

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

2400 Mt. Hope Church Rd.
Whitsett, NC 27377

Office: 336-697-1561
Fax: 336-697-1449
e-mail: mthope@triad.rr.com
website: www.mthopeucc.com

church pastor

Rev. J. Lloyd Spencer
Cell: 336-420-6030
Home: 336-447-4169
e-mail: jlspencer1@triad.rr.com
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

January, 2014



A New Year Message From Our Minister

The year I turned 40 I got some disturbing news. I was told that the old eyes weren't what they used to be. I tried denial and holding things out at arm's length but that didn't work. Finally I gave in and got those dreaded instruments of nature's sick sense of humor. Bifocals!!!

As if that wasn't bad enough it wasn't long until one more "focal" had to be added and trifocals were my method of seeing. As much as I hated hearing those words I was amazed at the difference they made. It was a whole new world. Things that I read were much clearer and the world around me became much clearer and brighter. Unfortunately the nasty things around me became much clearer and brighter as well. With my new ability to see things better I was able to really enjoy the good things and even take a stab at making the bad things better. Today I understand that we all need something to help us see things the way they really are in order to make our lives all that they can be.

By the time you read this we will be into a whole new year. Some things will have changed while other things will seem to keep on just the way they were. One thing that will never change is the fact that we all will have to continue dealing with the world around us in order to get by. The one thing that I'm most grateful for is the fact that I've been given something that will help me see things the way they are. Jesus came into our world to help us take a long hard look at who we are and what our world really looks like. Even more importantly Jesus came to help us see what our world could look like if we really put ourselves to it.

As we move into 2014 let us take seriously the message that Jesus brought us. Let us take seriously Jesus' call to us, our lives and our faith to make our world a better place to live. Let us lock hands with others who are serious about the message that we've been given and put ourselves to making 2014 a year that truly points us from what "is" to what "can be". Just as trifocals help me deal with the world around me better, the message of Jesus can help us deal with the world around us better as well. Happy, and better, New Year.

Lloyd

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2013

Members Present: Bill Craft, Bennie Gerner, Lloyd Gilliam, Dee Greeson, Clifton Greeson, Bob Hamlett, Joe Hughes, Sharon Moore, Becky Stafford

Trustees Present: Wesley Reece

Pastor: Rev. Lloyd Spencer

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

Devotional: Cliff read from Psalm 100:1-5, the Psalm of Thanksgiving. He also read "Remembering Thanksgiving" relaying the message to take time to pray and give thanks for God is good.

Sharon welcomed Rev. Spencer back and wished him well from his recent illness.

A quorum was established. Sharon reviewed the proposed agenda and added the item of Christmas gifts for the staff to the agenda.

Updates:

- Sharon thanked the consistory for their quick response to approve the request to use the fellowship hall for Rachael Gossett's Girl Scout fundraiser.
- The Consistory Christmas Dinner will be held at Kimber's Restaurant on December 19.
- Then annual congregational meeting went smoothly, election results were sent to consistory members.

Secretary' Report:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the October, 2013 consistory minutes as written. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 10, 2013 congregational meeting minutes as written. The motion carried.

Trustee's Report:

- Wesley reported that the education building has been cold. Cliff stated that he has received several questions from the congregation as to why the temperature is not checked prior to Sunday morning. It was decided that the trustees should establish a policy to set the system to turn on at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon and to check prior to Sunday morning to make sure the system is working properly. It was also noted that if there is a disruption in power service, the time for the system to come on will need to be reset.

- Bill Craft has sent drafts of the specifications for the HVAC system controls and piping to Harden and the maintenance committee. Harden is to send the specifications out for bid. Sharon will ask Harden for a time line to move forward on reviewing all specifications, get with the maintenance committee to complete the drafts, and send out for bids. This needs to be completed for a December consistory vote and everything in place for the system to be installed in the spring.

Pastor's Report:

- Currently trying to fill ministry teams.
- Rev. Spencer has met with a company who works with a lot of churches regarding the projector for the sanctuary. The cost estimate is \$17,000 and the seating, lighting, and placing equipment so all could see the screen was considered. A motion was made and seconded to table the sanctuary projector proposal to a future date. The motion carried. It was decided to leave money in the media line item account until a decision is made.
- Rev. Spencer attended a continuing education class at the Presbyterian Center in Montreat focusing on the future of the Christian Church. He said that all denominations as well as the mega churches are facing the problem of losing people and being unable to get younger people in the church. In a survey conducted, it was found that in 1995 one in every 20 people were not affiliated with a church, in 2013 one in every five people are not affiliated with a church. The survey found that music is very important to youth and they want to hear new and old music. Many churches are not willing to go with contemporary music. Youth want the music to be more uplifting and it was agreed we need to find ways to do this. The good news is that the survey found younger people feel more spiritual than in 1995 but they are looking for it in a different way. Another session is coming up which will address what the mainline churches can do and how to find ways to reach younger people.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bill reviewed the January 2013 report comparing it to the October 2013 report.

Maintenance items have been very heavy this year.

Bill presented the October 2013 treasurer's report as follows:

- General fund beginning balance (\$4,870.23)
This reflects a negative balance.
- General fund receipts \$13,279.07
- General fund disbursements \$13,883.23
- General fund ending balance (\$5,474.39) This reflects a negative balance.

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

A motion was made and seconded to change the budgeted line item now called Loaves and Fishes to Meals4Kids. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee – Sharon - Sharon stated that the election results for new consistory members was extremely close. She asked consistory members to think about officer nominations for the December 12th consistory meeting. Newly elected members will be invited to this meeting.

Van Committee – Clifton - Cliff reported that we may be able to purchase the van in December. The dealer who has the van we are going to purchase must keep it due to rental commitments and until their new rental van comes in. There have been inquiries on purchasing our old van and a dealer has stated we may be able to get as much as \$4,500 for the van. Rev. Spencer suggested a policy on the use of our current van because of safety concerns. When the Safe Church Policy is implemented, a permission slip will be required for all to ride in the van. Sharon will be checking to locate all the keys to our current van.

Continuing Business:

Board of Christian Education/Youth Director Report: - Cynthia Morris, Chair of Board of Christian Education, has been trying to find a new Youth Director with no positive response. They are looking for someone outside of the youth leaders. She asked for help from the consistory in securing someone to fulfill this important role in our church.

New Business:

There is a need to establish a committee to develop a plan to enhance the church financial reserves. Bill would like to be a part of this committee and will develop a written description for the committee. He will distribute the write up to the consistory for review and upon approval, it will be given to the

congregation. This will be discussed at the December meeting. Discussion of the development of the committee included having the consistory vice president be in charge of establishing and implementing the committee and having the consistory treasurer chair the committee.

Cliff requested permission to do a soup fundraiser for the general fund the week of December 13. A motion was made and seconded to allow Cliff to move forward with this fundraiser. The motion carried. Cliff, Barbara, and Shirley will take orders, Barbara will develop a flyer and Shirley will place the information in the bulletin. The 9 inch chicken pies will be a continual fundraiser for the church and will be scheduled at a later date. It was noted that refrigeration will be needed for this effort.

The brown boxes will be placed in the church this Sunday for a collection for former pastor Jim Smelley. A collection for the Philippines disaster will be requested at a later date.

Review: Sharon again asked the consistory to think about consistory officers for 2014. She also asked that consistory review 2013, our long range plan developed for Mt. Hope and ongoing items that will need to be continued. Consistory should be prepared to discuss these at our next meeting on December 12. Sharon reviewed the items covered at this meeting and closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: Dee Greeson, Secretary



Women's Fellowship

Happy New Year Ladies! As we look forward to 2014 it is a good time to look back and give thanks for all our blessings. What a wonderfully faithful group of women we have at Mt. Hope!

Thank you to all the women who helped to prepare and serve food at the reception following the funeral service for Bill Miller on December 7th. Despite mourning his loss, Linda very graciously continued with the plan to host our Christmas meeting at her home just a few days after the funeral. We extend our deepest sympathy to Linda and thank her for her kindness and hospitality at such a sad time.

The quilting group has been very busy and creative. This Christmas they made quilts for all the home friends. Our thanks go to Cynthia Morris,

Mary Catherine Moser and Ruth Harris. (Ruth was up at 3:00 one morning to complete a quilt—that is commitment!)

Our January circles will meet as follows: Willing Workers Monday January 13th at 1:30 p.m. and Mary/Martha Tuesday January 14th at 7:00 P.M. Our study will centre on “Set Free by God”. Background Scripture will be Exodus Chapters 4-13 to help prepare for the study. We look forward to another year of Bible Study, fellowship and service.

Love and Blessings, Elizabeth Craft

God’s blessings on all of us as we support this much needed ministry. Happy New Year to you and your family and all those we share with!



Friends & Neighbors



Members of the Mary-Martha Circle and the Willing Workers Circle and many of the husbands met on Tuesday, December 10 at the home of Linda Miller for its Christmas meeting.

It was a great time of fun, food and good fellowship. The group also decided on the families to support during the Christmas holidays. Hoping everyone had a great Christmas.



Our Friends and Neighbors group met December 17 in the church fellowship hall. Chairman Dottie Deeter welcomed everyone and Barbara Greeson had devotions entitled “All I Want for Christmas.” We sang happy birthday to those having birthdays in December: Doug Clapp and Vesta Vernon. Door prizes were awarded to Jaynee Brown, Diane Clapp, Doug Clapp, and Dottie Deeter. Dottie read a Christmas story on the “Amazing Facts about Santa Claus,” and we played a game about the “Right” Christmas gift. We chose not to exchange gifts this year, but to bring food gifts for Greensboro Urban Ministry. Nancy Wimbish shared a great story on “The Night Before Jesus Came – No one was Praying.” Before we left for lunch, Doug Clapp led us in a sing along, then we shared a delicious lunch and fellowship at the Golden Coral.

Be sure to join us on January 21 for our next meeting. We will meet in the church fellowship hall at 10:30 for a Bingo Party. Be sure to bring your bingo prizes. Lunch will be provided by the committee, but bring a dessert and/or drink. We look forward to seeing everyone then.



FOOD DRIVE

Greensboro Urban Ministry: On December 18th, we sent 306 pounds of food and \$28.02 to Urban Ministry. What a blessing! Thank you all so much. Thanks to the Friends and Neighbors for their contributions. Together we can do great things. They were so appreciative of all we do. Our January dates for collecting food items will be Sunday, January 5th, and Sunday, January 12th. 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



MEALS4KIDS

Your Response is Needed

Did you know that there are hungry children, not just in 3rd world countries, not just in another state, not just in another city, but right here among us in our elementary schools. Hard to believe, but so true and so sad. These children are provided nutrition during the school day through the free lunch program. But what happens on weekends? Fortunately, there is a backpack program where children are given food to take home on Friday so they can eat Saturday and Sunday.

Many Mt. Hopers have been dedicated to feeding the hungry through Greensboro Urban Ministry and/or Loaves and Fishes. But when Loaves and Fishes closed, our satellite operation had to close as well. Those of us who had committed to that endeavor for the last few years were devastated, but you can be assured that our passion was not squashed; it was just redirected. And how did that happen? We prayed...we asked God for direction and guidance. And you know what? God opened another door; a door through which He led us was to help provide weekend nutrition to the hungry children at Nathanael Greene School once a month. It is a backpack program and it is called Meals4Kids. Other area churches, Mt. Pleasant, Tabernacle and Pleasant Union, are already working with this program, and our Consistory has approved our joining hands with them so Mt. Hope can do our part.

One thing we don't want to happen is to make this commitment to these children and fail to follow through due to shortage of funds. Here at Mt. Hope you have proven time and again that you have a genuine yearning to reach out to help others. Often times, it's simply an issue of knowing where the help is needed. So here is your opportunity...will you commit to sponsoring a backpack each month? A simple breakfast item, a snack and a hot dinner for one Saturday and one Sunday would cost you less than \$10.

Fellow members, this is a worthy cause, a mission to which we believe God has led us. Perhaps, you could drop your pocket change in a cup, perhaps you could deprive yourself a coke or a cup of coffee, perhaps you could occasionally pack a sandwich for lunch instead of eating out. Pennies make dollars and your small sacrifices will feed hungry children. We plan to start operation this month. Won't you please help? If so, contact Gloria

Apple (336-697-1585) or Judy Gerner (336-697-1620). We look forward to hearing from you.

Meals4kids... weekend food for hungry children... just \$10 each month...think about it...pray about it and respond as you are led to do so. Thank you.

~~~~~



**The Samaritan Class recently enjoyed their class Christmas dinner at Harbor Inn Restaurant. We had great fun, food, and fellowship and also celebrated Bennie Gerner's birthday.**



**Annual Birthday Celebration:** The Fellowship Committee will be hosting the annual birthday celebration on January 18, 2014 @5:30 p.m. It will be in the new fellowship hall. Cost will be by donation. Thank you!

#### **Fellowship Committee 2014 Activity Schedule:**

**January 18,** Annual Birthday Dinner at 5.30p.m. by donation.

**February 7,** Family movie night. Popcorn and drinks furnished

**May 17,** Pickin in the Park at 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Haganstone Park, bring a chair and enjoy the music. There will be hot dogs, bar-b-que, and ice cream from Homeland Creamery available. These will be by purchase. You can also camp over night if you desire.

**June 22,** Lake McIntosh Park picnic at 12:30 following church. Picnic lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, beans, drinks, chips, etc. Desserts available. By donation.

**October 11**, Fall Hoedown at 5:00p.m. Mt Hope church grounds. Games, music, and picnic. We will have contests and hopefully a hay ride available. Come and have lots of fun. Picnic food available by donation.

Put these dates on your calendar so you don't forget!!!!



**Special Study:** We will be doing a special study beginning in January. It will be a 7 session study dealing with the future of the organized church. In order to do the study we will need to purchase a book entitled "We Refused To Lead A Dying Church". The cost of the book will be approximately 13 dollars. If you are interested in being part of this study please contact Rev. Spencer as soon as possible so the books can be ordered. Exact information on the date and time of the study will be given after we determine the interest in the study and the books have been ordered.



**The Mt. Hope UCC Consistory** met on Thursday evening, December 12<sup>th</sup>, and held elections for the new officers for 2014.

The Officers are as follows:

- President-Lloyd Gilliam
- Vice President - Dallas Belvin
- Secretary - Linda Ayers
- Assistant Secretary - Gloria Apple
- Treasurer - Bill Craft
- Assistant Treasurers - Cathy Gossett, Becky Stafford

**On Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, members of the Consistory and the Mt. Hope Church staff went to Kimbers in Gibsonville for their annual Christmas dinner.**





The handbell choir is taking the month of January off. Our next practice will be on Wednesday, February 5th.

**Decoration Removal:** Please join us to help take down our Christmas decorations on Monday, January 6th, at 6:00 p.m. It's not as much fun as decorating, but it has to be done! We need as many hands as possible!



**Change  
Address**

**Address Change:** Brenda Currie has moved for the time being. Her new address is 1930 Rock Creek Dairy Road, Whitsett, NC 27377. Her phone number is the same. Please make note of this change in your directory

**Upper Room Devotional Booklets:** The Women's Fellowship sponsors copies of the Upper Room devotional booklets. The new booklets are available in the breezeway and also in the Narthex. If you decide to take one, please put \$1.00 in the box provided.

**WOW!**

This is what is great about our Mount Hope Youth!! Katelyn Gossett and Colby Arrington received Acts of Kindness awards on December 13<sup>th</sup>, at SEHS. Katelyn was recognized for being helpful to her teacher & fellow classmates. Colby for helping care for a classmate who passed out due to low blood sugar. Excellent examples of what's right with young people!



**Fifth Sunday worship at Mt. Hope, December 29, was led by our senior youth, and it was awesome!** Devon Knowles began our service as Acolyte, Rachael Gossett led us in singing contemporary hymns, Brianna Chapmon was our responsive reader, Kraven Webb led us in prayer, Emma Strouth, Rachael Gossett, and Josh Apple read scriptures. Tammy Chapmon led Children's Moment, and Gloria Apple, Katelyn Gossett, Abby Strouth, Kraven Webb, and Josh Apple helped dedicate our offering. Our speakers were Brenda Currie, Freddie Gossett, Dottie Deeter, Sharon Moore, and Lloyd Gilliam. Each speaker spoke on how their year had been and what they were looking forward to in the New Year. Examples were cited of blessings they had received by participating in church activities this year and the challenges and rewards expected as we work together on goals for 2014. Today's service was very uplifting and heartfelt; it made us glad we were there and reminded us How Great is Our God.



**Rachael Gossett, Hymns & Scripture**



**Brianna Chapmon, Responsive Reading**



**Kraven Webb, Prayer**



**Devon Knowles, Acolyte**



**Choir**



**Gloria Apple, Katelyn Gossett, Abby Strouth, Kraven Webb, and Josh Apple Offering**



**Emma Strouth, Scripture**



**Gloria Apple**



**Josh Apple, Scripture**



**Brenda Currie**



**Tammy Chapmon, Children's Moment**



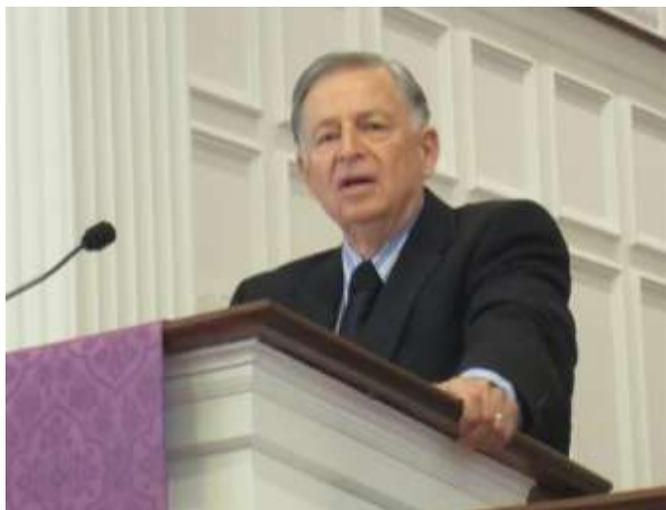
**Freddie Gossett**



**Dottie Deeter**



**Sharon Moore, 2013 Consistory President**



**Lloyd Gilliam, 2014 Consistory President**



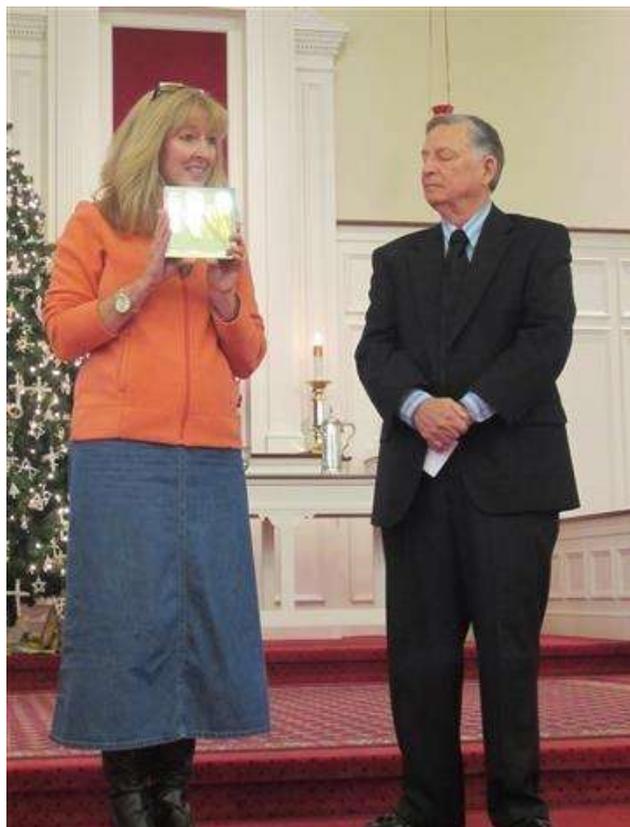
**Many thanks to Carmen Cox and the Mt. Hope Youth for all the preparation for the service on December 19<sup>th</sup>.**



**Thank you:** Thank you for the concern, love, and support from all of you during our Dad's illness and death. The visits, cards, calls, food, and knowing that ANYTHING you need is just a phone call away means so much. The caring spirit of our church and community is very special and we are blessed to be a part of it. Love, The Ernest Greeson Family

**Thank you:** "We want to say a special thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits, food and all the other thoughtful things you did for us when Bill passed. It was so thoughtful and caring and we sincerely appreciate every kindness shown to us. Mt. Hope is truly a very caring Church. The Bill Miller Family

**Thank you:** Dear Friends of Greensboro Urban Ministry, May we take this opportunity to thank you for another food donation of 306 pounds and \$28.01 cash – received at this critical time for our Agency –



and for what this does for our mission of mercy for those less fortunate. The need has never been greater, and this helps those who are hurting. You are so appreciated! What a wonderful gift to make the lives of others happier. We are so grateful for friends like you, and can never express what this means to this Agency and to the hurting community. 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 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Sincerely, Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank, Valerie Marshall, Food Bank Office Manager



### January Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wayne Greeson, Bill Martin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amy Greeson, Nancy Greeson, Marie Linnens, David Prater
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Shannon Kim, Justin Stanley
- 4<sup>th</sup> Peggy Greeson
- 6<sup>th</sup> Anthony Nance
- 7<sup>th</sup> Pat Branson, Roger Neese, Mikayla Stevens
- 8<sup>th</sup> Howard Greeson, Andy Priesmeyer
- 9<sup>th</sup> Roger Coble, John Perkins
- 10<sup>th</sup> Wade Greeson
- 11<sup>th</sup> Lisa Moser
- 12<sup>th</sup> Mary Catherine Moser, Ralph O'Ferrell
- 14<sup>th</sup> Sandy Moore
- 15<sup>th</sup> Ida Glover
- 18<sup>th</sup> Brooks Wilkerson
- 19<sup>th</sup> Brenda Greeson
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dana Singletary
- 21<sup>st</sup> Michael Fittante
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Ocean McClintock, Sharon Moore, Rashawn Taylor

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Patsy Moore
- 26<sup>th</sup> Melissa Wilkerson
- 28<sup>th</sup> Bradley Prater
- 29<sup>th</sup> Peggie Coble, Betty Hunt
- 30<sup>th</sup> Ruby Greeson, Claire Smith



### January Anniversaries

- 6<sup>th</sup> Jim & Nancy Wimbish
- 9<sup>th</sup> Larry & Lydia Moser
- 16<sup>th</sup> James & Lu Eller Ingold
- 20<sup>th</sup> Harden & Harriett Phipps
- 21<sup>st</sup> Don & Karen Kirkman
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Jeffrey & Janet Welker



### Calendar of Events

- 1<sup>st</sup> Happy New Year's Day!!
- 5<sup>th</sup> Collecting for Urban Ministry  
9:45 a.m., Sunday School  
11:00 a.m., Worship
- 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet  
7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
- 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m., Consistory
- 12<sup>th</sup> Collecting for Urban Ministry  
9:45 a.m., Sunday School  
11:00 a.m., Worship
- 13<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m., Willing Workers Circle
- 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m., Mary/Martha Circle
- 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet  
7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
- 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m., Annual Birthday Celebration
- 19<sup>th</sup> 9:45 a.m., Sunday School  
11:00 a.m., Worship
- 21<sup>st</sup> 10:30 a.m., Friends & Neighbors
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet  
7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
- 26<sup>th</sup> 9:45 a.m., Sunday School  
11:00 a.m., Worship





# Cub Scout Pack 365 Cake Auction

**We would like to invite church friends & families to join Cub Pack 365 at Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church for our Annual Cake Auction – Monday, January 27, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come out & support our Cub Scouts by BUYING a homemade dessert made by one of our scouts (with a little help)! For more information, contact Byron & Kristen Greeson at 565-0696.**

**Thank You!**

