

THE WEEKLY WINDOW

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

OUT TO THE LIFE
AND MINISTRY OF
HUDSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



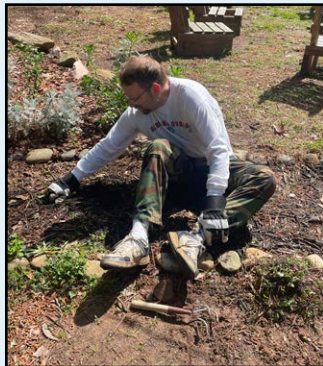
CAMPUS CLEAN UP DAY

NEXT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 | 9AM-12PM



The Property Committee will be hosting a Campus Clean-up Day on October 7 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. We will be working around our campus to get it ready for fall and winter, as well as do some maintenance that is needed. There will be work for all ages. **If you have the following items, we ask that you bring them along: rakes, gloves/scoopers, flat shovels, power-washers, pitchforks, chainsaws, hedge trimmers, pruning shears, and clippers.** For questions, contact Karen Melling 919-302-0462 or knrnmelling65@gmail.com.

Below are a few images of our last Campus Clean-up Day, which was a huge success!



THE KEYSTONE OF FAITH

MINUTE FOR MISSION ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 - STEVE PARKER



On behalf of HMPC's Giving Ministry Team (which also includes Sharon Cole, Scott Baker, Christine Bond, Tom Bradshaw, Jeffrey Coonse and Jimmy Hulsey), welcome to our annual stewardship season – which kicks-off today and will culminate in Hudson's Commitment Sunday on Nov. 5.

Hopefully, through Pastor Mac's letter and most recent sermon, you are already aware that our pledge campaign for this year will center around Jesus Christ serving as the Keystone. For generations upon generations, keystones have been used for structural support of a building (and can even be seen on the large, arched windows of our sanctuary and throughout the Memorial Garden arcade). Functionally, they are what actually hold an arch in place, which is a wonderful metaphor for the role of Christ in our lives – both individually and corporately; Christ IS what holds our faith and our community of faith together – He is the central and indispensable component. And we're told in Ephesians 2:20 that Jesus "used the apostles and prophets for the foundation" of the church. "And now he's using you" meaning US, "fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the keystone." -*The Message* Translation

To apply this to our own lives, each of us arrives here at Hudson somewhat randomly, as fully unique individuals, of all stages and ages, from vastly varying backgrounds and places, differing strengths and weaknesses, and with different

(Continued on page 2-3)

The Keystone of Faith (*continued from page 1*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION ON SEPTEMBER 24 - STEVE PARKER

experiences, and, in some cases, a variety of beliefs. It is here, though, that we find common purpose and unification through Jesus – and with him as the keystone supporting the entire structure – he weaves us together like bricks within a building, with no two bricks being exactly the same, and each building uniquely different as well. So, the church is simply the sum of its parts – Jesus and each of us – and together we are called to serve the people of changing times with the unchanging message of Jesus Christ, given to the world so long ago. Both as individuals and through our community of faith, WE are to be the hands and feet of Christ in this time and place.

It is the prayer of our Giving Team that we will all collectively approach this season as less of a ‘pledge campaign,’ and instead, enter into a period of intentional, prayerful discernment. Where do we see the hand of God working through Hudson? What are we currently doing to enable others to build relationships with Christ? To be a living ministry of Christ in action? Are we doing enough, too much, or not enough? What impact, both within and outside of these walls, are we making? As the needs of society and the community around us change, are we collectively evolving to respond to those changes as Christ would have us respond? Where are we falling short? Where is the spirit calling us to engage?

During this discernment process, our team, along with others, will be providing you with what might be considered more practical information as to Hudson’s budget and financial status than we have in recent past. Let’s face it – there’s not much spiritual inspiration nor excitement which naturally springs from discussions of church budget practicalities. Nonetheless, we do ourselves a disservice by avoiding discussions as to where we stand financially as a congregation, where we need to shore things up, and where we face risks and challenges both now and in the future.

To that end, we must acknowledge that Hudson is approaching a crossroads. More detailed information will be provided to you in the coming weeks, but, in short, we are currently well behind in the receipt of the offerings and revenues which sustain our operating budget. As of the end of August, our receipts were down almost \$80,000, raising the very real possibility of a significant deficit – even greater than what was already anticipated – by year’s end.

Additionally, the Finance Committee is well underway in its budget planning for fiscal year 2024 – and per the budget requests which are coming in from the various areas

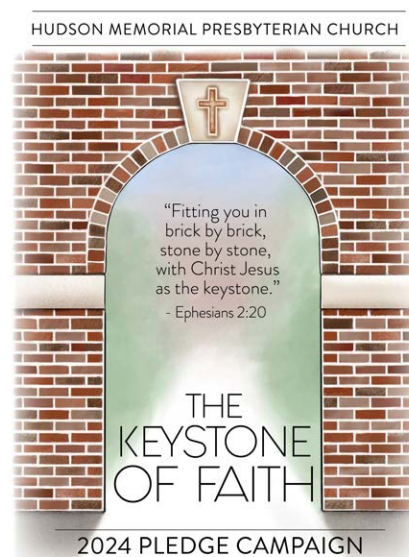
of ministry and committees of Hudson, it is clear that we can expect the overall stated need for the total budget to be higher than our budget for 2023. As it stands currently, our various areas of ministry/committees have indicated budgetary needs for next year which, if fully funded, would require an increase in pledge income from \$750k to \$825k. For much of this increase, its very similar to what you and your families have experienced – increased inflationary pressures simply make everything more expensive, and sometimes, significantly so, even with no real change in what you’re doing or how you’re doing it.

Again, more information will be provided soon – but the bottom line is that without a positive change in both our 2023 results, and the pledge commitments we will soon be receiving for 2024, Hudson’s leadership will have no choice but to consider significant reductions in programmatic and other expenses for the upcoming year.

There is an old saying, with many variations that I have heard over the years, that “Christians are called to pray, but they should also plant potatoes.” Our discussions regarding budget concerns and considerations will belong under the “plant potatoes” column of this ledger – but we must not lose sight of how the spirit works through each of us, individually woven together by Christ himself to create this unique space called Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, and where and how we are being called serve. Over the coming weeks, we’ll be hearing from a variety of Hudson members as to where they feel God working through them and through this church. As you hear their stories, we would encourage you to reflect on your experiences here, how your own faith journey has been impacted by those among you,

and how we all just be mindful of how we can participate in sharing similar experiences with others. How are we each participate in the building (and rebuilding) of this church, as Christ as our keystone?

For me, what I would share is that it is difficult to me to consider my experiences



The Keystone of Faith (*continued from page 2*)

at Hudson without seeing them through the prism of my kids' experiences. Here they were baptized and nurtured in their faith. Here they saw the power of grace, compassion, forgiveness, and love represented on a daily basis. They learned gratitude, understanding, and that we are at our best when we seek to serve others; this is the real source of happiness in our lives. They discovered what social justice is, and how horrendous the lives of others can be when it is arbitrarily withheld. They learned the power of empathy and support when their mom and I separated and subsequently divorced. They experienced the sense of pure joy which can fill our hearts when we truly embrace a worshipful spirit (God bless Montreat).

Most moving to me is that my beautiful kids experienced first-hand the immensely positive power that tolerance, acceptance, grace, and unconditional love can have when their dad, that's me, finally reconciled myself with the fact that I am a gay man, and when I shared that news with the world. They were savvy enough in the world to have known,

even then, that the reaction would have been far different in many other places.

My friends, our journey, like yours, has been filled with twists and turns. But there has never been a moment in this place, among these people, when I felt the absence of the spirit. I'm unbelievably grateful that my children became adults within an atmosphere so Christ-centric, so loving, and so instructive as to how we – all of us children of God – are meant to live among all those in our midst. This church – and its dedication to living out the tenets of Jesus in both word and deed – is a priceless gift worth extending to those around us. This is why we are in a community of faith together, and this is why we must always seek to pay what we have received forward.

I'm so grateful to have been used by God, even with all of my faults and deficits, as one of the uniquely distinct "bricks" which, alongside with each of you, continue to build and sustain this very special place we call HMPC.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE

Matthew 25 Forum Held at HMPC



On Saturday, September 23rd, Hudson hosted a Presbytery-wide gathering on the denominational initiative called *Matthew 25*. This was part of the installation weekend of the Reverend Dr. Bruce Grady, our new Presbytery Executive. The Reverend Dr. Diane Moffett was the speaker at the event. She is the President & Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Thirty-five people attended the event, twelve of which were Hudson leadership. HMPC became a Matthew 25 Congregation in 2022 as a part of the Session goal-setting process. The three foci of the Matthew 25 movement are: Building Congregational Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism, and Eradicating Systemic Poverty. 1,149 congregations in the PC(USA) are Matthew 25 congregations, 11 synods, 82 presbyteries, and 63 other groups.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Kids' Day At The Food Bank

A group of HMPC children and parents helped at the Food Bank last weekend. They had a great time and packed 3,853 pounds of food. This translates to 3,211 meals! The Food Bank is our primary Hunger Action partner and we have volunteer dates scheduled throughout each year. Stay tuned for future work dates!



SINGLE WAY

Single Way

Next meeting: October 3 at 11:30am | Piper's Tavern



Join this group of never-married, widowed, or divorced adults for fun, food, and fellowship. We typically meet the first Tuesday of every month. We are so pleased to have some new faces in our group this fall! New people are always welcome to join! Our next meeting is **October 3 at 11:30am - Piper's Tavern - 8304 Falls of Neuse Road.** Please call Dee Blackerby at 919-846-6241 by October 1 if you will be joining us so we can give the restaurant a head count.

FOUNDATION

Gift Left to the Church from Ron van Vactor



Last week the Hudson Memorial Foundation received a \$50,000 bequest from the estate of Ron van Vactor. Ron entered God's everlasting Kingdom this year on April 30th. Ron was a member of HMPC and was preceded in death by his wife, Doris, in 2013. Many remember Dorie from her involvement in Presbyterian Women. Ron and Dorie's daughters, Kay and Carol, remarked to Pastor Mac when planning Ron's Memorial service back in May that "the church" (whether in Raleigh, New Canaan, CT or Naples, FL) was always a place where strong friendships were formed. It was a priority for them to find a church home to ground them in faith and life wherever they moved.

Ron and Dorie came to Hudson in their retirement years. They attended worship regularly, always appreciated visits, and Pastor Mac remembers Ron's gregarious warmth in various conversations through the years.

The Foundation Board is grateful that Ron remembered Christ's ministry through the church in his will. In recent years, the Foundation has been instrumental in undergirding capital projects and the annual budget of the church. Thanks be to God for Ron and Dorie and for all the saints who have remembered the church in this way.

Help Package 15,000 Meals HUNGER ACTION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - 3 SLOTS LEFT!

As a Hunger Action Congregation, we are committed to addressing hunger, not just in our community, but on a global scale. One of the ways we make a significant impact is through our support for Rise Against Hunger. This organization distributes food to places in the world where there literally is not enough food. Packing this many meals takes a contribution of \$6,000 and the Mission Committee is using designated Hunger Action funds along with a generous donation from the Foundation to enable us to meet this goal. Hudson Memorial is partnering with Rise Against Hunger in the fight to End Hunger. Rise Against Hunger meals are distributed through global partners that administer school feeding programs, orphanages, health clinics, vocational training, and respond to crises. Be sure to register through the link below for this fun, kid-friendly (ages 4 and up), high-impact event!

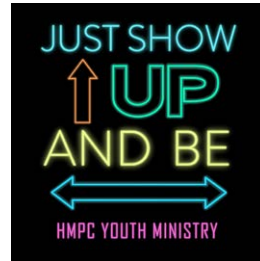


When: October 1, 2023 - 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Where: Rise Against Hunger Warehouse
3200 Wellington Ct. #112 | Raleigh 27615

Who: You! SIGN UP [HERE](#)!

**In place of Youth Group, this week
HMPC Youth
are invited to join the
Rise Against Hunger Event!
(See info to the left)**



Youth are invited to "Just Show Up and Be" (but please sign up using the link first!) at the RAH Warehouse to help pack 15,000 meals. See you there!

October Special Offering PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.



You may place your donation in the offering plate (designated to "Peace"), give online by clicking the QR code, or visiting hmpc.org. To give by phone, simply text the donation amount with the word "Peace" to 888-906-0744. (Example text: 25 Peace) Once you enter your information, you will not need to enter it again for future donations.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



*A peek at HMPC's
volunteer day at the
Food Bank earlier this
month!*



THE GATHERING - ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Nine O'Clock Class

9:00-10:00am | Room 200

Sunday, October 1

Continuing the Discussion on
"That's Wild" and "Muni" (PBS Reel South)



We will finish viewing and discussing the episode of *Reel South* entitled "*That's Wild*", as well as talk about *Muni*, which was viewed last week.

COMING UP...

October 8 & 15

**This class will focus on the topic of
MEDITATION**

Presbyterian Ponderings

9:30-10:20am | Westminster North

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

This discussion-based class is using *The Present Word Bible Study* as a guide to engage the topic "God's Law is Love", a New Testament thematic study with scripture from Luke, John, Romans, Galatians, Acts, and 1 Corinthians. **This week's theme is "Jesus Extends Forgiveness" - John 8:1-11, 36-59.** No advance preparation required; only a heart for the Biblical narrative, excitement about exploring it through your particular lens of life and faith, and willingness to share with others.

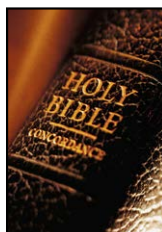
COMING UP...

October 8 - Keeping the Law Inwardly

October 15 - The Law Reveals Sin

October 22 - Justified by Faith Not Laws

October 29 - The Superiority of the Gospel



The Seekers

9:30-10:20am | Westminster South

Sundays, October 1 & 8

"Poetry in Scripture"
Facilitated by Roger Howard



The Seekers class will spend 2 weeks exploring poetry in Old and New Testament scriptures. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Lamentations are known as books of poetry.

Did you know that more than half of the Old Testament is poetry? And the Old Testament makes up more than two-thirds of the Christian Bible. There even are poetic sections in the New Testament. The class will include selections from these and other Scriptures that may surprise you. Join us and learn something about Scripture!

COMING UP...

October 15, 22, 29

**"How We Understand Prayer
and Perhaps a Fresh Perspective"**

Facilitated by Jimmy Hulsey

Sometimes questions about prayer lurk in our minds. These are not only, *how do we pray*, but more, *why pray* or *what does prayer accomplish*? Though we continue to pray as we continue to breathe, addressing our questions may offer a clarifying perspective, even free our hearts and minds a bit.

For three Sundays in October (15, 22, 29 at 9:30am), the Seekers Class, led by Jimmy Hulsey, will discuss perspectives on prayer. All are welcome. To get us going, I invite us to read in advance, Matthew 7: 7-12; Luke 11: 1-13 and Ephesians 3: 14-21.

Also, I am intrigued by this old definition of prayer, "keeping company with God." Let it simmer and then let's ask ourselves, "does that sound familiar to us or is it a bit different take on prayer?"

BIRTHDAYS

October Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 - Janey Dewar, Eric Conger, Gabby Crosson | 17 - Bob Monroe, Lana Bowles |
| 2 - Cyndi Harris | 18 - Paul Liebman |
| 3 - Merritt Dickinson, Lauren Parikh, Susan Jones | 19 - Patrick Carpenito, Starr Maxwell |
| 4 - Kitty Huth | 20 - Maggie Schneider |
| 5 - Lisa Williams, Jerilyn Seitz, Jeanne Hoffman | 21 - Traci Weaver, Joseph Genova |
| 6 - James Cobb, T.W. Bradshaw, Serena Ash, Brian Hnat, Miller Long, Karen Lyness | 22 - Tom Bradshaw, Doug Goodale |
| 7 - Scott Sipprell, Emily Cobb | 23 - Ashley Banerjee |
| 8 - Val Jones, Tory Schafer | 25 - Molly James, Pat Balletta, Emsley Jackson, Mimi Johnson, Laura Jones |
| 9 - Melinda Dickinson, Anne Brown | 26 - Jay Cummins |
| 10 - Ruth Spencer, Stacy Smith, Phyllis Cheeley, Chris Woolley | 27 - Marilyn Webb |
| 11 - Joyce Hawkins | 28 - Sawyer McHenry, Anish Banerjee, Autumn Osborn-Reed |
| 13 - Jack Lynch | 29 - Emma Baker, Abby Baker, Ruth Herpich |
| 15 - Perry Meeks, Michelle Sharpe, Danny Miller, Iva Stowe | 30 - Drew Keen, Don Slater |
| 16 - Bethany Osborn-Reed | 31 - Harper Sanchez |

WEEKDAY FAITH FORMATION

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, October 3 | 6:30am | Zoom



This is an early morning men's Bible study. It meets in-person and on Zoom, alternating weekly. It uses an ancient study method called *lectio divina*. We read the passage that will be preached on the upcoming Sunday four times, with interspersed questions:

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

No previous Bible study experience is necessary. At in-person meetings we provide coffee and Bibles. In the fall and winter months we do the study around a fire. It's a great way to deepen your faith and develop friendships within the church! New participants are always welcome. This is facilitated by Pastor Mac Schafer and he sends out weekly reminders. If you'd like to be added to the reminder list for the group please contact Pastor Mac at mschafer@hmhc.org.

Women at the Well

FALL SEMESTER



Women at the Well welcomes women of all ages and stages to join us! The two groups have a different format, time, and content. 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.

The Weekly Group

Wednesdays at 9:15am

Weekly Women at the Well meets Wednesdays at 9:15-10:30 in the Chapel and offers a hybrid format. Our book selection is *Life in Five Senses* by Gretchen Rubin.

The Monthly Group

Next meeting: October 19

The monthly group fall dates are October 19, November 16, and December 14 at 6:00pm at Vivo Ristorante. The monthly group uses a podcast as the basis for discussion on various topics.

To join either group, contact Debbie Kirk dkirk@hmhc.org. Current participants will receive an email to confirm participation.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Chancel Flowers

2024 Dates Posted!



Our 2024 sign-up sheet has just been posted. Secure a date to honor or remember someone with a floral arrangement. To sign up, or for more information, refer to the flowers bulletin board outside Room 103, or contact [Erica Hairston](#) in the church office.

CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 1

9:00am - Nine O'Clock Class - Room 200
9:30 am - The Seekers - WH South
9:30 am- Presbyterian Ponderings - WH North
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North
11:30 am - Youth Sunday School - 2nd flr SS Room
12:00 pm - Youth Music - WH South
4:00 pm - Rise Against Hunger- RAH Warehouse

Monday, October 2

6:30 pm - Children's Committee
8:00 pm - How It Works (Al-Anon) - GH Rooms

Tuesday, October 3

6:30 am - Waking Up with the Word - Zoom
9:30 am - Staff meeting - Welcome Lounge
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall, Room 234

Wednesday, October 4

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

Friday, October 6

6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

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