



# the weekly Window

January 6, 2023

Out to the life and ministry of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church (USA)



## Star Words



On Sunday, January 8th, as we did last year, we will celebrate Epiphany and hand out a "Star Word" you can use for reflection in the upcoming year. We ask that you stick this star word in your house where you will see it on a daily basis. You are invited to ponder what

the significance of this word might be in your life and what God might be saying to you through this simple message of a word. The magi brought gifts to Jesus after they received the gift of a star to follow. The star symbolizes God's generosity in our lives.

As our *Book of Common Worship* says:

"'Epiphany' means manifestation or revelation. At the Epiphany of the Lord we celebrate the manifestation of God's saving purpose to all the nations of the world. Just as the magi came from a distant land to worship the Christ child, God's covenant of grace is extended to all people who believe the good news of Jesus Christ. The symbolism of light is important—not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it suggests the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ's light in the world."

Our children will be handing out Star Words during the service this week.

## This Sunday

### SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

**8:45am**

**Nursery opens** - Open until 12:15pm  
Coffee available in the Welcome Lounge

**9:00-10:20am**

**Pastor Mac's Sabbatical Forum** - Westminster Hall

**10:30-11:30am**

**Worship** - Epiphany of the Lord  
**Children's Sunday School**

**11:30am -12:15pm**

**Youth Sunday School** - Explorers' Rm (ends 12pm)

**Congregational Fellowship** - Westminster Hall

**Children's Music** - Geneva Hall

**Coffee & Conversation for Parents** - Chapel

**"Un-hanging" of the Greens** - WH North

*It's time to take down our Advent/Christmas decorations and we would greatly appreciate any extra hands to assist with un-decorating the building!*

*Find Grace Hutchinson in Westminster Hall after worship to get details about storage containers and specific tasks needed.*

**12:00 -12:30pm**

**Youth Bells with Barbara** - WH

**5:00-7:00pm**

**Dinner and Youth Group** - Geneva Hall

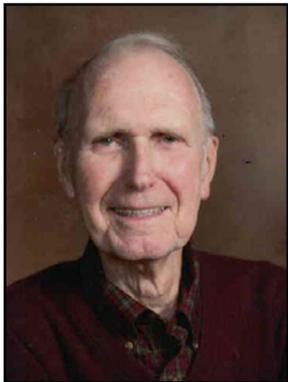
*This week we'll focus on "God & Art" - Epiphany style!*

# A Baton Passed

BY PASTOR MAC

*Here is an excerpt from my 2023 New Year's Day sermon:*

At 4:30am on Christmas Day, the last local, active charter member of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church entered God's everlasting kingdom: Charles Robert "Bob" Terry. Bob was the first treasurer of the church and in the first class of four Deacons. Back then, the Deacons were less congregational care and more practical – finances, property and more. A few years ago, Bob gave me the first ledger of the church. He used to joke with another charter member, Alan Thompson, that the church had such a small amount of money he kept it



in a cigar box. This, of course was not true. I acknowledged to Bob's kids that Christmas Day is a tough day to lose a loved one. But I also said to them, that there is something mysteriously beautiful about Hudson losing its last local active charter member on the day we celebrate God taking on human form, Christmas Day.

While I didn't think about this when I was first called to Hudson, I have come to realize one of my callings here has been to shepherd this congregation from its first generation to its present generation. In other words, I (along with Debbie Kirk), have memorialized and buried many of the people who founded this church.

Bob Terry was a great lover of sports. He had a steel-trap mind when it came to remembering teams. He could rattle off a starting five from a 1960s Duke, UNC or NC State basketball team without batting an eye. So I don't think he'd mind me using a sports analogy today. Like a track and field relay race, with the death of Bob Terry, there is a completeness to the baton being passed onto us. There is no longer a first generation of the church. We can no longer look over our shoulder and say, "Well that old guard is responsible for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, it's not my turn yet." With Bob's death that mantle is firmly placed in our lap. Thanks be to God for Bob Terry and his generation.

I can't think of a better day than New Year's Day to talk about this baton being passed to us. As this new year begins, we have been entrusted with the responsibility of the Good News of the gospel, Presbyterian style, along Six Forks Road.

And after reading Philippians 2, in the world we live in, I can't think of better news to have responsibility to share. A God who chooses humility and servanthood to save the world from its own arrogance and selfishness. A God who chooses the form of a helpless and a vulnerable child to help us see the light.

Philippians chapter 2 says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..."

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### A Note From Sue Newton

Dear Hudson Family,

The gift of the beautiful pottery pieces truly touched my heart! What a perfect way to remember my wonderful experience this past year. Each time I look at these pieces, I will think of you and what a generous, loving, and thoughtful congregation you are.

I have truly enjoyed being your interim pianist, and look forward to visiting on occasion to see my new friends!

Thank you, again.

Love,  
*Sue*



## Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, January 10 | 6:30am | Zoom

All men are invited to join this group (over Zoom this week) for scripture reflection, discussion, fellowship and coffee. The group uses an ancient Bible study process called Lectio Divina.

The study revolves around 3 questions:



*What is a word or phrase that stands out to you?*

*Allow that word or phrase to develop into a memory from your life, a thought on the passage or a metaphor. What is Christ calling you to through the passage?*

No previous Bible study experience is needed. It is a great group of guys who are welcoming and wise in their comments. For our in-person meetings, coffee and Bibles are provided. [If you have questions or would like to be added to the email distribution list, please contact Mac Schafer.](#)

## Mac's Sabbatical Forums: STORIES, INSIGHTS AND WONDER ALONG THE VIA FRANCIGENA

January 8 & 15 | 9:00am | WH North



As we kick off the new year, please join Pastor Mac as he shares stories and insights from his sabbatical. Mac visited Reformation sites in Germany and Switzerland via

train and then put on his walking shoes and walked approximately 1200 kms along the Via Francigena. The Via Francigena is an ancient pilgrims' route that goes from Canterbury, England all the way to Rome, Italy. Mac picked up the path in Lausanne, Switzerland.

See you this Sunday!

## Seeing the Word

Monday, January 23 | Noon | Chapel

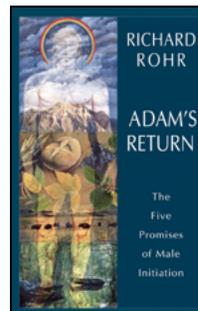


This is a monthly small group that comes together for lunch, Bible study and discussion on the third Monday of every month. This group uses the St. John's Illuminated Bible to discuss a scripture text with a visual image. On January 23 we will discuss John 7 & 8. Contact [Pastor Mac](#) for questions.

## Presbyterian Pint JANUARY-MARCH 2023

The Presbyterian Pint group will be reading *Adam's Return: The Five Promises of Male Initiation* by Richard Rohr. We will be meeting every two weeks over 4 sessions for this study: **The dates are: January 26, February 9, February 23 & March 9.** It will be held at Mordecai Brewing Co. at 7:00pm.

This book deals with five challenging concepts: Life is hard, you are not important, your life is not about you, you are not in control and you are going to die. Please purchase the book on your own and read through p.34 before our first meeting. All men of the church are welcome to join us! Contact [Pastor Mac](#) to be added to the distribution list.



## RESCHEDULED EVENT! *The Banshees of Inisherin* Thursday, January 12 at 7:00pm



The Presbyterian Pint men's group will be meeting at Pastor Mac's house (1408 Dogwood Lane, Raleigh, NC 27607) on January 12th to watch and discuss *The Banshees of Inisherin*. Please be aware that this movie does deal with some difficult subject matter. Please bring two beers/sodas to share. Mac will provide popcorn

and other "nibbles." For more information, please email Pastor Mac at [mschafer@hmpc.org](mailto:mschafer@hmpc.org).

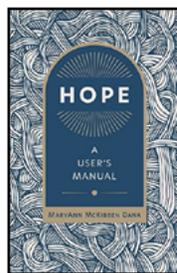
## Women's Connection Conference at Montreat

### REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1

Many HMPC women enjoy participating in the Women's Connection Conference each August at Montreat. If you are interested, please note that registration opens on **February 1**, and last year most of the conference housing filled by the end of the first day! With the popular Kate Bowler as the keynote speaker, the same scenario is likely to happen again. Everyone will receive a reminder from Debbie in January. For more information about attending with our group, contact Debbie Kirk at [dkirk@hmpc.org](mailto:dkirk@hmpc.org).

## Women at the Well Kicking Off 2023

Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and stages to participate, and the new year is a great time to join us! The two groups have a different format, time and explore different content. The weekly group meets Wednesday mornings from 9:15-10:30am and uses a particular book chosen each semester as a guide for



shared conversation, reflections, and prayer. The book selection for the winter semester is *Hope: A User's Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. **The weekly group begins the winter semester on January 11.** If we purchase the book for you, it is \$14.00 and can be paid at the first class.

The monthly group meets on the third or fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00pm and uses a podcast as the basis for discussion on topics of interest over dinner at a local restaurant. **We begin the new year meeting on Thursday, January 19 at 6:00pm.** We'll meet at Vivo Ristorante for dinner and discussion of the



second part of *Songs of Surrender and Carrying the Weight of our Contradictions*, a conversation with Brene Brown and Bono. Current participants will receive a reminder of the location and podcast link.

Both groups are wonderful opportunities for women to get to know each other as we discuss the intersection of culture and faith and our own spiritual journeys. For more information or to participate in either group contact Debbie Kirk at [dkirk@hmpc.org](mailto:dkirk@hmpc.org).

**Women's Connection**  
with Kate Bowler

AUGUST 11-13, 2023  
MONTREAT.ORG/WC2023

We are very pleased to announce that our keynote speaker for Women's Connection 2023 will be **New York Times bestselling author and Duke University professor, Kate Bowler!**

**Kate Bowler** is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I've Loved)*, which tells the story of her unexpected diagnosis with Stage IV cancer at age 35. She is also the author of *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*, and *The Preacher's Wife: The Precarious Power of Evangelical Women Celebrities*. Her latest book, *No Cure For Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, grapples with her diagnosis, her ambition, and her faith as she tries to come to terms with limitations in a culture that promises anything is possible.

## Interested in Membership?

The Inquirers' Class, for those interested in membership, will be held at 1:00pm **Sunday, January 22**. The class covers what it means to be a Christian, a Presbyterian, and a member of Hudson Memorial. [New Member Information Forms are available here](#). Contact [Debbie Kirk](#) with any questions.





PREVIEW OF  
*The Gathering*  
Classes

BEGINNING JANUARY 22

**9:00-10:00am | Room 200**  
**"The Nine O'Clock Class"**

This earlier class is especially for those who have commitments preparing for worship at 10:00am, and others who would like a full hour of study, conversation, and fellowship.

**"Lessons from the Blue Zones Life:  
Why, What, Who, Where, How?"**  
**January 22 - February 12**

**Facilitated by**  
**Susan Bradshaw, Linda Meeks, Dottie Burch**

What began as a *National Geographic* expedition, led by Dan Buettner, to uncover the secrets of longevity, evolved into the discovery of the 5 places around the world where people consistently live over 100 years old, dubbed the Blue Zones.

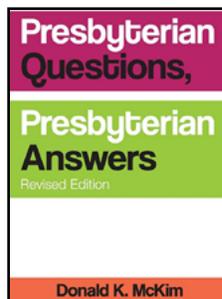


There are 5 areas that were designated the original "Blue Zones" after a worldwide study found these areas to contain the highest number of centenarians (People who have lived to be 100 and over).

Come to class and hear about these areas and the stories of some of the fascinating elders who still walk fields, cobblestone roads, hundreds of steps up and down daily, they garden, they cook, one 95 year old still assists in surgery. They go to happy hour, church, family dinners, community events, they nap, meditate, pray. They are enjoying life. Join us as we explore this topic!

**9:30-10:20am | WH North**  
**"Presbyterian Ponderings"**

**Facilitated by Fred Woodward, John Oldenburg,  
John James, Gil Graybill**



From a Presbyterian perspective, we will look deeply at big concepts of our faith such as Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and Salvation. Each week's discussion is stand-alone, with no advance prep or reading required. Come join us for fellowship and good conversation!

**9:30-10:20am | WH South**  
**"The Seekers"**

**C.H.A.O.S. Series**

**January 22- February 12**

**Facilitated by Roger Howard**

**CHAOS is Coming to Hudson!**  
**Think you know Jesus? Sure ya do.**

**JOIN US FOR CHAOS!**  
*(Christ. Hope. And Other Stuff.)*

You'll be able to ask our eminently qualified guest panelists the real story about the four phases of Christ's life. More details coming soon!

## MISSION

# Special Offering for January CAPITAL TOWERS



A few years ago, Presbyterian Homes and DHIC in Raleigh partnered to take over operations at Capital Towers. As a result, wonderful physical improvements to the property have taken place.

The other great addition they have spearheaded is a Service Coordinator who helps Capital Towers residents with things like veteran affairs, healthcare and therapy, medication management, transportation, and other needs. Our special offering helps keep this program running.

## WAYS TO GIVE

You may place your donation in the offering plate (designated to "Capital Towers") during the month of January. You can give online by clicking the QR code, or visiting [hmpc.org](http://hmpc.org). To give by phone, simply text the donation amount with the word "Cap" to 888-906-0744. (Example text: 25 Cap) If you have not done this before, you will be prompted to enter your information. Once it has been entered, you will not have to enter it again.

## FINANCE/PERSONNEL

# Changes in the Office

The Personnel Committee continues to search for a new bookkeeper/financial coordinator. John James is chairing the search, and Bill Flueckinger (Finance Chair), Amy Claprod (Business Administrator), and Mac Schafer (Pastor) are serving on the search team. If you know of people who may be interested in the position, details about the job can be [here](#).

In the interim, we are pleased to welcome Susan Gressel to the administrative staff. Some of you may remember Susan from her time in the bookkeeper's office several years ago. She has agreed to step in to fill the gap on a temporary basis while we continue our search. Susan will be available in the office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm on Mondays. You can also reach her via email at [sgressel@hmpc.org](mailto:sgressel@hmpc.org), or leave a message for her at 919-787-1086 ext 25.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

# Youth News

PLEASE NOTE UPDATED  
SCHEDULE FOR 2023!

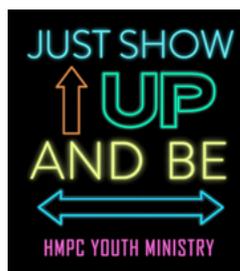
### SUNDAY MORNING - JANUARY 8

Worship together in the balcony - 10:30am

Youth Sunday School (5th-12th grade)  
11:30am to 12:00pm in GH Classrooms

Youth Bells with Barbara (*NEW TIME!*)  
12:00pm to 12:30pm in Westminster Hall

### SUNDAY EVENING- JANUARY 8



Dinner and Youth Group  
5:00-7:00pm - Geneva Hall  
This week we'll focus on  
"God & Art" - *Epiphany style!*

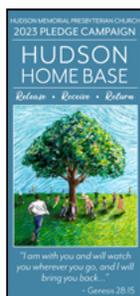
## GIVING MINISTRY

# 2023 Pledge Update

Sunday, November 6th was Commitment Sunday, the day members and friends commit their time, talent and financial resources to Christ through HMPC. Thank you to all of you who pledged in person, mailed your pledge in or made your commitment online.

Currently there are 161 households that have pledged out of 364 member households for a total of \$676,901. This time last year we had collected 183 pledges for a total of \$748,478.

## IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE!



You may pledge online [here](#), email your pledge to Amy Claprod, HMPC Business Administrator, or call Amy at 919-787-1086 to request a pledge form be mailed to you. Thank you for your commitment to Christ through the church during these challenging times. Thanks be to God!

## GREETERS

# Calling all Greeters!

## INVITING NEW GREETERS INTO OUR ROTATION

If you are interested in getting more involved and helping Sunday mornings at Hudson, we invite you to consider becoming a greeter this year. We are looking for 5 new people to join our rotation. It's a wonderful way to welcome visitors and new and old members. Please join us in being a Hudson Greeter!

If you are interested, contact the [church office](#) or [Sarah Edge](#).

## HMPC STAFF

**Mac Schafer**, Pastor & Head of Staff  
[mschafer@hmpc.org](mailto:mschafer@hmpc.org)

**Debbie Kirk**, Associate Pastor  
Spiritual Growth & Nurture  
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**Aleta Ash**, Minister of Visitation  
[aletaash@gmail.com](mailto:aletaash@gmail.com)

**Barbara Loehr-Fox**, Director of Music Ministries  
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**Rich Richards**, Director of Youth Ministries  
& Children's Music  
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**Cary Dickerson**, Director of Children's Ministries  
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**Susan Gressel**, Interim Bookkeeper  
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**Joyce Hawkins**, Assistant Preschool Director  
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**Al Hyde**, Organist  
[al@hydefin.com](mailto:al@hydefin.com)

**Hope Parangi**, Church Hostess  
[hparangi@yahoo.com](mailto:hparangi@yahoo.com)

## CALENDAR

# This Week...

### Sunday, January 8

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8:45 am - Nursery opens  
9:00 am - Mac's Sabbatical Forum - WH  
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary  
10:45 am - Children's Sunday School - GH/Playgarden  
11:30 am - Fellowship - WH  
11:30 am - Unhanging of the Greens - WH North, etc.  
11:30 am - Youth Sunday School - GH  
11:30 am - Children's Music - GH  
12:00 pm - Youth Bells - WH South  
12:15 pm - Nursery closes  
5:00 pm - MS/HS Youth Group

### Monday, January 9

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6:30 pm - Grandparents of Children w/ Autism - Chapel  
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/AlaTeen/AlaKid - GH

### Tuesday, January 10

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6:30 am - Waking Up With The Word - Zoom  
9:30 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge  
11:00 am - Elizabeth/Rachel Circle  
11:30 am - Hannah Circle  
6:30 pm - Preschool Board - Chapel  
7:00 pm - Adult Ed Committee - Zoom  
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - GH

### Wednesday, January 11

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9:15 am - Women at the Well - Chapel  
6:00 pm - Handbells - WH South  
7:30 pm - Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### Thursday, January 12

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4:00 pm - Memorial Garden Committee - WH South  
6:00 pm - Worship Committee - KH Room  
7:00 pm - Mission Committee - WH South

### Friday, January 13

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6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200