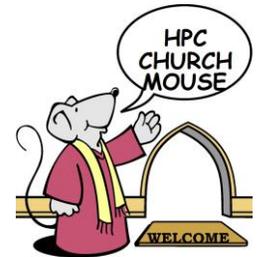


HILLSBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

The Church Mouse
December, 2018



Dear HPC Friends and Family,

I was reminded recently of my favorite line from one of my beloved resources on grief, *Life After Loss* by Bob Deits: “Life after loss will never be the same. But it can still be good.” We carry with us memories of people and experiences that stay with us in the present. When we are grieving, they make us sadder. When we are moving into life after loss, they make us wiser.

I hope you, like me, sense this movement at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church this December. The church celebrated two humongous milestones in 2017: the retirement of a long-time beloved pastor, and the completion of a large-scale renovation project. Both celebrations incurred losses – losses of spaces and room configurations from the past, and the loss of leadership and relationship. It’s been natural for HPC to experience some of the stages of grief – anger, denial, bargaining, before moving into a phase where the losses are accepted and adapted to in new, creative, and even visionary ways.

Why do I speak about loss at Christmastime? Christ comes to us amidst the darkness of life. As Christians, as those who await the coming of Christ, we strive to believe that the light shines even there: bringing joy to brokenness and love to imperfection. We do not “bring it” ourselves. We receive the light of Christ that God brings to us. A child is born to us in a manger – a dark place. The child doesn’t take away loss, but the child will experience loss, and the life after loss, to make redemption possible for us.

The word “Redemption” has layers of meaning from ancient time to the present, but to me the root of it involves restoration. In the book of Ruth, Boaz redeems Ruth – he restores her and Naomi’s losses by giving them a new family and new life. While we may never understand why God lets tragic loss into people’s lives, we as Christians, at Christmas, try to believe that no loss is irredeemable, beyond God’s power to restore us to life that, as the writer of Genesis reminds us, is good. It is a great mystery, this redemption. And on our most faithful days, we even believe it is a great truth.

I invite you to light a candle in the darkness this Christmas. LED or wick, it doesn’t matter. Light a candle and ponder on the mystery that hope, peace, love and joy can exist at all when there is so much darkness in human life. Ponder how the candle shines, and the darkness does not overcome it. And then come to Christmas Eve services to do this same exercise in the middle of the faith community that is trying to live into redeeming hope, peace, love and joy at a time when so many voices are telling us we can’t. Oh yes, we can. With God’s help, we even are. Merry Christmas.

Blessings,
Rev. Marguerite





**WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP
COOKIE
EXCHANGE**

All women of HPC are invited to a **Christmas Cookie Exchange and Lite breakfast** on Saturday, December 1st from 9:30 – 11:00 am in Strudwick Hall. Please bring 2 to 3 dozen cookies and you will take home a delicious variety of yummy cookies. Don't forget to bring a container to take your cookies home in. Non-bakers are welcome to join us too! Hope to see you there! Hosted by Women's Fellowship. Questions? Contact Lisa Flinn.



CIRCLE #1

Circle # 1 will meet on Monday, December 10. Additional details coming soon. Questions? See Ann Sebesan.



HPC CHOIR CONCERT

Gather at HPC on **Sunday, December 16th at 6:00 PM** for our annual choral program. Join us for Christmas music by our HPC choirs along with congregational carols. This year, the program will feature music for choir and harp. A reception will follow in Strudwick Hall.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE

The Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 19th, at 7:00 PM, in the upstairs parlor. We will be discussing the 2nd chapter of Dear White Christian – What Every White Christian Needs to Know About How Black Christians See, Think, & Experience Racism in America, by Aaron J Layton.

All women of the church are invited. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Linda Jaubert.



YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group will meet on December 5, 12, and 19, Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Dinner will be provided. To sign up for a Wednesday evening to provide the meal see the sign-up sheet in the hallway! Questions? See Eric Cathey. (Youth Group resumes on January 9, 2019)



"FINISH IT FRIDAY"

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 December 21st. 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.



BOOK CLUB NEWS!

Please plan to join Book Club on Sunday, January 13th at 12:30 PM for a discussion of our annual Christmas selection. This year, we will be discussing *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, by Dr. Seuss. We will be getting into the tough questions, such as “have you ever found yourself identifying with the Grinch?” Have no fear, though. We’ll do our best to keep things light. It’s possible that some of you younger folks in the congregation may have some strong opinions that you’d like to share. You are most certainly welcome! In hopeful anticipation that we may indeed be joined by some of our younger friends, we are scheduling this meeting for 12:30, right after Worship. A light lunch will be served. Although we can’t promise that rare roast beast will be served, you just never know...

Our reading selection for the following month will be: “Day After Night” by Anita Diamont.

Diamant’s triumphant novel is an unforgettable story of tragedy and redemption that reimagines a singular moment in history with stunning eloquence. (from *Amazon*)

Questions? See Rich Erdosy.



INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Intergenerational Sunday school will be on December 23rd and 30th at 9:45 am in Strudwick. All ages are welcome as we study that Sunday's lectionary theme. All ages are welcome to participate the intergenerational Sunday school learning experience. Light refreshments will be served.

4th ANNUAL HPC COATS FOR KIDS

This year the HPC Youth elected to repeat the Coats for Kids (Coat Drive). The Youth are requesting donations of NEW Coats. Those who wish may also make a donation by check to HPC with "Coats for Kids" listed in the memo. These designated funds will be used to purchase new winter coats. The coats will be donated to the Orange County Schools in collaboration with the OCS Social Workers; Rebekah Pea, CSW. The need is for new coats sizes child’s Small and Medium as well as Youth XL, and at least two Adult Small for both genders. Any coats we have in excess of the OCS identified needs will go to the Salvation Army which will then distribute to children in need in the local area. We will create a place to store the coats (a box with a sign in the donation closet).

Questions? Talk to the youth, Jane McIver or Eric Cathey.



PARLOR DEDICATION

Join us immediately following worship on Sunday, December 9th for the dedication of the newly completed HPC Parlor. Refreshments will be served.





Sharing with Others at Christmas

In this season of Advent, as we reflect on God's gift of his Son to us, we often want to share with others who are in need. This year HPC has several opportunities to do just that.

Over the Christmas holiday, **OCIM** does not deliver hot meals so that volunteers can celebrate with their families. For some Meals on Wheels recipients, this meal is their only source of healthy food. Rather than leave these people without meals during this time, OCIM provides a box of ready-to-eat food. HPC is going to donate 4-packs or 6-packs of applesauce cups that will be included in the meal boxes. Please add this to your shopping list and put in our OCIM donation basket. Since applesauce cups can be also used on snow days, we'll collect them through Christmas. Our goal is to have at least 50 of the 4- or 6-packs.

Children grow so quickly and many parents don't have the resources to provide coats for them. HPC Youth are collecting **new coats** in children's sizes small and medium; youth size extra-large and adult size small to be donated to Orange County Schools. The school social workers will help to identify those children in need of a warm coat. You can also donate money to this endeavor and the Youth will do the shopping for you. If you do this, please indicate "Coats for Kids" in the memo line. This is a tangible way we can share with others. The Youth are targeting 25 coats by December 15th.

Winter is upon us, and when it's cold outside, it's so nice to be cozy inside our warm houses. When you can't afford the increased utility costs, your house isn't warm and cozy. This year's Christmas Eve offering will be donated to **OCIM's utility fund** to help those in need cover these expenses. During the winter of 2018, the HPC's Mission Commission, together with OCIM's utility fund, was able to fill the oil tank of an elderly couple who had no heat because their oil tank was empty and they could not afford to fill it.

2018 has been a year of disasters. Floods, fires, shootings...this has been a year of tragedies. We are heart broken, but don't know how we can make a difference. **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

(PDA) has the training, the connections with other agencies and the experience to know exactly how to help. Hurricane Michael ravaged coastal areas, including North Carolina, which had not yet recovered from previous hurricanes. One of the biggest needs is housing, because it takes years to re-build after a devastating hurricane. HPC volunteers helped with re-construction efforts in Kinston, NC this fall and experienced the tremendous organization and support provided by PDA. This cannot be done without contributions to PDA. You can learn more about PDA's hurricane recovery efforts here:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pda-providing-much-needed-support-for-hurricane-ravaged-areas/>

If you are interested in donating to PDA's Hurricane Michael relief, you can donate here: <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000194/> or put a check in the offering plate and indicate in the memo line that the donation is for PDA's hurricane relief efforts.

California is in the midst of terrible wildfires. The town of Paradise has been burned to the ground. Other areas have been extensively burned. Many, many lives have been lost. One of the most immediate needs is for temporary shelter. Some people have had to travel over a hundred miles to find a hotel with vacancy. And hotels are not a long-term solution for shelter. PDA is much larger than individual churches and is equipped to work with other organizations to provide solutions. In addition to nearby fires, the Thousand Oaks area is reeling from a recent mass shooting event. PDA is there to help families and friends of those impacted.

Learn about PDA's efforts here:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pda-spiritual-care-providers-now-in-california/> and here: <http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/california-fires/>.

Please consider donating to support PDA's efforts to support these people who have lost lives, homes and belongings. You can donate to this here:

<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000165/> or put a check in the offering plate and indicate in the memo line that the donation is for PDA's California fire relief efforts.

-- Community Outreach / Mission



NEW HOPE CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER, INC.

4805 NC 86 S, Chapel Hill NC 27514 Phone: 919-942-4716

INFO@NEWHOPECCC.ORG

www.newhopeccc.org

New Hope Camp and Conference Center, Inc. provides a unique natural setting, a place apart for persons of all ages and faiths to grow in their relationship with God, themselves, and others in an environment of Christian hospitality.

November 2018

What an honor it is to be associated with a ministry like New Hope Camp and Conference Center. We are proud to be "a place apart for all ages," which our mission states, and which proves true every day. Throughout the year we serve children that come to us, and afterwards their parents talk about their kids' wonderful experience at New Hope. When families join the pool for the summer, they tell us that it is a special place to come and enjoy each other in a great relaxing atmosphere. Groups take advantage of our conference facilities in all four seasons. Many come to find a place where they are removed from everyday distractions. Others take the opportunity to spend a few minutes on the beautiful Labyrinth, or walk some of the trails that our 165 acres has to offer. It is an honor to be associated with a place that offers retreat from the minutiae of everyday life. Truly, NHCCC does offer *a place apart for all ages*.

This year the Board of Directors went through a visioning process with Run River, consultants for ministries such as ours. At the end of the process we came away with a big dream and a long-range plan. In the coming months and years, we will unveil to you more details about the New Horizons at New Hope plan. Namely, we will expand our services to reach more people, develop a focus on the arts, and enhance our emphasis on earth care and stewardship, all within the environment of Christian hospitality.

The whole plan will happen in four phases over fifteen years, and includes expanding and repurposing the flagship buildings, building new lodging, meetings spaces, and administration offices, plus creating new marketing and outreach efforts to increase patronage. The changes will enhance and improve all that is already good about Camp New Hope.

We're sharing this preview with you because your support is so important to us. This is a big dream and we hope that you will help make it a reality. Phase I comes in at a little more than \$550,000 and Phase II will be about \$600,000. As you consider your year-end donations please make a generous donation to New Horizons at New Hope.

We hope that you and your family will support the changes and take advantage of the camp now and throughout the transition.

If you share in the belief of our mission **to provide, within a unique natural setting, a place apart for persons of all faiths, to grow in their relationship with God, themselves, and others in an environment of Christian hospitality**, please consider a financial gift to NHCCC this season. *It would mean so much to us.*

Sincerely,
Richard Stevens
Executive Director

Walt Beckwith
Chair, Board of Directors

New Hope Camp & Conference Center Endowment Fund

The earnings from your endowment donations can sustain and enhance the programs and legacy of New Hope Camp & Conference Center (NHCCC). No contribution is too small. We can accept your tax-deductible donation as a check or transfer of stock and securities. If you wish to include NHCCC in your estate plans, please contact Richard Stevens, Richard@newhopeccc.org or 919-942-4716.

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

- 01 Jane McIver
- 12 Jeff Borcik
- 13 Gail Crane
- 13 Kirsten Talley
- 15 Suzy Williams
- 19 Forrest Heinze
- 21 Tom Beveridge
- 21 Tyler Erdosy
- 25 Sarah Laws
- 26 Mae Lee Brizendine
- 30 Susan Waldrop
- 30 Judy Brown
- 31 Judy Melton
- 31 Roxanne Barksdale
- 31 Silas Rowe



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



DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS



- 2 Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1- I Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
- 9 Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
- 16 Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
- 23 Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
- 30 I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52



GREEN NOTES!

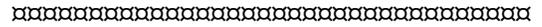
Shop the farmer’s market: they’ll take egg cartons and berry baskets back for reuse. Buy organic whenever possible to avoid chemical spray residue.

(Green Notes are provided by PCUSA’s Environmental Ministries and your Stewardship Commission.)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 2

- Liturgist: Martin Brown
- Children’s Sermon: Marguerite Serrine
- Advent Candles: Will Lang
- Flowers: Advent Wreath
- Youth (12/5): Jane Gaede
- Nursery: Stephanie Morgan
- Greeters: Sam Nesbit



December 9

- Liturgist: Jane McIver
- Children’s Sermon: Jane McIver
- Advent Candles: Heinze Family
- Flowers: Advent Wreath
- Youth (12/12): O’Connor Family
- Nursery: Karoline Mathewson
- Greeters: Sam Nesbit

December 16

- Liturgist: David Remington
- Children’s Sermon: Vernon Cooper
- Advent Candles: Remington Family
- Flowers: Advent Wreath
- Youth (12/19): TBD
- Nursery: Marie Curtis
- Greeters: Sam Nesbit



December 23

- Liturgist: Sam Nesbit
- Children’s Sermon: Eric Cathey
- Advent Candles: Bailey Family
- Flowers: Advent Wreath
- Nursery: Cathy Ely
- Greeters: Sam Nesbit



December 30

- Preaching: Vernon Cooper
- Liturgist: James Watts
- Children’s Sermon: Jane McIver
- Acolyte: Ellie Clay
- Flowers: Advent Wreath
- Nursery: Marie Curtis
- Greeters: Sam Nesbit

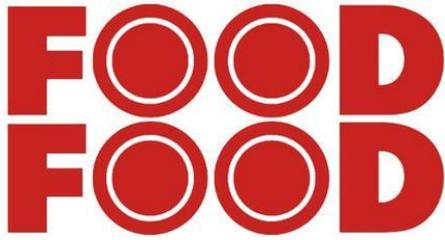
Save the date! A baby shower for Jordan Wolfe on Saturday, January 5, from 2-4 pm at HPC. Her registry is at Babylist.com under Jordan Wolfe. Questions? Contact Judy Brown or Barbara Younger.

December, 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Join us on Sunday mornings! Sunday School for All Ages at 9:45 AM Nursery for Children at 9:45 and 11:00 AM Traditional Worship at 11:00 AM</p> </div>						1 Women's Fellowship Cookie Exchange 9:30 AM (Strudwick Hall)
2 Advent I 9:45 AM Joyful Noise Choir (#221) 12:00 Noon Congregational Meeting (Elder Nominees for Class of 2022) 12:15 PM Magnetic Church (#204)	3	4	5 Youth Group 6:00 PM (#204)	6 HPC Choir 7:00 PM (#221)	7	8
9 Advent II 12:15 PM HPC Parlor Dedication 12:30 PM Mission (#204) 4:30 PM Elder Training (#204)	10 Circle #1 Christmas Celebration	11	12 Youth Group 6:00 PM (#204)	13 HPC Choir 7:00 PM (#221)	14	15 Choir Concert Dress Rehearsal 1 - 4 PM
16 Advent III 9:45 AM Joyful Noise Choir (#221) 11:00 AM Joy Gift Offering  6:00 PM HPC Choir Concert and Reception	17 Deadline for HPC Newsletter 1:00 PM	18	19 Youth Group 6:00 PM (#204) PW Women's Circle 7:00 PM (Strudwick)	20	21 "Finish It Friday" Sewing/Craft 6-11 PM (Strudwick)	22
23 Advent IV 9:45 AM Intergenerational Sunday School (Strudwick Hall) 11:00 AM Joy Gift Offering	24 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service 	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29
30	31	Church Office Closed December 24 – January 2, 2019				

9:45 AM Intergenerational Sunday
School (Strudwick Hall)
 11:00 AM County Down Sings
 12:15 PM Unhanging Greens

NOTE: If you have any January 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 17th of December!



FOOD FOR ALL

Thank you to all who participate in Food For All. The meals are MUCH appreciated. Our next Food For All meal will be **Tuesday, January 22, 2019**. (It's always the 4th Tuesday.) The sign up sheet will be in the hallway on the Mission bulletin board. Questions? See Jane McIver.

Check out our **HPC WEB PAGE** at www.hillsboroughpres.org – click on any event on our calendar page for details! You will also find the monthly newsletter and the weekly bulletin posted on this webpage! A great way to keep up with what's happening at HPC!



Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday School 9:45 AM (for all ages!)

Childcare/Nursery 9:45 AM (for children)

Traditional Worship 11:00 AM

*A nursery is provided for children 4 and under downstairs;
there are Worship Bags (coloring pages, stories, etc.)
available for Children in Worship –*