NOVEMBER 2011

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 454



HEAD-LINE NO. 454 NOVEMBER 2011
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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WENDY'S WORLD

Wendy Carnegie,

My trip to Texas (Benbrook--near Ft. Worth) was a lot of fun. It took 2 days of driving to get there and then another 2 days to get home. Eve's (my great-neice) baptism was very nice. She was a very good girl during the ceremony--hardly cried at all. We had brunch at a 5-star hotel before the ceremony--very, very good. My great-nephew, Sen Lin had surgery to repair a hole in his palate the day we arrived. You wouldn't know it the next day. He was up and running at break of day and didn't stop until bed-time.. He had to eat soft food for 1 week, so it was hard to spoil him with food--which he likes a lot! He and May (my other great-neice) had a great time being spoiled by Gram, Gramps, and Aunt Wendy.

On the way down and again on the way home we stopped in Vinita, Ok for lunch at a family-owned restaurant called Clanton's. Not much to look at, but they have the best hamburgs, fires and home baked pies. They toast the bun and you get it served the way you want it--yum! The fries are home-made--they peel and cut them themselves and they are delicious!! The best fries I've ever had. So if you're ever on Historic Route 66 near Vinita, OK, stop in and try the grub--you won't be disappointed.

This being November, the month for Thanksgiving, I thought it time to thank everyone who is involved in this newsletter. I couldnn't do it without you! Frank Dolinar thank you for your **2** monthly columns. Barb Ford thank you for your wonderful column "Food for Thought". Thanks Betsy Mark for your reMARK column and keeping us up to date on national issues. While I'm not a math lover, Bob Henderson's monthly puzzle is fun. Thanks Bob. Thanks too, to TC Shaw for his stories and puzzles. I enjoy them and I hope everyone else does. John Garrison--thanks for your trivia and famous quotes--I love them. Last, but certainly not least, thank you Joe Warren for doing a wonderful job printing the news-letter. You come through like a trouper every month. You're awesome!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

Till next month...



Frankly Speaking

by Frank Dolinar, LocSec

Yup! It's November all right. The trees – except for the evergreens – have discarded their leaves. And we're back on Eastern Standard Time, which means the I get up in the dark, get to work when it's only barely daylight, and come home in the dark.

I'll get used to it – sometime around mid-February, but it's not my favorite month of the year. Despite the fact that I'm often working into the wee hours of the morning, I do prefer the occasional encounter with real sunlight, not just full spectrum light bulbs.

November's signature holiday, Thanksgiving, marks the beginning of the holiday season. For retailers, the season appears to have started months ago, and will last past Groundhog Day and the SuperBowl.

Call me a curmudgeon, but I'd really be happy with the holidays actually starting (even in the stores) around Thanksgiving and lasting until just past New Year's Day – with significantly less marketing of all those things we can't live without and with significantly more consideration of and time spent with our families and friends.

A friend expressed his frustration with the unrelenting commercial nature of the season by coining the word "HallowThanksMasYear". On the other hand, another friend claims that Thanksgiving is her most treasured holiday of the year because she can give profuse thanks to her family and friends – letting them all know how important they are to her. They both have a point.

Regardless, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and the beginning of a wonderful holiday season. Perhaps you will spend some of it with your Mensa friends at dinner, listening to one of our speakers, at the pub, at the new member coffee break, or at the upcoming potluck dinner. Opportunities exist.

It's your Mensa.
Be part of it.

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reMARK, November 2011

Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

When the American Mensa Committee (AMC – Mensa's Board of Directors) meets in Arlington, Texas, Don Drumtra, LocSec of Lone Star Mensa attends. What appears between the lines below was written by Don for his local newsletter. I have always wanted to share with you what happens during our meetings and Don has said it well. I have permission to use it here. Please, if you are ever where the AMC meets, do join us. Our next meeting is the weekend of December 2-4 in Las Vegas. Needless to say, it is the same weekend as Cincinnati's Regional Gathering, and, to be honest, I'd much prefer to be in Cincinnati with you. If you have to be in Las Vegas, I would love to see you at the AMC meeting at the Tropicana.

Who sets the policy and direction for Mensa? It is the International Board of Directors, responsible for high-level decisions regarding broad strategic guidance for national Mensa organizations. The Mensa founders, who were the de facto IBD members at the time, set down the three reasons for our existence listed on the first page of the Mensa Constitution.

Closer to home is the governing body of American Mensa (AML)—the American Mensa Committee (AMC). As you might suspect, it develops policy and provides direction for Mensa in America. But what else does the AMC do? It is hard describe, but reading their minutes and reports on line might help us find out. We could also sit in on the AMC meeting at the Annual Gathering if we attended. (But then we might miss some of the interesting speakers we came to see.)

What then? Well, once each year the AMC meets in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area near the National Office in Arlington. The meetings are open to all Mensa members and, with a few exceptions, visitors are invited to participate in most activities and observe most meetings; but we have to pay our own way. So instead of visiting the AMC at an AG, we could hop in our car or on a train and attend the meeting. I chose the latter on September 8. It was fun and enlightening and even though I was the only full-time visitor, I felt welcome.

The first day of the meeting consisted of a leadership development workshop. The AMC is serious about leadership development and believes it is important to set the example for the rest of American Mensa members. The presenter was Jeffery Cafaude, a national award-winning facilitator of company executive leadership conferences. He bills himself as an Idea Architect.

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reMARK -- Continued

We began Friday with a continental breakfast at 7:30 AM. Jeff arranged us around five round tables with five participants each, and at 8:30 AM he began the workshop. We had one morning coffee break and then moved to the next room for a buffet working lunch, while listening to an outside auditor explain the results of the recent AML financial audit. The workshop resumed at 1 PM and went to 5:15 with one break. There was a meeting on testing from 5:30 to 6:30 that most of us did not attend. At 6:30 we reconvened for a buffet working dinner, with a presentation on testing by the AML Chief Psychologist, Dr. Frank Lawless. Dinner ended at 7:45, in time for the meetings of the Leadership Committee at 8 PM and Finance Committee at 9 PM. I was dead tired when the day's work was done at 10 PM. What about the National Office staff? They arrived before us and left after us, making sure all was ready, that we all got to the right place at the right time, and cleaning up after us.

Saturday the continental breakfast was at 7:30-8:30 AM, the same time as the Membership Committee meeting. The meeting convened at 8:30 and ended in mid-afternoon with a working buffet lunch with multiple discussions. After the AMC Committee meeting there was a meeting of the RVCs. Saturday evening we gathered for dinner and to exchange war stories.

On Sunday there was a working breakfast to wrap up the meetings. We all hung around the breakfast tables afterward, finally relaxing until we had to leave to catch our flights or other transportation home.

What was my impression? Some have suggested that most of the meetings AMC members attend are nothing but parties. My experience was quite the opposite. Our AMC members worked from sunrise until after sunset each day conducting the essential business of Mensa. Why? They do not get paid for this. It must be for love.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I have much for which to be grateful. I wish all Region 3 members and their families and friends a very happy Thanksgiving. May your Thanksgiving be filled with all good things. I send you my very best.



I am looking forward to seeing you soon.
LLAP and Peace,

Steering Committee Meeting

Wendy Carnegie, Scribe

October 14, 2011

Present: Frank Dolinar, Wendy Carnegie, Elizabeth Evangelista, and John Garrison.

The meeting was called to order by Frank Dolinar, Loc Sec at 7:38 PM.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

John Garrison made a motion to accept the Steering Committee Minutes of the September 9, 2011 meeting as printed. It was seconded by Elizabeth Evangelista. The motion passed and the minutes were approved as written in the October Head-Line.

The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Elizabeth reported that she has received some critiscism on having TGIFs and speakers at Geurrazi's as it wasn't conducive to speaker presentations.--poor layout. Elizabeth also reported that Grand Traverse Pie Company will no longer accept reservations for the room between 5 and 8 PM. With both Geurrazi's and Traverse City Pie Company out of play, Elizabeth is concerned that she won't be able to find another place for the eveinings with a speaker. She would appreciate any ideas. Roy Saper will be speaking this month and Lawrencwe Glazier will speak in November. Bob Barrie has offered to speak to us on cartooning.

OLD BUSINESS

Frank talked with Dr. Zacheray Costain regarding the Cyclotron/FRIB tour. The tour lasts about 1 1/2 hours and are during the day. Frank is checking with people on having a tour at a later time.

John reported that he contacted the Lugnuts regarding concession sales. He was told they have shut down for the season. He said they told him to call back in December when the start planning for next season.

Deborah Frank was absent so there is no report from her.

Frank reported that he is still investigating the possibility of acuiring and IBM community servicds grant for our scholarship fund. He will provide information as it is obtained.

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Steering Committee Minutes--Continued

NEW BUSINESS

Frank Reported that he received an email from four Southwestern Ontario Mensa groups regarding a Regional Gathering (RG) in Niagara Falls, Ontario. It is to be held April 27 to 29, 2012. For further details go to: www.so-mensa.org.

Wendy Carnegie reported that at the August "Meet in the Middle" dinner, Southeast Michigan Mensa invited Mid-Michigan Mensa to participate with them in their spring RG. We need to check with them regarding what we will get out of it, the dates and a possible conflict with the above mentioned Ontario RG. Wendy will work on it.

There have been complaints about members still arriving early and ordering and eating before the 6:00 PM reservation time. It was reported that these members were rather rude when asked about the earlier time. As politely asking these members to please wait for the scheduled time to order has not worked, perhaps they could be nice enough to sit at one end of the table, to allow those comming at the reserved time a place to sit together.

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be November 11, 2011 at the Old Great Wall.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

"No great genius is without an admixture of madness."

Aristotle



Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

Deborah Frank

November 2011

144 Members

MENSAversaries

Congratulations

31 Years	Eileen Hatt	26 Years	Walter Purvis
23 Years	Danalisa Radu	20 Years	Steven Pretty
10 Years	Richard Shaffer	8 Years	Bryan Sayles
8 Years	Richard Weingartner	7 Years	Jerry Daugherty
7 Years	Eric Horner	5 Years	Wayne Joubert
5 Years	LeeAnn Bies	5 Years	Brandi Hodo
3 Years	Charles Lee	1 Year	Dean Dyer

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday

4	Ted Levy	10	Deborah Frank
13	William Morrison	14	Sandra Callis
23	Gail Burns	29	Kenneth Thomas

Members Moving In

Welcome

Michael Healy--Jonesville



Podunk

My AHD says Podunk is an unimportant town. My GPS and Rand McNally tell me I live in Podunk. Are they kidding? I would bet my muck-boots that Misters Rand and McNally don't know squat about Gladwin Mi.

Sure, we're small but, unimportant? We are the nuts and bolts that hold really important places together.

The world is now going 'Green' in an effort to save what is really, really important –our precious little 'Green' planet Earth.

We acknowledge the fact that we can't produce cars like Detroit and we don't have cutting edge technology or the overwhelming brainpower of important towns like Ann Arbor or Boston but,---has Detroit ever tried to match MPG in their new 'Green' cars with that of a horse and buggy? I think not! Our machines are what make the pastures 'Green'. We know 'Green'.

We're even trying to make the streets of town 'Green' but some unknown person or persons keep shoveling our secret formula away.

Do they have hitching posts at all major stores? No! That was just a little innovation of ours that tends to keep horses from roaming through the stores and disrupting serious shoppers; ---not 'Green' but important non-the-less.

Cows are part of the 'Green' world. But has any of the 'world acclaimed' doctors of U of M Hospital ever tried to match milking skills with residents of 'Podunk'? Or, as a part of the 'Green' movement, have they tried castrating a raging 1500 pound bull with nothing but a pocket knife in the first week after a full moon or a 2000 pound lovesick Belgian horse that is determined to save his 'horsehood' at all costs. I think absolutely NOT!

We milk cows and cut wood for a living and if bigger towns are 'Green' like us it is only with envy.

We are not perfect, especially in our milking habits, but we do what we can. The world needs our milk. It's one of the three basic food groups--milk, eggs and bacon, or is it chicken? Who cares?

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Podunk--Continued

We can't actually sell milk to drink --but only for making cheeses and other products. We can't keep it cold enough in milk houses to meet state standards but, cheese is sooo um, um, good and any 'Green' fly residue is virtually undetectable.

Do we need to know what causes 'Green' and the seasonal changes or why we can't continue to go west faster than 1,000 mph and end up yesterday? I think not!

We know that the Sun comes up in the morning and the Moon at night.
What else do we need to know?
Does the name 'Charles Darwin' ring a bell for us? Absolutely not! Well---unless he has a big hump on his back. We just don't care.

Does the name 'Albert Einstein' ring a bell? I think we've heard that name somewhere.

Do we need to know who our current president is? No! And just what does it matter? Does he influence the way we cut logs or carry back-breaking slab wood up piles that grow continuously steeper and higher by the hour? No! and No!

Have Charlie, Al and company ever had to load loose hay on wagons and into barns in 100 degree heat with every little flake of hay sticking to the sweaty skin that aches for relief? Have they ever had to wear dark clothes on sunny days, like us, when it's blistering hot and sometimes even while taking our bi-weekly baths? If they have, then their friends, like ours, will know they are coming before they get there.

We are simple people who see no reason to learn to count higher than the number of digits we were born with and if the unlikely occurs we can always use the digits of our fifteen or twenty siblings.

We work hard and we work at keeping our planet 'Green'. And, we are important if only for the highway through town that connects the really important places or to cause people to giggle as they pass through. And, if you just happen to stop on your way, check out the 'Green' flies around us that compliment our very 'Green' smiles?

Podunk—Humbug!

TC's Puzzles

TC Shaw

#181
Campaigning 'round the free world
Trying to advance
Fulfilling his ambitions
And looking for the chance
Then while watching U.S. T. V.
He saw what had to be
His perfect PR pitchman
Gomer Pyle U.S.M.C.

#182
A quarter here a quarter there
Just put them in the till
Some day if you keep saving
You'll be a dollar bill

#183
He was dry in his street clothes
His career would soon be flying
He'd be walking in high cotton
There was simply no denying
He was changing gold to greenbacks
Then quickly he learned—What--
Derails a big deal faster
Than a little toke of pot

#184
She tried on the slipper
It seemed to fit just fine
But the ball would soon be over
She should have seen the sign
He was holding back a second shoe
That would be claimed of course
Not by another thoroughbred
But just a plain old horse

#185
He's not much into music
It's just a way to mock
His peculiar way of talking
When he says that he'll be Bach

Answers on Page 12

Food For Thought

By Barb Ford

November. Thanksgiving. A time to take stock of all the wonderful things we have as well as the good things we have accomplished throughout the year. Life, to me, is not measured in the amount of stuff I have, (though I have a lot of it) but in counting the good people around me. I have so many great friends that look out for me; at times I am overwhelmed by it. Good friends are those whom are around not only to have fun with, but they also keep track of me when they know I am down. For this, I am grateful.

One of my pastimes is to ambush a stranger with an unexpected uplift. I love to read expressions on people's faces, and feel their energy. If they seem to be in a sad or down mood, I speak to them about how nice their outfit is, or maybe how great their hair looks. Folks brighten right up. This gives me a lift as well. I imagine that somehow, I have made their day better, and in doing so, they will make someone else's day better too. Sort of like a ripple in a pond. Try it sometime. We all like to be recognized for the special people we are.

Another amusement of mine is to send energy and loving thoughts to friends who are not near me. After a few days, they usually call, and tell me that they had been thinking of me. This makes me smile. Remember that this also works if one sends malicious thoughts to someone. It will come back to you, and make you miserable. I learned this the hard way many years ago. Good thoughts directed in a kind manner are always returned to you. Sometimes just when you need them! I am not sure how or why this works…I simply trust that it is one of the laws of the Universe. If you want a drama free life…don't project it onto others. If you want love and respect, make it a point to give it to those around you near and far.

Oh, and it never hurts to spend time with innocent souls such as little children and pets. Observing and delighting in the simple things that give them joy is the most therapeutic thing I can think of. It even beats chocolate…..but that is fodder for another day.

"There is a law that man should love his neighbor as himself. In a few years it should be as natural to mankind as breathing or the upright gait; but if he does not learn it, he must perish."

Alfred Adler

Answers to TC's Puzzles

#181 Boutros Ghalli
#182 50 cent
#183 Michael Phelps
#184 Princess Di
#185 Arnie Swartenegger



Math Puzzle

Bob Henderson

You are playing a new dice game at the local casino, betting even money that you can correctly predict how many different numbers will show each time the croupier rolls a fair set of 6 dice. What number will you bet on, and will you gain or lose money over many rolls of the dice? As an example, the dice might come up 1, 1, 2, 4, 5 and 5, where the different numbers showing are 1, 2, 4, and 5. You would then get back twice your bet on 4 different numbers showing, but lose any other bet.

Answer on Page 14

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report

Roy Saper, Treasurer

Quarter Ending September 30, 2011

BEGINNING BALANCE		**$3,786.67**
INCOME		**403.56**
National Subsidy JJA	$351.63	
Interest	0.30	
Caravan Circus Contribution	51.63	
EXPENDITURES		**384.25**
Head-Line		
Postage JAS	115.65	
Printing JAS	252.56	
Speaker Dinner July EE	16.04	
ACCOUNT BALANCES*		
Checking		1,240.60
Money Market		2,365.56
Post Office		199.70
ENDING BALANCE		$3,805.98

***** Includes scholarship fund balance of ($899.19)

Famous Quotes

Uncle John

Love - There are only two cures for it. Marriage or suicide.

Situation. Boss calls out to his assistant. "Mr. Jones, are you free?" Jones replies, "A man who must work for a living is never free."

It is better to be judged by 12 of your peers than be carried out by 6 of them.

Freedom; a word that is used when nothing else will do.

When the going gets tough the tough get going.

All children are born colorblind. It is usually their parents that teach them the difference between black and white.



Math Puzzle Answers

as hinted in the puzzle statement, you should bet that 4 different numbers will show on the 6 dice. Of the 6 x 6 x 6 x 6 x 6 x 6 = 46,656 possible outcomes for rolling 6 dice, 23,400 of them show 4 different numbers. This gives you a winning percentage of 50.154321%, meaning that you can gain money in the long haul by betting that 4 different numbers will show. Remember that you could also have a streak of bad luck and lose several bets in a row, so don't bet too much on one roll!

Diabologic: Population

by Frank Dolinar

The population of the Earth reached one billion about the year 1800. It took another century and a quarter, to about 1925, to reach the two billion mark. Better nutrition and health care sped population growth. By about 1960, the population had reached three billion; by the early 1970s, four billion; by about 1985, five billion; and by just about the turn of the 21st century, six billion. Very soon, population will reach seven billion.

United Nations worst-case estimates (i.e. maximum population growth) suggest a population near 14 billion by the year 2100. This spawns disconcerting questions, such as: Where will they live? How will they keep warm? What will they eat? Where will they discard trash?

Finding viable answers to these questions is becoming crucial to the long-term survival of the human species. A bigger problem, however, is getting people to acknowledge the relevance of these questions.

Each human being needs air, water, food and a place to grow it, space to live, and someplace to discard trash and waste. All of these resources (for want of a better term) are finite. Population growth means a mathematically smaller share of these resources for each of us. Exponential population growth, which I'm convinced is the biggest problem of the 21st century, leads to faster depletion of resources, thus becoming an environmental problem. Here's a discussion of just a few of the problems caused a burgeoning population.

Some will object, saying that their personal trash, as an example, isn't enough to make a difference. That would only be true if they were the only person on the planet. But none of us is the only person on the planet. If each of us were to discard about a pound of trash a week (for example), every week the population of the Earth would discard a total of about 3.5 million tons of trash (or 180 million tons of trash a year)! Where does it go?

In the industrialized world, the concept of a "carbon footprint" deals with how much carbon dioxide is belched into the atmosphere as waste product from our manufacturing processes to make the products we, individually, buy and use. We all have a carbon footprint. If you're not doing everything you can to minimize your personal carbon footprint, you're not paying attention. And at the corporate level, cap and trade isn't the answer, it's still part of the problem.

Continued on Page 16

Diabologic--Continued

When you throw something away, where is that place you call “away”? Maybe you think that “away” is into the nearest landfill. What happens when the land***fill*** gets ***full***? Will it be possible at some future time to use that land as a place for people to live, work, play, or grow food? Does a landfill become unusable forever? What’s the half-life of a landfill?
Maybe you think that “away” is into the nearest flowing water, with the expectation that it will eventually reach the water in the open ocean and be “taken care of” there. If you think that, you need to consider the dead zone in the outflow from the Mississippi delta – a result of throwing away megatons of chemical fertilizers used to grow food within the Mississippi watershed.

You might also consider aggregations of trash in the open ocean. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (www.noaa.gov) dismisses the idea of an island of trash the size of Texas. There isn’t just one patch, but hundreds, in both the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans, made mostly of various kinds of discarded plastics. For a number of reasons these are a growing problem. NOAA summarizes with the comment, “Marine debris threatens oceans and coasts, marine life, our economy, safe navigation, and human health and safety. “

Just the trash from Earth’s growing population places enormous stress on resources and the environment, creating a scarcity of food and potable water, and messing with Earth’s ecology.

Water, for example, is becoming the scarce resource of the 21st century. Nearly 2.5 billion people, almost half of the developing world’s population, lack adequate sanitation facilities and nearly 900 million people use unsafe drinking water--because they have no other water resources.

There’s lots of information about problems caused or exacerbated by population growth.

Learn more.

[The formatted graph is from the Wikipedia article “Overpopulation”.]

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NOVEMBER 2011 CALENDAR

Fri., Nov. 4 **TGIF: STILLWATER GRILL:** 3544 Meridian Crossing, Okemos. On the northwest corner of Okemos and Jolly Rd.

Fri., Nov., 11 just **TGIF: OLD GREAT WALL:** 4832 W. Saginaw, Lansing, east of the Lansing Mall. Chinese buffet.
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: To follow dinner

Fri., Nov. 18 **TGIF: GUERRAZZI'S:** 15634 S. US 27, Lansing. Italian food. We will be in the North Room.
SPEAKER: Judge Lawrence Glazer will speak to us. His topic will be: *Wounded Warrier: The Rise and fall of Michigan Govenor John Swainson.* It isn't necessary to attend dinner to hear Judge Glazer. Join us about 6:45 PM.

Sun., Nov. 20 **LIT SIG:** Meet at 2:00PM at Joanne Sullivan's home, 802 Searles Estates, St. Johns, to discuss *Half Broke Horses,* by Jeanette Walls. Snacks and conversation.

Fri., Nov. 25 **TGIF: SAMMY'S LOUNGE:** 301 E. Jolly Rd., Lansing. With luck, we'll have a privatae room.

Fri., Dec. 2 **TGIF: CHRISTIE'S BISTRO:** It's in the Lexington Hotel, 925 S. Cryets Rd., Lansing.

Fri., Dec. 9 **TGIF: EVERYDAY RESTAURANT:** 1375 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. It's in the mall at the corner of Hagadodrn Rd. and Grand River Ave. Chinese Buffet.

Fri., Dec. 9 **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:** To follow dinner.

Fri., Dec. 18 **HOLIDAY PARTY:** Join us at Ellizabeth Evangelista's home for our annual Holiday Dinner. 5275 E. Hidden Lake Dr., East Lansing. Details next month.

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at 6:00 PM and order around 6:155 PM., but you're welcome at any time. Come and get acquainted. All members and friends are welcome at the events above. Any member may schedule an event. Please remember: who, what, when, where, and why. The deadline to schedule an event is the 15th of the month before the event. You can contact Elizabeth Evangelista, Calendar Coord., by regular mail: 5275 E. Hidden Lake Dr., East Lansing, MI 48823; by phone: 517-351-3645; or by email:evangel6@comcast.net