are sent to the Governor for his consideration of signature. These bills do what their name suggest: empower children in foster care to seek advocates to assure that they are receiving quality foster care.

### Save February 23 – 24 for Cass Trip!

The Mission Committee again offers members a low cost winter getaway: the annual Cass Community Social Services mission trip to Detroit. Families and individuals are welcome to join us on

one or both days. As usual, we will leave from the church on Saturday morning and return there Sunday afternoon.

More details will be available later, but please save the date. Please talk to Ellen Hoekstra for more information.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### “Going Deeper: the Refugee Crisis” in the Chapel, 11:30 A.M.

**January 13—Dr. Stephanie Nawyn**, is the Co-Director for Academic Programs at the MSU Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) and an associate professor in the Department of Sociology with expertise in gender and migration. Stephanie will talk to us about the historical support of refugees from the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions, and how that has shifted in the last few years. Stephanie traces a recent rise in white supremacy to anti-immigrant sentiment, and its effect on faith communities.

**January 20—Judi Harris**, director of Saint Vincent Catholic Charities (STVCC) Refugee Resettlement and Samaritas foster parent for unaccompanied minors. Judi will give us an update on international, national, and local refugee resettlement.

**January 27—Paula Frantz**, director of the Global Institute of Lansing (GIL), a school our church helped start for refugees to earn a high school diploma. Paula will give us an update on GIL, including expansion to Grand Rapids.

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

**Writing Life Stories group** will meet in room 108 at 11:20 A.M. on Sunday, January 6.

**Book Discussion Group:** Because the December meeting of the Book Club was postponed, we will discuss Wendell Berry’s book, *FIDELITY: FIVE STORIES*, in room 108 at 12:30 P.M. on Sunday, January 20.

**Women’s Supper Out:** On Monday, January 21 we will meet at Acapulco Mexican Grill ([300 Frandor Ave Unit 2, Lansing, MI 48912](http://www.acapulco.com)) at 5:30 P.M.

**Retirees Group** The Monday lunch group will meet on Monday January 28 and February 25 at noon in Fellowship Hall. The topic for January 28 is "Understanding family dynamics as it relates to change." The topic for February 25 is "Five Wishes" Please bring a sack lunch and join in the continuing discussion of changes in our lives and how we embrace those changes Anyone is welcomed to attend whether you are retired, semi-retired or thinking of retiring! If you have any questions, please contact Jane Bobay at (517) 505-0211 or Tom Bobay at [tombobay@hotmail.com](mailto:tombobay@hotmail.com).



**Women's Connection** meets Sunday, January 27, 12:30. We welcome a guest speaker, Darla Jackson, Meridian Township Human Services Specialist. She will discuss, ways we can help and serve people in the township throughout the year now that our Thanksgiving and Christmas giving projects are done. All interested women and men are invited! Please contact Shirley Rumming ([srumming@yahoo.com](mailto:srumming@yahoo.com) or 655-4123) if you wish to join us for lunch at 12:30, or you may come just to hear Darla at 1:00.

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

Rev. Carlson will continue leading the Sunday morning Bible Study beginning on Sunday, January 27 at 11:30 A.M. in Room 108. We will look at major themes and events in the life and work of Jesus through the gospel-telling of Mark and Luke: Baptism, mission, miracle, parable, and preaching. All are welcome.

### Membership Classes

**On the first two Sundays in January**, Rev. Carlson will be offering classes for those who are considering church membership or those who simply want to learn more about this congregation and the Presbyterian faith. People are invited to be a part of this class on Sunday, January 6, and/or Sunday, January 13 at 11:30 a.m. to ask questions, to get acquainted with one another and with the church staff and consider joining this congregation. We will meet in Room 108 on both of those mornings.

### MID-WEEK STUDY GROUPS AND CLASSES

**Men’s Group** meets each Tuesday morning at 6:45 A.M. in Fellowship Hall.

**Artists’ Circle** meets Tuesdays, 1:00 P.M., in Room 108. Come join our delightful group as we explore the ideas and concepts of Art and Christianity.

**Conversation & Contemplation**, with Rev. Alice Townley meets on Wednesdays, at 10:00 A.M. in Room 108. We next meet on January 9 with an Epiphany Brunch.

**Bible Study:** Thursdays, 9:30 A.M. in Room 108; with Ewen & Zora Todd. (No study on January 3,) After looking at the shepherds’ visit to the newborn Jesus, and the wise men’s coming through Mary’s eyes on January 10, we will continue the study of Matthew and in particular Jesus’ early ministry and the Sermon on the Mount.

## From the Administration Committee

Last January, Session proposed that our church budget for 2018 would be an "unbalanced budget." This was discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, and we all expressed our hope that by the end of the year, expenses and expected income would balance. Making a church budget is always an act of faith that is dependent upon many variables.

As we near the end of the 2018 budget year, the church has not been able to balance this year's budget.



The Administration Committee and Session is asking the entire congregation to prayerfully consider making a special end-of-year contribution to the work of the church.

If you have not yet turned in an **Estimate of Giving** card for 2019, please plan to get one to the church office as soon as possible.

Thank you for your bountiful and generous support of the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church of Okemos. May God continue to bless the people of this congregation and the work

### Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Session of The Presbyterian Church of Okemos has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, February 3, following the 10:00 A.M. worship service. This meeting will be held in the sanctuary, moderated by Rev. Carlson. The congregation is asked to review the reports of the committees of Session, the work of the Deacons, elect church officers, and approve the terms of call for the Pastor/Head of Staff. Annual Reports will be made available for the congregation on Sunday, January 20.

### To All Deacons, Elders, and Committee Chairs,

Please have your annual reports turned into the church office by Sunday, January 13. Copies of previous year's reports can be requested from the office. We will print and have them available for review by January 20, two weeks before the Annual Meeting.

## From Ellen Hoekstra

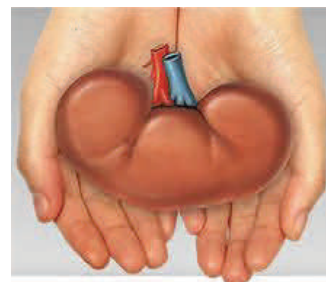
Dear Friends,

Thanks to everyone for your thoughts and prayers for my son David, who remains on dialysis. Unfortunately, our second prospective donor was also not approved; we are very grateful to him for having tried mightily to give this gift of life. David remains on the deceased donor list, but in Michigan that can take four-to-eight years. Only half of the people on that list ever receive a kidney. Thus, we are again seeking prospective donors and hope to have several who are willing to be evaluated.

Living donors do not need to be related and gender does not matter. As a matter of fact, it no longer matters nearly as much as it used to whether a prospective donor is a "match" because the transplant team can do "paired" donation with another prospective donor and recipient. Yes, four or more people would be operated on at the same time! What does matter is the health of the prospective donor. University of Michigan is very careful about whom they approve. Donors' medical costs for evaluation, surgery, and hospitalization are covered by Medicare and the recipient's health insurance, not by the donor.

Having been a donor 20 years ago, I would be glad to talk to anyone considering it. Gary VanKempen, who has more recently donated to his brother, is also happy to talk with anyone about his experience and the positive impact it had on his brother's life. For more information, you can go to [www.ExploreTransplant.org](http://www.ExploreTransplant.org). If you decide you are interested in being evaluated, you can call U of M's Donor Office at 1-800-333-9013 or go on-line to complete a screening questionnaire. The donor form is near the bottom of the page under "Are You Interested in Donating a Kidney?" at <http://www.uofmhealth.org/medical-services/living-and-paired-kidney-donation>. You'll need to specify "David Hoekstra", birthdate April 29, 1982. We also would appreciate having you forward this request to anyone/any other publications and, of course, appreciate your continued prayers.

*Ellen Hoekstra*



## Storm Lake: A Chronicle of Change, Resilience, and Hope from a Heartland Newspaper

by Art Cullen

On April 10, 2017, the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing surprised nearly everyone. It went to Art Cullen, the editorial writer of The Storm Lake Times, from Storm Lake, Iowa. The Pulitzer committee praised Cullen for “editorials fueled by tenacious reporting, impressive expertise, and engaging writing that successfully challenged powerful corporate agricultural interests in Iowa.” “We won! John! We won!” Cullen hugged members of this family newspaper: his older brother, John—publisher of the twice-a-week newspaper, Dolores, Art’s wife, and Tom, their son, the chief reporters for this family enterprise in a town of 14,000 in northwest Iowa.

On August 10, 2018, my wife and I met the Cullen brothers. Barbara took photographs of the small Pulitzer sculpture in the Times office. John Cullen gave us copies of the editions of August 8 and 10. Diverse faces of kids from Storm Lake sat side-by-side photographs of people with their Hallmark ornaments. Customary award winners in the Buena Vista County Fair preceded a historical report on how Buena Vista County got its name from a battle with Mexico in 1847. All-star baseball players appeared next to the news that the Iowa Farm Bureau planned to cover all Iowa high school athletes in 2018-2019 with concussion insurance. Fifty notices of weekend worship services, including mainstream churches and Spanish-speaking churches, stood out. An accelerated college program for a young lawyer-to-be, tax rebate, strike protesting an increase in rent, and poignant obituary also appeared. A letter to the editor reminded us where we had read Art Cullen’s op-ed piece, “In My Town, We Need Immigrants,” in the New York Times on July 31, 2018.

The editorials about soil science, abortion, the death penalty, Senator Charles Grassley, and Storm Lake’s benefits from immigrants were brilliant: direct, well-supported, well-written, in the language of lay people. I saw why Cullen had won the Pulitzer Prize. What a joy to compliment a progressive, intelligent, and witty group of newspaper men and women: they have given readers a vastly different portrait of Iowa than that of bigoted Representative Steve King.

On October 2, Art Cullen’s book, Storm Lake: A Chronicle of Change, Resilience, and Hope from a Heartland Newspaper, appeared. According to Dan Balz, noted correspondent from the Washington Post, “Art Cullen embodies what community journalism is all about, which is an understanding—even love—of place and people, a determination to make things better, and the backbone to challenge powerful interests. Cullen knows Iowa and a lot more. This book will delight you and inform you and surprise you. It will also give you hope.”

The book is part autobiography and biography, part story of a family newspaper, part study of a thriving rural community that welcomes immigrants from 30 countries, part critique of corporate agribusiness interests that were polluting the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers, and part lament for the dying family farms, small towns, and simpler way of life. Three chapters in particular stand out because they focus on local newspapers, immigrants from Mexico, and reporting as a calling.

“What We Believe” appeared in the first edition of the newspaper on June 28, 1990. Three foundational documents guide the Cullens: the self-evident truths in the Declaration of Independence, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and John 8:32 (“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”). They hoped their newspaper would “be a mirror of life in this wonderful community.” They would praise honest government that served rather than enslaved people. They would expose intolerance and injustice, “speak for those who are silenced,” laugh with “those who rejoice,” and “cry for those who suffer.”

They would also welcome immigrants, who worked hard in their meat and poultry processing plants. “Finding the City Beautiful in Santa Rita,” Mexico, appeared in the Times on October 22, 2005. Santa Rita and Ayotlan, Mexico, became sister cities of Storm Lake. Farmers in the state of Jalisco grew corn on five to six acres to feed themselves. The rate of unemployed stood at 30 percent, illiteracy 50 percent. Few kids went to school. The high school principal made \$2.95 an hour. An armless woman sewed with her feet. Hunger knew no borders. Iowa farmers in Buena Vista County harvested 220 bushels of corn per acre to sell. In 2015, per capital annual income in that county was \$40,000. At Storm Lake, 90 percent of the elementary school children were immigrants, 70 percent of the high school graduates Hispanic. Young people have fled the terror, violence, and poverty not only in Mexico but also in Laos, Cuba, Myanmar, and Sudan. They speak 30 languages in Storm Lake. Many have sent one-third of their earnings back home, returned to Mexico, or become citizens in the U.S. Santa Rita and Storm Lake have revitalized each other.

When Art Cullen’s son, Tom, turned down a career in law or economics, Art wrote Tom a letter expressing his delight and welcoming him into the struggling profession of newspaper reporting. “The reporter is the cornerstone of an informed electorate and a functioning democracy. Stand guard. . . . Correct your errors prominently and your credibility will build. . . .

Write for readers and not other editors. . . . The best journalism is that which builds communities.” Publicize “good deeds done,” report “on the cheats and scoundrels and other politicians.” . . . Allow “dissenting voices to be heard, and [make] certain that your town’s issues are heard in Des Moines and Washington. . . . Always be honest. . . . You can change the world through journalism.”

Other chapters capture Art Cullen’s humorous and serious sides: courting his wife, keeping up with changes in the newspaper business, Iowa’s becoming a purple state, confronting climate change and soil erosion. “How lucky I am to be alive,” he sings. “I know where I belong.”



Review by Ron Dorr



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS  
2258 BENNETT RD  
OKEMOS, MI 48864-3233



**Chili Cook-off &  
Game Night**  
**Sunday, January 13, 2019**  
**at 5:00 P.M.**

Join our church family for a delicious and fun **Chili Cook-off & Game Night**. We will enjoy a variety of chili dishes at 5:00 with games beginning around 6:00. What better way to spend a chilly winter evening! Click on the link below to sign up to bring chili, a side dish or dessert to share with the group. This is an event for all ages so come along and enjoy the night with us.

EVENT NAME: Chili Cookoff 2019;

PASSWORD: 6621;

COORDINATOR NAME: Major [Perfect Potluck Signup](#)

*The Grapevine* is a monthly newsletter of  
**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M.**

STAFF

*Rev. Dr. Robert T. Carlson, Jr.*, PASTOR  
*Rev. Alice Fleming Townley*, Assistant Pastor  
*Sue Schnackenberg*,

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES  
*Laurie Horstman*, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Friday: 9:00 A.M.-Noon

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>New Years Day!</b> 6:45am Men's Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:00pm Prayer Shawl	<b>5</b>
	<b>6</b> 10:00am Worship 11:30am CE Hour 12:00noon Youth Group & Upper EI - Bowl Glazing 12:30pm Writing Life Stories	<b>7</b> 6pm JuBellees 6:45pm Monday Mallets	<b>8</b> 6:45am Men's Group 1pm Artists' Circle 12:30pm Presbyterian Clergy Lunch 5:45pm Worship & Music Committee 7pm Deacons	<b>9</b> 10am Conversation & Contemplation Brunch 6:30pm Mission Committee 7pm Communication & Engagemnt Committee 7pm Parish Life Committee	<b>10</b> 9:30am Bible Study resumes  7:30pm Choir	
<b>13</b> 10:00am Worship 11:30am CE Hour 12:30pm Youth Group <b>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</b> 5:00pm Chili & Game Night	<b>14</b> 6pm JuBellees 6:45pm Monday Mallets	<b>15</b> 6:45am Men's Group 1pm Artists' Circle	<b>16</b> 10am Conversation & Contemplation 6:30pm Admin Committee 7:30pm Session	<b>17</b> 9:30am Bible Study  6pm Adult Ed Committee 7:30pm Choir	<b>18</b> 1:00pm Prayer Shawl	
<b>20</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Birthday Cake 11:30am CE Hour 12:30pm Youth Group 12:30pm Book Discussion	<b>21</b> <b>GRAPEVINE DEADLINE</b>  5:30pm Women's Supper Out 6pm JuBellees 6:45pm Monday Mallets	<b>22</b> 6:45am Men's Group 1pm Artists' Circle	<b>23</b> 10am Conversation & Contemplation  7pm Personnel Committee	<b>24</b> 9:30am Bible Study  7:30pm Choir	<b>25</b> 9am - 3pm FFB set up	<b>26</b>  FFB Craft Day
<b>27</b> 10:00am Worship 11:30am CE Hour 12:30pm Youth Group 12:30pm Women's Connection	<b>28</b> 6pm JuBellees 6:45pm Monday Mallets	<b>29</b> 6:45am Men's Group 1pm Artists' Circle	<b>30</b> 10am Conversation & Contemplation	<b>31</b> 9:30am Bible Study  7:30pm Choir		<b>2</b> Souper Bowl prep

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 3 at 11:30 A.M.

*Souper Bowling of Caring lunch to follow.*