

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

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church pastor

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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-Noon

church secretary

Shirley Connor
Office hours:
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

consistory president

Sharon Moore

choir director / organist

Tim Hucks

custodian

Brenda Currie



Mt. Hope Messenger

August, 2013



FROM THE
PASTOR

The article that our young Sunday School class wrote for this issue of our newsletter made me stop and think. I'm so thankful to them for being responsible for making me refuse to forget where I came from and what it means to me.

Having grown up in an extremely rural area (some would call it the boondocks while others would say that the boondocks were too citified for us), I can still remember what the environment really meant to us. As a family who depended on hunting, fishing, and farming for our meals we were put in a position where we had to do everything we could to protect our environment. Without careful care of the forest we knew that our table would be a little barer. Without careful care of the river we knew that our stomachs could possibly be a little emptier. Without careful care of the soil we knew that corn, potatoes, beans, and all the rest would become things that we would have to do without. Without careful use of our coal and wood we knew that the winter would be something that we just wouldn't look forward to. (In all fairness I really didn't look that forward to the winter anyway.)

The years have gone by and I don't have to rely on the forest, the rivers, or the soil in our garden anymore. The store is just up the road. My only question is: What has changed? The more I think about it the more I believe that nothing has really changed. Everything we have has to come from the environment around us one way or another. Even artificial things come from something else. All this reminds me that we claim to believe that a special creative Spirit brought everything into to being. We believe that everything has a reason and a purpose. What happens when we abuse those things? What happens when we take advantage of them without a view to the future of creation? I can't help but think that I'm just as much reliant on the world around me today as I was as I was growing up. Our scriptures remind us that after God created the world it was all pronounced "good". Our Sunday School class is reminding us of where we came from and about our responsibility for making sure it's here for those who come after us. For that I thank them.

Lloyd

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2013

Members Present: Linda Ayers, Bill Craft, Bennie Gerner, Cathy Gossett, Dee Greeson, Bob Hamlett, Joe Hughes, Sharon Moore, Cheryl Royal, Becky Stafford

Trustees Present: Harden Phipps

Pastor: Rev. Lloyd Spender

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Bennie read the scripture Matthew 20: 1-16. Cheryl read from The Upper Room which discussed this scripture showing how we may compare ourselves to others and relaying the message to focus on the goodness of God rather than what others have.

A quorum was established and Sharon reviewed the proposed agenda.

Updates:

- Payment of \$800 to dental clinic providing services to Kathy Barrier will be made when services are rendered.
- Harden reported that new state and US flags have been ordered, are on the way and the US flag will be flown in honor of Jerry Branson.
- A new set of keys for the file cabinet have been made and Sharon will give the keys to Shirley.
- Consistory was reminded of the upcoming Andy Open Golf Tournament scheduled for June 1. Bojangles will donate 130 breakfast biscuits.

The goals presentation by youth representatives is delayed to the next meeting.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made and seconded to accept the April minutes as written. The motion carried.

Trustee's Report:

- We will switch the system from heating to air conditioning on the June 3rd.
- The chiller circuit board is down again for the third time. Bob is trying to find the cause. Lightening is suspected and if this is the case a surge protector will be considered. Bob plans to have the problem corrected by homecoming Sunday.
- Bob will have the duct work for the education building completed soon.

- Harden reported the room to be used as a storage area for the trustees is now cleaned out. He has new locks to install on the door. The treatment did not solve the moisture problem. Suggestions are to put a humidifier in the room or to burn a 200 watt bulb at all times. Harden has looked at metal shelving at a cost of approximately \$500 and building wooden shelving with treated wood at a cost of approximately \$250. A motion was made and seconded to approve obtaining shelving for the room at a cost of up to \$250. The motion carried. The trustees would like to clean out all the closets in the church in February. A date will be set and an announcement made prior to the date informing everyone that they should make arrangements to remove any items they want to keep. Harden will get with Pat Branson about cleaning out the closet used for decorations and to let him know of the shelving needed.
- Bennie, Judy, Bill, and Rocky have replaced screws in the pews. Some pews need a brace and Bennie and Rocky will work on these.

Pastor's Report:

- The annual gathering for the Southern Conference will be June 20 and 21 at Elon. Mt. Hope may have two delegates in addition to Rev. Spencer. Registration forms are available and the information will be posted in the bulletin and newsletter. Registration deadline is June 7.
- Lunch will be held at Lake MacIntosh after worship service at the church on Sunday, June 23.
- The Social Concerns Ministry Team continues to work on the Fisher House project.
- The Communications Ministry Team is working on getting equipment set up in the Sunday School Classrooms.
- The retreat for the confirmation class went well and all had a good time.
- Shirley and Rev. Spencer have compiled a list of names of new members for Helen Busick who is planning a dinner for them. Possible dates are August 17 or September 7. A pot luck theme is being considered. If there are other ideas, let Sharon know.

- Mike and Kendra Terraforte plan to join the church, Mike by membership transfer and Kendra by affirmation of faith.
- Lloyd and Gussie plan to be out of town May 21-24 to celebrate their anniversary. Lloyd will let Sharon know who will fill in for him but they will be back for Sunday worship.

Treasurer's Report: In addition to the conventional treasurer's report, Bill presented two new report formats. The new expense report shows itemized expenditures for the month. The new receipts report shows the offering received each Sunday. The treasurers will continue to present these new formats each month.

Bill noted the following large expenses for the month of April:

- Building maintenance fund expenditure for repair to columns
- First quarter OCWM payment
- Reimbursement to supper fund for final payment of stained glass windows

Bill presented the April treasurer's report as follows:

- General fund beginning balance (\$12.07) This reflects a negative balance.
- General fund receipts \$12,780.37
- General fund disbursements \$13,329.97
- General fund ending balance (\$561.67) This reflects a negative balance.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the April treasurer's report as presented. The motion carried.

Bill presented a report to the consistory on the issues impacting the financial health of the church. The following recommendations were listed in the report and presented to the consistory:

- "We recommend that we move to online banking monthly reports for which the secretary has a mailed, printed copy, and the treasurers have electronic access."
- "We recommend that we include all liquid Mt. Hope assets in our financial reports."
- "We recommend that we require periodic reports on all funds, endowments, and other liquid assets and that we include the structure of committees managing these assets within our By-laws or Constitution."

- "We recommend a quarterly reporting period for most of our separate accounts."
- "We recommend that we present information annually at January Consistory meetings repeating the presentation for employees and Sunday School staff and that we document the process in our By-laws (Constitution) or policy manual."
- "We recommend that the finance/audit committee along with its purpose be included within our By-laws (Constitution) and that its members include at least one member of the church with requisite finance skills, the immediate past treasurer, and the vice president of the consistory."
- "We recommend studying incorporation further and reporting back on our findings."
- "We recommend that we follow up on the question of 501 (c) (3) status as suggested, and that we report back to the consistory on a recommended action."

A motion was made and seconded that we move forward with the treasurers recommendations. The motion carried.

Committee Updates:

Safe Church Policy – Dee Greeson: Since the last meeting, consistory members reviewed the policy and made comments/recommendations. Dee presented these to the consistory. It was noted that a flow chart of the process to follow if we have a reported incident should be developed and included in the policy. A motion was made and seconded that Sharon will make verbal and written announcement of the development of the Safe Church Policy and ask that church members review the policy and provide any feedback within a two week period. The motion carried. The policy will be available in the church office or from any consistory member.

Constitution Revision Task Force – Bennie: The task force met on April 14 and began reviewing the By-Laws of the constitution. The next meeting is scheduled for May 28.

Music and Worship - Stained Glass Window Dedication Service – Dee: The dedication service will include a scripture reading and a song to go along with the story of the life of Christ depicted in each window. The name of those being honored

or memorialized will be read at the conclusion of the service.

New Business: There will be no consistory meeting in July.

Sharon reviewed the items covered at this meeting and Rev. Spencer closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Dee Greeson, Secretary



Women's Fellowship

I have heard that the Mt. Hope women were missed at the Summer Conference at Elon. It was a good meeting and it was unfortunate that none of us were able to attend. However, we have a chance to get together for the Guilford –Randolph district meeting on Sunday, August 11th at 3:00 PM. This will be held in Asheboro. I will be contacting everyone to see who will be able to come so we can organize the transportation. Mt. Hope women have been asked to do the devotions for the meeting. We will find out about the study material for the year, and enjoy a time of fellowship with other women from our district.

We will begin our regular schedule with a joint meeting on September 10th.

It is good to see Ruth Harris out and about after her hip surgery. She was much missed during her rehabilitation. Cheryl Royal has been quite ill with rocky mountain spotted fever. We wish her a speedy recovery. I hope everyone has been enjoying the warm weather and all the lush growth from all the rains we have had during the last couple of months!

Love and blessings, Elizabeth Craft

Junior Youth Class Covenant

The Junior Youth Class (AKA Kids of Faith and Hope) has been focusing this year on a Covenant for our Church. One of our covenants is “to care for the Earth that God has given us.” We have learned that everything on earth is connected, and our actions affect not just ourselves, but other living things as well. Based on Exodus 16:16 where God instructed the Hebrew people “to gather only what you need” we looked at ways that we could

reduce what we consume. We would like to share a few of our ideas with you:

- Rewear clothes that aren't dirty
- Whenever possible hang up wet clothes to dry
- Take shorter showers. Turn off water when brushing your teeth.
- Buy local as much as possible and choose fresh food over canned.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Turn off the TV and electronics when you leave the room. Better yet go outside, read a book, or play a board game.
- Plant a tree. Try to use green materials when building and remodeling.
- Fix a leaky faucet. A faucet that drips one drop per second will waste 2,700 gallons of water in a year.
- Practice the “three R's:



Reduce: The earth's resources are limited. Before we buy something ask ourselves if we really need it. Reducing what we purchase not only helps our earth but also other people who have less than we do.

Reuse: Use reusable water bottles and food containers and also take these to restaurants for your “to go” containers. Estimates vary but it can take more than 500 to 1,000,000 years for one Styrofoam cup to decompose in a landfill. During this decomposition it is also leaking dangerous chemicals into the environment.

Recycle: The aluminum cans that Americans throw in the trash each year would provide enough aluminum to make more than eight thousand 747 airplanes.



New Church Directories:

The new church pictorial directories are here! Becky Stafford and Barbara Greeson will be distributing them after worship service. You will find them in the choir room behind the sanctuary after service. The directories will be available for the next few Sundays for pick up.

Please note: Our new directory shows the address for Blakey Hall as 501 Manning Avenue. However, when asked them their mailing address, they gave it as 501 Blakey Hall Lane, Elon, NC. They said the post office recently gave them a new address, but

they will receive mail at either address. You may want to make a note of it, since the 501 Blakey Hall Lane is new and correct.

Thank you: Special thanks to the committee that worked on the new church directory. What a great job! These ladies put in many long hours in preparing and organizing the pictures and materials for us all to enjoy and cherish. Thanks again for your dedicated commitment.



On Friday, August 2nd, we are planning a work event to prepare the bags for the Fisher House. We will begin work at 7:00 p.m. in the New Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to come for a time of fellowship and work on this special project. On Wednesday, August 7th, we will go to Fayetteville to deliver the bags to the Fisher House. All who wish to go will need to meet at the church. We will be leaving at 8:30 a.m. We may need extra cars so if you could be available to drive if needed please let Brenda Currie know. Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way to this project.



Address Change: Annie Mae Victor is now a resident of Blakey Hall in Elon. Here is the address: Annie Mae Victor, Blakey Hall, Room 407, 501 Blakey Hall Lane, Elon, NC 27244.



The chancel choir will resume their normal weekly practice on Wednesday, August 14th, at 7:30pm. The Handbell choir will resume their weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:45 p.m.

Report on Andy Open Golf Tournament: Approximate Profit \$2725.00!!! Appreciation to everyone that helped and supported this fund raiser. A special "Thanks" to Bojangles' @ Stoney Creek for donating sausage biscuits and Food Lion @ Stoney Creek for donating a gift card. Also thanks to everyone who donated other types of food and prizes. Dallas, Cathy, Dee & Janet



FEED THE HUNGRY

Greensboro Urban Ministry needs donations of money and food more

than ever this summer! With unemployment benefits being cut significantly and many needy children out of school, demands on families have never been greater! Where are these needy families going for help? Government doesn't seem to be the answer. They are coming to Urban Ministry, congregations, and other similar non-profits. We need a "Rival of Compassion" this summer!

Press Release

Subject: Another Summer Run on Emergency Food
Contact: Rev. Mike Aiken, Executive Director, 336-553-2639

Date: July 23, 2013

Last summer the problem was a glitch in a computer program at the Guilford County Department of Social Services that prevented many families from receiving their food stamps. This summer, it is the legislature's decision to cut off on July 1 federal extended unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. This decision has affected at least 70,000 North Carolinians of which 12,000 are in the Triad region. Legislators disqualified the state from federal extended benefits because they chose to alter North Carolina's UI standards without federal government approval. As a result, North Carolina is the only state that has lost its federal extended benefits.

What does this mean to Greensboro Urban Ministry and other non-profits which serve the hungry and poor? More people coming for help with food, utility assistance, rent, and mortgage assistance. More individuals and families are falling into poverty, or even worse, homelessness.

"This extra demand is coming at a time when giving is typically at its lowest point. Urban Ministry needs gifts of money and food right now. Thanks to a gift of food from the Salvation Army, Urban Ministry has not yet run out. We have made a special summer appeal to our supporters. We need a Revival of Compassion", according to Rev. Mike Aiken, Executive Director.

Donations can be made on-line at www.greensborourbanministry.org; mailed to 305 West Lee Street, Greensboro, N.C. 27406; or brought to the same address.

Please consider organizing a food drive at your business, congregation, or civic club. Also, you might consider asking guests to bring canned food items as gifts for special occasions such as a birthday, anniversary, or another celebration.

Mt. Hope will be collecting canned goods for Greensboro Urban Ministry on Sunday August 4th and again on Sunday, August 11th. Please remember the needs of others this summer and may God richly bless you for what you give!



To each and every one: My heartfelt thanks for all the cards and prayers that were sent to me. I'm doing well but still have a little way to go towards getting well. God's

blessings to all. Ruth Harris



August Birthdays

- 2nd Alayna Woollett
- 5th Tiffany Needham, Clay Warren
- 7th Donna Cauthren
- 9th John Deaton, Bob Lane, III, Colton Underwood
- 11th Colby Arrington
- 12th Kim Sheffield
- 14th Jeanne Ingold
- 15th Lu Eller Ingold
- 16th Trevor Bolton
- 17th Mary Frances Jones, Susie Simpson
- 18th Greg Greeson
- 19th David Levens
- 21st Sylvia Gilliam, Tim Hucks, Linda Neese, Penny Perkins
- 22nd Michael Craft, John Dickson, Peggy Eller, Casey Ellis
- 23rd Jo Ann Gauldin, Richard Knowles, Dalton Paul
- 24th Rachael Gossett
- 25th Glenda Slayton, Landon Woollett
- 26th Jaime Owen, Catherine Priesmeyer
- 28th Alan Michaux
- 29th Sara Shue
- 30th Larry Greeson
- 31st Karen Kirkman



August Anniversaries

- 4th Haywood & Peggy Levens
E.C. & Inez Thornburg

- 11th Greg & Lisa Moser
- 14th Dewey & Jean Greeson
- 17th Max & Elaine Layton
- 19th Roger & Patty Coble
Donald & Linda Slayton
- 20th Carl & Betty Tucker
- 27th Cliff & Barbara Greeson
Gary & Brenda Greeson
- 28th Brian & Emily Neal
- 31st Michael & Faith Oakley



Calendar

August, 2013

- 2nd – 3rd Youth Retreat
- 4th Collecting for Greensboro Urban Ministry
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship – **Communion**
3:00 p.m., Youth Meetings
- 6th 6:30 p.m., Board of Christian Education
- 8th 7:00 p.m., Consistory
- 10th Loaves & Fishes Volunteers
- 11th Collecting for Greensboro Urban Ministry
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship
3:00 p.m., Youth Meetings
- 14th 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal Resumes
- 16th Shirley out of the office
- 18th 9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship
3:00 p.m., Youth Meetings
- 21st 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
- 24th Loaves & Fishes Volunteers
- 25th 9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship
3:00 p.m., Youth Meetings
- 26th School Begins



Back to School