

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

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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

Lloyd Gilliam

choir director / organist

Tim Hucks

custodian

Brenda Currie



Mt. Hope Messenger

February, 2014



Grandma Collins always had good advice. As President of my church youth group I was trying so hard to find a way to really make an impact on the church. I struggled and struggled with a thousand things that I could do, but they all came up short because something was always lacking. That's when Grandma made her statement. She said: "Jesus said that we can't live by bread alone. Try making a sandwich."

It took a moment for it to sink in, but Grandma was right. I was trying to see what "I" could do to impact the church. I was trying to see what "I" could accomplish to really make a difference. I had ideas, I had talents, and I had abilities. The only problem was that I couldn't do it alone. With the help of the other youth and with the help of our adult resource persons, we came up with a lot of great things that really did make a difference. It wasn't just about me.... It was about us.

Too often we of the church look at what we have before us and decide that the "bread" that we have is good, but it just isn't enough to get the job done. We don't live by bread alone! We have so many other ingredients. We have the talents and abilities and the ideas of so many others. We have the guidance and the strength of a faith that has seen us through so much. If our bread isn't enough, then let's make a sandwich. Let's put it all together to bring life, strength, and nourishment to ourselves and to everyone around us.

Lloyd

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Meeting Minutes
December, 12, 2013

Members Present: Linda Ayers, Bill Craft, Bennie Gerner, Lloyd Gilliam, Dee Greeson, Clifton Greeson, Bob Hamlet, Joe Hughes, Sharon Moore, Cheryl Royal, Becky Stafford

Trustees: Harden Phipps, Wesley Reece

Pastor: Rev. Lloyd Spencer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotional: Bob read a poem about Christmas Eve and a selection entitled "The Meaning of Christmas".

Sharon asked Rev. Spencer to say a prayer for Rev. Jim Smelly. Bill reported that we had collected \$600 in the brown boxes for Rev. Smelly. All correspondence to the Smelly's should be sent to their local church. Sharon will send a letter from the consistory and the Mt. Hope Church family along with the check.

A quorum was established. Sharon reviewed the agenda, deleting the memorial association update and adding constitution review committee update. She wanted to thank the consistory team for being a part of her journey as president of the consistory. Sharon showed a video presentation entitled "Enjoy the Ride". Sharon welcomed new consistory members Dora Moore, Gloria Apple, and Todd Chapmon.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made and seconded to approve the November, 2013 consistory meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Trustee's Report:

- Harden reported that a leak was found and they had to bleed the system.
- Bid specifications for HVAC component replacement were emailed to consistory members to review prior to this meeting. A copy of these specifications will be made a part of these minutes. Minor changes to this document are as follows: as well as mailing bids, they should also be emailed to Harden Phipps; add that bids are due by 4:00 p.m. January 3, 2014; under "Piping" section add "pressure switches not required", the word outlet was used twice and one was deleted, the word piping was misspelled and was corrected. A motion was made and seconded to accept the final version of the specifications to be sent out for bids with minor modifications as noted. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- Rev. Spencer is working with Tim Hucks on the Christmas Eve Service which is almost complete.
- Rev. Spencer reported this has been the best year for ministry teams; all have been active with accomplishments.
- Even though we lost many members in 2013, we gained 20 new members.
- This has been a bittersweet year for Rev. Spencer who lost his mother and father-in-law. For the first time in 30 years, Rev. Spencer missed a Sunday worship service due to illness.
- Rev. Spencer reported the following figures for 2013 so far
 - 532 Visits
 - 43 Hospital Visits
 - 37 Counseling Sessions
 - 11 Bible Study Classes
 - 46 Church Meetings Attended
 - 16 Fellowship Service Events
 - 5 Special Services
 - 10 Confirmands
 - 1 Confirmand Retreat
 - 1 Continuing Education Class Attended
 - 5 Association Meetings Attended
 - 5 Conference Meetings Attended
- Rev. Spencer will be on vacation December 26 through December 31 or January 1. The youth will conduct worship service on December 29 in his absence. Gloria Apple and Carmen Cox are working with the youth on their participation in the Christmas Eve Service as well as the December 29 worship service.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bill made a power point presentation showing weekly offering totals and itemized November expenses. He noted that we had significant problems throughout the year and had to cash out some CD's. He presented the November, 2013 treasurer's report as follows:
 - General fund beginning balance (\$5,474.39). This reflects a negative balance.
 - General fund receipts \$12,666.30.
 - General fund disbursements \$14,090.98.
 - General fund ending balance \$6,899.07). This reflects a negative balance.

For the benefit of the new consistory members, Bill discussed financial changes and how we monitor monies. He will give a more detailed report in January when the new consistory takes over.

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

Bill reported that a draft of the definition and responsibilities of the stewardship committee has been developed and this information has been made available to the congregation to solicit membership to this committee.

Committee Reports:

Constitution Review Committee – Bennie: The most current draft of the constitution was emailed to the consistory for their review prior to this meeting. Bennie asked the consistory to note and review the following changes:

- The definition and responsibilities for the stewardship committee have been added to the constitution draft.
- Change made on page 7, Section 3-The Executive Officers under President, the third paragraph.
- Page 3, under Section 3-Membership, in the last paragraph it was added that removal of membership will occur "if the member becomes inactive". Consistory should consider if this should be added and if so, should we define "inactive" in the constitution.
- It was noted that our incorporation request was declined because of the way the constitution reads regarding distribution of assets upon dissolution. Guidelines have been received as to how this should read in our constitution and this should be easy to change. After the constitution changes have been made, the incorporation request will be resubmitted.

Van Committee Update – Clifton: We should be able to purchase the new van in early January.

Continuing Business:

- Clifton reported they will be making the soup for the general fund fundraiser tomorrow. It was noted that we need more involvement in selling the soup in the future and that a marketing plan should be developed for this purpose.
- Sharon reviewed the Long Range Plan and the continuation of items in the plan. She stated that she will work closely with the new consistory president to follow through on these items.

Bennie expressed his concern continuing the execution of the Long Range Plan. A motion was made and seconded that Sharon continue to work with the executive board to accomplish the goals outlined in the plan. The motion carried.

New Business: The consistory convened to executive session to discuss disbursement of contributions received for staff Christmas bonuses.

Election of 2014 Consistory Officers:

- A motion was made and seconded to elect Lloyd Gilliam as President of the 2014 Consistory. The motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to elect Dallas Belvin as Vice President of the 2014 Consistory. The motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to keep the current slate of treasurers as follows for the 2014 Consistory: Bill Craft, Treasurer; Cathy Gossett, Assistant Treasurer; Becky Stafford, Assistant Treasurer. The motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to elect Linda Ayers as Secretary of the 2014 Consistory. The motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to elect Gloria Apple as Assistant Secretary of the 2014 Consistory. The motion carried.
- The installation of the new consistory and officers will be on Sunday, January 5, 2014.

Review: Sharon reviewed items covered at this meeting and reminded Consistory of the dinner next Thursday at Kimber's Restaurant.

Rev. Spencer closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: Dee Greeson, Secretary



We have certainly had some chilly weather recently, but hopefully it will not keep us from our February circle meetings. Willing Workers will meet on February 10th at 1:30 p m; and Mary/Martha will meet on Tuesday February 11th at 7:00. Both circles will meet in the choir/conference room. We will be continuing our Bible study on **Abiding Hope—the presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy**. Background Scripture for this

month will be Exodus 13-15. The study will center on **Passing through the Waters**.

We have some ideas about a new local project so we will need everyone to show up to discuss and give your input. If you are curious and would like to know more ahead of time, then feel free to contact me or Barbara Greeson.

Our prayers are with Dottie Deeter as she works with the medical professionals to relieve her extreme neck pain. Dottie brings such joy to all of us and we miss her so very much. Patsy Moore has had pneumonia, so we wish her a speedy recovery. Another lady who just cannot get sick!

Congratulations to Blanche Greeson on her 90th birthday! What a wonderful example of love and service she is to all of us.

Elizabeth Craft



Friends & Neighbors

Our Friends and Neighbors group met on Tuesday, January 21, in the fellowship hall. Chairman Dottie Deeter welcomed everyone and invited us to hug each other as it was National Hugging Day. It was fun to welcome our friends in this friendly way. Pat Branson had devotions and reminded us how hard it is to keep New Year's resolutions such as dieting or exercising. However, she pointed out things that everyone can do such as give others a smile, hug someone, or be an encourager. Let's support this kind of resolution.

We welcomed three visitors/new members: Joan May, Helen Busick, and Linda Miller and look forward to their participation in our group's activities. We sent cards to those who are sick, sang happy birthday to those who have a birthday in January – Mary Catherine Moser, Peggie Coble, and Pat Branson, and awarded door prizes to Jerry Branson, Ruth Harris, and Vesta Vernon.

We played several games of bingo. Diane Clapp made a great caller, calling until we all won at least one prize. It was a great day to stay inside, be warm, and enjoy good food and fellowship. We shared a lunch of soup and sandwiches provided by the committee and some wonderful desserts everyone brought. It was such a good lunch and so much fun sharing an afternoon with everyone.

Next month, we will meet on February 18 at 10:30 in the fellowship hall. Marya Haefiner, a

senior fitness instructor from the Greensboro Parks and Recreation will be our speaker. We will enjoy a covered dish lunch. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite dish, dessert and/or drink. We will look forward to seeing everyone.



Greensboro Urban Ministry: On December 18th we sent 173 pounds of food to Urban Ministry. What a blessing! Thank you all so much.

They were so appreciative of all we do. Our February collection dates will be Sunday, February 2nd, and Sunday, February 9th. For your convenience a basket has been placed in the Narthex for your donations of non-perishable foods. There is also a container for any monetary donations that you may wish to share. There are also containers in the breezeway. We pray for God's blessings on all of us as we support this much needed ministry. We thank you, Joan May and Helen Whitesell, for taking the food to Urban Ministry for the past 6 or 7 years. You have done a great job and we appreciate it so much. We thank Bob and Dottie Deeter for taking on this job.

Special Music: On Sunday, January 5, 2014, during the worship service, we were blessed by three musicians who provided special music: Our own Jeff Holt, Sue Roush, and their friend Ray Knight sang two bluegrass-style songs. Jeff plays the bass, Sue plays the guitar and mandolin, and their friend Ray plays the guitar. They were excellent. We were so glad they would share their music with us, and we thoroughly enjoyed it.



Check out the church website at <http://www.mthopeucc.com/photos--music-at-worship.html> and you can hear and see them as they sing.

Message from the Mt. Hope Youth! Thank you so VERY much for those attending the first youth

planning mtg. for 2014!! I hope everyone received a clear picture, as to the future direction of the youth program!! I GREATLY appreciate your time and energies toward working together to fulfill our mission!! We've only just begun, but the efforts and dedication will reap MANY rewards!! I've already received feedback from several people regarding their areas of focus pertaining to the categories introduced. I'm anxious to hear from everyone! Once I get an idea of how many categories we can sustain with leadership, I'll go from there to prepare for our next meeting on Feb. 2nd @ 3:00. Be brainstorming ideas and write them down!! I'll have a framework we will follow for our development of activities, their implementation and review. I'm excited!!

Smiles, 😊 Sharon

Fellowship Committee: On Saturday night, January 18th, we had over 70 people attending the Birthday dinner. The food was delicious and the fellowship was great. We, the Fellowship committee wish to thank all the people who helped in any way. It was so nice for everyone who pitched in to help clean up the kitchen. The cake was so good with the ice cream. Once again we had a great time.

Fellowship Committee Movie night will take place on Friday, February 7, 2014 @ 7:00 pm. Popcorn and drinks will be served. We will be showing the movie "Oh Brother, How Art Thou?"

Check out the photos of the birthday celebration!









It's A Girl!



New Baby!!! Congratulations to Jared and Anna Lashley and big sister, Gillian, on the birth of a baby girl on December 22nd. She weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 19 inches long. Her name is Zoey Betty-Blair Lashley. Her proud grandparents are Don and Karen Kirkman and her great grandmother is Lillian Greeson.

Change of Address

Address Change: J. C. Corsbie has moved to the Cross Roads Retirement Community. His new address is 1308 Old Cox Road, Apartment 307, Asheboro, NC 27205. His phone number has not changed. It is still 336-625-2332.



Poinsettia Fund: Thank you all for your support of the Poinsettia Fund this Christmas! Your response to this new endeavor was overwhelming!! We raised a total of \$1,372.00 that has been equally divided between the Greensboro Urban Ministry and the Meals4Kids program. What a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of the Christ child! This definitely shows the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you: Dear Friends In Christ: Denise and I were overwhelmed by the generous love offering we received from you last week. The people of Mt. Hope have always had a special place in my heart and I give thanks to God for each and every one of you. It looks as if the health issues are going to be with me into the new year, but at least we now have some idea of what to expect. Russ and Melissa came up from New Orleans with our two grandchildren, Taylor (age 7) and Bess (20 months) to share the holidays with us and that has been the best gift we could have possibly had! Mark and Stephen are still with us, at least for a few more months. We have made application to a UCC assisted living home here in Carlisle and hopefully will be moving to Sara Todd sometime in the spring. May God bless each of you and the ministry of Mt. Hope in the coming year. In the Peace and

Joy of Christ, Rev. Jim Smelley & Rev. Denise Smelley



Meals4Kids

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Poinsettia Fund on behalf of the Meals4kids Mission. We were overwhelmed with the support that was shown to help fight hunger this Christmas. Your donations will go a long way to help fill the backpacks for the children of Nathanael Greene School. We are excited about our first bags being delivered for the children to pick up on Jan. 31st. Thanks again, Barbara, Carmen, Gloria, Helen, Judy & Lisa

Thank You: Dear Friends of Greensboro Urban Ministry, It is impossible to express to you our appreciation for your food donation of **173.5 pounds! Awesome!** What a gracious response to our needs at this most Wonderful Season of the Year! May we take this opportunity to thank you for the food and for thinking of those less fortunate – **received at this critical time for our Agency - - and for what this does for our mission of mercy for those in need. The need has never been greater, and this will and has helped so many who are hurting. You are so appreciated!** The need for food and other essentials is at a record high, and providing a sufficient food supply for Greensboro Urban Ministry's Emergency Assistance and our Potter's House daily meals is crucial as we attempt to meet the needs of so many people who come to us for help – and through these donations you are instrumental in seeing these programs go forward. We can never express our gratitude for what this does for the community. As part of the Greensboro Urban Ministry Team, we are reminded daily of the many families in our area who are facing so many challenges, and with a response such as yours, the needs are met! Thank you for caring and have a Happy New Year! Sincerely, Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank, Valeria A. Marshall, Food Bank Office Manager



February Birthdays

1st Blanche Greeson, Jeff Jarrett
 2nd Dacia Singleton, Becky Stafford
 3rd Dreama Greeson, Mary Reece, Nick Volle
 4th Bessie Friddle, Lloyd Spencer, Tony Staley, Christie Volle
 5th Chase Szychowicz
 6th John Hunt, Jr.
 7th Travis Gannon
 8th J.W. Johnson
 12th Lillie Mae Lewis, Jodi Owen
 13th Jim Wimbish
 14th Sandra McCray, Matthew Shue
 15th Tammy Flinchum
 16th Sandra Martin
 18th Lloyd Gilliam, Betty Kim Settlemeyre
 19th Laura Clapp
 20th Virginia Barker, Mandy Stovall
 21st Sandy Gardner, Pamela Minor
 22nd Jason Clapp, Ralph Greeson, George Farmer, Joan May, Callie Moser, Levi Stanley, Jr.
 23rd Cecelia Gannon
 24th Greg Moser, Inez Thornburg
 25th George Hunt
 26th Dora Faye Moore
 27th Faith Oakley, Bobby Lee Taylor
 28th Bob Hamlett, J.H. Neese, Jr., Colby Whitesell

4th 7:00 p.m., Good Earth Garden Club
 7:00 p.m., Evangelism Team Meeting
 5th 9:00 a.m., Quilters Meet
 6:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee Meeting
 6:45 p.m., Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
 6th 7:00 p.m., Social Concerns Team Meeting
 7th 7:00 p.m., Family Movie Night
 9th 9:45 a.m., Sunday School
 11:00 p.m., Worship
 7:00 p.m., Special Study Group
 10th 1:30 p.m., Willing Workers Circle
 11th 7:00 p.m., Mary/Martha Circle
 12th 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet
 6:45 p.m., Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
 13th 7:00 p.m., Consistory
 14th Valentine's Day
 16th 9:45 a.m., Sunday School
 11:00 a.m., Worship
 7:00 p.m., Special Study Group
 17th Presidents' Day
 18th 10:30 a.m., Friends & Neighbors
 19th 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet
 6:45 p.m., Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
 23rd 9:45 a.m., Sunday School
 11:00 a.m., Worship
 7:00 p.m., Special Study Group
 26th 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet
 6:45 p.m., Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal



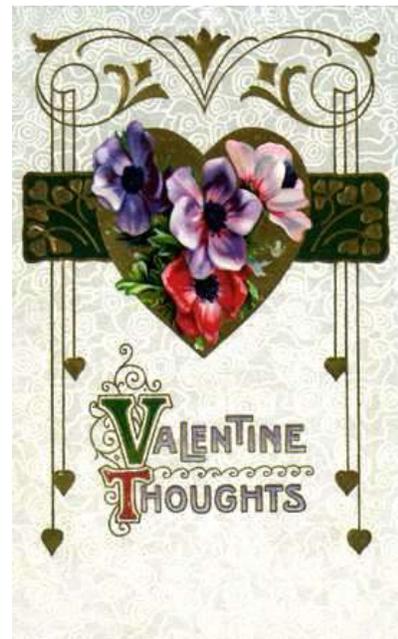
February Anniversaries

5th Larry & Patsy Moore
 14th Nicholas & Pamela Taylor
 28th Charles & Geraldine Greeson



February

2nd 9:45 a.m., Sunday School
 11:00 a.m., Worship
 2:00 p.m., Blanche Greeson birthday party
 3:00 p.m., Youth Planning Meeting





**American
Red Cross**

Please Give Blood.

Mt. Hope Community Fire Department Blood Drive

6651 Holts Store Road-Julian

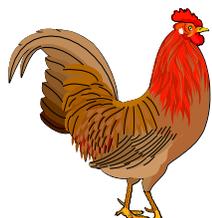
**Saturday February 8, 2014
10:00am-2:30pm**

Join us at the 4th Annual Everett Shue Memorial Blood Drive! Please call the fire house at 697-0532 to schedule an appointment to donate, or go online to www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code "Mt. Hope Community". All presenting donors will be eligible to win a \$1500 Gift Card!



**redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767)**

CHICKEN PIE & BARBECUE SUPPER



Spring will be here soon, and it's time to start planning for the spring Chicken Pie and Barbecue Supper. The date is **Saturday, March 8.**

We are off to a good start but will appreciate help from volunteers as we go forward so we will be prepared for our guests. Check out the schedule posted here and see how and where you can help.

Many of you are “regulars” on this project, and we are counting on your continued support. However, we **welcome and can always use new workers.** We hope you will be a participant in this project. You can just show up at any of the work details and someone will show you what needs to be done. If this will be a new venture for you, call Clifton Greeson at 697-1930; we have a place just for you! By participating in this semi-annual event, you can help insure that our guests will find plenty of good food and fellowship. A lot of work is involved, but it is also a time of good fun and fellowship and an opportunity for you to serve our church and community.

Invite your family members, friends, and neighbors to join us. We will begin serving at 5:00 p.m. Eat in plates or take-out trays will be available at \$8.00; barbecue will also be sold by the pound for \$6.00.

Supper Work Schedule (When Workers are Needed)		
All Day	Tues. March 4	Buy staple supplies, food and paper products. Set up tables and chairs (youth).
7:00 pm	Tues. March 4	Clean pits at Phipps' residence
2:00 pm	Wed. March 5	Pick up chickens. Make pie dough at church
10:00 am	Thurs. March 6	Cover tables, wrap silverware, wash trays, & tea jugs, fill BBQ sauce bottles, get kitchens ready
	Thurs. March 6	Pick up pork
2:30 pm	Thurs March 6	Cook pork at “the pits”
6:00 am	Fri. March 7	Cook chickens at church. Work on table decorations.
10:00 am	Fri. March 7	Ladies prepare cooked chicken for chicken pies at church
10:00 am	Fri. March 7	Chop BBQ and clean up at pits
7:00 pm	Fri, March 7	Make 55 gallons of tea
7:00 am	Sat. March 8	Make chicken pies. Prepare green beans, potato salad, slaw. Set up both kitchens, make final preparations, decorate tables & Fellowship Hall.
4:00 pm	Sat. March 8	Set up both dessert areas, cut desserts, get ice and set up to serve tea and coffee, set up take out area.
5:00 pm	Sat. March 8	Start Serving
8:00 pm	Sat. March 8	Take down tables & chairs, put food away, clean up

