



# RANGE LINE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2011

THE MESSENGER

18095 Clay Street Hebron, IN 46341

219-996-8746

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*“Serving God  
With Love and Joy  
As We Reach Out  
to All People”*

### Fall Worship Schedule:

Christian Education 9:30 am  
Worship Service 10:30 am  
Join us for fellowship  
after worship.

**EXTRA. EXTRA  
READ ALL ABOUT  
HIM!!**

## GREAT NEWS!!!!!!

**We have a candidate for the Pastor of  
Range Line Presbyterian Church**

**The Designated Pastor nominating committee is very  
happy to present to you**

**Rev. Jeffrey Deardorff**

Be sure you are in church **Sunday, Sept. 25th at 10:30**  
to hear him preach. There will be a congregational meeting  
immediately after worship for the purpose of  
voting on the candidate.

**Please join us between 9:00—10:15 am on Sunday for brunch  
and a chance to visit with Rev. Jeff and his wife Rose.**

*Jeff Deardorff was born and raised in Philadelphia. During his college years, while a music major, he studied voice for a year at the Vienna Conservatory of Music in Austria. After graduating college, he taught music for two years in a mission school in Tehran, IRAN. It was there that he first met Rose, his wife, who was also teaching in the same school. While pursuing part time theological studies at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, LEBANON, Jeff was led by God to pursue a career in fulltime ministry. He then graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA with a Doctorate in Ministry and was ordained in 1977.*

*Jeff and Rose then spent two years in service as missionaries in Yogyakarta, INDONESIA, where they taught music in the Chinese-Indonesian Church, ministered to ex-political prisoners, and in evangelical efforts helped establish and build several churches.*

*Upon their return to the U.S., they settled in Roanoke, VA, where Jeff pastored in a historic church. Among many other challenges, he also led several presbytery partnerships in work throughout Central America. Both of their daughters, Heather and Sarah, were born during that period in their lives.*

*In 1986, Jeff received a call to come to a 3000 member church in Arlington Heights, IL, where he served as the pastor of evangelism and missions and coordinator of pastoral care. He spent twenty five years building up local and international missions, reaching out and establishing community missions, inviting many to church, pastoring all generations, performing over 100 weddings and twice as many funerals, and preaching several times a month. Jeff set up a special and enduring relationship with partners in the Dominican Republic which is still multiplying from the efforts he exerted.*

*Jeff is excited about possibilities at Range Line Presbyterian Church and looks forward to living in our area.*

***The Designated Pastor Committee gave their report to the congregation on Sunday morning. If you weren't there...you missed seeing our excitement for this candidate. Below is the charge that was given to the congregation.***

Range Line has always been known as a friendly church...close knit like a family. Our mission statement says...*Serving God with love and joy as we reach out to all people.* Our foundation was laid 90 years ago. The purpose of starting the church then was to provide Christian education for the children in the community.

What is the purpose of the church? I googled it and found "The church is to carry out God's mission by teaching, training, and equipping believers to glorify God through Worship and service."

Have we lost sight of what our purpose is here at Range Line? I know it has been a struggle this past year with not knowing who will be in your pulpit from one Sunday to the next. The lack of consistency has hurt our giving, has hurt when we have had visitors. We have had quite a variety of speakers...our grateful thanks go out to the worship committee, especially Judy Sharp (Betsy) for making sure someone was here every Sunday! It is hard on a congregation when they don't have a pastor to turn to in times when they are hurting. The deacons... have done an outstanding job of pastoral care...calling on the sick, and trying to keep contact with members that have drifted away. Thank you.....Allan, Nancy, Carl, Bev, Maxine & John.

One of the strengths of Rev. Deardorff that drew us to him was his love for pastoral care. His hope is that working with the deacons he will be able to visit our shut ins, members that have drifted away, and work on bringing new members in.

I am going to be taking some excerpts from Rev. Deardorff's Personal information form and sharing them with you today.

As you can tell from the reports from your designated pastor nominating committee. We are excited about the possibilities ahead for Range Line. For the first time in my adult life in this church, we have the opportunity to have a minister with experience. I remember Rev. Elliot, Rev. Parker, Rev. DeVries, Rev. Gordon. I can't say for sure what kind of experience they had, but I know from the past 4 pastor nominating committees that I have been on, with the exceptions of our interim pastors, this is the first we've proposed for candidacy that wasn't just out of seminary. Range Line had a reputation for calling those young students, training them up and then having them move on to bigger and better things. We sent Rev. Deardorff, Jeff, the last treasurer's report, we told him the pastor's package that was in our budget, and he agreed to come anyway! I pray that our giving will increase and that you will support your church and this pastor by pledging and giving more if you are able. For a pastor with over 30 years experience...he deserves a lot more than the Presbytery minimum salary that we will be paying him.

*Jeff says..."I would love to serve in a church that balances worship and service. Praising God and worship is central to our Christian identity as we constantly seek to understand God's Word and how it applies to us today."*

He graduated from college with a B.S. in music education in 1971. He received his doctorate of ministry in 1977 from Union Theological in Richmond, VA and was ordained in 1977.

He was a church choir director and mission school teacher in Tehran, Iran. His first solo pastorate was in Virginia. During his pastoral leadership the church grew from 100 to 200 members. For 25 years he was an associate pastor of pastoral care, evangelism, missions, and congregational care in the First Presbyterian church, Arlington Heights a 1700 member church...does it sound familiar? Yes, that is where our past interim, Rev. Rose Taul went to after she left here...yes, it was Rose that told Jeff about our church and encouraged him to apply.

A church is about mission...not only in our community, but in our world.

Jeff and his wife Rose have traveled extensively to places like the Dominican Republic, Iran, Indonesia, Mexico and Ghana doing mission work. In Chicago he has worked with faith communities of many different denominations and the business community to provide food and shelter for the homeless.

I would like to remind you that “Getting a new pastor is not a passive exercise, but a cooperative one. He is not here to do things for you, he is here that we might do things together. It is one thing to have a church, quite another to be the church. To have a church is just a purely exterior relationship — like having a house or having a car. But to be the church requires an interior relationship, where one is shaped and guided, just like membership in a family.”

In this way, we are a whole people in mission. This way, we understand the church not so much as a place to go, but rather as an organic form through which we are called. And for me, the church doesn't have a mission, it is mission. It doesn't exist for itself...it exists for those who are not even in it.”

The effective spiritual leader of a congregation has to perform many functions. He must be a *visionary*, looking ahead to where the Lord wants to take his people. He has to be a kind of “*cheerleader*,” encouraging the people to take on the mission God has for them. He needs to be an *intercessor*, laying the needs of his congregation before the Lord in prayer. He should be a *teacher*, interpreting the faith to his flock and expounding the Word of God. Perhaps above all, he needs to be an *example* of faithful living and commitment to the work of God. And the list goes on.

*Jeff says “The leadership should be balanced so that it gives strength to the church itself and reaches out beyond the church. Too often churches get wrapped up in themselves and forget the great commission that Christ gives us to go out into the world. The pastor needs to always speak the language of love. We are not to be prideful leaders, but build up others as we lead.”*

Moses, who led the Israelites out of Egypt, was all of the above. But in addition to these he had one more function. He was head of the Israelite Complaint Department. It seems the people were constantly badgering him about something or other. You name it, they griped about it — whether it was the desolation of the wilderness they were traveling through, or the fact that the promised land was full of giants, or some guys that were prophesying in their camp, or their monotonous menu of manna. They even complained about Moses' wife, that she wasn't their kind.

It seems that the Bible story of Israel's beginnings is one big record of complaints. The people of Israel had trouble catching onto Moses' vision for where the Lord was taking them. All they could see were their present hardships, and all they could voice were their gripes. They had no long-range perspective.

The Bible is telling this story to make a point: It wasn't the people who left Egypt who made it into Canaan, the land of promise. Those people weren't fit for the “land of milk and honey.” It was a new generation of Israelites, the ones born in the wilderness who didn't remember Egypt, that crossed the Jordan. The “griping generation” all died in the wilderness — all except Joshua and Caleb, who had a more positive attitude.

I think there's a warning here for any Christian congregation. The Israelites were shortsighted, they had no vision. They were constantly complaining *to* their leadership, and *about* their leadership. And as a result they stayed in the wilderness, and there they died. And *if we do what they did, we will stay where they stayed*. We'll stay in a wilderness of unspiritual and unfruitful negativity, and never see that blessed land of promise where the church lives in the awesome and beautiful presence of God, and his people prosper in the overflow of his grace.

Having been in this church my whole life, I know the generous and positive spirit of this congregation. But unless we stay continually open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, we're never far from falling back into that "wilderness" mode. We know that, because we've seen it happen a few times in recent years with very painful results. The installation of a new pastor is a good time to remind ourselves that if we do what the Israelites did, we'll stay right where they stayed. We need to get out of Egypt, yes — but we also need to *get the Egypt out of us*, that attitude of negativism, that "we can't do it" mentality, that complaining spirit that continually finds fault with the leadership.

In his PIF Jeff describes his leadership style as one of partnership with God. "I understand that all ability and gifts to lead come from God. In the church, Christ is the head of the body with each of us playing a role in making the body work." In his covenant with us one of his ministry goals is to assist the committees and congregation in implementing the vision and goals for our future. He will work with us to formulate a vision statement for this church, a statement that envisions a *worshiping* church, a *teaching* church, a *sharing* church and a *caring* church. He will need your support, your input, and your ownership of a new vision for this church.

We are a family. Moving ahead into the promise and purpose of God for this congregation is a task that involves every member. Will you, each of you, engage in that fruitful task together with your leaders? Or will you sit by in critical judgment of others more willing than you are to undertake the journey that lies ahead?

Unity, love and prayer...what else could a new pastor ask for. We recall what great concerns these were with our Lord for His disciples in all His teachings, but, never more than in His final hours with them in the upper room. While there was a finality about His words that night, a new and exciting chapter for the disciples was about to begin. Therefore, nothing would be more important than that they stay together, love one another, and be faithful in praying.

"We challenge you to accept your responsibility to protect and promote the unity of this church. Put your full effort into it, and God will be pleased. It will not always be easy. Sometimes you will have to do what is best for the body and not yourself, showing preference to others. That's one reason God puts us in a church family, to learn unselfishness. It is your responsibility to protect the unity of this church."

"It is an exciting time for Range Line. Our committee hopes that you welcome Rev. Deardorff and his wife into our family. We hope that you will open your hearts and minds to new possibilities with a new pastor for a new era of leadership. Change is sometimes frightening. It's almost always good when we look back. We hope that you will receive, hear, support, and patiently care for the new pastor. Invite him to your home for lunch or dinner. Stop by and visit him at church. He plans to be in the office three mornings a week and then out visiting in the afternoons. Participate in new programs that may be starting. We need to revive our bible studies, support our young mom's in the neighborhood. Reach out to this community. Most of all, pray...pray hard for this new pastorate, for this church...that we can get back to being a church. And build on that foundation that was set for us so many years ago. To God be the glory, Amen.

## THE DEACONS NEED YOUR HELP WITH A CARE PACKAGE!

Let's get excited for Donald Straughen

Donald is starting his second year at Michigan Tech University located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He is majoring in Electrical Engineering Technology. He pledged in the Siame Tou Gamma fraternity last year and is living in the fraternity house. He is the Special Events Chairman and is currently planning the activities for Homecoming. Donald is also a member of Memorial Union Board who sponsors a number of events during the school year. In his free time he likes hiking, hunting, fishing and enjoying the outdoor scenery.

Again this year the Deacons would like to sponsor a 'College Goodie Box'. Suggestions; chocolate chip cookies, barbeque hot pringles, apple pie slices, John Deere fruit snacks, Gushers fruit snacks, red twizzlers, chips, mountain dew or food cards. Arby's, McDonald's or Taco Bell. Or cash to help offset the mailing cost.

Questions: ask a Deacon. Thanks.

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### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ARE ON THE MOVE



'Tis the season for festivals. The Presbyterian Women will be at the Schererville Country Market on Saturday, Sept. 24th. They could use some baked goods to sell! Cookies, nut-breads, candy etc.

Buckley Days are also being planned. Oct. 8 & 9th will be the fall festival. They will be making apple dumplings on Thursday, Oct. 6th & Friday the 7th. Then baking them on Saturday and Sunday. A few regulars are going to be gone, so if you can help at all, let them know. Even if you can come for a couple of hours. Men welcome too!! They get the job of running the apple peeler!!

The Presbyterian Women have just paid for the flooring to put in the fellowship hall. They do so much for our church...see if you can help them out a bit!

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### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL GATHERING

Presbits 1,2 and 3 will have their Wabash Valley Fall Gathering on October 1, 2011 at Kouts Presbyterian Church. The meeting will start at 9:00 am. Tammy Watson will be the keynote speaker. She is from the Good Samaritan Mission in Gary. Her husband, Jim, has preached here at Range Line this past year. Please see Barb Jurs or Shirley Moosmiller if you would like to attend.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL RETREAT

Let's plan on taking a cabin full of women to the Fall retreat. It will be held on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4 & 5th (right after the turkey supper...you'll be able to use a retreat!) It will be held at Geneva Center.

Let's support our Presbytery's Presbyterian Women...our own Barb Jurs is their moderator, Shirley Moosmiller the treasurer and Bev Laszlo is a coordinator between churches Presbyterian women's groups! Way to go Range Line!!!

**COMING UP AT RANGE LINE:**

- Sept. 20—Presbyterian Women meeting 6:30
- Sept. 22—Session meets at 7:00 pm
- Sept. 25—Rev. Jeff Deardorff candidates  
9:00—10:15 Brunch—meet Rev. Jeff & Rose  
Congregational meeting after worship
- Oct. 2—Communion with Rev. Marge Egger
- Oct. 5—Monthly dinner 4:30—7:00 pm
- Oct. 8 & 9th—Buckley Fall Festival



**Happy Birthday to.....  
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY**

- Sept. 2 Chris Jusevitch  
Norma Tyler
- Sept. 8—Derek Hoots
- Sept. 14—Becca Sharp
- Sept. 18—Zach Hayden  
Owen Sharp
- Sept. 19—Sandy Ericksen
- Sept. 20—Barb Dockweiler
- Sept. 22—Donald Straughen
- Sept. 27—Kayanna Seely
- Sept. 28—Stephanie McCracken

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAY**

- Oct. 1—Corbin Anderson
- Oct. 2—Doug Wiseman
- Oct. 5—Nick Tokarz
- Oct. 8—Tiffany McEldroy
- Oct. 12—Stephan Anderson
- Oct. 13—Shirley Moosmiller
- Oct. 15—Stew Williams
- Oct. 16—Bonnie Osburn
- Oct. 18—Matthew Osburn
- Oct. 19—Curt Fritts
- Oct. 20—Barbara Morris
- Oct. 21—Tony Blank  
Chris Frey
- Oct. 22—Debbie Hartzler  
Rob McCracken
- Oct. 24—Allen Dockweiler
- Oct. 29—Sue Bell

The church is getting back together after the storm. The carpet is being laid this week. We could use some help **CLEANING!** The container will be unloaded this week sometime. The library books need to be sorted and re-shelved. The office readied for a new pastor, the Christian Ed wing needs cleaned....**CAN YOU HELP???** Give Susie a call and see what needs to be done! 219-746-5719



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Vernon Childress   | Lillian Schoon |
| Alice Rinkenberger | Gladys Osburn  |
| Del & Alice Jones  | Bob Owens      |

If you know someone who should be on the Prayer List, please contact the church at (219) 996-8746 or r1pc@netnitco.net. For pastoral emergency you may call Susie Hayden at home 996-6923

**2011 SESSION MEMBERS AND THE  
MINISTRY TEAMS THEY SERVE**

- Moderator—Rev. Marge Egger Clerk of Session—Janet Moore
- Stewardship, Finance & Administration/Buildings & Grounds  
Jerry Moosmiller, Dale Straughen, Jerry Hayden and Allan Nethery
- Worship & Music/Christian Education & Youth  
Betsy Kubisz, Chari Hayden and Bill Slosser
- Fellowship & Hospitality/Mission & Evangelism  
Norma Lance, Barb Jurs,
- Deacons— Allen Dockweiler, Carl Skinner, Maxine Green, Nancy Nethery,  
Bev Laszlo, John Jurs

**PLEASE HELP THEM OUT BY SERVING ON A MINISTRY TEAM THIS YEAR!**

*You can come each month to committee meetings the second Thursday at 7:00 pm or just offer to volunteer for lay leader, childcare, special music, greeter for a month, usher, serve refreshments one Sunday. Be involved in your church family!!*

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- Sept. 6—Chris & Betsy Kubisz
- Sept. 8—Adam & Becca Sharp
- Sept. 20—John & Barb Jurs
- Sept. 29—Jeremy & Kelly Hayden
- Oct. 15—Allen & Barb Dockweiler
- Oct. 17—Glen & Joan Miller
- Oct. 21—Tony & Kelly Blank





# October “Ham Dinner”

Wednesday, Oct. 5th

## Monthly Dinners

Ham—Hashbrown Casserole—Vegetable  
Applesauce, Dessert & Drink

Adults \$8.00 - Children 6-12 \$4.00

## Thursday, November 3rd—Turkey Supper



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*To everyone at the home of:*



September