

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

2400 Mt. Hope Church Rd.
Whitsett, NC 27377

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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

Sharon Moore

choir director / organist

Tim Hucks

custodian

Brenda Currie



Mt. Hope Messenger

May, 2013



From the Pastor

I always wanted to be a magician. For my tenth birthday my parents bought me a “Sneaky Pete Magic Set”. I worked with those tricks until I got them down pat. My brothers were astounded as I did trick after trick and I wasn’t about to tell them how I did it. One of my favorite tricks was the disappearing cotton ball. I’d open the door of the box, put the cotton ball in, cover it with a handkerchief, and then amaze everyone by opening the doors to an empty box.

One day during my performance my middle brother shouted out: “I know how you do it!” Sure enough, he’d discovered my secret. You see, it was done with a mirror. As I covered the box I slid a mirror down into the box that would reflect the sides and keep everyone from seeing the cotton ball. How did he discover my secret? It wasn’t that hard. When he looked into the “empty” box he saw a great big finger print smudge hanging in thin air. It wasn’t hard to figure out that the cotton ball had to be hiding behind a dirty mirror.

Life isn’t done with magic and mirrors but there are so many things that we don’t understand. We wish that we could just open our eyes and see the answers to all those things that keep nagging at us. We wish that we could just open our minds and understand the things that keep mystifying and frustrating us. Yet the mysteries continue to be part of our lives and the answers are hard in coming. The beauty of the church is that it gives us a place to be with people who are asking the same questions that we’re asking. We can share our understandings and our insights to help each other grow and mature in our faith. We can join with each other to take what we’ve learned and put it to work in the world to make things better for others.

The real secret to a life of faith and meaning can’t be found in a “Sneaky Pete Magic Set” behind a mirror. It can only be found in real life, with real people working together to make it more understandable for us and for others.

Lloyd

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

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

Trustees: Harden Phipps

Pastor: Rev. Lloyd Spencer

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

Devotional: Lloyd Gilliam read Matthew 26:18-20 and "Why We Volunteer" by Karl Barth.

A quorum was established and Sharon reviewed the proposed agenda.

Updates:

- A request by Sandra McCray to use the fellowship hall for a shower was approved by consistory via email.
- Equipment in the quilting room has been tampered with. Possible solutions to prevent this in the future are to inform others that only authorized people should use the quilting equipment, and to possibly post a sign outside the door indicating for authorized use only. Keeping the door closed is probably not an option as doors are to be left open for adequate heat and air circulation. Sharon will discuss these options with Virginia Barker.
- A file cabinet with functioning key has been delivered and needs to be moved into the church office. Sharon, Dee, and Becky will clean out the old cabinet and remove items from the office. This will be coordinated with Shirley. Bob and Harden will coordinate the move of both cabinets.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the request to put out the brown boxes for two Sundays for Kathy Barrier. Due to an injury, Kathy needs extensive dental work not covered by insurance. The motion carried.

Guest Speakers: Devin Knowles and Brianna Chapmon presented mission statements for the youth program and each individual youth group. The mission statements will be posted on the third floor by the youth attendance board and outside the Samaritans' classroom. A copy of the Youth Mission Statements 2013 will be made a part of these minutes. The youth will present objectives to Sharon to carry out their mission statements. The

Consistory thanked Devin and Brianna for representing the youth and making the presentation.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made and seconded to accept the February, 2013 minutes with corrections. The motion carried.

Trustee's Report:

- Solar lights have been installed by the steps at the side door (cemetery side) of the building.
- Columns at the front of the church have been repaired. The other two columns need to be repaired this summer if possible. It was noted that the end columns may be weight bearing and will be more labor intensive to repair since jacking up the porch will probably be needed. The columns at the drive thru need to be cleaned, weatherproofing applied, and painted to prevent damage.
- Work day was successful. The kitchen was painted, ceiling tiles installed, and the kitchen and old fellowship hall floors were cleaned, waxed and buffed. In the sanctuary, all globes were cleaned and new bulbs were placed in the chandelier and all the wall fixtures.
- The air conditioning unit on the third floor was patched all last summer and needs to be replaced by this summer. Bob will get pricing for this.
- The trustees would like to use the room behind the stage on the right side (facing the stage) as their storage room. They would like to clean the room, put in shelving, and install a new lock. Only trustees will have keys to the room. Harden thinks this can be done for less than \$500. Cathy said the storage room behind the stage used to store decorations also needs to be cleaned and shelving installed. She asked if we could update the rooms at the same time. It was suggested that the money for shelving of this room be obtained from supper funds. Cheryl said the women's groups may be interested in helping with the cost of shelving for the decorations storage room. Harden will explore the cost of shelving. A motion was made and seconded to move forward with exploring refurbishing these rooms for storage. The motion carried.
- Becky stated that clean up will be needed after the new windows are installed. The vacuum system did not work properly during the last

work day. Harden will check on the vacuum system.

- Harden, Bill, and Bennie will put up the dry erase board in the choir room.

Pastor's Report:

- Rev. Spencer reported that the confirmation class will conclude and all who desire will be confirmed on Palm Sunday. Members of the class are: Colby Arrington, Katelyn Gossett, Zach Kilby, Haley McCray, Hunter McCray, Katelyn Neal, Emily Smith, and Abby Strouth.
- Rev. Spencer is currently planning upcoming Easter Services to include: Maundy Thursday Service, Good Friday Service, Easter Sunrise Service, and the regular 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service.
- All ministry teams have met and are working on projects. Sharon asked that the ministry teams document projects and report these to her.
- Rev. Spencer is currently working on taking communion to shut-ins. Some will work out well, some will be difficult, and some may not be able to receive communion. It was noted that Elizabeth Craft and Virginia Barker should be able to help with the list of shut-ins. He has not been able to locate the portable communion set.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Gossett made a power point presentation entitled "Discussion of IRS Requirements". The goal and purpose of the presentation is for the treasurers to enlighten the consistory of the non-profit IRS status. Sharon asked the consistory to take notes, generate questions, and forward to her for discussion at our next meeting.

Bill presented the January treasurer's report reflecting the draft report presented at the February meeting as opposed to the actual report. Final January treasurer's report:

- General fund beginning balance: (\$700.33)
This reflects a negative balance.
- General fund receipts: \$12,338.95
- General fund disbursements: \$10,661.48
- General fund ending balance: \$977.14

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

The February treasurer's report is not available due to Shirley's absence. Bill presented and reviewed a spreadsheet for weekly and year to date tithing.

Committee Reports:

Safe Church Policy – Dee Greeson

- The policy is now ready for review by an attorney. We have not been able to obtain an attorney to review the policy at no charge.
- Joe Hughes will explore finding an attorney to review the policy for us.
- After the policy is reviewed, there are a few talking points that need to be reviewed by the consistory.

Constitution Revision Task Force – Dee Greeson in absence of Bennie Gerner

- The review committee has met and gone through the first portion of the constitution up to the By-Laws section.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 7, 2013.
- Bill will be in contact with Bennie to discuss how the IRS information may affect the constitution.

Stained Glass Window Committee – Sharon Moore in absence of Bennie Gerner: Window donors have been contacted about the need for early payment as window completion is ahead of schedule. All donors have agreed to pay early.

New Business: Cheryl noted that the communion wafers we have used for the last communions are too small. Sharon will ask Lisa Moser about purchasing larger wafers and also check on gluten free wafers.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Mission Statements 2013

Youth Program: A faith and hope inspired youth program that gives a voice to Jesus through interactive learning, spreading His word, personifying His life and developing relationships with others.

Christ's Missionaries: Youth committing ourselves to develop a relationship and gain knowledge through hope and faith, to spread God's word, through serving our church and community.

Christians In Action Mission Statement: Our mission is to learn about God while interacting and spreading the word of God to be accomplished by having fun, helping to bring people to the life of Christ, through actions, stories and relationships.

KFC: Youth coming together to better ourselves and our church by showing faith, love and hope. We can share our voice(s) to spread God's word.

Little Lambs



Women's Fellowship

As you know already, we will be hosting the May Friendship Day celebration for our local unit of Church Women United on Friday May 3rd. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to help with the light meal and short program. We will be welcoming members from Coble's Lutheran, Low's Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran and Pleasant Union UMC. Our guests always enjoy our soup and sandwiches, and the time of fellowship we have together. The theme is **Swinging Wide the Doors of Hospitality** and that is what we intend to do.

The final Bible Study in our current series **Dispatches to God's Household, The General Epistles**, will be led by Rev. Spencer at our individual circle meetings. Willing Workers will meet on May 13th at 1:30, and Mary/Martha will meet on May 14th at 7:00 pm.

On June 1st Nazareth Children's Home in Rockwell, NC will be having their annual Fun Fest. This will mark their 107th year of serving children and families and is also their largest fund raiser. If you would like to participate in a drawing, I have tickets available at \$5 each. All proceeds go to the Children's Home. First prize will be a donated 2013 Honda Civic 4-door LX Sedan.

Barbara Greeson and her committee are still working diligently to complete all the details for our new directory. We cannot fully appreciate the amount of time and effort this has required. Thank you so much Barbara (chair), Becky Stafford, Judy Gerner, Linda Ayers and Dee Greeson!

We need to keep Ruth Harris in our prayers as she recovers from her hip replacement surgery. What a blessing she is to all of us. And as always, we remember Carlene Neese and Laura Clapp at Clapp's Nursing Center.

Love and blessings, Elizabeth Craft



Friends and Neighbors

For our April 16 meeting our thoughts had turned to spring and getting outside with flowers and plants. So our **Friends and Neighbors** group planned a trip to Whittaker Farms & Greenhouses in Climax where we were treated to a tour through their bedding plants, hanging baskets, perennials, specialty plants, and a huge greenhouse of tomato plants with lots of ripe tomatoes. J. W. Johnson had already told us they had delicious tomatoes, and we were glad we could buy a few. After our tour, we shared lunch together at the Backyard Grille, also in Climax, then returned to the church. It was a fun afternoon to be with everyone on a beautiful spring day.



Make plans to join us for our May meeting on Tuesday, May 21 which will be our last meeting for the fiscal year. We will leave the church at 9:30 to visit Gibsonville Antiques and Collectibles, located behind the red caboose, and the Gibsonville Museum. Then we will share lunch at one of the restaurants in Gibsonville before returning to the church. If you want to go, please sign up by contacting Dottie Deeter at 954-0046. We look forward to being with everyone for this trip through memory lane and lots of antiques.



New Windows Dedication: A very special day of worship is planned for Sunday, May 19th. Not only will we be celebrating our Homecoming Day, but we will also be dedicating our beautiful stained glass windows. Please join us for this joyous occasion.



Greensboro Urban Ministry: On April 9th, we sent **110 pounds** of food to Greensboro Urban Ministry. Thank you so much! They were most appreciative. Our May collection dates will be Sunday, May 5th, and again on Sunday, May 13th. We pray for God's blessing on all of us as we support this much needed ministry. The boxes are located in the breezeway and are marked for "Urban Ministry" for your convenience.



Our Homecoming will be Sunday, May 19th this year. The Homecoming celebration begins with the Memorial Service in the Cemetery at **10:00 am**. The regular worship service begins at 11:00 am. There will be no

Sunday School due to the outdoor service at 10:00.

Lunch will be served immediately after the worship service in the new fellowship hall. The Disciples Class will be serving grilled chicken, green beans, parsley potatoes, roll, barbecue sandwich, slaw, homemade pound cake, fresh strawberries, Reddi-Whip along with tea and water. Cost per plate is \$6.00. Please join us for fellowship and a great meal.

CEMETERY INFORMATION: As stated in the **Memorial Association Rules and Regulations for Use of Funds and Burial in Church Cemetery**, seasonal flowers should be removed in a timely fashion. All flowers should be monitored to prevent weathered and faded appearance. **Any flowers that fit this description will be removed and thrown away Saturday, May 18th.**

Please do not put live flowers on the cemetery grounds before late Saturday afternoon, May 18th, so nothing will be in the way of the mowers. Please remove the flowers from the grounds by Tuesday afternoon, May 21st before the next mowing.

If you have any questions, please call Becky Stafford (613-1538) or Bennie Gerner (697-1620).

Memorial Association Rules and Regulations for Use of Funds and Burial in Church Cemetery

Donations to be acknowledged in the 2013 Homecoming bulletin must be received no later than Sunday, May 5th. Money donated to the Cemetery or Endowment Fund not specified as a memorial or honorarium for a specific person(s) will be listed as a generic donation in the donor's name.



During worship services Sunday, April 22, we enjoyed special music by Karly Smith. Karly sang "Amazing Grace" and was accompanied by Tim Hucks.



The Quilting Ladies will be meeting on Wednesday, May 1st, at 9:00 a.m. Come out and enjoy this time together!

When making a donation to the Memorial Association Fund, please specify which of the two funds you wish your gift to be placed.

- 1) The **Mt. Hope UCC Endowment Fund** is the account where only interest and dividends can be spent.
- 2) The **Mt. Hope UCC Cemetery Fund** is the operational account for cemetery maintenance and improvements.

MT HOPE YOUTH SCHEDULE – May 2013

Sunday, May 5 **Regular meeting 3-4**
 Saturday, May 11 **Volunteer opportunity** –
 Whitsett Loaves & Fishes 9:00 – 10:00
 All Groups – Lazy Ranch (day trip)
 Leave at: 10 am - Return at approx: 5:30 pm
 Lunch and transportation provided.
 Attendees to pay Admission of \$8.50 per
 Person
 Activities: Area to feed animals, Wagon ride,
 Lots of fun for all ages

Please confirm reservation & money to: Carmen Cox 336-312-2173 or ccox@labcorp.com by May 4th.



Sunday, May 12 No youth meetings
 (Activity previous day)
 Saturday, May 18 **Volunteer opportunity** –
 placing artificial flowers on Mt Hope graves for
 Memorial Day. Time 2:00 pm
 Sunday, May 19 No youth meetings.
 (Memorial Day luncheon)
 Saturday, May 25 **Volunteer opportunity** –
 Whitsett Loaves & Fishes 9:00 – 10:00
 Sunday, May 26 No youth meetings.
 (Memorial weekend.)



We continue to be blessed at Whitsett Loaves & Fishes and want to say **thanks so much for keeping this program in your prayers and blessing us with your contributions.** You are making a huge difference in the lives of so many!

Volunteer day goal: 20 bags
 Accomplished 4/13: 24 bags (goal exceeded)

A special thank you to all our volunteers: Honoring our loyal supporters, giving of themselves in so many ways. Without you this site would not be possible.

We had a couple new volunteers on April 13th and want to recognize them: **Christina Oliver and Austin Oliver.** Welcome and hope to see you again.

We would also like to recognize our other youth: **Casey Ellis, Kraven Webb, Brianna Chapmon, Colby Arrington and Josh Apple.** It is wonderful to see this age commit to a program and see the passion in their actions.



Ft. Bragg Fisher House Reminder: The box is in the breezeway for items that you are bringing for the Fisher House. Here is a reminder of what you can bring: Travel Size Items – Male and Female (Shaving cream and deodorant, small shaving kits, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hand sanitizer); Laundry Supplies (High-efficiency detergent (HE), fabric softener, bleach); Miscellaneous Items (Disinfectant spray, liquid dish soap, automatic dishwashing detergent, liquid hand soap, small writing tablets). We will be letting you know when you will be able to help put the items in packets to be delivered and at a later date we would like to go down to Ft. Bragg and help with some of the volunteer work and deliver the packets.



3rd ANNUAL ANDY OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT



Walnut Woods Golf Course
 3172 Alamance Church Rd., Julian, NC
Saturday, June 1 - 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start



Entry Fee: \$50/Golfer or \$180/Team
Includes: Green Fee, Cart Fee, Breakfast,
Lunch

Prizes For: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Teams,
Closest to Pin and Long Drive
Hole Sponsorships \$50 Each

Proceeds to benefit Mt. Hope United Church
of Christ

Youth and Community Resource Fund

For More Information and Entry Form

Visit Our Website at www.mthopeucc.com

Or Call Dallas Belvin at 601-1982

Registration Deadline: May 24

**Brochure with entry form is also available
at the end of this newsletter.**



Calendar

May, 2013

1st 9:00 a.m., Quilters Meet
3rd 6:00 p.m., Church Women United
Friendship Day
4th Deadline for Lazy 5 Ranch reservation
5th Collecting for Urban Ministry
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship
3:00 p.m., All Youth Meet
7th 7:00 p.m., Garden Club
8th 6:45 p.m., Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
9th 7:00 p.m., Consistory
11th 9:00 a.m., Loaves & Fishes Volunteers
10:00 a.m., Lazy 5 Ranch Day Trip
12th Mother's Day
Collecting for Urban Ministry
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship
3:00 p.m., No Youth Meetings
13th 1:30 p.m., Willing Workers Meeting
14th 7:00 p.m., Mary/Martha Circle Meeting
15th 6:45 p.m., Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
19th Homecoming Sunday

10:00 a.m., Outdoor Memorial Service
11:00 a.m., Worship – Dedication of New
Windows

12:00 p.m., Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

3:00 p.m., No Youth Meetings

21st 9:30 a.m., Friends and Neighbors

22nd 6:45 p.m., Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal

25th 9:00 a.m., Loaves & Fishes Volunteers

26th 9:45 a.m., Sunday School

11:00 a.m., Worship

3:00 p.m., No Youth Meetings

27th Memorial Day

29th 6:45 p.m., Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal



May Birthdays

1st Pam Deaton, Judith Morgan
3rd Kaitlyn Jones
4th Steve Gardner, Jeff Harris
6th Barbara Greeson
7th Jessica Bolton
8th James Pinson, Jr., Tyler Strouth
9th Ernest Greeson, Brant Hancock, Irene
Sharpe, Jeffrey Welker, Kelley Whitesell
12th Janet Ellis, Gail Prevost
13th Lorie Arrington
14th Joshua Apple, Peggy Barber, Sylvia Belvin,
Haywood Levens
15th Angel Minor
17th Ray Neese, Sr., Emma Strouth
18th Austin Oliver
19th Kathy Fulk
20th Kelly Clapp, Freddie Gossett, Madison
Jarrett
21st Kaitlyn Woollett
22nd Traci Eggers, Casey Whitesell
23rd Brian Neal, Jay Patterson
24th Peggy Levens
26th Evelyn Neese
27th Phillip Fittante, John McDade, Jason Shinn
28th Pattie Greeson, Maria Sbityakov
29th Addison Harris, Ema Perez
31st William Gauldin, Larry Moore



May Anniversaries

- 4th Rick & Judith Morgan
6th Cynthia Morris & Thomas Bowles
8th Simon & Brittany Clark, Harold & Doris
Reece
10th Blake & Dorie Whitman
12th Alton & Lana Dunevant
21st Wayne & Mary Greeson, John & Melinda
McDade, Lloyd & Gussie Spencer
22nd Ricky & Donna Cauthren, Joe & Cindy
Hughes
25th David & Debra Prater
26th Bob & Cindy Hamlett
29th Bill & Elizabeth Craft
30th Gerald & Linda Greeson

Her Hands

by Maggie Pittman

Her hands held me gently from the day I took my
first breath.

Her hands helped to guide me as I took my first
step.

Her hands held me close when the tears would start
to fall.

Her hands were quick to show me that she would
take care of it all.

Her hands were there to brush my hair, or straighten
a wayward bow.

Her hands were often there to comfort the hurts that
didn't always show.

Her hands helped hold the stars in place, and
encouraged me to reach.

Her hands would clap and cheer and praise when I
captured them at length.

Her hands would also push me, though not down or
in harms way.

Her hands would punctuate the words, just do what
I say.

Her hands sometimes had to discipline, to help bend
this young tree.

Her hands would shape and mold me into all she
knew I could be.

Her hands are now twisting with age and years of
work,

Her hand now needs my gentle touch to rub away
the hurt.

Her hands are more beautiful than anything can be.

Her hands are the reason I am me.

Memorial Day By C.W. Johnson

We walked among the crosses
Where our fallen soldiers lay.
And listened to the bugle
As TAPS began to play.
The Chaplain led a prayer
We stood with heads bowed low.
And I thought of fallen comrades
I had known so long ago.
They came from every city
Across this fertile land.
That we might live in freedom.
They lie here 'neath the sand.
I felt a little guilty
My sacrifice was small.
I only lost a little time
But these men lost their all.
Now the services are over
For this Memorial Day.
To the names upon these crosses
I just want to say,
Thanks for what you've given
No one could ask for more.
May you rest with God in heaven
From now through evermore.



Saturday, May 11, 2013

Lazy 5 Ranch

15100 Mooresville Rd Mooresville, NC 28115

(704) 663-5100

www.lazy5ranch.com/

for ALL YOUTH GROUPS



Leave church at 10:00am

Back at the church at 5:30pm

Lunch provided by youth group program

Van transportation / additional resources if needed

1-1/2 hr drive (one way)

Activities:

Area to feed animals

Wagon ride

Lots of fun for all ages

Cost: Each person will pay their own way for admission

Adults - \$14.50 ea

Children (2-11) - \$9.50 ea

Group rate - 15 or more \$8.50 ea (We hope to have head count to get group rate.)

Please confirm reservation & money to: Carmen Cox 336-312-2173 or ccox@labcorp.com by May 4th.

Sponsorships:

Hole Sponsors

\$50 Each

Concession

Cart Sponsor

\$100/cart

Sponsor Name:

*Please include company logo
Artwork*

Amount Enclosed:

\$ _____

For additional information

Call:

Dallas Belvin

336-601-1982

ANDY OPEN
Golf Tournament
In Memory of
Dean & Glenda Andrews



Saturday, June 1st

Walnut Woods
Golf Course
3172 Alamance Church
Road

All proceeds to benefit
Mt. Hope UCC Special Projects
(Community Resource &
Youth Program)

Captain's Choice Format

9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Registration Begins

at 8:00 a.m

PRIZES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR:

Closest to Pin

Longest Drive Men

Longest Drive Ladies

1st Place Team \$\$\$

2nd Place Team \$\$\$

3rd Place Team \$\$\$

Fees:

\$50 Per Golfer

\$180 Per Team

Includes:

Breakfast Biscuit

Green Fee

Cart Fee

Lunch

Featuring Homemade Desserts

Make Checks Payable To:

Mt. Hope UCC

Special Projects

Mail to:

Attn: Dallas Belvin

2400 Mt. Hope Church Road

Whitsett, NC 27377

Optional Fees:

Gimmick Hole

Mulligans

Player/Team Registration

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration Deadline:

May 24, 2013



The Lord blesses
his people
with peace.

Psalm 29:11

**Mt. Hope United Church of
Christ
2400 Mt. Hope Church Road
Whitsett, NC 27377**

Pastor: Rev. J. Lloyd Spencer

Weekly Services:

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Christian Crusaders & Christians in

Action Meet every Sunday – 3:00 p.m.

Kids for Christ & Little Lambs

Meet every Sunday – 3:00 p.m.

