



the weekly Window

August 4, 2023

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

The Mission Trip Fed Us: Body, Heart & Soul BY JOHN OLDENBURG, MISSION TRIP COORDINATOR

The mission crew made great progress last week: with ladders, scaffolding and the roof, we finished sheathing our "assigned" house in exterior insulation and plywood; a team cut and laid the surface timber for a generous deck; another set prepared everything needed for the installation of windows; and finally, a group dug the holes into which they poured a couple tons of concrete to form footers upon which rested the final, permanent deck supports. On Friday, the whole available mission crew pitched in to ensure that these final deck supports were



measured and in place before we left for our homes. The work—while tiring, frequently challenging, and under a full sun—was rewarding for what we did accomplish.

As memorable and as satisfying as this progress was, though, even more gratifying were the circles of supportive community that we experienced. Local volunteers appreciatively fed us and sometimes joined us for three generous lunches during our week. We met the family for whom the house was being built, and they presented us a fourth lunch of authentic, corn-shucked tamales. The owner of a neighboring house, one which



we had helped to build on a previous trip, provided us shaded picnic tables in a breezy carport that made our

lunch breaks a true respite. A volunteer not part of our group named Paul, a skillful and peripatetic veteran of many Habitat worksites elsewhere, labored with us the entire week and significantly contributed to our progress. We also enjoyed some part-day support from another local volunteer, a contractor in his own right.



But the highlight experiences of our community were the evening “Vespers” when we met after dinner and a leader engaged in topics and concepts challenging us to think about why

we joined the trip. Among the matters that we explored were what it means to be a Christian, the Law of Love, and the potency, purpose and consequence of prayer. These were retreat-like moments of introspective power, evoking sincere and revealing contributions from the whole group. There was a certain vulnerability that led to trust and peace which pervaded the time and sharpened



our sense of, and so the deep reality of, our mission community. Thus, though it seems paradoxical as this was a working trip, Vespers was at least as meaningful, satisfying and valuable, to both individuals and the group, as any other part of the trip.

(Continued on page 2-3)

Reflections on the Avery County Mission Trip



"In addition to getting to work alongside some fantastic people, I found a new favorite decking tool used to bend warped decking boards. You could hear Dan, Paul or I shouting across the deck to each other to pass, what we named,

"The Beast". There was also a "Mini Beast" and "Beauty" to compliment "The Beast". The days were beautiful and the nights were filled with games and laughter! I look forward to next year's adventure!" - Theresa Ash



"This was my first time on the Avery County Mission Trip and it was a great experience, kind of like summer camp for adults. The fellowship was truly special and it fueled our workdays with both purpose and fun!"

-Fred Woodward



"On day 1 of this year's trip, we were invited to lunch next door under the shady, breezy carport of a house many of us worked on years ago. It's particularly memorable as it was Avery County Habitat for Humanity's first handicap-accessible build. Patricia, the owner, was so happy to have us with her again as we spontaneously laughed and reminisced about our time helping this building become a home. So blessed to be a familiar part of such a sweet community!"

-Ken Krause



MISSION TRIP



"It is always a joy to attend this mission trip with the wonderful Hudson folks. Each year it's a slightly different group of people, with some of the mainstays who come every year. And each year, as Debbie Kirk is known to say, it's who was meant to be there and I am blessed to

spend time with them. This year we had several people who hadn't been before, often thanks to Mike Law's recruitment skills. Mike was definitely missed this year. I drove out and back with first timer Fred Woodward and the time passed very quickly with deep and meaningful conversation. He was a huge asset on the Habitat build.

Then I worked with first timers Leigh and Chip Magee on the window rough openings, putting up trim, measuring, and measuring again that the inside dimensions were correct. I may or may not have been the "measure police", but Bruce, our Habitat connection, said the important thing is the interior dimensions and we took that seriously! Then we caulked and spread out this black goo to seal up the joints. I wound up bringing some of it home with me on my blue Habitat shirt from a previous year. I will wear it proudly next year! Chip and Leigh were wonderful to work with and we made a great team.



The view from the front of the house was gorgeous, and looked familiar! Turns out we had worked on two other houses down the hill from this one, so it was the same beautiful scenery we had seen a few years back from

Patricia's house. She was gracious enough to offer her carport, complete with picnic tables, for us to eat lunch. A nice shady, breezy spot out of the hot sun.

Evenings are always so special as we sit on the rocking porch with its 16 rocking chairs and share of our faith. Ron and Sandy Cole got us going with their stories, and then asked us to share ours. Sandy made each of us up a card with inspiring words, a bible verse and a quote and we each reflected what it meant to us. Then after that we enjoy some rousing games, snacks and drinks (bourbon, beer, tea, etc.)

Since I now live with my 92 year old father, I was grateful to my sister and her husband for coming down from Ohio to care for Dad in my stead so that I could once again enjoy this blessing of a mission trip."

- Pam Glaub



"The highlight of this year's trip for me involved the family that will be purchasing and living in the Habitat house that our group worked on. The parents are natives of

Mexico, and when they learned that we were there as a group, they immediately asked if they could make us lunch the next day. They did, and it was a real



treat--red and green tamales, traditionally and beautifully prepared (wrapped and baked in corn husks) by the wife and her two teenaged daughters. Her daughters, who were both born in America, visited with us during that lunch on Thursday, and were delightful young ladies. The oldest is preparing to attend

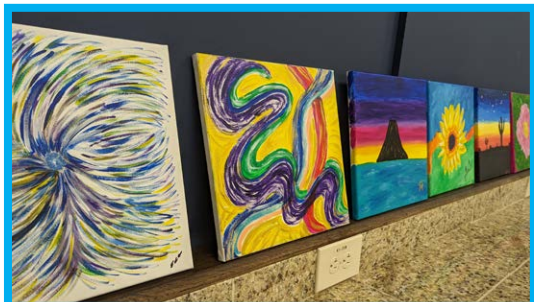
Catawba Community College this fall. It was more than touching to see and feel their gratitude for our help in assisting their family in obtaining a quality home in a great location looking out over the North Carolina mountains. " - Harry Bowles



**Come to Adult Education on
August 20 at 9:30am
to hear more about the trip!**

Design & Unwind

Last Friday, Fellowship hosted an evening of painting, mocktails and hors d'oeuvres. There was a great turnout and lots of beautiful paintings were created! Thanks to Cyndi Harris for leading the painting activity, and thanks to the Fellowship Committee for providing delicious refreshments. Fun was had by all!



Thank You to Amy Clapood!

This coming Friday, August 11th, is Amy Clapood's last day on staff as Business Administrator. Amy and her fiancé Joe have a wonderful opportunity to move to Budapest, Hungary for a new adventure together. Please pray for her and Joe as they wrap things up here in the U.S. and make their big move.



We want to thank Amy for all she has done over the past year. She joined our staff at a time when there was significant transition and many moving parts. She jumped in with two feet and has helped the church move forward organizationally. She has done a masterful job of helping the staff and lay leadership look

at administrative issues with fresh eyes and helped the church go through important technological, facility and systems adaptations that will serve HMPC well in the future.

We are sad to see Amy go, but also excited for what is in store for her and Joe. Thank you, Amy, for your leadership and service to Christ's church! You will be missed.

New Business Administrator Hired



We are excited to announce that Erica Hairston will be starting at Hudson on August 21st as the new Business Administrator! Erica is a graduate of Baylor University with a BA in Religion, Theology and Ethics. She served as Financial Secretary and Administrative Assistant for Crestview Church in Austin, Texas for over five years.

She describes herself as a quick learner, organized, friendly, and a leader. She is a writer with interests in music, movies, reading, sports, and philosophy. After multiple conversations with Erica, the Search Committee believes she has the experience, personality, and skill set to excel in this important position at HMPC. We know the congregation will give Erica a warm welcome at the end of August!

We want to thank Caroline Smart, Ken Krause, and Lesley Ash Jacobsen for serving on the Business Administrator Search Committee, along with Pastor Mac Schafer.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 6

9:30 am - Adult Ed Summer Series - WH North
9:45 am - Summer Sing - Sanctuary Choir Loft
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North
11:30 am - Decorating for VBS - WH

Monday, August 7

9:00 am - Vacation Bible School - HMPC Campus
7:00 pm - PW Leadership - Room 200
8:00 pm - How It Works (AI-Anon) - GH Rooms

Tuesday, August 8

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - WH Patio
9:00 am - Vacation Bible School - HMPC Campus
9:30 am - Staff meeting - Welcome Lounge

Tuesday, August 8 (continued)

5:30 pm - Foundation meeting- Zoom
6:30 pm - Preschool Board - Chapel
7:00 pm - Adult Ed Committee - Zoom
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Room 234

Wednesday, August 9

9:00 am - Vacation Bible School - HMPC Campus

Thursday, August 10

9:00 am - Vacation Bible School - HMPC Campus
5:30 pm - Worship Committee - Karl Hudson Room
7:00 pm - Mission Committee - Room 200

Friday, August 11

9:00 am - Vacation Bible School - HMPC Campus
6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

Special Offering PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE



The Special Offering for August will be to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will be dedicating our collection to helping the people of Ukraine. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission

partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

HOW TO GIVE



You can give by designating your donation on an envelope placed into the offering plate, or giving online by clicking the QR code to the left or visiting hmpc.org. To give by phone, you can text the donation amount with the letters "PDA" to 888-906-0744. Example text: 25 PDA

From the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website, some information about their efforts in Ukraine:

What exactly are you doing?

At this time, we are in the emergency response phase. This means primarily supporting refugees in transit (Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine in addition to refugees who have crossed borders) with food, hygiene items, potable water, baby supplies, first aid, psychosocial support and more. Our partners on the ground have shared that they anticipate this crisis to require mid-term and long-term response, so the needs will change over time. For the most up to date information, visit www.pcusa.org/PDA/Ukraine

How long do you think resources will be needed for this crisis?

We are still in the emergency phase of this crisis and anticipate that there will be long-term recovery needs that will perhaps go on for years, long after the war ends.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



Volunteer at the Food Bank

September 16th | 9:00am

The Mission Committee has scheduled times for HMPC as part of our commitment to the Food Bank. Our next date is September 16 from 9:00 to 12:00.

Youth ages 12-16 may volunteer with a parent, over 16 do not need a parent in attendance. Youth may be able to count these as service hours.

[Register HERE](#)

Please contact [Beth Billman](#) with any questions.

Children's Opportunity at the Food Bank



Please join us for a family-friendly volunteer day at the Food Bank! This event is for children from 5 to 11 years old and guardians are required to attend. Projects include labeling donations and sorting produce. **Our volunteer date is Saturday, September 23 from 1-3pm.** Registration link can be found [here](#).

August Tend My Sheep

PANTRY ITEMS FOR THE FOOD BANK

This month we are collecting for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC. We are specifically collecting: **canned meats (chicken, salmon, tuna, etc), pastas, and rice.** Items can be dropped off in the bins by Sanctuary entrances through the month of August.



Adult Education Summer Series

9:30-10:20am | Sundays
Westminster Hall North

THIS WEEK!

August 6 - All About Bees



Our friend “Andy the Beekeeper” will tell us all we need to know about one of the smallest and most vital of God’s creatures. Honey and treats made with honey will be available for sampling!

August 13 - The Bald Eagle (9:15 start time)



As we continue to enjoy the summer season we are reminded of our God-given responsibilities as stewards of the earth and caretakers of all its inhabitants. On August 13th, the Summer Series will feature a recent PBS presentation of

The American Bald Eagle. This is the story of how the American Bald Eagle soared to its vaunted perch in American iconography, a symbol not only of patriotism but also of environmental activism and Native American traditions. This iconic symbol of our country is important for both the human and animal populations, and although the Bald Eagle is no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act, it is still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

This film is 55 minutes long and will begin promptly at 9:15 am.

August 20- Mission Trip Report

For the final Summer Series session, the Avery County Mission Team will report on this year’s trip, which serves as a mission opportunity as well as a wonderful time of fellowship for HMPC members and friends.

Waking Up With The Word

This Tuesday, August 8 | 6:30am | Zoom



All men are invited to join this group 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, please contact [Mac Schafer](#).

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Fruit of the Spirit Children's Summer Series

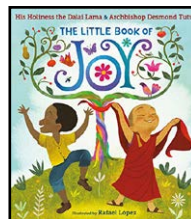
This Sunday, August 6

THEME: JOY



SCRIPTURE: Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

BOOK: *The Little Book of Joy* by His Holiness Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Having fun at Summer Sunday School!

HMPC STAFF

Mac Schafer, Pastor & Head of Staff
mschafer@hmpc.org

Debbie Kirk, Associate Pastor
dkirk@hmpc.org

Aleta Ash, Minister of Visitation
aletaash@gmail.com

Barbara Loehr-Fox, Director of Music Ministries
bloehr-fox@hmpc.org

Rich Richards, Director of Youth Ministries
& Children's Music
rrichards@hmpc.org

Cary Dickerson, Director of Children's Ministries
cdickerson@hmpc.org

Amy Claprood, Business Administrator
aclaprood@hmpc.org

Lisa Flint-Morris, Accounting Coordinator
lflint-morris@hmpc.org

Lesley Ash Jacobsen, Communications Specialist
lash-jacobsen@hmpc.org

Dorothy Roche, Preschool Director
droche@hmpc.org

Joyce Hawkins, Assistant Preschool Director
jhawkins@hmpc.org

Al Hyde, Organist
al@hydefin.com

Hope Parangi, Church Hostess
hparangi@yahoo.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Upcoming in Music Ministry

Chancel Choir - First rehearsal Aug. 16

Handbell Workshops - Aug. 22 & 29 at 6:00pm

Hudson Handbells - First rehearsal Sept. 6

Youth Music - First rehearsal Sept. 10

Children's Music - First rehearsal Sept. 10

Upcoming in Children's Ministry

August 7-11 - Vacation Bible School

Sunday, 8/27 - Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, 9/10 - Fall Schedule resumes!

Saturday, 9/23 - Kids' Day at Food Bank - 1-3pm

Sunday, 9/24 - Communion Education Class

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

The Ministry of Members



This summer, Pastor Mac and Debbie have been preaching on discipleship by using the below section of the *Book of Order* called "Ministry of Members". Each week the sermon will be based on a line from the "Ministry of Members" with a scripture text. You are invited to cut this blue box out and put it in your Bible to meditate on.

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.

Such involvement includes:

- Proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- Taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- Lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- Studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- Supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- Demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- Responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- Living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- Working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- Caring for God's creation,
- Participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- Reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

