



SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

THE KEYSTONE OF FAITH

"Fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the keystone." - Ephesians 2:20

Dear Members & Friends,



Fall Greetings! One of the great joys I had over the summer months was discerning, listening, and planning with a wonderful group of Hudson members: Scott Baker, Christine Bond, Tom Bradshaw, Sharon Cole, Jeffrey Coonse, Jimmy Hulsey, and Steve Parker. These members and friends make up Hudson's

Giving Ministry Team. As many of you know, this is a thoughtful, fun, and committed group of folks.

Sharon Cole got us thinking about the word "keystone" this summer and what a keystone is. Merriam-Webster's dictionary has the following definitions of keystone:

[1. the central topmost stone of an arch, popularly thought of as especially holding the others in place. 2. that one of a number of associated parts or things that supports or holds together the others; main part or principle.] If you look around the church grounds you will see a number of keystones: above the Sanctuary windows and at the top of the Memorial Garden archways.



Our team began to think about the role of Jesus Christ in our lives; how Christ is the Keystone of our faith. Christ is what holds together the structure that makes up our lives. Christ is the Keystone of Hudson and all our ministries:

worship, faith formation, mission, care, and fellowship. This Keystone is the one who called the church into being and maintains it.

During pledge season, you are invited to think very intentionally about the resources Christ, "The Keystone", has provided you and what you might commit to Christ through Hudson in 2024. Remember that resources are:

- the time you have been blessed with,
- the talents you have been given (Yes! Believe it! YOU HAVE GOD-GIVEN TALENT THAT NEEDS TO BE SHARED!),
- and the financial resources you have.

If at all possible, I invite you into a discernment process; don't immediately say, "I'll give what I gave last year." Think about Christ as Keystone in your life. Think about how God has held things together for you. Listen to various church members reflect on Christ as Keystone in their lives. Listen for the ways that we communicate which resources are needed to carry out Christ's ministry at Hudson. Then, decide what you are being called to do with your treasure, time, and talent through the ministry of the church.

One of the most humbling and beautiful gifts that God has given me is the opportunity to watch y'all "be church". I see you!

Thanks be to God for your witness to Christ as Keystone, and thanks in advance for your prayer, serious discernment, and commitment to Christ through HMPC.

With Care,

Outstanding Older Adult Recognition

SUSAN & GLENN GRIGG



Dedicated to God and service to the church, devoted to and busy with family, and passionate about the beauty of God's creation, **Susan and Glenn Grigg** are the recipients of this recognition and honor in 2023. The Deacons selected the Griggs and Session happily submitted their nomination to the Presbytery. Susan and Glenn knew each other growing up in

King's Mountain, NC, and married in 1961. Sixty-plus years later they have four children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. On February 11, 1968, they became members of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church and have served faithfully here ever since.

A graduate of Meredith College, Susan was a high school English Teacher for many years. She was a founding member of the renowned Raleigh Ringers, which had its beginning at Hudson. Susan continues to be a valued member of the Hudson Handbell Ringers. She is very involved in planning and leading adult education classes. She actively participates in the Elizabeth/Rachel Presbyterian Women's Circle as the leader for their Bible studies. She is a former Moderator of PW and is an Honorary Life Member. In addition, she has served on the Sacristy Committee. She is also an ordained Elder. Glenn earned an engineering degree from NC State University and worked for the NC Transportation Department. He currently serves on the Property Committee as well as the Memorial Services Guild. He is an ordained Deacon. He is always available to lend a helping hand. As someone observed, "If you give Glenn a job, he gets it done and gets it done beautifully."

Together, Glenn and Susan shared their knowledge and interest in God's creation as they worked with the Landscape Committee to plan the plantings around the perimeter of the church. They are very active members of the Eastern NC Iris Society and have surrounded their home with lovely gardens, which are simply breathtaking in beauty. And, gracious hosts as they are, they often invite members of the congregation to come by to enjoy the glory of the irises in full bloom.

We are grateful to God for Glenn and Susan Grigg.

Hudson Memorial Foundation

By Don Haydon

The Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Foundation is the church's endowment fund, and it is focused on investing funds for the long term. However, every year a share of earnings is contributed to the operating budget of the church. As the value of the endowment has grown in recent years, the amount the Foundation is able to contribute to the budget has increased, thus helping to support important ministries and programs.

What has enabled the endowment to grow recently? Some of the money in the endowment today came from the recent capital campaign, some came from member's bequests, and a significant amount came from the many, many gifts from individual members of the congregation.

In the past, some members have found that the occasion of their birthdays is a convenient time to make a contribution toward the long-term strength of the church through a gift to the foundation. Gifts of any amount and at any time are sincerely appreciated, and those gifts are deposited into the endowment fund. If you would like to learn more about the Foundation, you may contact Pastor Mac, Foundation Treasurer Harry Bond, or President Don Haydon.



Thanks to those who have recently donated to the Foundation Birthday Fund!

Richard Blanks	Susan Grigg
Nancy Brenner	Billie Isenberg
Debbie Bumgarner	Debbie Kirk
Emily Cobb	Linda Ornt
Mike Coffey	Steve Parker
Karen Gaither	Caroline Smart



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.

A Note About Church Finances



This summer when we sent out giving statements, some of you discovered with your electronic funds transfer (EFT) that your pledge withdrawal was not coming out. We apologize

for any confusion on our end with this. **Each year you have to renew your pledge and details around Electronic Funds Transfer for it to continue in the new year.**

Lisa Flint-Morris, our new Accounting Coordinator, is doing an amazing job. I think many of you, who had issue with this, have made corrections and spoken with her. Having said that, we are significantly behind where we were last year in pledge income. Session passed a deficit budget, so if there are ways you can catch up on your pledge or give above and beyond or give for the first time, that would be great. Our worship, education, care, mission, and fellowship happens because of your generosity with God gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Finance Committee is keeping a close eye on this, and we will continue to give updates.

AUGUST FINANCIAL UPDATE

REVIEW OF ACTUAL VS BUDGET HMPC GENERAL FUND YTD (as of 8/30/23)

	YTD 2023 ACTUAL	YTD 2023 BUDGET	Favorable/ (Unfavorable) ACT VS BUDGET	YTD 2022 ACTUAL
PLEDGES	\$ 483,141	\$ 555,800	\$ (72,659)	\$ 538,862
NON-PLEDGE/OTHER GENERAL FUND OFFERING	\$ 74,753	\$ 78,680	\$ (3,927)	\$ 60,704
TOTAL GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS	\$ 557,894	\$ 634,480	\$ (76,586)	\$ 599,567
TOTAL GF REVENUE	\$ 628,335	\$ 706,240	\$ (77,905)	\$ 668,476
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	\$ 662,129	\$ 681,484	\$ 19,355	\$ 634,058
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (33,794)	\$ 24,756	\$ (58,550)	\$ 34,418
2023 APPROVED BUDGET DEFICIT	\$ (40,112)			
NET GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (73,906)			
AVAILABLE TO BORROW-NS BANK	\$ 50,000			
	Current Year			
CASH BALANCE	\$ 303,784			
BORROWED FROM BANK	\$ -			
NET GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE	\$ 303,784			

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth News

Sunday, September 24

Sabbath Sunday this Week

(Family Devotion *AT HOME* or *RESTAURANT*)

We acknowledge that there is limited time during the week for families to gather around a table together for a meal. That is why we have created space for that to happen. On Sabbath Sundays, we send out a “devotion” to youth families who receive the blasts and Weekly Window. We have no way to measure who is actually utilizing the devotion beyond the amount of clicks we get on the email. Though, the feedback that the other groups who have incorporated this has been that the youth and families appreciate this designated time. We would ask for the families to do this only 9 times a year. (You could even have another family over for dinner!)

The night is set apart so that our families have a chance to be together, eat together, and grow in faith together as a family. You may find the [Curriculum Meal Led PDF](#) both in our youth blast AND on the website!

Rise Against Hunger



HMPC is a Hunger Action congregation so we are going to “SHOW UP AND BE” there

for those in need. On October 1 (World Communion Sunday), HMPC youth will participate in the All-Church event with Rise Against Hunger. Please **SIGN UP [HERE](#)** to register for this event!



HMPC Youth this week at their "Chipotle Check-in".

PROPERTY

Campus Clean Up Day

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!

We are in need of a few items:



Power Washers
Hedge Trimmers
Pruning Shears



**If you are able to lend us any of the items please email or call Karen Melling 919-302-0462 or krrnmelling65@gmail.com*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Music 🎵

No Music THIS Sunday, September 24!



There will be NO Children's Music this Sunday. We are actually ALL READY to sing in worship for World Communion Sunday, which is October 1.

We will be celebrating World Communion by singing two African-based songs in two different languages. The first song is “Mungu nimwema” (*Know that God is Good*) which comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo and sung in the language of Shona. The second is “Thuma Mina” (*Send Me Jesus*) which comes from South Africa and sung in the Zulu language. We learn and sing songs from different countries to stand in solidarity with Christians all around the world!

PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS for October 1 when the kids will be singing!

Our Contribution to the Food Bank

HUNGER ACTION VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS

The Mission Committee and members of the congregation have continued to support the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC this summer. The Food Bank is our primary partner in our Hunger Action initiative. The work they do is vitally important to the communities in NC. They work toward making systemic changes as well as processing and delivering food to partner agencies in 34 counties in North Carolina.



Many thanks to the members of HMPC who helped with the “red bag” project for the Food Bank. We cut and tied over 6,000 bags which will be used by volunteers in the warehouse. These bags will be filled with produce that will go out to

clients. We may do this project again; let us know if you have an interest in getting a spool of netting for your home or local community. These bags are immediately used by the Food Bank and they are always in need of more.



Debbie Kirk and Beth Billman delivered a check for \$5,000 to the Food Bank (photo on left) along with the bags. This donation was made possible by our Special Offerings from 2022 and 2023 and Hunger Action designated-funds. Thanks to those who made extra donations to this partner of HMPC.

Volunteers from our most recent work day at the Food Bank.

Thanks for your hard work!



September Tend My Sheep DIAPERS FOR DIAPER TRAIN



This month, the Mission Committee will be collecting diapers for infants, along with wipes and children's board books (English & Spanish) for Diaper Train in Raleigh. Diaper Train is a community service organization that addresses unmet needs for low-income residents of Wake County.

The center is looking for infant diapers. They are also collecting wipes and gently-used children's books for ages 0-5. **Please bring donations to the church office by Sunday, September 24.** Realizing diapers can be rather bulky and a bit of a struggle to carry - the center has an online service that can be utilized for immediate impact, which can be found [here](#).

Help Package 15,000 Meals HUNGER ACTION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - 24 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!](#)

THE GATHERING - ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Nine O'Clock Class

9:00-10:00am | Room 200

September 24:

Viewing PBS *Reel South*, "That's Wild"

Facilitated by Jay Cummins



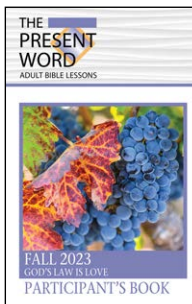
We will view and discuss the episode of *Reel South* entitled "That's Wild" - Atlanta teens face the thrills, joy, and struggles of navigating the wilds of Colorado. Growing up in Atlanta can be hard as highlighted by three real-life protagonists in *That's Wild*. Clifford (16) tries to fill the void of his incarcerated father, Ahmani (13) struggles with the aftermath of a homeless childhood, and Nicholas (13) grapples with episodes of depression. When the boys sign up for the after-school program, Wilderness Works, they quickly begin to unpack the negative pressures that dominate their day-to-day lives. An adventurous backpacking summer trip in the heart of the Colorado wilderness, takes these teenagers through rapid rivers, high-altitudes, and 12,000 ft snow capped peaks, all while overcoming their own personal mountains.

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 Gives God Glory" - John 7:14-24.** 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.



The Seekers

9:30-10:20am | Westminster South

September 24: "Foods Mentioned in the Bible, What did Jesus Eat?"

The Seekers have a wonderful fall planned with a variety of topics and leadership. We will kick off the fall exploring the topic: "Foods Mentioned in the Bible, What did Jesus Eat?" We will be guided by several resources: *Food at the Time of the Bible* by Miriam Vamosh, *What Did the Ancient Israelites Eat?* by Nathan MacDonald, *The Food and Feasts of Jesus* by Douglas Neel and Joel Pugh, and Scripture. Led by Susan Grigg, we will see what role food played in the history of the people of the Bible and how Jesus used food in his ministry. We may even taste some of the dishes we enjoy today that could have been eaten by the disciples!

Coffee & Conversation

This Sunday, September 24 | 11:45am | Chapel



Despite the fact that there is no Children's Music, we are still offering Coffee & Conversation at 11:45 this Sunday! While your children are in Youth Music, we invite you to join Pastor Mac for Coffee & Conversation. This group meets in the Chapel and discusses issues related to faith and parenting in a small group setting. This is a great way to get to know other parents in the church, so we hope you will join us this Sunday!

Presbyterian Pint

7:00pm | Sept. 28 | Mordecai Bev Co



Presbyterian Pint is a men's gathering that discusses faith and life through articles and various writings. This session will be led by HMPC member John James. We will be looking at two items: *The Theology of Bartending* by Jo Wiersema from an August edition of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, and a

poem called "Ancestors" by Lisa Dordal. These items will be emailed out to the men of the church prior to the meeting. Please let Pastor Mac (mschafer@hmhc.org) know if you'd like to be added to the email distribution list. Special thanks to John for leading this session!

Waking Up With The Word

Tuesday, Sept. 26 | 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. 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

Begins Thursday, September 28

The monthly group fall dates are September 28, October 19, November 16, and December 7 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.

SINGLE WAY

Single Way

Next meeting: October 3 at 11:30am

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!



Join us for our next gathering!

October 3, 2023 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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 24

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 - Coffee & Conversation (for parents) - Chapel
 11:30 am - Youth Sunday School - 2nd flr SS Room
 12:00 pm - Youth Music - WH South

Monday, September 25

6:30 pm - PEO - Room 200
 7:00 pm - Session - WH South
 8:00 pm - How It Works (Al-Anon) - GH Rooms

Tuesday, September 26

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

Wednesday, September 27

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

Thursday, September 28

6:00 pm - Women at the Well -Vivo Ristorante
 7:00 pm - Presbyterian Pint - Mordecai Beverage Co.

Friday, September 29

6:30 pm - ACA Support Group - Room 200

OUR NEW PHONE SYSTEM
HAS LAUNCHED!

See below for the staff's brand new office phone numbers! You can now reach staff directly without going through an automated system. **The main church phone number will stay the same: 919-787-1086.**

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

Direct Office #: 919-390-2562

Debbie Kirk, Associate Pastor
dkirk@hmpc.org

Direct Office #: 919-390-2567

Aleta Ash, Minister of Visitation
aletaash@gmail.com

Direct Office #: 919-390-2576

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

Direct Office #: 919-390-2591

Rich Richards, Director of Youth Ministries
& Children's Music

hmpeyouthgroup@gmail.com

Direct Office #: 919-390-2609

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

Direct Office #: 919-390-2621

Erica Hairston, Business Administrator
ehairston@hmpc.org

Direct Office #: 919-390-2630

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

Direct Office #: 919-390-2664

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

Direct Office #: 919-390-2648

Dorothy Roche, Preschool Director
droche@hmpc.org

Direct Office #: 919-787-1792

Joyce Hawkins, Assistant Preschool Director
jhawkins@hmpc.org

Direct Office #: 919-390-2684

Al Hyde, Organist
al@hydefin.com

Hope Parangi, Church Hostess
hparangi@yahoo.com

MISSION

September Special Offering
PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Our special offering this month is for Presbyterian Campus Ministries of Raleigh. HMPC has been a long-time supporter of PCM and has had many former youth participate in its ministries and activities. Its mission is to proclaim and reflect the Good News of the Kingdom



of God through ministry to, with, and for college-age students in the Raleigh, North Carolina area.

You can give online by clicking the QR code, or visiting hmpc.org.