Rev. Kerri Hefner

Once there was a woman who helped run a soup kitchen. Every day before opening the doors to the guests waiting outside, she would pray. "Jesus," she would say, "help us serve you, because we know you're coming through that door." Recently we featured a tally of our congregation's mission-giving. It was amazing to see all of the agencies and programs we helped in 2013. In addition, church members put many priceless hours into mission work last year. Do you believe that we served Christ in our mission work last year? Did we see his face in the people of Appalachia or Washington, D.C.? Did he come through the line of people receiving Food for All plates or OCIM grocery boxes? Did he call me for help from the pastor's discretionary fund?

And, more importantly, did you see him? For all his presence in the world, the Savior can be tough to recognize on the street. We find Christ among the lowly and forgotten, those who are least visible in our society. Please join me in supporting our mission programs in 2014. If you are unable to join a program in person, I believe you can encounter Christ as you pray for those who go (and for those who are served). May you see the face of Christ in the faces of those whom we serve.

Some of Our Giving in 2013

- Pennies for Hunger—$1,493
- One Great Hour of Sharing—$800
- Christmas Joy Offering—$500
- OCIM, from lily and poinsettia donations—$930

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Souper Bowl of Caring Offering</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Sunday &amp; Reception</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Meeting</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valentine’s Day Dinner &amp; Dance</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>February 15</td>
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In one of the classes I took at The Blaze (a youth workers leadership conference), our teacher, Mark Yaconelli, asked us to remember our 15-year-old selves. He had us close our eyes and remember what our deepest fear was, our deepest longing, and what our greatest ache or wound was at that age. I remembered that I lost and made new friends due to starting high school, and that my deepest fear was that I was not likeable or good enough. My deepest longing was to be loved just for being me, and my ache at the time was being abandoned by people I loved. Although times have certainly changed in the last 30 years, the fears, longings, and wounds youth have now at age 15 do not differ much from what I experienced. Youth are still looking for a place to connect—to other youth, adults, and to their faith. Youth need a ministry that is accepting, has compassion for them and what is going on in their lives, consistency, and unconditional love. They need adults they can trust who can be attentive to who they are and to shine the light of love on them and on the gifts that they have.

This month, a small group of adults will be reading the book “Sustainable Youth Ministry” by Mark DeVries. This book’s premise is that a solid sustainable youth ministry program doesn’t revolve around one superstar staff (or volunteer) person, but rather is built on a strong foundation that the church creates and maintains. One of the ways that a church creates and maintains a strong foundation is by having a diverse group of adults who volunteer to be a part of the youth ministry program. Joyce Ann Mercer, a professor of practical theology at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA, says this about educational ministry:

“… the best classroom experience cannot take root if it is not embedded in a community life in which all kinds of people join together to practice being agents of God’s love, justice, compassion, and reconciliation in the world that God made, redeems, and loves.”

I believe this to be true for all educational ministry. Joyce Ann Mercer further states that for us to “form children, youth, and anyone else in Christian faith one must be a part of a guided participation in a community of practice where people are vibrantly, passionately risking themselves together in lives of faith in a world crying out for the love of Christ.”

Where are you participating in our community of practice? How are you “vibrantly, passionately risking” yourself in the life of faith? How are you practicing being an agent of God’s love, justice, compassion and reconciliation to our world that God made? How can you be a part of our educational ministries at New Hope?

Join the Other Churches and Youth Groups in Orange County Supporting...

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2

We will have two collections for hunger relief. Our children will collect the Pennies for Hunger, which are used regionally, and come back to us in the form of grants for Food for All and OCIM. After worship, the youth will stand with soup pots in the narthex to collect an extra "souper" offering for OCIM. Please bring extra cash or a non-perishable food item to place in the soup pots.

Lenten Dinner and Devotion

Mark your calendar for this new Christian Education program! On Wednesdays during Lent (beginning March 12), we will offer a short family-friendly devotion along with a simple evening meal. Devotions will be led by Kerri, Mary Todd, and Mark, and will end in time for kids' bedtime. Call Kerri if you would like to donate a pot of soup or other simple foods. More details to come!

“Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don’t listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won’t tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.” — Catherine M. Wallace
**Director of Music**

Mark Gorman

I asked for your favorite hymns a few months ago and heard some great responses. I'd love to include more in future newsletter columns, so keep them coming! Here are the ones I've received so far:

Rachel Hawley:
“Here I Am, Lord’: I like this hymn because it is essentially a call for Christians to do what Christ wants in the world. As a young person who is looking to make a unique difference in my world, I feel a real resonance with this song. Also: ‘The Church’s One Foundation.’ This emphasizes the universal church’s role in the world, her relationship to Christ and the world, her connection to Christ and other Christians. It is inspiring.”

Alfred and Jane Kirkland:
“Precious Lord Take My Hand”; ‘In the Garden’; ‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”; ‘Peace in the Valley’; ‘Lord Lift Me Up on Higher Ground”; ‘Wonderful Words of Life”

Meredith Townsend:
“The hymns that I sing to myself sometimes when walking or driving are ‘Spirit of the Living God,’ ‘I Am Here God,’ and ‘Amazing Grace.’ (I would probably sing many others if I could remember the words!) However, since I have to limit myself, I did narrow down my most favorite to be ‘Amazing Grace.’ I was raised in the Episcopal faith and attended church regularly until I went off to college at 18. Although I went through confirmation classes, I think at that age I believed what my parents believed. I did not really ‘own’ the belief myself. Although I would go to church sometimes at Christmas or Easter, I pretty much lost my connection to any life of faith. From 19-27, I survived what I consider the most unpleasant years of my life, and I think of that time as ‘the dark night of my soul.’ At 28, I found a spiritual path, practices that I could relate to, and a faith that I then truly ‘owned.’ From this experience, I strongly identify with the verse ‘I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see’ as well as a part from the second verse: ‘How precious did that Grace appear, the hour I first believed.’ I never fail to be touched by these particular parts of the hymn, and actually can seldom sing them out loud as I am almost always moved to tears.”

**Mardi Gras Celebration**

Mark your calendars now for the music program’s annual Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m. The bell and chancel choirs will provide a pancake supper and musical entertainment. You don’t want to miss it!

**Valentine Care Bags - Feb 4, 7pm - Old Fellowship Hall - Sponsored by Women’s Circle**

Share your love by participating in the Annual Valentine Care Bags Project for all NHPC college students and homebound members for approximately 30 recipients. Following a brief devotion, we will all sign cards and assemble the bags. Mothers of all our college students are invited and encouraged to attend. These special members of our church love being remembered and supported in this way, and receiving one of Minnilue Braverman’s beautiful handmade Valentine cards that will be enclosed in the bags. Compassionate Care Committee members, Circle members, and others will assist with delivery of bags. If you cannot attend but would like to donate items, a large blue plastic container marked “Care Bags” has been placed outside the Narthex near the bulletin board. **Suggested food items:** homemade snacks such as cookies, brownies, candy PLUS healthy snack items such as trail mix, dried fruit, raisins, Welch’s or other fruit snack packets, popcorn, applesauce, crackers, sugar-free gum, breath mints, hot chocolate or coffee packets. **Non-food items:** sticky pads, regular note pads, small lotions, hand creams, tissues, or creative items of choice.

**Note:** The Circle Bible Study will be held following assembly of bags as time permits. Light refreshments will be provided.
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<td>28</td>
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### February - March 2014 Worship Service Volunteers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Feb 02</th>
<th>Feb 09</th>
<th>Feb 16</th>
<th>Feb 23</th>
<th>Mar 02</th>
<th>Mar 09</th>
<th>Mar 16</th>
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<th>Mar 30</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Acolyte</strong></td>
<td>Zuling Quade</td>
<td>Megan Mouton</td>
<td>Jack Roettig</td>
<td>James Rosati-Brown</td>
<td>Jack Roettig</td>
<td>James Rosati Brown</td>
<td>Zuling Quade</td>
<td>James Rosati Brown</td>
<td>Megan Mouton</td>
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<td><strong>Liturgist</strong></td>
<td>Megan Mouton</td>
<td>Larry Lamb</td>
<td>Elizabeth Pratson</td>
<td>Susan Van Fleet</td>
<td>Emma Jean Levi</td>
<td>Claire Capps</td>
<td>Rachel Hawley</td>
<td>Janet Borel</td>
<td>Al Townsend</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
<td>Heman &amp; Diana Robinson</td>
<td>Dan &amp; Sharon Hooker</td>
<td>Carmine &amp; Elizabeth Prioli</td>
<td>Louis &amp; Yvonne Maness</td>
<td>Frances Slocum &amp; Kathy Clifton</td>
<td>Anne &amp; Gene Montgomery</td>
<td>Cindy &amp; Jacob Mouton</td>
<td>Chris &amp; Bob Nutter</td>
<td>Randy &amp; Laura Sellers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greeters</strong></td>
<td>Al &amp; Meredith Townsend</td>
<td>Kathy Clifton &amp; Emma Jean Levi</td>
<td>Chasidy Kearns &amp; Jacky Rosati Rowe</td>
<td>Rachel Hawley</td>
<td>Dan &amp; Sharon Hooker</td>
<td>Heman &amp; Diana Robinson</td>
<td>Al &amp; Meredith Townsend</td>
<td>John &amp; Terry Stewart</td>
<td>Janet Borel &amp; Susan VanFleet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Time with Children</strong></td>
<td>Pastor Kerri</td>
<td>Mary Todd Peters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communion Servers</strong></td>
<td>Elizabeth Lacey, Larry Lamb, &amp; Paul Andrews</td>
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<td><strong>Sound &amp; Recording</strong></td>
<td>David McLamb</td>
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<td>Christopher Quade</td>
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<td><strong>Nursery</strong></td>
<td>Barbara Brunson</td>
<td>Laura Sellers &amp; Randy Sellers</td>
<td>Cori Corcoran &amp; Stephanie Wittmann</td>
<td>Lanie Quade &amp; Jane Kirkland</td>
<td>Lisa McLamb &amp; Chasidy Kearns</td>
<td>Libby Gorman &amp; Yvonne Maness</td>
<td>Kathy Clifton &amp; Susan VanFleet</td>
<td>Ginny Eads &amp; Chad Hefner</td>
<td>Anita Croasmun &amp; Minnilue Braverman</td>
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If you cannot serve on your scheduled time, please arrange for someone to serve for you. Please notify the Church Office (919-942-4710) of the change so we may correct our records and display accurate information in the weekly Church Bulletins.
2014 has already started and the staff at New Hope Camp & Conference Center is already thinking about the fun-filled summer camps for the 2014 season. Brochures have already been mailed, and camp registration has begun. The new brochure and registration form are online at www.newhopeccc.org. If you have any questions, please call the staff at (919) 942-4716.

This summer, the camp will have a new “Rookie Camp” for rising fourth and fifth graders who, in addition to day camp activities, will also enjoy one night away from home to experience what it is like for an overnight camp. Also, the 2014 campers will get to enjoy the new pottery barn and wood-working shop. The staff are looking forward to seeing some new faces and saying hello once again to our returning campers.

We are now accepting applications for our summer positions: counselors and lifeguards. The new summer staff application is online at www.newhopeccc.org.

Just a reminder that it is only a few months until the New Hope Auction Fundraiser, so now is the time to start thinking about any items that you were planning to make to donate to this event. Contact Richard Stevens with any questions.
Saturday, February 15, 6-9 pm

A festive evening of dining and dancing at the

New Hope Valentine’s Day Dance

Our theme will be “Valentines and Weddings.” Formal attire. Music will be anything you’d like to dance to, from big band to pop to shag.

Plan to bring in some of your wedding and Valentine’s pix. We’ll have tables to display them, and we can see what we all looked like, ahem, a few years ago...

The sign-up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary.

We’re going to have a tasty catered dinner, so we need a head count. And there’ll be a spot to list your favorite dance tunes, so we can have our DJ put something together!

$12.50 each, $25 per couple Childcare will be provided.

Whether you’re a ballroom pro or got two left feet, come on out to the party. We’re gonna have a great time !!!

Pansy’s Corner - New Year Reflections January 2001

My, how the years have flown so fast.
The older I get, the shorter they last.
In the days of childhood, they seemed so long.
I thought I would never be big and strong.
In the days of youth, I was happy and bright,
Never a worry through the long dreary night.
Then, when love and romance came my way,
There was not a care in the world to me that day.
Then came the serious responsibilities of life.
I became a homemaker, a mother and a working wife.
My, how the time flew quickly by.
Now I am past the age to retire.
How thankful I am through all of this time
To have a Savior who is always mine.
Through struggles or strife, joys and love,
Sickness or death, I’ve had strength from above.
No matter what the New Year brings,
God will be with me through everything.

Love and blessings, Pansy
February Birthdays
Harriet Isbell
Bruce Aycock
Kay Sharpe
David Gould
Chris Gurr
Stephanie Wittmann
Amy Cannon
Christopher Kohler
Lee Ann Brown
Daniel Slocum
Lawrence McAdams
Becky Tobin
Anne Montgomery
Virginia Brown
Ahren Johnson
Lex Parker
John Blackwood

February Anniversaries
Barbara & Michael Murphy
Tom & Lynn Spragens
Katherine & Milton Cheek
Alton & Faye Bishop
Lincoln & Elizabeth Pratson

Church Sign Jokes
The following are actual signs found on church property:
- “Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins.”
- “Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons—come hear one!”
- “People are like tea bags; you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.”
- “God so loved the world that He did not send a committee.”
- “Forbidden fruit creates many jams.”
- “In the dark? Follow the Son.”
- “If you can’t sleep, don’t count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.”
Jokes from: http://www.ahajokes.com/reg09.html

February Youth Calendar
February 2 12:00 Youth collect donations, Souper Bowl of Caring
February 15 5:00 p.m. Youth serve at Valentine’s Dance
February 16 12:15 TBD lunch and movie
February 23 12:15 - 2:00 p.m. Mission Program

Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip is June 22 - 28, 2014. All youth ages 14 and up and any adults are invited to participate in this week-long work trip. If you are interested in being on the ASP team, please contact Clint Burklin or Mary Todd Peters.

February Birthdays
Harriet Isbell
Bruce Aycock
Kay Sharpe
David Gould
Chris Gurr
Stephanie Wittmann
Amy Cannon
Christopher Kohler
Lee Ann Brown
Daniel Slocum
Lawrence McAdams
Becky Tobin
Anne Montgomery
Virginia Brown
Ahren Johnson
Lex Parker
John Blackwood

Men’s Prayer Breakfast
Meets Thursdays at 6:30am at Bob Evans in Durham
We are starting devotions based on Rick Warren’s What on Earth Am I Here For?
Current attendees include Clint Burklin, Bob Dodson, Lonnie Hawley, Dan Hooker, Jacob Mouton, Randy Sellers, Richard Stevens, and Al Townsend.
Come enjoy the fellowship, humor, discussion, and spirituality!

From the Collins Family on Their “Care” Package
YIPPEEE!!! It arrived yesterday! Thank you SO MUCH!
It came just in time for Christopher’s basketball team’s first tournament of the season, so he sported one pair of the socks at last night’s game. I saved out the two items for Jonathan so that we can wrap them and give them to him next Saturday when we’ll be celebrating his twelfth birthday (which was actually on Jan. 3, but we were still on Christmas break, so we’ve postponed the party). He will be over the moon about the “tool.” We enjoyed the coffee this morning, and look forward to everything else. The only thing that suffered a bit on the trip over was the bag of Skittles, which burst, so there were Skittles all over the place when we opened the box. (Just a tip for any future boxes—better pack everything in Ziploc bags first! Once someone sent a container of peanut butter that burst, and that was quite a mess!)
Please tell whoever contributed the CDs that I appreciate that so much. I miss hearing good old traditional hymns, and I will enjoy playing that one CD, and Christopher already listened to Doc Watson last night and loved it. Many, many thanks for the thought, time and MONEY that went into sending this care package. We love you all.

Blessings, Ellen & the 3 men

Montreat Youth Conference is July 26 - August 2. All youth (rising ninth through graduated twelfth graders) are invited to attend this amazing conference. The theme is “Rooted and Reaching” and the leadership team for week 6 is amazing! Christopher Edmonston from White Memorial Presbyterian Church is the preacher and Jarrett McLaughlin, who grew up in the New Hope Presbytery, is the keynote leader. If neither of these names mean anything to you, just know that Mary Todd knows them both and thinks very highly of these very gifted and talented pastors. Our house space is limited, so if you want to attend, please let MTP know ASAP!
**Fellowship Opportunities**

**February 15:** Valentine’s Dinner & Dance

**New Year, New Friends!**

We encourage our congregation to organize fellowship dinners for four, six, or eight at your homes. Invite someone you know and someone you’d like to know better.

**Ash Wednesday Service**

It is our time here at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church to host the Ash Wednesday service on March 5. We will host a dinner of baked potatoes and salad at 6:30 and have the service at 7:30. We look forward to having you and the good folks at New Hope join us for this special service.

Pastor Bob Brizendine

**Thanks** to all the contributors for this month’s issue.

We are always looking for new contributors to the newsletter. If you’d be interested in writing something about faith journeys, mission service, people, or occasions you’ve found inspiring, let me know. If you have taken pictures of church people or events, send them in. Contact myself or Katherine Cheek to pass on requests, or to get instructions for submission transmittal. Have submissions in by the 20th for inclusion in the following month’s newsletter.

Thanks to Rachel Hawley for her continuing assistance in the editing and layout of this month’s newsletter. We can always use additional help in photography, layout, printing, distribution. Let me know if you can assist.

*Al Townsend*

**Online Church Calendar**

http://tinyurl.com/NHPC-Calendar

**Our Mission Ministry**

School resupply for New Hope Elementary! The first two Sundays in February, the Mission Committee will be collecting school supplies for New Hope Elementary. Please help support the neighborhood school by donating any of the following items:

- Loose-leaf notebook paper (wide ruled)
- Printer/copy paper
- Pencils and pencil top erasers
- Colored copy or cardstock paper
- Disinfecting wipes/hand sanitizer

Items can be placed in the box marked for New Hope Elementary in the narthex near the elevator. Thanks for your continued support!

**Usher Training**

will be held after worship on Sunday, February 16. Pastor Kerri and the Worship Committee will offer a 15-minute session guiding all ushers through their Sunday morning responsibilities.

**Boy Scout Troop 449**

Troop 449 Scouts will join us for worship on February 9, Scout Sunday, and, following worship, will host a cookies and lemonade fellowship in the new narthex. The Scouts are working hard on recruitment, and would love to tell us about the benefits of Scouting.

If you know young men from 11-17 years of age who may benefit from the fellowship, training, and leadership skills available in the Scouting Program, please contact Ed Lowdermilk or Al Townsend for more information.
New Hope Presbyterian Church
4701 NC Highway 86
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Church Information
Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship Service 11:00 am
Office: 919-942-4710
Pastor: Rev. Kerri Hefner: 919-903-6172
E-Mail: newhopepres@mindspring.com
Website: newhopepresusa.org
Calendar: tinyurl.com/NHPC-Calendar
New Hope Presbytery: nhpresbytery.org
Presbyterian Church USA: pcusa.org

Mission Statement: New Hope Presbyterian Church is a family of intergenerational Christians, bound together by over 250 years of traditional uplifting worship and service to God through our missions and fellowship with one another. We are committed to the ministry of New Hope Camp and Conference Center, and to local, national and international mission programs. We devote ourselves to support our members and community in need; to be good stewards of financial, natural, and human resources; and to share our faith in God with those who cross our path.