



JANUARY 26, 2024

SESSION GOAL : MATTHEW 25



Hudson's Session has recently been discussing its ongoing commitment to the PC(USA) denominational movement Matthew 25. The below document was approved by Session on Monday, January 23rd, to share the history of how we became a Matthew 25 congregation:

Nowhere is Hudson Memorial's long legacy of care for its community more evident than in its rich history of mission and outreach. Whether it was:

- Spearheading the creation of the Frankie Lemmon School and Development Center focused on the care of special needs children (1965),
- Assisting with the development of Capital Towers to provide much-needed housing for older adults (1972),
- Being instrumental in the founding of Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church in Cary (1977),
- Providing essential support for refugee families resettling in Raleigh (1980 & 1990),
- Seeing the need and gathering with our neighbors to start North Raleigh Ministries in a house located on Hudson's property (2004),

Hudson is blessed with a congregation that notices the needs of its community and responds.

In 2018, Hudson commissioned a task force to develop short and long-term strategic goals for Hudson's mission efforts. One of the recommendations of the task force was to tighten up the church's focus into a few areas of greater participation rather than broad-brush participation in many different outreach areas. After much prayerful consideration, Hudson's Session discerned a call to focus on ever-growing food insecurity. Hudson congregants had noticed that despite Raleigh's image as a growing, affluent community, an increasing number of people were suffering and being left behind economically. As a result,

Hudson officially covenanted to become a Hunger Action congregation in October of 2019, selecting Episcopal priest Noah Campbell to lead Session's annual spiritual development retreat entitled *Food as the Currency for the Kingdom of God*. A week after this retreat, the COVID pandemic hit the United States hard.

Compounding the newly declared pandemic's lethal effects, in May of 2020 an unarmed black man named George Floyd was murdered by a law enforcement officer. Within a couple of months, Hudson's Session responded to police brutality against people of color by engaging the nonprofit organization Equity Allies to provide Session members and pastoral staff with racial equity training.

In January of 2021, Hudson elders began to discern what God was calling Hudson to do to implement its Mission, Vision, and Values. Many surveys, discussions, another retreat and follow-up meetings were completed. This intensive discernment process led Session to announce the following specific goals in November of 2021:

- Establishing the best, most transformative church programming in Raleigh
- A staffing strategy to build to the top range of a managerial-size church (200-400 worshippers)
- Becoming a Matthew 25 congregation

The Matthew 25 Congregation designation is a Presbyterian Church (USA) movement which emerged out of the 2016 and the 2018 PC(USA) General Assemblies that has been administered by the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA). The three primary foci of the Matthew 25 congregational movement are:

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling Structural Racism
- Eradicating Systemic Poverty

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Session Goal : Matthew 25 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Given Hudson's covenant to become a Hunger Action congregation, its commitment to developing the best programming in Raleigh (thus enhancing its congregational vitality) and its immediate response to the George Floyd atrocity by focusing on how to achieve racial equity, it was a natural progression for Hudson's Session to discern a call to commit Hudson to becoming a Matthew 25 Congregation. The Matthew 25 initiative focuses on the New Testament verse Matthew 25: 31-46, the parable of the sheep and the goats, in which Jesus makes clear that what we do and how we treat others matters to God.



The initiative meets congregations where they are and encourages them to actively respond to the Gospel with the gifts they have at their disposal. The Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination encourages local congregations to utilize the resources it provides on

the PC(USA) website within their individual church contexts as appropriate for each individual congregation. It further provides resources to give direction and offer suggestions about how to further God's kingdom work within the Matthew 25 initiative's three primary foci. The Presbytery of New Hope itself and seventeen other New Hope Presbytery congregations have also discerned a call to become Matthew 25 Congregations.

In late 2023, Hudson took on a related leadership role in the Presbytery by hosting a New Hope Presbytery Matthew 25 informational session featuring Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett. Dr. Moffett is tasked by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to implement the Matthew 25 initiative across the denomination.



In the spring of 2024, Hudson will host a workshop featuring the respected peace conference host, David LaMotte (photo on left).

Mr. LaMotte uses music as a peacemaking tool to develop peaceful, loving and respectful relationships between individuals, communities and countries regardless of race, beliefs or historical conflicts.

Hudson's Session continues to work towards:

- Building congregational vitality by brainstorming and assisting with various church ministry teams on setting goals for transforming ministries both inside and outside Hudson's walls.
- Dismantling structural racism by looking at Hudson's own history with race and current ministries to humbly "take the blinders off" in areas where Hudson has failed to represent the full diversity of the Kingdom of God. Hudson is committed to grow in our understandings and actions while moving towards racial equity and to better reflect God's wide-reaching reign in the world.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by using our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to develop novel and effective ways to reduce food insecurity locally, nationally, and internationally.

Hudson members understand that we live in a time where many social issues have become politicized. The elders at Hudson are keenly aware that God alone is Lord of the conscience and that their role is to best discern the will of Christ as they determine the direction of Hudson and its ministries. They humbly rely on the mercy of Jesus Christ, acknowledging their individual and communal faults while confidently and generously using their gifts to lead Christ's church in this time and place.



As informed by the stone placed on the corner of the original church building, the mission of Hudson is to know, love and serve God in Jesus Christ.

To the Church Triumphant Dot Medlin



Earlier this week, long-time Hudson member Dot Medlin entered God's everlasting kingdom. Information about her memorial service will be announced soon.

Please keep Dot's family in your prayers. Thanks be to God for Dot.

MISSION

Tend My Sheep SPICES & CONDIMENTS FOR THE FOOD BANK



One of the primary goals of the Food Bank is to provide the means for everyone to prepare meals that are healthy

and cost-effective. To that end, they assist people with learning how to make the most of the many kinds of food they provide, that includes not only those that are non perishable, but also fresh vegetables and fruit, along with refrigerated dairy and meat products. Offering condiments and seasonings enables everyone to enjoy nutritious food that can be prepared in any number of ways that meet a variety of dietary requirements. **They suggest the following herbs and seasonings: pepper, cumin, garlic powder, onion powder, Adobo, chicken bouillon, oregano, cinnamon, chili powder, and olive or canola oil.** ****Please ensure all donations are unexpired and unopened.****

foodbank
NOURISH. BUILD. EMPOWER.

WELCOMING

Interested in Being a Greeter? INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON 2/4

The Welcome Committee is seeking volunteers willing to serve as "Greeters" on Sunday Mornings before Worship! This is an easy and meaningful way to serve our community, and interact with other HMPC Members and Guests. The commitment is minimal: approximately 30 minutes once a quarter, and the impact is limitless! Interested parties should contact Lindsey Richards at



LindseyM919@gmail.com for information, and/or attend a brief informational and training session following worship on Sunday, February 4th.

MISSION

Avery County Mission Trip

SAVE THE DATES - JULY 21-26



This summer, a group of Hudson members will once again travel to Banner Elk, NC, to work on a home for

Avery County Habitat for Humanity. The group will go to Banner Elk on Sunday afternoon, July 21, and, after a week of work, will return on Friday afternoon, July 26. Banner Elk is close enough that part-week participation is easily possible. Participants will stay at Holston Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center where they will room and board for the week at its Guenther Lodge. Guenther offers nine rooms with two double beds and a private bath, plus additional bedrooms with twin beds accessible to ample bathroom facilities if our group needs more accommodation.

With these opportunities and facilities, a large group of men and women can be usefully engaged and fully accommodated each day. Our evenings will offer fulfilling togetherness and pleasant camaraderie. Please consider joining us on this Mission in the Mountains. No specific skills are necessary, and inexperience is not a barrier. Teens and friends are welcome too!

An informational meeting will be held on April 14 shortly after service. If you desire more detailed information in the meantime, please contact John Oldenburg, 901-210-3701, oldygolden@aol.com.



HMPC Arts Camp
June 19, 2024 - June 21, 2024
5:30pm-7:30pm

REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 1

Join us for Arts Camp as we explore our faith through the arts! We will use music, drama, and visual arts to learn more about God!

This camp is open to children currently in Kindergarten through 5th grade for the 2023-2024 school year. This event is open to the public, so invite a friend to join you!

Dinner will be served each evening before we begin our art rotations.

We look forward to a time of faith and fun with your children!

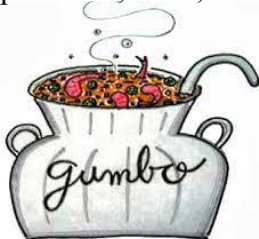
FELLOWSHIP

FAT TUESDAY CELEBRATION

February 13 | 6:00pm | WH North

Fat Tuesday is a time to indulge in a sumptuous meal and enjoy a festive atmosphere before beginning the contemplative season of Lent. Music and Crafts too!

Traditionally, many of the ingredients that are used for the meal are ones that are avoided during Lent. Our Menu: gumbo, red beans and rice, pasta with parmesan, salad, fruit, cornbread, biscuits, and yummy desserts. (Vegetarian and gluten free options available!)



Registration link will be published soon! Cost is \$5 per person.

2024 Vacation Bible School

Camp Firelight will be August 5-9 from 9:00-12:00 daily. **Registration opens March 1st** for church

members, March 13th for current preschool families, and March 15th to the general public.

Please contact Cary Dickerson with any questions - cdickerson@hmpc.org.



CALL FOR VBS VOLUNTEERS!

Sign Up to Help this Year!

Vacation Bible School will take place August 5th-9th! We need lots of volunteers to make this week a success for our families! **Sign up to volunteer HERE** or on the homepage of hmpc.org. Please contact Cary Dickerson with any questions - cdickerson@hmpc.org

Children's Music



We will rehearse in Geneva Hall on January 28 at 11:30-12:15. Mark your calendar that February 4 the children will sing during worship!

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations

to

**HMPC members Jim and Mona Knight
 (Grandparents)**

and

**HMPC member Olene Franks
 (Great Grandmother)**

on the birth of

Lily Grace Knight

**Born January 23 in Rome, Italy
 to Jimmy and Rachel Knight**

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, January 30 | 6:30am | Patio



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, and, in winter months, we do the study around a fire. New



participants are always welcome. If you'd like to be added to the reminder list for the group please contact Pastor Mac at mschafer@hmpc.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Schedule

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Youth Morning:

10:30am Worship in the sanctuary

11:30am Youth Sunday school

12:00pm Youth Handbells

Youth Afternoon:

5:00-7:00pm - High School Youth Group

No middle school youth group this week

Please bring \$5 for dinner.

Confirmation Class:

Listen to and work on [Confirmation Podcast #1](#)

Answers due Feb. 15.

Women's Connection Conference Registration

Registration for the Women's Connection Conference (August 9-11) at the Montreat Conference Center is open February 1 for everyone staying in a Montreat property, and February 15 for commuters staying off site.

This will be a time for women to connect with old and new friends, a time to care for yourself; a time for space and Sabbath. The weekend includes powerful and authentic worship, space for honest and faithful conversation, and time for discernment and renewing rest. The Keynote Speaker is Becca Stevens, founder and President of Thistle Farms. Learn more about her [here](#).



Registration Info: HMPC women attend as a group and register individually. It works well for us to stay at the Assembly Inn which is centrally located to all activities and accommodates our

group eating and sharing the weekend together. To register, click on the conference registration link and follow the steps. If you are staying at the Inn, confirm you are registering for the Comprehensive Package. Under *Property*, click Assembly Inn and choose your room preference. There will be a place to note if you have a roommate. Each person registers separately, so be sure you list the other(s) in your room on the form. Full payment is required at registration, \$400-\$500 depending on the room and roommate(s). The Inn typically fills quickly and I encourage you to register as soon as you can. There is a generous refund policy, a full refund less a \$25 service charge through June 25th, and refunds prorated after that, so if you are considering going we suggest you proceed with a reservation and adjust later if necessary. In the comment section, you can note that you are with the Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church Raleigh group. If the Inn is full when you are registering, the site will direct you to another Montreat property or you can stay elsewhere. You can also be put on a waitlist for the Inn and typically almost everyone on the list gets in. Reach out to Debbie Kirk with questions or for more information as well.

Read more about the conference [HERE](#).

THE GATHERING - ADULT EDUCATION

Nine O'Clock Class

9:00-10:00am | Room 200

Sunday, January 28

"Yoo Part 2: The Matthew 25 Church That Never Was, & The One We Have Today"

Jay Cummins will be sharing part 2 of Rev. Dr. William Yoo's plenary address at the Matthew 25 Summit he attended this week. The video will be followed by discussion.



If you would like to watch Rev. Yoo's address, it can be found in [this video](#) at the 1 hour 18 minute mark.

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 *Faith that Pleases God*. 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.

January 28 - The Faith of Elizabeth & Mary

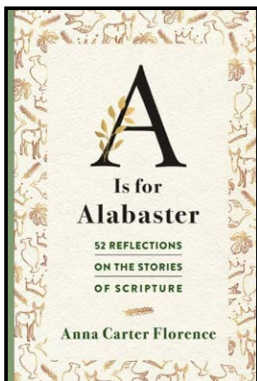
February 4 - The Faith of the Wise Men

February 11 - Faith and Righteousness

The Seekers

9:30-10:20am | Westminster South

Sunday, January 28



We will be using *A Is for Alabaster* by noted preacher and writer, Anna Carter Florence. Each week we'll explore a new character or story from the Old or New Testament, some familiar ones and some usually overlooked. From an alabaster jar of ointment, to Zacchaeus in the Sycamore tree, we'll learn how these ancient stories and characters can touch

our lives in new ways today. Each class will be facilitated by Susan Grigg. All are welcome!

January 28 - "W is for Witness and for Water"

February 4 - "C is for Caleb and for Cana"

February 11 - "K is for King and for King Cake"

WEEKDAY FAITH FORMATION

Brown Bag Lunch

with Pastor Mac is Back in 2024

THE GOSPEL OF MARK - FEBRUARY 5



We will meet for the first time in 2024 on Monday, February 5th at noon in Westminster Hall South. In preparation for the meeting in February, **Pastor Mac would like all of you to read the Gospel of Mark in January.** As you read it, write down any questions it prompts. Please send Pastor Mac (mschafer@hmpe.org) any

questions from your reading prompts by Friday, January 26th, and he will attempt to answer those questions in the February 5th session. All are welcome to bring a bag lunch to the class. The church will provide cups, plates, napkins, and water. No RSVP necessary!

In **March**, we will look at the Gospel of Matthew; in **April** we will study the Gospel of Luke; and in **May** we will look at the Gospel of John.

SESSION & FINANCE

Notice of Annual Meeting Sunday, February 11

The Session has approved the Annual Meeting of the congregation to be Sunday, February 11th, following worship in the Sanctuary. The agenda as set by Session is as follows:

- Voting on the 2024 Terms of Call of the Pastors
- Presentation of the 2023 Financials
- Presentation of the 2024 Church Budget
- Meeting of the Corporation

We will also be handing out hard copies of the 2023 Annual Report. If you are a member, please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

SINGLE WAY

Single Way



Join this group of never-married, widowed, or divorced adults for fun, food, and fellowship. We typically meet the first Tuesday of every month. New people are always welcome to join!

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 6 | 11:30am | Vivo Ristorante
7400 Six Forks Road, Raleigh

Let Dee Blackerby (919-523-3153) know if you plan to attend by February 3.

HMPC OFFICE

Changes in the Church Office



Our Accounting Coordinator, Lisa Flint-Morris, has been hugely helpful in catching up Hudson's finances, and managing the accounting in an organized and timely manner. Lisa has truly loved her role at HMPC and appreciated working with such a wonderful group of staff members, church leaders and volunteers. However, she has decided to transition to a job opportunity closer to home and working less hours, which will be a better fit for her current season of life as a mom of three. Her last day in the office will be February 6. We wish the best for her and her family in their future endeavors!

GIVING MINISTRY

Pledge Update

As of January 25, 2024, our received pledges total **\$814,071**. We currently have **181** households who have submitted pledges.

It's not too late to pledge! You may pledge online [here](#), or email your pledge to Erica Hairston, HMPC Business Administrator. You can call Erica at 919-390-2630 if you would like to request that a pledge form be mailed to you.

THIS WEEK AT HUDSON

Sunday, January 28

9:00 am - Nine O'Clock Class - Room 200
9:30 am - Presbyterian Ponderings - WH North
9:30 am - The Seekers - WH South
10:30 am - Worship - Sanctuary
10:45 am - Children's Sunday School
11:30 am - Children's Music - GH
11:30 am - Fellowship - WH North
11:30 am - Youth Sunday School - Youth SS Room
11:30 am - Coffee & Conversation - Chapel
12:00 pm - Youth Bells - WH South
5:00 pm - HS Youth Group

Monday, January 29

6:30 pm - PEO - Room 200
8:00 pm - Al-Anon/Alateen - Geneva Rm 226, 234, 235

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 am - Waking Up With The Word- Patio
9:30 am - Staff Meeting - Welcome Lounge
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Geneva Hall

Wednesday, January 31

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

Friday, February 2

6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

2023 Financial Summary



Thanks be to God for your generosity of time, talent, and treasure in 2023! The Session passed a deficit budget at the beginning of 2023, knowing your strong history of financial commitment towards worship, education, congregational care, fellowship, and mission. As you can see from the results below, we made up that deficit through strong pledge fulfillment, end of year gifts, careful spending, and shared ministry with our preschool. On Sunday, February 11th, following worship at the Annual Meeting of the congregation, Finance chair Bill Flueckinger will speak in greater depth about the 2023 results.

SUMMARY OF 2023 GENERAL FUND RESULTS

Account	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	%
Pledge Income	751,257	760,000	(8,743)	-1%
Non-Pledge Offerings	116,096	95,632	20,464	21%
Loose Offering	9,381	9,000	381	4%
Total Pledges/Offering	876,733	864,632	12,101	1%
Preschool Contribution	30,000	10,000	20,000	200%
Hudson Foundation Contribution	42,838	42,838	-	0%
Other Income	55,709	54,800	909	2%
Total General Fund Revenue	\$ 1,005,280	\$ 973,270	32,010	3%
Christian Education	11,996	21,200	9,204	43%
Fellowship & Care	5,101	6,547	1,446	22%
Outreach & Mission	33,265	33,782	517	2%
Worship & Arts Division	9,280	16,455	7,175	44%
Office Expenses	40,381	41,625	1,244	3%
Property Expenses	173,228	163,355	(9,873)	-6%
Stewardship	293	750	457	61%
Ministry Staff	422,790	418,670	(4,120)	-1%
Music Staff	146,277	148,846	2,569	2%
Administrative Staff	142,764	143,492	728	1%
Support Staff	7,054	11,790	4,736	40%
Other Personnel Expense	5,183	6,800	1,617	24%
Total General Fund Expense	\$ 997,614	\$ 1,013,312	15,699	2%
General Fund Surplus (Deficit)	7,667	(40,042)	(47,709)	