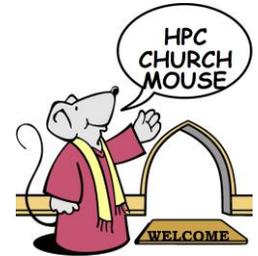


HILLSBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

102 West Tryon Street
Post Office Box 717
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(919) 732-3131 (Office)
(919) 644-1185

Rev. Marguerite Serrine
marguerite@hillsboroughpres.org
www.hillsboroughpres.org

The Church Mouse
March, 2018



Dear HPC Friends and Family,

Where are you now? In our smartphone-connected world, that's often a question we ask one another when calling, because the person we're calling could be anywhere – the car, the grocery (but not at church because we've turned off our ringtones!)

So, where are you now in your Lenten journey? Have you disrupted some habits, finding yourself in places where you have to deal with temptation? When traveling we often look at our surroundings with more curiosity than when we're in a familiar place. That's the point of Lenten journeys – to help us detach a little from all the things we hold dear and make sure God is in the center of them all. That journey itself always yields good fruit, growing us stronger in faith and character.

This March is full of ways to take the Lenten journey together. I can't list them all here: take note throughout the newsletter and March bulletins for all the ways we can grow in faith together – and sometimes go, too. Going to our neighboring Hillsborough churches for worship and meals each Wednesday embodies the journey experience – new places, new faces, the disorientation that can cause discomfort, the relief at finding a familiar face or sense of home in a strange place. I think it is a worthy metaphor for the spiritual journey that calls us outside of the familiar to the new place God is calling us – just as Abraham and Sarah did.

The Mission Study Team began its work in January. This work, and its final report, is required by Presbytery before HPC can form the Pastor Nominating Committee. There is no hard and fast process for the Mission Study, it is a time of gathering information and discerning the Spirit. It too involves a journey of faith, learning as we go. Right now the team is sorting through a great deal of information about HPC, Hillsborough and Orange Co. There's a lot going on in all these places, as you know. In the future some of you may be called on to share your knowledge and connections to gather more information and help us understand it. Then the MST will start planning ways to share the most relevant information with the congregation. Together with you, we'll ask God how it might shape HPC's future ministry.

It's important to remember the Mission Study isn't just done by the team. It is a congregational task. Presbytery requires congregational involvement because you are the ones best positioned to see what God might be asking, given the reality of who HPC is now and what needs your community has today. The more you know this reality and look for God in it, the more of a gift you will be to the community – and your next installed pastor. Next month the members of the Team will be submitting newsletter articles to bring you in on the process. Look for our congregational sessions to start appearing on the calendar as we go through the year.

The Lenten journey takes us from inspiration to perspiration as we follow Jesus from the healed, adoring crowds throughout Galilee to the hostile powers in Jerusalem. Then, when we think we're so done, God pulls off a miracle. Happy Lent. See you on the road.

– Marguerite



COMMUNION

We will celebrate Communion at HPC on Maundy Thursday, March 29, at 7:30 PM.



CIRCLE #1

Circle #1 will meet at HPC at 11:00 on Monday, March 12. All are invited to join us for our next lesson from the study guide "Friendship." Annette Jurgelsky will facilitate lesson #3, "Enjoying our Differences." Our scripture is I Corinthians 12:12-31. Marilyn Chinnis will be our hostess. Bring a sandwich – the hostess provides beverages and dessert. Visitors and guests are always welcome! Questions? See Ann Sebesan.



ADULT LENT STUDY

The Adult Lenten Study *Reflecting on Holy Week* sponsored by Presbyterian Women continues throughout Lent on Thursday mornings, at 10:00, in Room 204. Please contact the study leader, Rev. Alice Geils Nord, at alicegeilsnord@gmail.com or (919) 563-3074 if you haven't already attended in order to receive copies of the participants' handout. Hard copies are also available in the PW mailbox outside the church office on Sunday mornings before each of the classes.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2018

Please plan to attend the HPC Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service at 7:30 pm on March 29. Youth and children are especially welcome – this service does not have a sermon. In his book *Desiring the Kingdom*, James K. A. Smith writes, "...the Tenebrae service has a much greater impact on my children than the long sermon on atonement. And as you also might expect, it tends to have much more impact on the adults too! Why is that? Because the heavy affectivity of the Tenebrae service – its ability to communicate Good Friday almost directly to our body, as it were – touches our gut, our embodied *kardia*. And that is something shared by all of us, including those who are either uninclined or unable to engage in theological abstractions." (p. 137)

This service will include:

- Communion by intinction, gathering by twelves around the Lord's Table;
- Reading of the passion narrative by members of the congregation, followed by the extinguishing of each Tenebrae candle, and congregational singing of a verse of a passion hymn;
- The stripping of the church and the slamming shut of the Bibles;
- Depart in darkness and silence.

Kids (and adults) who attend this service do not forget it. There is no better way to understand the difficult concept of resurrection on Easter than by first attending a Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service. See you there!



"YOU TALKING TO ME?"

To All:

"You talking to me?" That's a familiar catch phrase to people in New England and the Mid Atlantic states, and its meant to grab your attention.

In our busy lives, sometimes we don't hear God's whispering in our ear. So we should say "**God, are you talking to me?**" and His answer will be "**YES**", but you weren't listening.

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church church family has about sixty households who regularly attend worship. As a part of our church family, we need to pray, participate and provide.

Pray for ourselves, family, friends and the world.

Participate in the family, church and community activities.

Provide for yourself, your family, charities and your church.

Providing for your church and church family has several facets, prayers for those who are in need, physically, emotionally and spiritually; financially with our weekly offerings and contributions, and participating in church activities and needs when called.

So when the call comes, answer with "Yes I will, and Yes I can"

Blessings to you this Lenten season,
Bob Wisniewski, Elder, Diaconate Commission



EASTER EGG HUNT

CE is asking for donations of individually wrapped candy, stickers, etc for the Easter egg hunt on April 1, 2018. Please bring your donations by March 18th. The Easter egg hunt will be held in Strudwick at 9:45 following a short Easter message by David Remington. We will have refreshments after the hunt for HPC members. All are welcome! If you have questions please contact Cynthia Latta or Stephanie Morgan.

A Pastor's Hope for Forgiveness

Hello HPC Family,

One of the great privileges about being a PCUSA minister is that the job has a built-in spiritual discipline: ministry among people is going to show you your blind spots, vulnerabilities, and areas for growth. It is only by grace that you get such a view of your own shortcomings and still believe you are answering a call from God!

Some of you were happy but some of you were deeply offended when I removed the angel from the top of the Chrismon tree during Advent. If you were one of those so offended, I wish to apologize and know that it grieves me to have caused anyone any offense.

I was listening to other voices that led me to believe the racial climate in our country and community in 2017 cast a different light on the presence in our sanctuary of a Caucasian symbol of an angel of God. I KNEW HPC is not that sort of congregation and when it was brought to my attention that this angel might suggest that, I removed it in a spirit of "ask for forgiveness rather than permission." What I WISHED I had done was look more closely at the structure and procedures HPC has in place to guide the Session and Pastor into making decisions like this one.

This event showed me that I do have a blind spot of not talking to enough people to find out more before taking an action that affects the community. I promise that having learned that about myself, I will be taking pains not to let that happen again. Church is that opportunity to live into the reality of grace, because we come into community with shortcomings intact and only by the grace of God are we able to confront those, confess them, and grow through them. Thank you for your grace and forgiveness – and your honesty with me when you feel I have missed the mark.

In Christ,
Marguerite



To the HPC Family,

Thank you all for your continued support of the HPC Youth Group. I/we are extremely aware and grateful for your continued generosity and support to the faith nurturing opportunities. We recently had a Winter outing to Boone, NC February 24-25. We went in search of snow. Much to our surprise, the groundhog's prediction was right, Spring has come early. This presented a wonderful opportunity on developing our ability to adapt. Instead of snow tubing we went on a hike at Stone Mountain park. Exploring God's creation. Drove the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway and had lunch in Boone. After lunch we explored downtown and the youth participated in a rock climbing expedition at the Rock Dimensions Climbing tower downtown. We had dinner at Steve's Inland Seafood and stayed at the Country Inn and Suites in Boone. Saturday night we had a great time night swimming. Big thanks to Marc and Carolyn for chaperoning! Thank you both also for leading our lesson Saturday night and Sunday School the following morning. We worshiped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Boone NC. After worship we drove down the mountain to find snow at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds ice rink. The youth had a wonderful time and expressed wanting to host an HPC family ice skating outing.

Thanks again to C.E. and Session for sponsoring this event.

With love,
Eric Cathey, HPC Youth Leader



MISSION STUDY 101

Many of you have told me that while HPC has had interim pastors before, you've never had to do a Mission Study. I will try to outline the general steps of the process here. There are some required by Presbytery, but there is also some leeway on others.

1. Demographic Study
2. Community Study
3. Congregational Survey or Listening Sessions
4. Congregational Gatherings to hear study results and seek God's guidance on formulating the vision for the future
5. Written Report Done by MST, approved by Session and Presbytery's Commission On Ministry
6. Report Presented to Congregation
7. Session Implements Recommendations of Report

The Report will contain a snapshot of HPC's past, its understanding of its current reality, and its vision for the future, with objectives and goals. This information gets passed forward to the Pastor Nominating Committee to be put into the document that will be used to seek candidates for the next installed pastor.

The more that document (called a Mission Information Form) can reflect the true goals and heart of a congregation, the better it will work in the call process to find a pastor with the gifts and excitement that are best suited for the goals and heart of the congregation.

Vision
Mission
& Values

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.

March 7: Judith Reese speaking at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church (Please see Bob Wisniewski if you can help provide lunch at HPC!)

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



HPC WOMEN'S RETREAT

You are invited to Paint and Pray, a retreat for women. We'll gather in Strudwick Hall at seven PM on Friday, March 23. A colorful dessert will be provided. Guests are welcome!

We're collecting children's art supplies to donate to a local organization. Please bring new crayons, markers, drawing pads, or other craft items kids will enjoy.

Come with an open, creative spirit as we explore and paint the colors of our faith.

Your retreat leaders,
Barbara Younger and Lisa Flinn



HPC BOOK CLUB



The HPC Book Club meets at 7:00 PM on March 11th at the church. All are invited to join us for discussions!

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 NC 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.

WHAT IS A "DEACON"?

In Presbyterian Church - USA, a "deacon" is defined as "one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ..." Sounds like every person at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, doesn't it!

Over the past five years attending this church, then becoming a member of HPC and now an Elder, I have seen acts of compassion, witness and service to our church members, extended friends of the church, the community and the world.

So in a sense, aren't we all deacons? I believe the answer is YES!

Jan McKelvey is mentoring me in the transitions on the Diaconate Commission and I thank her for her help during this period. *Now, I need your help!*

The Diaconate Commission responsibilities and mission is to support and foster fellowship in the church community and to support individuals and families in times of need. This mission extends to the various groups and committees that participate in the life of this church family.

In the coming weeks, I will be speaking directly to each of you seeking your help and participation. In Christian Love,

- Bob Wisniewski,
Diaconate Commission Moderator



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

You're invited to Orange County's 39th Annual **Women's World Day of Prayer** celebration on Friday, March 2nd at noon. Mount Bright Baptist Church (211 W. Union Street) is hosting. The service will be from noon to 12:30, followed by lunch in their fellowship hall. Join us for a time of worship and fellowship that brings our local churches together. And men, you're invited, too!

CE HAPPENINGS

Look in the future for some changes.

We have VBS coming up, Senior Sunday, Teacher Appreciation Sunday, Beard Scholarship, Easter Sunday Intergenerational Sunday school and egg hunt, Worship class for 3rd grade and up.

We are looking at starting a fellowship coffee time during 9:45 Sunday school for parents that are bringing the kids to practice with Joyful Noise.

We are looking to begin one Sunday school hour at 9:45 in September and re-starting Kids Time at the 11:00 hour for the kids that are older than nursery to 2nd grade.

There are lots of opportunities for you to get to know our children, see where you give a few moments to meet these young ones.

If you have any questions, please come to our next CE meeting, March 11th at 12:15.

EASTER SUNDAY – April 1st

Sunrise Service and Communion will be at 7:30 AM in the cemetery (weather permitting) followed by breakfast in Strudwick Hall (prepared by our Men's Fellowship)!

Adults and children are invited to the Easter Intergenerational Sunday School gathering in Strudwick Hall led by David Remington at 9:45 a.m. on **April 1st**. Children, ages toddler-5th grade, should bring a basket for the annual egg hunt which will take place following the Easter message. We will have refreshments after the hunt for HPC members.

Easter Worship will be at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary.



To the HPC Church Family.

Thank you all for your commitment to Stewardship at HPC. Each month the Stewardship commission at HPC shares a moment to raise awareness throughout our 2018 year of “Gracious Giving” as to how we may be better stewards, opportunities to contribute to God’s work and call, and contribute toward or community and church family. The focus for March is how do we respond to God’s call. Stewardship is one the most important themes from the bible. Stewardship is the management of what God has giving us to his Glory and the edification of others in the church. Stewardship focuses on the being responsible and giving of God’s gifts and sharing those with others. Sharing of God’s gifts comes in the form of dedicating our time, talent, expertise, skills, abilities, resources, knowledge, ideas, imperfections, and genuineness through acts of love. The gifts we share are to be our first fruits or more simply giving our best.

Our HPC family is blessed with many gifts and resources. I was reminded of this in a discussion I had with a Presbyterian elder outside of HPC as we talked about our recent processes for the interim pastor search and pastor nominating committees. The elder I spoke with shared their frustration with obtaining volunteers from the church to serve on the respective committees and the challenges the committee members faced in completing the paperwork as well as composing the write-ups. This elder reminded me of how blessed we are at HPC with those that were prompt to step up and the high academic accomplishments and professional achievements obtained by members of our church family. Our church family possesses a well-blended group of skilled specialists and authorities in their respective field of teaching, medicine, health care, communications, finance, science, engineering, mechanics, industrial, and business to name a few. This reminded of 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NRSV) where Paul wrote, “Christ is just like the human body – a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many.” Paul added, “If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body” (1 Corinthians 12:19, NRSV). We complement each other well at HPC and strive to maintain Jesus as the head of the body as we follow his teachings.

Churches today face challenges such as lower attendance, budget shortfalls, obtaining members willing to volunteer. I have listened to discussions regarding members wanting to do less, hoping someone else is willing to step up and serve, or I am overwhelmed with the amount of requests for aide or donations. If we stop, who will take our place? When should we stop? Do we not talk about the needs of our community, nation, world? Deuteronomy 15:11 (NRSV) instructs “Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”” Stewardship aims to raise awareness of the needs of the church and community. From that awareness we are to respond as God calls us.

The question we each must ask ourselves is this: Am I where God wants me to be, doing what Gods wants me to be doing? We have an important role in God’s kingdom. We can all be aware and alert for opportunities to show God’s love to others. Whatever we do for others in the name of Jesus; a prayer, kind word, offer to assist with a simple task, a gift from our home pleases God. Our giving (time and resources) is an expression of gratitude and love for what Jesus has done for us.

As a reminder, Dedication Sunday (November 11, 2018) is only eight months away. Please continue to pray for our HPC family and how you may remain in the vine through *Gracious Giving*.

Thank you,
J. Eric Cathey,
HPC Stewardship Moderator

March, 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		Announcements for the Bulletin are due in the church office by Wednesday (noon) each week. Bulletins printed on Thursday.	1 PW Lenten Study 10:00 AM (#204) Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)	2 Women's World Day of Prayer Noon (Mt. Bright)	3 Women's Fellowship 9:30 AM (Strudwick)
	Lent III 4 9:45 AM Joyful Noise (#221) 12:15 PM Security (#201)	5	6	Lenten Worship 7 12 Noon at HPC Youth 6 PM (#204) Justice United 7:00 PM (Strudwick) Mission Study Team 7:00 PM (#221)	8 PW Lenten Study 10:00 AM (#204) Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)	9
Lent IV 11 12:15 PM CE (#222) 12:15 PM Mission (#204) 12:15 PM Stewardship (#201) 7:00 PM HPC Book Club (#204)	12 Circle #1 -- 11:00 AM (HPC #204)	13	14 Lenten Worship 12 Noon, First Baptist Youth Group 6:00 PM (Strudwick)	15 PW Lenten Study 10:00 AM (#204) Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)	16	17 Initiative on Poverty 8:30 – 10:30 AM (Strudwick)
Lent V 18 9:45 AM Joyful Noise (#221) 12:15 PM Session (Strudwick – Bring your lunch!)	19 Deadline for HPC Newsletter 1:00 PM	20	Lenten Worship 21 12 Noon, St. Matthews PW Women's Circle 7:00 PM (Strudwick) Youth Group 6:00 PM (#204)	22 PW Lenten Study 10:00 AM (#204) Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)	23 Women's Retreat 7:00 PM (Strudwick Hall)	24
Palm / Passion Sunday 25	26 Mission Study Team 7:00 PM (#204)	27 Food for All	28 Lenten Worship 12 Noon at Dickerson Youth Group 6:00 PM (Strudwick)	29 PW Lenten Study 10:00 AM (#204) Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 7:30 PM	30	31

NOTE: If you have any April 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 March!

Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary

Once again we will have Easter Lilies filling the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 1st. After Easter worship you are invited to take one home. A donation of \$15 per plant is requested.

You can make your donation in honor or memory of someone you love. Fill out the form below and return it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate by Sunday, **March 25th!**



EASTER FLOWER DONATION FORM



Donors Name(s) to be listed in bulletin: _____

Name(s) of Person(s) your donation is for: (please circle memory or honor)

Memory/Honor _____

Memory/Honor _____

You may mail your donation to the church office or drop it in the offering plate – along with this form or email your information to hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org.

Deadline is March 25th!

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

102 West Tryon Street

Post Office Box 717

Hillsborough, NC 27278

(919) 732-3131

E-Mail: HPChurch@hillsboroughpres.org

Web page: www.hillsboroughpres.org

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 downstairs; following the Conversation with Children in Worship – Children will go to Sunday School upstairs)