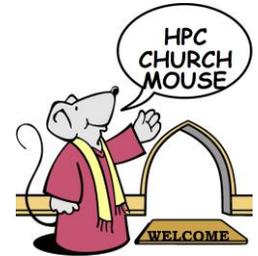


HILLSBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Marguerite Serrine
marguerite@hillsboroughpres.org
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The Church Mouse
February, 2018



Dear Friends,

How fitting for Hillsborough Presbyterian Church that Ash Wednesday this year falls on Valentine's Day! The themes of romantic love and the beginning of Lent both remind us that, to experience life's most satisfying relationships, sacrifice is required. Lenten ashes remind us that each moment of life is filled with an opportunity to love, receiving that unique fulfillment and giving that unique sacrifice; they also remind us that these moments are finite. Every loving relationship comes to an end whether it is through a leaving or a death. And that reminder sets us off into a Lenten discipline of restraint, contemplation, and a rededication to make the most of the moments we do have.

Lent is arriving right on time in the life of our congregation. I have noticed that many of you in the congregation have now entered the grieving process in earnest. Grief – still so misunderstood in our culture – often masks itself as anger. I remember joining an adult Sunday School class at White Memorial a few months after losing my job, first marriage, house and community. Sometimes in class I went into a rant about whatever the current target was of my anger, and my Sunday School classmates not only listened with love but invited me to start leading lessons, to meet them for coffee, to visit them in their homes, to look together at what loss does to the human spirit – and to eventually discover what loss does FOR the human spirit.

So, when I hear grumbling from folks in our congregation, I am encouraged. The grieving is going well. The first quarter of interim ministry opens a space where people can start feeling the reality of losing their pastor and the natural response for many is anger at what's been left, and what's not the same, and how much more work is now required to keep things going and to train a new interim pastor and why is Presbytery making us do it this way anyhow? Yes, I understand the anger and know about its relationship to loss. Not only does the emotional experience of loss drain our energy, but the actuality of it – as anyone knows who's been laid off or divorced or had to bury a spouse or be the executor of an estate – requires a great deal more work on an already overloaded plate.

But here is just some of the good news! Through this time of increased effort, what is necessary will be revealed and treasured even more. What isn't necessary will be grieved and sadly let go of. And purpose will be refined, direction taken, and truth revealed, such that energy you thought might never come back will actually double. And then?

As your Mission Study Team begins work this month, as your Session grapples with a deficit budget and focusing the church's energies, as Commissions work to grow the number of people who can help refine their vision and purpose, the success of our faith community ultimately lies with God, but each one of us has a call from God to play our part. Which part are you called to play? Coming to the special Lenten services to hear God's word proclaimed a little differently? Singing in choir? Teaching Sunday School? Attending adult Sunday School? Helping any of our commissions nurture our people in God, our community in hope, our poor in need? Yes, Lent and Valentine's Day, a perfect combination for us to reflect on what we love – and what is a sacrifice acceptable to God. It's arriving right on time.

Grace and peace,
Marguerite



COMMUNION

We will celebrate Communion at HPC on Sunday, February 11, at 11:00 AM.



CIRCLE #1!

Circle #1 will meet at HPC at 11:00 on Monday, February 12. All are invited to join us as Karoline Mathewson leads us in our next lesson from the study guide "Friendship." This lesson is titled "Enjoying Our Differences," using scripture - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Bring a sandwich – the hostess provides beverages and dessert. Visitors and guests are always welcome! Questions? See Ann Sebesan.



2018 COMMISSION MODERATORS

Clerk of Session	Rosie Summers
Building & Grounds	Tom Brown
Christian Education	Cynthia Latta Stephanie Morgan
Diaconate	Bob Wisniewski
Magnetic Church	Rich Erdosy
Mission	Kathy Remington Jarrett Barnhill
Stewardship	Eric Cathey Jane Gaede
Worship	Cheryl Maxey Alicia Gonzalez

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

On Ash Wednesday, Christians are invited to enter a period of self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial. For a number of years we have shared the Ash Wednesday service with New Hope Presbyterian Church. This year HPC will be hosting the service. On **Wednesday, February 14th**, we will begin with a baked potato and salad supper in Strudwick Hall at 6:30, with the worship service, which includes the imposition of ashes, in the sanctuary at 7:30. Rev. Hefner will be preaching.



**Women's World Day of Prayer
Planning Meeting**

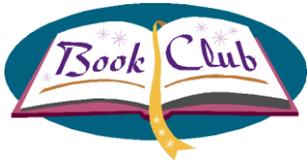
The planning meeting for this year's **World Day of Prayer** will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 6th at Mt Bright Baptist Church, 211 West Union Street. Join us as we plan this time of worship and fellowship together!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will gather in Studwick Hall on **Saturday, February 3** from 9:30 to 11:00 AM to enjoy relaxing conversations, warm beverages, and tasty nibbles! Childcare will be provided. Questions? Call Lisa Flinn.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
CONGREGATION**
immediately following worship on
Sunday, February 25!



HPC BOOK CLUB

HPC Book Club meets at 7:00 PM on the second Sunday, most months of the year, at the church.

All are invited to join us for discussions and events!

February 11th *Empires of Light: Edison, Tesla and Westinghouse and the Race to Electrify the World* by Jill Jonnes

In the final decades of the nineteenth century, three brilliant and visionary titans of America's Gilded Age—Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, and George Westinghouse—battled bitterly as each vied to create a vast and powerful electrical empire. In Empires of Light, historian Jill Jonnes portrays this extraordinary trio and their riveting and ruthless world of cutting-edge science, invention, intrigue, money, death, and hard-eyed Wall Street millionaires

Empires of Light is the gripping history of electricity, the "mysterious fluid," and how the fateful collision of Edison, Tesla, and Westinghouse left the world utterly transformed.

March 11th, our March Madness Selection, *The Secret Game* by Scott Ellsworth

Winner of the 2016 PEN/ESPN Award for Literary Sports Writing

The true story of the game that never should have happened--and of a nation on the brink of monumental change

In the fall of 1943, at the little-known North Carolina College for Negroes, Coach John McLendon was on the verge of changing basketball forever. A protégé of James Naismith, the game's inventor, McLendon taught his team to play the full-court press and run a fast break that no one could catch. His Eagles would become the highest-scoring college team in America--a basketball juggernaut that shattered its opponents by as many as sixty points per game. Yet his players faced danger whenever they traveled backcountry roads.

Across town, at Duke University, the best basketball squad on campus wasn't the Blue Devils, but an all-white military team from the Duke medical school. Composed of former college stars from across the country, the team dismantled everyone they faced, including the Duke varsity. They were prepared to take on anyone--until an audacious invitation arrived, one that was years ahead of anything the South had

ever seen before. What happened next wasn't on anyone's schedule.

Based on years of research, The Secret Game is a story of courage and determination, and of an incredible, long-buried moment in the nation's sporting past. The riveting, true account of a remarkable season, it is the story of how a group of forgotten college basketball players, aided by a pair of refugees from Nazi Germany and a group of daring student activists, not only blazed a trail for a new kind of America, but helped create one of the most meaningful moments in basketball history.

(all descriptions are abridged from amazon.com unless otherwise noted)



WOMEN OF COLOR EVENT

Coming in March... look for details about the Women of Color Event. Date to be determined!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

February is the 20th **SOUPER BOWL** month at HPC! The Youth Group will once again be sponsoring our **SOUPER BOWL** collection through the month of February. Please help us meet our goal! If each member of the congregation brings one can of soup and \$1 on each of the four Sundays in February, we will EXCEED our goal of 200 cans and \$200. Over the past 19 years, HPC's youth have collected \$2,474.75 and 2,315 cans of soup for OCIM's food pantry in support of **The SOUPER BOWL of CARING**.



Please bring your cans and dollar bills each Sunday in February to the basket and soup pot in the Narthex, and THANK YOU for supporting our neighbors in need!

HPC's Mission Work for 2018

A new year is a blank slate of possibilities for the coming year. As the Mission Commission looks forward to the coming year, it is with the eagerness to see the good things that God will do. We recently renovated our facility, anticipating that these changes would facilitate expansion of programs and mission activities. It's now time to focus on our mission.

The Mission Commission has thought long and hard about how we go about our mission activities. We want to develop relationships with those we help, so that *they* can tell us what they need and we can work *with* them to meet those needs. Last year we developed a mission statement to guide our activities: "Listen for and address needs, develop relationships to build community and promote justice."

Refugees: With Church World Service, we have helped two Syrian families establish apartment homes in Durham. We are now helping these families, and an Afghani family, adjust to their new life in North Carolina. These people have lost family members, their homes and their native culture. Their grief is unimaginable! They are bravely learning a new language, beginning new jobs, new schools and trying to forge a life in a foreign culture. HPC members are helping the families with language and listening to their questions and concerns as they navigate a new culture. This work takes time and HPC members are donating hour upon hour of language tutoring, listening ears and loving guidance. There's room for you to help!

Fairview Community: From time to time, we have helped our neighbors in the Fairview community. Every summer we provide salads for their end-of-summer celebration. Diana Montgomery has spent many years working with Fairview community members to grow their community garden and lets us know when there is a need that we can address. We are now working with them to establish a summer feeding and garden program for children. While grant money is available for many pieces of this program, it is very difficult to obtain money to pay a program coordinator and youth workers, all of whom will be hired from the Fairview community. At the end of 2017, HPC donated \$2,500 for these salaries. There will be other opportunities for individual involvement with our Fairview neighbors as the year proceeds.

Justice United: In 2018, HPC will become a member church of Justice United (JU). JU is a grassroots organization that works to make a difference in our community. During the summer of 2017, listening sessions were held all over Orange County to understand needs that existed. You may have attended a listening session at HPC. Out of those listening sessions, affordable housing, jobs and immigration were identified as top issues. Sub-teams have been formed to research those issues and to identify issues that we can work to address. JU uses HPC as a meeting place for many meetings. Please attend a meeting, see what is being done and how you can help. This is a great opportunity to work with others in our community.

Fairview-Justice United: The county is testing an area in the Fairview neighborhood that was an unregulated landfill up until 1978. JU is helping Fairview Community Watch to canvass the neighborhood and share this information and that the results of this testing will be shared at the February Community Watch meeting. We can use your help with this canvassing!

Meals: We have been providing a meal for the homeless one a month through Food for All. Many of you have prepared meatloaf, baked potatoes, brownies or other parts of the dinner menu. Others have helped fill up dinner boxes with the food. Help with the meal preparation or distribution sometime this year. This will give you the opportunity to meet some of our Hillsborough neighbors. It doesn't take much time!

This is just a sampling of Mission's involvement in our community. Please consider joining us on the Mission Commission. You can always help without joining Mission, but we would love to have you become one of us and share in developing the direction of HPC's mission to our community. Session has been developing the 2018 budget. HPC members have been very generous, giving money to support the building renovation on top of pledging money for the operation of the church. In working through the budget, session has been very frugal, making operations of the church lean, yet including money to continue with our mission. You'll hear more about the budget in coming weeks and may even feel led to increase your contributions to help with HPC's mission work. In addition to your money, though, we need YOU and your time!

- Kathy Remington

INTERIM UPDATE

Some folks still aren't sure how the interim process now works. You can read about it from the New Hope Presbytery guide online:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a1y2epduzgrb3ku/AAAt-GlsTsmrUVjnYZANSSLRa/Publications?dl=0&lst=&preview=Guide+to+Mission+Study+During+Interim+Time.pdf>

In a nutshell, here is how I'd describe it:

1. Interim pastor begins and gets oriented, works on joining and understanding the congregation.
2. Mission study team is formed.
3. Mission study team begins work.
4. Congregation joins Mission study team to complete the work.
5. Mission study team produces Mission study report
6. Session reviews, makes changes, approves report, and sends to Presbytery's Commission on Ministry.
7. COM reviews, ensures that there is congregational involvement and an accurate financial analysis of the church, and if so it approves the report.
8. Pastor Nominating Committee is formed.
9. PNC works with Presbytery to write Mission Information Form, describing the characteristics of HPC and once approved by Session and COM, this MIF goes into national database matching in Louisville to match qualified candidates. The Mission study report should be a founding document for the MIF, in that it realistically portrays HPC as it is now and its future vision for ministry. If all this aligns, PNC will receive matches from candidates most closely aligned with HPC's vision.
10. PNC receives Personal Information Forms from database and self-referrals, reviews and selects some for interviews, eventually settling on a candidate to recommend to church for a call.

How long does this take? It depends, but rarely is it finished before 18 months, usually between 18-24 months. Still confused? Let's have lunch or coffee

and I'll try to answer any and all questions you have!

– Marguerite



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

The Hillsborough Ministers have scheduled a series of Lenten worship services February 21 – March 28. Each Wednesday you are invited to meet at noon for a half-hour service, followed by a light lunch at the hosting church.

February 21: Al Horne speaking at Holy Family Catholic Church

February 28: Donald Holman speaking at Hillsborough United Methodist

March 7: Judith Reese speaking at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

March 14: Marguerite Serrine speaking at First Baptist Church

March 21: Mark Betti speaking at St. Matthews Episcopal Church

March 28: Randy Carter speaking at Dickerson Chapel

Other Lenten and Easter Services held at HPC this year include:

Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30 pm, Kerri Hefner of New Hope giving the homily and HPC choir singing. Worship commission organizes the potato bar held in Strudwick at 6:30 pm.

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae March 29 at 7:30 PM.

The men are planning to cook breakfast after the Easter sunrise service on Sunday, April 1. Sunrise service is at 7:30 AM.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 09 Robin Bedingfield
- 15 Caiden Henshall
- 16 Thomas McIver
- 16 Bruce Roberts
- 16 Andrew Beveridge
- 20 Jarrett Barnhill, III
- 22 Alden Cathey
- 24 Mark Pipkin
- 29 Linda Strickland Jaubert



To update the Birthday List or Anniversary List please contact JoAnn in the church office (732-3131) or hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org).



FEBRUARY LECTIONARY READINGS

- 4** Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
- 11** II Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
- 18** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
- 25** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:33-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



The **2018 FLOWER CHART** is located outside the church office. Sign up and share with your Church the joy of an anniversary or other occasion, or memorialize or honor someone important to you! Please add your name to the Flower Chart on the Sunday that's best for you - or we can add your name for you - email the church office (hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org), or leave a message (919-732-3131)!

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

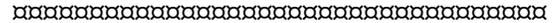
February 4

- Liturgist: Alicia Gonzalez
- Children's Sermon: Alicia Gonzalez
- Acolyte: Ben Stephenson
- Youth Meal (2/7): Talley
- Nursery: Andrea Bernard
- Greeters: Brenda Morgan



February 11

- Liturgist: Jarrett Barnhill
- Children's Sermon: Jarrett Barnhill
- Acolyte: Anna O'Connor
- Youth Meal (2/14): Christine Jackle
- Nursery: Cathy Ely
- Greeters: Brenda Morgan



February 18

- Liturgist: Sara Clay
- Children's Sermon: Marguerite Serrine
- Acolyte: Caroline Cathey
- Youth Meal (2/21): Stephenson Family
- Nursery: Karoline Mathewson, Cathy Ely
- Greeters: Brenda Morgan



February 25

- Liturgist: David Remington
- Children's Sermon: David Remington
- Acolyte: Isabella Roberson
- Youth Meal (2/28): Mathewson
- Nursery: Robin Bedingfield
- Greeters: Brenda Morgan

February, 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	Join us on Sunday mornings! Sunday School for Adults/Youth at 9:45 AM Childcare/Nursery for Children at 9:45 AM Traditional Worship at 11:00 AM Sunday School for Children during Worship			1 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221) Justice United 7 PM (Strudwick)	2	3 Women's Fellowship 9:30 AM (Strudwick)
9:45 AM Joyful Noise (#221) 4 12:15 PM Congregational Photo 12:30 PM Worship Meeting (#204) 12:30 PM Bldgs & Grounds (#201) (Deadline for Committee Reports for the Annual Meeting)	5	6	7 Youth Group 6:00 PM (Strudwick)	8 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)	9	10
11 11:00 AM Communion 12:15 PM Mission (#204) 12:15 PM CE Meeting – lunch provided (Strudwick) 7:00 PM HPC Book Club (#204)	12 Circle #1 -- 11:00 AM (HPC #204)	13	14 Ash Wednesday Worship at HPC Potato Bar 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:15 PM (#221)	15	16	17
18 9:45 AM Joyful Noise (#221) 12:15 PM Session (#204) (bring your lunch!)	19 Deadline for HPC Newsletter 1:00 PM	20	21 Presbyterian Women Group 7:00 PM (Strudwick) Youth Group 6:00 PM (#204)	22 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)	23	24 Presbytery Meeting 9 AM – 3 PM (First Presbyterian Raleigh)
25 12:15 PM Annual Meeting of the Congregation	26	27 Food for All	28 Youth Group 6:00 PM (Strudwick)	29	30 Announcements for the Bulletin are due in the church office by Wednesday (noon) each week. Bulletins printed on Thursday.	31

NOTE: If you have any March calendar dates or articles that you would like included in the newsletter – just send an email (hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org) or call the church office (732-3131) – by 1:00 PM on the 19th of February!

Mittens Brought New Year Joy to Our Refugee Families and OCIM Clients!

Thank you all for your generous response to our holiday Mitten Line! OCIM was thrilled to receive the warm socks, gloves and hats, which is so necessary during this cold weather. See below for our refugee families' happy response to the gifts we provided.



The spirit of the season, especially generosity and ministering to our refugee families in Durham, has been shared by the members and friends of HPC as all 18 members of 3 families received gifts including toys, books, puzzles, clothes, and cook wear the first week of January. You can see for yourself in the smiles of the children and parents! They were all surprised and grateful for their special gifts and expressed their thanks. The refugee care team along with the Mission Commission also expresses their thanks to the congregation. Once again, you've touched the



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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday School 9:45 AM (for youth and adults!)

Childcare/Nursery 9:45 AM (for children)

Traditional Worship 11:00 AM

*(A nursery is provided for children 5 and under upstairs;
following the Conversation with Children in Worship –
Children will go to Sunday School upstairs)*