

# Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

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## *church pastor*

Rev. J. Lloyd Spencer

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Home: 336-447-4169

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

## *church secretary*

Shirley Connor

Office hours:

Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Thurs. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## *consistory president*

Lloyd Gilliam

## *choir director / organist*

Tim Hucks

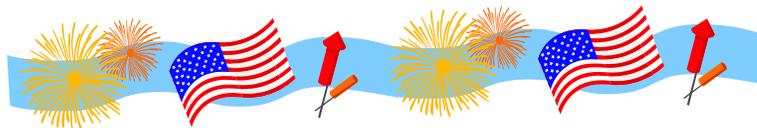
## *custodian*

Brenda Currie



# Mt. Hope Messenger

July, 2014



The man heard the alarm and came running out to see the church building in flames. The neighbors formed a bucket brigade to try to put it out. When they asked the man, who was a long-time member, to help, he refused. After the fire was put out the people came to the man and angrily asked why he refused to help. The man replied: "I've been a member of this church all my life and I love it very much. But this is the first time I've ever seen any fire in it and I sure didn't want to spoil that."

That reminded me of an incident that happened at a church I served. Someone broke a window and set the curtains on fire. The smoke started billowing out of the window and the flames started shooting out as well. Thanks to a caring neighbor (who refused to go to any church) the fire department was alerted and the fire was put out with very little damage.

It started me thinking. We love our church and we'd do just about anything to save the physical plant. But, what is the church? We get excited and maybe even indignant when the building is threatened, but deep down we know that there's more to the church than just the building. What if St. James had burnt to the ground? What if any physical facility is damaged beyond repair? That's where we come in. When the physical flames are taken care of (or any other physical situation) one part of the job is taken care of. We need to remember that we're called to let the "spiritual" flame go wild. A physical threat reminds us of what we have but it should also remind us of who we really are. The physical facility should be a base for the ministry that Jesus has called us to. It should be a base for grouping and regrouping to present the world with a spiritual power that it desperately needs. No matter what physical challenges we face we have to remember that "job 1" of the church is to spread the spiritual fire in a way that really makes a difference to the people outside our building.

Thinking about that day some years ago I remember that one flame in that church was put out by the fire department. But it also reminds me that there needs to be another flame, a spiritual flame, which can never be put out.

Lloyd

**Mt. Hope United Church of Christ**  
**Consistory Meeting Minutes**  
**May 8, 2014**

**Members Present:** Gloria Apple, Dallas Belvin, Todd Chapmon, Bill Craft, Lloyd Gilliam, Cathy Gossett, Clifton Greeson, Bob Hamlett, Cheryl Royal, Becky Stafford

**Trustees Present:** Wesley Reece and Stephen Shue  
The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was established and President Lloyd reviewed the proposed agenda.

**Devotions:** Cheryl gave devotions on rules and regulations. How you treat someone shows how you feel about them, same as with Christ. Jesus' name is engraved in the heart of everyone. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Trustees Report:**

- Wesley reported we should have a/c by May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Gas line for new system just like old one.
- Using Brenda's closet for pipes.
- To meet with Conklin Oil on pricing they will possibly give us propane free for bbq supper.
- Bob suggested checking into prepaying for discount.
- Need to look into service contract for system.
- Oil tank may need to be taken out.
- Cliff to ask about lines for future refrigeration.
- Wesley will stop automatic fill for oil.
- Handbell Choir requested use of part of kitchenette to store the bells. We will use part with shelving. If we can't use the old refrigerator, Bill has one. A motion was made and seconded to leave refrigerator and microwave.
- All spot lights in the sanctuary will be replaced before homecoming.
- New flags have been ordered and will be dedicated on homecoming. This was approved by Consistory before the meeting.
- The new system is 40% done and they will be sending a partial invoice for payment. Ray Neese paid \$1721.26 for materials.
- Bill put signal booster and it is getting 5 bars and suggests we put wifi thermostats in.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill reported the April treasurer's report as follows:

- The General Fund balance at the end of March totaled \$13203.04.
- General fund receipts for April totaled \$14525.59
- General fund disbursements for April were \$13125.10
- The General Fund balance at the end of April was \$11802.55.

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

The treasurers again will revise to clarify the financial reports.

**Stewardship Report:**

- Bill reported we made \$384.00 from the sale of the knives.
- The Stewardship Committee wants to do a Hot Dog Sale once a month starting in June through October from 11-2pm to help raise money for the church. A motion was made and seconded to approve. Motion carried.
- In the fall they would like to do a lunch after church and have a speaker come in to talk to everyone about Estate planning. We feel this would help the church and money management for young people. We could even have them do a separate visit with the youth.
- The treasurers will put the information from visitor cards in an excel file and share with the secretary, preacher, and evangelism committee. This would insure our visitors get follow-up calls/visits and we would get feedback.

**Evangelism:** Dallas said the committee wanted Mt. Hope to be seen as a warm and welcoming church so they are working on having greeters every Sunday. Need people to sign up as greeters. Show them where to go, if they have little ones, show them where the nursery is, etc. Quilters to make bags for the greeters to pass out. Would like to put pen with Mt. Hope's name on it, magnifying glass, brochure, etc. Their next meeting is Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Meals4kids:**

- Gloria reported they had their first bagging opened to volunteers and Linda Miller and Cindy Hughes came out and helped. The next bagging is Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm due to

the day in the park at Hagan Stone and homecoming that weekend.

- The signs for our 24hr drop box are still being worked on.
- She shared her story again of how prayer led her to Meals4kids after they were forced to shut down Loaves and Fishes and help and support keep showing her that this is what God had planned for Mt. Hope, to feed the children. She wanted to remind us all to pray and He will lead you and us (Mt. Hope Church) where we need to go for our church to grow and succeed.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- Rev. Spencer said his sermons will be based on the study that was done at the church based on the scriptures and last Sunday was his first one.
- June 26-27 is the Conference Annual Meeting and two representatives are allowed to go to Virginia.
- Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> Doris Walsh is moving her membership from St. Marks to Mt. Hope. Marion Allison is awaiting his.
- Homecoming is Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> with the Memorial Service at 10am. Regular worship at 11am with special music planned. Lunch will be served after by Disciples Class \$6 plate. Rev. Spencer will be our speaker this year.

**Pastoral Relations:** Bob said they met on April 24<sup>th</sup> and they will be meet again on July 8<sup>th</sup>. They are meeting quarterly. There is a suggestion box in the breezeway. Complaints must be signed or they will not be addressed. Any complaints received they will meet and discuss and take action. Joe Hughes is the chair and Sonia Knowles is the secretary. Committee is strictly confidential.

**Andy Open:** Dallas and Cathy think it will be a good tournament. Need everyone to talk it up. Food Lion donated \$150 gift card. Bojangles is giving us a 20% discount on the biscuits.

**Safe Church Policy:** Lloyd Gilliam said Sharon Moore and Dee Greeson are planning this and will be teaching next month.

### **Other Business:**

- Librarian at Duke wants to publish A Journey of Faith book. Advised it has been published before. Lloyd Gilliam will write a letter to approve them to use this. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

- Shirley will be on vacation May 28-30 so she will be doing the bulletins ahead of time.
- Cliff advised he has started the bus training. He has trained Carmen Cox, Gloria Apple and Lorie Arrington. A two week's notice must be given to use the bus and at least two adults and a minimum of 5 passengers are needed in order for the bus to be used. Cliff advised that Jeryl and Gloria Apple want to donate a 20x30 with 13' high ceiling carport to store the bus. He suggested putting it by pear tree and corner would have asphalt. A motion was made and seconded to accept the donation. The motion carried.
- Bill to get with communications committee about printer.
- Reminder about Fellowship on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> at Hagan Stone.

Closing Prayer by Rev. Lloyd Spencer

Adjourned at 9:09 pm

Next Meeting Thursday June 12, 2014 at 7pm

Respectfully submitted by, Gloria Apple, Assistant Secretary



The Church Women will be taking a break from our regular circle meetings until September. However, we have been asked to host the District meeting on Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. I hope some of you will be able to help with that.

I was sad to learn of the passing of Carlene Neese when I returned from our trip to Australia in June. She was a very active member of our women at Mt. Hope for many years. She is not only missed by us but also by the Southern Conference church women where she took an active role. We extend our sympathy to her loving family.

On a lighter note, a big thank you to Virginia and Cleo Barker for hosting our "end of year" covered dish meal at their delightful home. We all had a lovely evening, and entirely too much food!

Unfortunately we still have some members who are struggling with health issues: Dottie Deeter, Nancy Wimbish, Jeanne and Clarine Ingold. We really miss them and pray for improved health. Pat Huizinga has come through her surgery and is

currently waiting for a report. Best wishes to her. We miss Mary Neese as she takes time to care for her elderly mother. Lovely Laura Clapp continues at Clapp's Nursing Center. We remember all the wonderful gifts from her kitchen and her kind and lovely disposition.

Love and blessings to all, Elizabeth Craft

**The combined Women's circles held their final meeting at the Barker home on the 10th of June. It was a covered dish supper and the spouses were invited. Below are some photos of the event:**



**Greensboro Urban Ministry:** Children are now out of school and Urban Ministry needs our help! Our July collection dates will be Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Let's all donate a can or two, or a jar of peanut butter and jelly to help build up the food bank. Sharing

what we can will help to make a difference in the lives of others. For your convenience a basket has been placed in the Narthex for your donations. If you can't get to the store to buy something, a container is there also for any monetary donations that you may wish to share. There are also containers in the breezeway. Since Dottie Deeter has been ill and usually takes the contributions to Urban Ministry, Jim and Nancy Wimbish stepped in to be sure the items were delivered. They took **150 pounds** of food to Urban Ministry on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The folks at Urban Ministry were most grateful for your generosity! We pray for God's blessings on all of us as we support this much needed ministry.



### **Friends & Neighbors**

On June 17, our seniors and many others in Guilford County enjoyed an event at Hagan Stone Park sponsored by Senior Resources of Guilford and United Way. We enjoyed a musical program, lunch, and fellowship on a beautiful day. Commissioner Ray Trapp was on hand to assist with the festivities.

## Treasurers' Report Sunday School Budget Presentations

The Stewardship Committee has been working since its first meeting in January to bring attention to the financial commitment needed to support the spiritual and community missions of our church. We have worked both to raise funds and to make all church members aware of issues, challenges, and opportunities affecting the life of our church.

An every-member awareness program, approved by the Consistory and Sunday School teachers, was rolled out to each adult Sunday School class on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The program explained how our financial processes work and the current status of our expenditures and giving. These presentations were prepared by the treasurers. Each Sunday School attendee received an information sheet showing the budget items.

Presenters for the program included Bill Craft for the Gleaners-Whitener Class, Becky Stafford for the Disciples Class, and Dora Moore for the Samaritan Class. Each presentation opened with a discussion of our approved 2014 budget, including our income and expenditures for May. As expected, we received a lot of questions for a first meeting, and hopefully everyone left with a better understanding. We agreed to prepare reports for future months and to come back as often as needed to keep our members informed and knowledgeable about our finances. As we indicated, we are in the midst of a major repair program for our HVAC systems, which was not part of our annual budget. We also thanked our members for not only contributing to our budgeted needs but by providing support for so many projects assisting our youth and those in need.

Anyone not able to attend our original presentations should contact me at 697-0676 and I will be glad to go over our presentation and to share our handout with you. Please also feel free to contact Becky Stafford and Cathy Gossett, our other treasurers as well. Thank you, Bill Craft, for the Stewardship Committee



**Special Honor:** Harden Phipps arranges to have flags flown over the Capitol in memory or in honor of someone, then he presents the flags to the family. Recently, he arranged with our congressman Howard Coble to have flags flown in memory of Bill Miller and in honor of Linda. Then he presented the flag to Linda during worship service.

Enjoy these photos and please note that you can see more on the church's Facebook page.



**Family members Pictured:** Margaret Sharpe, Harden Phipps, Linda Miller, Jane Fittante, and Lisa Andrews  
(Margaret is Linda's sister, Harden is her nephew, and Jane & Lisa are her daughters)

## MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER!!

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Marion Allison became the newest member of Mt. Hope UCC. He comes to Mt. Hope from Brightwood Christian Church in Gibsonville. Welcome to our church family!!

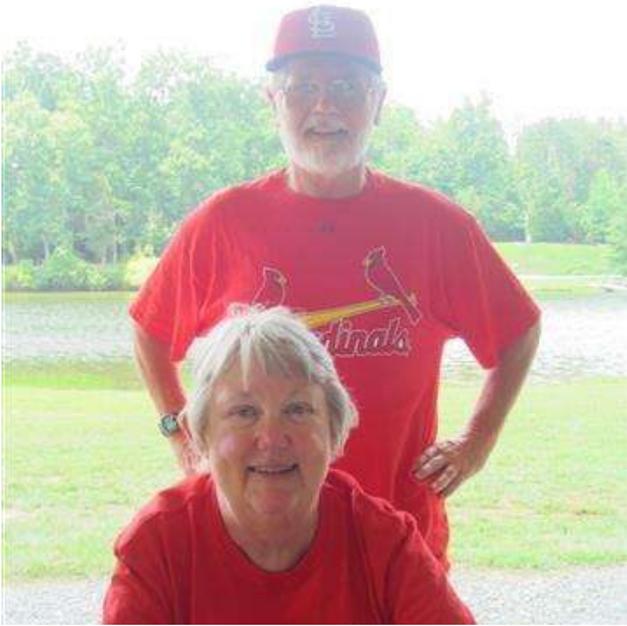


**Pictured left to right:** Lloyd Gilliam, Consistory President, Marion Allison, & Rev. Lloyd Spencer



**Annual Church Picnic:** We had a great turn out, delicious food, and beautiful weather for our annual cookout at Lake Mackintosh on Sunday, June 22. Thanks to all who prepared the food and participated in any way. It was a fun afternoon.





*Congratulations!*

**There is a lot of good news to report about our Mt. Hope Church family. We always like to let you know about the accomplishments of our youth and other church members. Check these out!!!!**

**Congratulations to Kate Craft** who graduated in the Fall of 2013 from Virginia Tech with a PhD in geophysics and planetary science. Kate has a postdoctoral position at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory where she assists with developing the mission to observe Jupiter's icy moon, Europa and continues to do planetary research. Michael has a position in the engineering



group at Amtrak working on track inspection technologies and vehicle dynamics. Liam (5) and Corbin (2) are growing like weeds and are enjoying trying out the new bike paths and playgrounds in the neighborhood. Their new home address is: 7220 Kindler Road, Columbia, MD 21046.



On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Zach Kilby graduated middle school receiving the following awards....Spanish Excellence Award, Outstanding Student Award, Highest GPA in Social Studies, Perfect Attendance for the whole school year, and “A” Honor Roll for the whole school year. Great work, Zach!!



As rising seniors at Southeast Guilford High School, three of our youths were recently selected for the honor society: Emma Strouth, Rachael Gossett, & Casey Ellis.

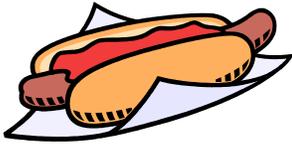


Emma Strouth was featured in Greensboro's News & Record on June 21. She was selected for the 2014 All-Area Softball award as well as being Conference Player of the Year. Quite an honor, and we are proud of her!



Casey Ellis, Kraven Webb, and Emma Strouth were awarded their FFA State Degrees at the FFA State Convention in Raleigh, NC on June 17. There are several requirements to earning this degree, such as being in AG classes at Southeast, raising animals, logging hours of tending to the animals and expenses, yearly SAE projects, FFA members for at least 2 years, 25 hours of community service in different activities, and ability to show leadership. They were also installed as FFA officers for 2014-2015 school year at the SEHS Chapter banquet on May 31st. Casey Ellis - Secretary, Kraven Webb- Chaplain, and Emma Strouth - Historian. Congratulations !!





**From the Stewardship Committee:** We need your help!! The Stewardship Committee is taking on a

project to raise money for the General Fund. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month we are planning a Hot Dog Sale. There will be hot dogs, soft drinks, dessert and chips. We are going to put flyers out at neighboring businesses and we need all of you to tell everyone you see. We are going to need donations of canned soft drinks (Coke and Pepsi products please), White Lilly Flour, 5 pound bags of sugar, margarine (any brand), Del Monte sliced peaches with light syrup (in the gallon cans), or monetary donations. Please call Brenda Currie for more information (697-1243). We will also need 10 – 15 volunteers for each sale date. Sign-up sheets for helpers and for donations will be located in the Breezeway and in the Narthex. Thank you so much for any assistance!



**Thank you:** Thank you, thank you for your prayers and phone calls as I recover from pneumonia and a kidney stone. The cards with your personal notes mean so much – maybe I should think about buying some stock in the card companies! Please keep me in your prayers as I continue my recovery. Blessings to all, Dottie Deeter

**Thank you:** Words could never express our appreciation for all your prayers, cards, food and visits during Junie’s recovery from surgery. Our prayers were answered!! We love all of you and God bless each one of you. Junie and Shirley Clapp

**Thank you:** To our Mt. Hope Church Family, Thank you so much for the cards, calls, visits, etc. during mom’s passing. Also thank you for all the things that you did for mom and us during her illness. To the wonderful ladies that prepared the great food that was so delicious, you really outdid yourselves! Whatever the part our Mt. Hope family members did, we can only say may God bless each and every one of you. Thank you again, The Carlene Neese Family

**Thank you:** Special thanks to all the women that prepared food, served, and helped in any way after

Carlene’s funeral. We had lots of delicious food. What an awesome group of ladies. You never let us down. The family was so appreciative. The Bereavement Committee



### July Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wes Royal, Terri Staley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cheryl Royal
- 4<sup>th</sup> Helen Busick
- 5<sup>th</sup> Melinda Pinson
- 6<sup>th</sup> Kyle Kirkpatrick, Michael, Oakley
- 7<sup>th</sup> Darlene Greeson, Amy Wilk, Nancy Wimbish
- 8<sup>th</sup> William Welker, Sr.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Donnie Cheek
- 11<sup>th</sup> Harriett Phipps
- 12<sup>th</sup> Kenny Taylor, Julie Szychowicz
- 13<sup>th</sup> Lori Dickson
- 14<sup>th</sup> Patti Harden, Cole Levens
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Bradsher
- 16<sup>th</sup> Melissa Sawyer, Daniel Shoffner, Gussie Spencer
- 17<sup>th</sup> Amy Lord
- 18<sup>th</sup> Stephanie Warren
- 19<sup>th</sup> Nancy Bartenfield
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jonathan Kilby, Wanda Stewart
- 21<sup>st</sup> Calvin Greeson
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Carol Hawk
- 25<sup>th</sup> Sandi Kirkpatrick, Kendall McDade
- 26<sup>th</sup> Connie Blakesley, Vickie Priesmeyer, Darryl Welker
- 27<sup>th</sup> Tracy Nelson, Kaden Whitesell
- 28<sup>th</sup> Martye Clendenin
- 30<sup>th</sup> Betty Greeson

### July Anniversaries

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeryl & Gloria Apple
- 4<sup>th</sup> John & Melinda Kozak  
William & Peggy Welker
- 6<sup>th</sup> Tony & Terri Staley
- 10<sup>th</sup> Bill & Sandra Martin
- 16<sup>th</sup> Hoy & Lorene Greeson
- 17<sup>th</sup> Darce & Ruby Greeson
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jeff & Beth Harris  
Michael & Sharon Johnson

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Barry & Dana Andrews
- 25<sup>th</sup> Andy & Vickie Priesmeyer
- 27<sup>th</sup> Richard & Sonia Knowles
- 31<sup>st</sup> Tommy & Susie Simpson



### July Calendar

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet
- 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day – Church Office Closed
- 6<sup>th</sup> Collecting for Greensboro Urban Ministry  
9:45 a.m., Sunday School  
11:00 a.m., Worship  
3:00 p.m., Youth Planning Meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet
- 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m., Consistory
- 13<sup>th</sup> Collecting for Greensboro Urban Ministry  
9:45 a.m., Sunday School  
11:00 a.m., Worship  
15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m., Evangelism Team
- 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet  
7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
- 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m., Board of Christian Education
- 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m., Hot Dog Sale
- 20<sup>th</sup> 9:45 a.m., Sunday School  
11:00 a.m., Worship  
3:00 p.m., Youth Planning Meeting  
6:30 p.m., VBS
- 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30 p.m., VBS
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 p.m., VBS  
7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee Meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet
- 27<sup>th</sup> 9:45 a.m., Sunday School  
11:00 a.m., Worship
- 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m., Quilters meet

### Something To Think About

There comes a time in your life when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Forget the bad and focus on the good. Love people who treat you well, pray for the ones who don't. Life is too short to be anything but happy. Falling down is part of life, getting back up is living.

Quote: "Today may there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant

to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in yourself and others. May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content with yourself just the way you are. Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us." And may God richly reward you!



Variouly known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83). In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.





### **Summer Fun Hot Dog Lunch.**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month starting on July 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have Hot Dogs with all the trimmings.

We will also have chips, soft drinks, and a light dessert.

You can take it to go or you can eat in.

We will have a few tables to sit down and eat inside if desired.

Please put these dates on your calendar:

**July 19<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**August 16<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m., - 2 p.m.**

**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m., - 2 p.m.**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

We will not have a sale in November and December but keep watching because we will start back next year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

For more information, call Brenda Currie – 697-1243

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### **Vacation Bible School is coming!**

Make sure to mark **July 20-22** on your calendar.

Our topic this year is **Weird Animals and Sea Creatures**

Where Jesus' Love Is One-Of-A-Kind!

Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Mt Hope United Church of Christ

2400 Mount Hope Church Road

Whitsett, NC 27377



For more information contact Carmen Cox 336-312-2173 or [ccox@labcorp.com](mailto:ccox@labcorp.com).