

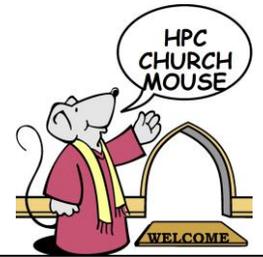
HILLSBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The Church Mouse

June, 2018



Dear HPC Friends and Family,

Do you have your summer reading list picked out yet? Cam Cover lent me yet another book offering advice to mainline churches struggling to regain relevance in our screen-obsessed, secular age. But this one, *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger, stands out. It offers an interesting metaphor for the church (especially since HPC men's fellowship just had a canoe trip). The metaphor is the Corps of Discovery journey of Lewis and Clark. Anticipating the same geography to the west of the continental divide as there was to the east (300 years of experts had predicted this), Lewis wrote of the moment when they found the headwaters of the Missouri River:

Here I halted a few minutes and rested myself. Two miles below McNeal had exultingly stood with a foot on each side of this rivulet and thanked his god that he had lived to bestride the mighty and heretofore deemed endless Missouri. After refreshing ourselves we proceeded on to the top of the dividing ridge from which I discovered immense ranges of high mountains still to the West of us with the tops partially covered with snow.

These were the Rocky Mountains. They weren't on anybody's map at the time. Bolinger writes:

There was no Northwest Passage. No navigable river. No water route. The driving assumption of the brightest, most adventurous entrepreneurial and creative leaders regarding this new world had been absolutely mistaken.....(Lewis & Clark) would have to change plans, give up expectations, even reframe their entire mission. What lay before them was nothing like what was behind them.... The true adventure – the real discovery – was just beginning. (pp. 26 & 27)

Bolinger then states that most churches, with some exceptions, are dying. What is needed? We need to adapt our canoes for the mountains. He writes, "Indeed, most of our congregations are filled with people who were blessed by what *once* worked....The answer is not to try harder but to start a new adventure....To see not the absence of a water route but the discovery of a new, uncharted land beckoning us forward – yes, in the face of the uncertainties, fears and potential losses – to learn and be transformed." (pp. 32-33)

A Mission Study is designed to invite a congregation into this kind of discovery. We all know things have changed, but how exactly have they changed in this place at this time? Once we know the contours of the new landscape, we will discover new ways of traveling through it. But first, we do the work to map the contours. "...before we can solve any problem, we need to learn to *see* new possibilities. And, ironically, because the solution will be an adaptation of the core values, identity and theology of the congregation itself, seeing those possibilities depends on first seeing ourselves and our congregations as we really are." (p. 33)

The Mission Study Team is leading us on this adventure. Please plan to meet with them following June 10 worship to ask them questions. No canoes necessary!

Blessings, Rev. Marguerite

CIRCLE #1 NEWS!

Circle #1 will meet at HPC at 11:00 on Monday, June 11th. All are invited to join us for our next lesson from the study guide “Friendship”. Bring a sandwich – the hostess provides beverages and dessert. Visitors and guests are always welcome! Questions? See Ann Sebesan.



LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

April through September, congregation members offer light refreshment after the 11:00am service each Sunday. The 2018



Lemonade on the Lawn sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the church office. Please sign up to celebrate your own special day, or just for the joy of sharing with others!

On **Sunday, June 10**, the Mission Study Team will host Lemonade in Strudwick Hall. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and talk to the team members about the process.



Baby Shower for Marie Curtis and baby Curtis, June 10th, 2-4 pm, Strudwick Hall

A celebration in anticipation of the birth of baby Curtis, will be held on Sunday, June 10th, between 2-4 pm in Strudwick Hall.

All the ladies of Hillsborough Presbyterian Church at invited to attend. The co hosts are Andrea Rowe and Trang O'Connor. There is a baby registry at:

www.babylist.com/marie-curtis-registry

Please contact Andrea and Trang for further details.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S CIRCLE

The Presbyterian Women’s Circle will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in Strudwick Hall. On June 20 we will be discussing chapter 3 of “No Innocent Bystanders.”

We are collecting 100 lotions for the prison ministry hygiene table by June 20. Please place in donations closet. Questions? See Robin Barnhill.



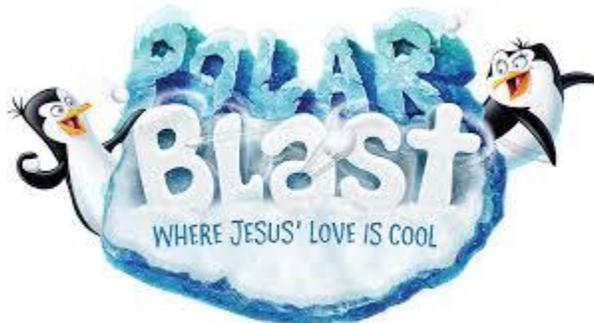
LADIES FIRST

Our Saturday morning HPC Ladies First group will take a break over the summer months. Our gatherings will resume in the Fall! Stay tuned. Questions? See Lisa Flinn.



CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

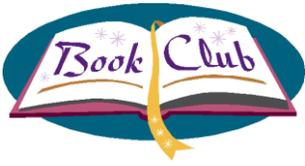
We will have Children’s Summer Sunday School on July 1st and 15th, and August 5th and 19th at 9:45 AM in Room #204. We will also have Kid’s Time on these same Sundays following the “Conversation with the Children” in the 11 AM worship. On Sundays when we do not have Kid’s Time we will have Worship Bags (coloring pages, stories, etc.) available for children during worship.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date for VBS
06/15/18-06/17/18

Parents – please complete VBS registration forms and return them to Stephanie Morgan or Cynthia Latta by June 3rd.



HPC BOOK CLUB

The HPC Book Club will meet on June 10th to discuss the acclaimed

“Radio Girls”, by Sarah-Jane Stratford

London, 1926. The Great War is over, and change is in the air, in this novel that brings to life the exciting days of early British radio...and one woman who finds her voice while working alongside the brilliant women and men of the BBC. American-raised Maisie Musgrave is thrilled to land a job as a secretary at the upstart British Broadcasting Corporation, whose use of radio—still new, strange, and electrifying—is captivating the nation.

We will also be selecting our summer beach read at this meeting, so be sure to attend and bring your suggestions!

Book Club meets on the 2nd Sunday most months of the year at 7:00 in the church library. Visitors and guests are always welcome, and refreshments will be served.



MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Proverbs 22:6 "Train children in the way they should go, when they grow old, they won't depart from it."

Now is the time to think of stewardship! “But it’s summer; I don’t think of stewardship at church until November when they ask for money.”

Yes, it is summer and time to think about all of the gifts from God. HPC needs your continued monetary support, but stewardship is so much more.

Summer is a time for many to think of vacation, relaxation. Summer can be like a Sabbath, it can be a time of rest from work that consumed you over the past year. It is a time of stewardship of your God given resources of body and mind. Reflect on how wisely you have used those resources this past year. Stewardship is about how you have consumed or abused those resources that have been given to you. Did you gain weight like me? Did you spend too

much time watching TV like me? How about wasted time on the computer like me?

Church activities often slowdown in the summer. Now can be a time to reflect on the spiritual gifts I have been given. Have I been too busy with Sunday School, ushering, and other busy work at church so that I did not really listen to the Word of God? How am I doing on my spiritual stewardship? When is the last time I read an entire book of the Bible rather than a few chosen verses that come each Sunday. Did I really hear the sermon or did I just watch those in front of us?

Finally, how am I spending my money? Did I just buy stuff or did I invest in an experience or nurture a friendship that will last a lifetime. How we spend, save and give our money says much about who we are. Do we have our priorities straight? Are they in line with what we say we believe? What god do we serve when we use our monetary gifts?

Yes, summer is a time to think about stewardship. It is a time to think about our relationships with God, family and friends. It can be a time when we reflect, the time when God saw “everything that he had made, and behold it was very good.” And when he “finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day” God has given us a model – rest and reflect on what we have done and who we are. Can we also reflect on what we have done and how we have been stewards of the many things God has given us, body, mind, spirit and also the monetary gifts. It all comes from God.

Be a spiritual leader in your family, church, community. Help pass on our faith to younger generations through the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your support,
Eric Cathey

This month's Moment for Stewardship uses text from Richard Lindberg

**Save the Dates! September 9 and 23,
4:30-6:30 PM, join us for
Mission Study Congregational gatherings
in Strudwick Hall, dinner included.**

MISSION STUDY TEAM

Thanks everyone who participated in our TimeLine project in May. You helped the Mission Study Team engage in the important task of remembering both good times and bad. Our memories reveal where HPC has come from.

Now the task turns to the present day. The team is developing a list of leaders from government, the arts, business, education, and other non-profits in the area, and has gone out to interview them based around these four questions:

- a. Looking at Hillsborough and Northern Orange County now, what excites you the most?
- b. Are there any current challenges that keep you up at night?
- c. Looking at the next five years and beyond, what do you anticipate? What are your hopes and dreams for our area? What concerns you?
- d. If you could script a role for faith communities to play in the larger community, what would it be?

We've had responses from Mayor Tom Stevens, the Food for Families Coordinator of PORCH Hillsborough, Lizzie Dicker, and others scheduled include the members of the Orange Co. Commissioners and School Board, Hillsborough and Orange County planners, the arts council, and business leaders. The community interviews are one of my favorite stages of the Mission Study process. As conversations take place with people outside the church walls, new visions of ministry arise. HPC already has a heavy commitment to the community – expressed in the vision for the renovated facility to be a community resource – and these conversations will help the church move into that reality.

“Reality” is the key to the Mission Study. Demographic statistics of our area -- plus studies from the town and government agencies -- all combine to create a context that is less the product of what people in the church “think” we ought to do, and reframes the conversation around, wow, this is what’s really happening – and God’s calling us to do this because of it. The MST has been surprised

by some of what it’s learned, and I think you will be too.

The MST wants to start having conversations with HPC members about this research over the summer. The first opportunity will be following worship (and before the baby shower) on June 10. Please plan on staying a few minutes and talking with one of the MST members about the process and what they’ve been learning. Other opportunities to meet with the MST will be July 1 and August 5.

Thank you for your support and interest in the Mission Study Team!

Rev. Marguerite Serrine



GRADUATE SUNDAY

June 3 has been designated Graduate Sunday. CE will host a reception in Strudwick Hall following the 11:00 service to honor all graduates. Our reported graduates include:

Connor Brown - UNC-CH - Phi Beta Kappa and an Honor Grad from UNC, double majoring in Political Science and Peace, War & Defense. Starting in the Trans-Atlantic Master’s Program in August at Carolina – the first year is here, the second year is in Germany at the University of Bremen.

Grayson Parker - Orange High School

Cameron Salmon (Grayson’s girlfriend) Graham High School - attending Alamance Community College in the fall

Bridger William Cothran - Carolina Friends School - attending Clemson in the fall (Thelma Bradley’s grandson)

Micheal McLaurin - Central Carolina Community College - A.A. in Culinary - Transitioning to a 4 year college for A.A. in Dietary

Katie Barnhill-Dilling – NC State University - PhD in Forestry & Environmental Resources

PCUSA General Assembly will be held in St. Louis June 16-23. Please pray for this body to be filled with the Holy Spirit! You can follow the business of the GA at pc-biz.org.

Of particular interest this year is the report of the Vision Team, created at the last GA and tasked with formulating a way forward for the church in a time of decline and division (but also signs of new life). They are presenting a draft Vision Statement for GA to amend and then send out to the denomination for debate and discussion. I find this of particular interest because it is not dissimilar to the Mission Study process we are using at HPC. We, too, will draft a Vision Statement for HPC – hopefully, a lot shorter than this one. We will also identify attainable goals that will tell you when you have arrived at that vision and are ready for the next.

- Rev. Marguerite

The draft PCUSA vision statement is as follows:

Prayerful

- Confessing our sin before God and to those we have wronged, we accept our responsibility for the brokenness in the world and in ourselves. In Christ we are assured of forgiveness and freed to forgive others.
- We ask the Holy Spirit to direct and guide us as we actively listen to Scripture and fully engage in the joys and challenges of life in this present world.
- In Christ we are bound together by grace, cleansed in the waters of baptism, nourished at the Lord's table, and sent out to share the Good News.

Courageous

- Reformed and always being reformed, we follow the Holy Spirit in new and imaginative ways to places we have not yet been.
- We foster the hope of reconciliation in Christ that brings healing to individuals and communities, which transforms the world.
- We work for God's justice and peace for all people in every land, prioritizing the vulnerable, the marginalized, and the abused.

United

- As members of the Church universal, we are Christ's disciples, called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Against forces that seek to divide, Christ compels us to bear witness to a love that sustains community across great differences.
- Striving to love all our neighbors as ourselves, we approach others in a spirit of openness and trust as we follow Jesus Christ in respecting the freedom of other religions, worldviews, and traditions.

Serving

- As followers of the One who washed his disciples' feet, we listen to and serve our neighbors, working to meet their practical needs.
- We partner with others to become the hands and feet of God in the world, showing compassion and generosity to all creation.
- We venture beyond the familiar, meeting people where they are as we share Christ's transformative love.

Alive

- We are a people of the resurrection: though death surrounds us, we are not afraid because we follow the One who was raised from the tomb.
- The Holy Spirit gives us courage to build a community that reflects the fullness of God's image in humanity: beautifully diverse and no longer divided by age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexuality, physical and mental ability, geography, or theological conviction.
- In the sure and certain hope of resurrection, we testify that the church and its members are called to follow Christ's model by risking all, even life itself, for the sake of the Gospel.

And so, God calls the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be: **Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, Alive.**

June, 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	<p>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</p>				<p>1 Cates Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 Cates Wedding and Reception 2:00 PM</p>
<p>3 Graduate's Sunday 9:45 AM Joyful Noise Rehearsal (#221) 12:15 PM Graduation Reception in Strudwick Hall</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Healthy Walks on Riverwalk 5:30 PM</p>	<p>6 Youth Group 6:00 PM (Strudwick) Mission Study Team 7:00 PM (#204)</p>	<p>7 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>12:15 PM Mission (#204) 10 12:15 PM Lemonade on the Lawn (Strudwick Hall) 2:00 PM Curtis Baby Shower (Strudwick) 7:00 PM HPC Book Club (#204)</p>	<p>11 Circle #1 -- 11:00 AM (HPC #204)</p>	<p>12 Healthy Walks on Riverwalk 5:30 PM</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)</p>	<p>15 VBS 5:30 PM (Strudwick Hall)</p>	<p>16 VBS 9:00 AM (Strudwick Hall)</p>
<p>17 VBS Celebration 12:15 PM Lemonade on the Lawn 12:15 Session (Strudwick Hall)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Healthy Walks on Riverwalk 5:30 PM</p>	<p>20 Deadline for HPC Newsletter 1:00 PM PW Women's Circle 7:00 PM (Strudwick)</p>	<p>21 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)</p>	<p>22 Sewing/Craft 6-11 PM (Strudwick)</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 12:15 PM Building & Grounds (#204) 12:15 PM Lemonade on the Lawn</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Healthy Walks on Riverwalk 5:30 PM Food for All 5:00 (Strudwick)</p>	<p>27 Mission Study Team 7:00 PM (#204)</p>	<p>28 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (#221)</p>	<p>29 "Last Friday" 6:30 – 8:30 PM</p>	<p>30</p>

NOTE: If you have any July 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 20th of June!

“LAST FRIDAYS”

Mark your calendar and join us for **Last Fridays** on **June 29th** from 6:30 – 8:30 PM! Enjoy music (musicians tbd) and free ice cream at the church’s Tryon Street Stage! Questions? See Rich Erdosy.



SEWING / CRAFT GATHERING

You are invited to a new **sewing/craft group** on the 3rd Friday night of each month from 6:00 – 11:00 PM. This month on June 22. Bring your sewing or hobby project. You do not need to stay for the whole meeting time. There is no agenda. You will have plenty of time to work on whatever you choose, making it worthwhile to bring sewing machines, etc. We plan to order pizza for dinner or you can bring something different to eat, or bring something else to eat with the pizza if you wish. Come enjoy working with friends and sharing time and ideas with each other. Questions? See Ann Sebesan.



YOUTH GROUP

Thank you so much for all your support of our **HPC Youth Group**. Our final gathering will be June 6, then after a summer break we will resume in the Fall! -- Eric Cathey

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