



The Messenger

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

'The Swan'

By Rainer Maria Rilke
(Translated by Robert Bly)



This clumsy living
that moves lumbering as if in ropes
through what is not done,
reminds us of the awkward way
the swan walks.

And to die, which is the letting go
of the ground we stand on
and cling to every day,
is like the swan,
when he nervously lets himself down
into the water,
which receives him gaily
and which flows joyfully under
and after him, wave after wave,
while the swan,
unmoving and marvelously calm,
is pleased to be carried,
each moment more fully grown,
more like a king, further and further on.

When I imagine a swan, it is always serenely gliding across the water, one of nature's most graceful wonders. Rilke begins his poem, however, by reminding us how this majestic creature looks when out of its element. Have you seen a swan walk? "Clumsy", "lumbering" and "awkward" are perfect descriptors. It almost looks painful for the poor creature. Some read the entrance of the swan into the water as a metaphor for the death of the physical body, perhaps after a long illness – the beautiful release, and the peace that comes with it.

This poem reminds me of how we often move through our lives, lumbering along, clinging to what we know, stuck in the ropes of our routines and thought patterns. If we are aware enough to realize we are indeed stuck, we may alter our behavior or habits to bring about change. But "The Swan" doesn't bring about change in this way; by "pulling itself up by the bootstraps" or whipping itself into shape. Rather, it simply moves toward where it belongs. It is drawn to the element for which it was created. It is the water that gives the swan its grace.

Isn't this the invitation of Christ? To come home to where we belong, to the Living Water that will never leave us thirsty. How can you accept this invitation? How can you release that to which you cling into God's hands? What practices draw you closer to God? Do you actively seek to recognize the presence of the Spirit in the world around you? How do you open the door of your heart and let Christ in – or out, so that others might see his Spirit in you?

Most of us are familiar with the tale of the ugly duckling. In the original story by Hans Christian Andersen, the "duckling" is victimized for being different and struggles to find where he truly belongs. One translation tells us that when he finally does, "He felt glad he had come through trouble and misfortune, for now he had a fuller understanding of his good fortune and beauty when he met with it."

May we all have a fuller understanding of our good fortune when we realize where we belong and abide there.

NURTURE & GROWTH MINISTRY



TUBING ON THE DELAWARE RIVER



Saturday, August 10th, 9:00 am

Bucks County River Country, Point Pleasant, PA

Picnic to follow

@ the Petersons in Pipersville, PA

This is a youth event but **all** are invited to either or both

(tubing for those over 10 years of age)

Watch for more details and a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall



Some visitors at HPC - Laura (Camp) Miller and Margaret (pictured on the cover)

WHO ARE WE . . . AND WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

— Martha Camp

For a little twist on the Who Am I series, check out these smiling ladies and see if you know what brings them together (plus others) once a month at HPC. There's always a mix of storytelling, good listening, laughter, empathy, and sharing tips for the game of life.

Here are some discussion topics from the June 18 gathering:

Gutters and downspouts really gush when it rains hard.

Dinosaurs—you either love 'em or you hate 'em.

Creating and using seasonal décor can be a lot of fun.

We're looking forward to a new chapter in HPC's story, with Pastor Melissa.

One summer years ago, one of us learned to say a bunch of swear words in French.

Powdered sugar is a good way to decorate an unfrosted cake.

Children come up with some really interesting names for Grandma.

We've all had some memorable wildlife encounters on the roads and in the yard.

Doilies—we wonder if anyone still makes them (or uses them) these days.

There are cats that actually like people, follow them around, etc.

And some great stories:

“After she got home and found that the dog had eaten the whole birthday cake, she had to secretly make her mom another one.”

“Once, my 4-year-old brother crawled out the window, stark naked, and took himself down the street to the deli.”

“I got a video of the deer who snorted at me the other day, protecting her fawn that was hiding in the bushes of my front yard.”

For more information, please see the back pages of this issue.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS



Congratulations to Sarah Cleveland, HPC's 2019 Hopewell Valley Central High School Scholarship recipient.

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church Scholarship of \$1,000 to be awarded to a senior who best models exemplary community service and is seeking to expand his or her education at the college or vocational technical level. This scholarship fund originated in honor of Lucy Ducko.

Sarah will be attending McGill University in Montreal in the Fall. Many of you have seen Sarah around HPC. She is a Girl Scout and has been a leader of the Martin Luther King Day of Service that has been held here the last two years. Most recently Sarah was involved in coordinating the Red Cross Blood Drive.

In her personal essay Sarah said “I want to introduce others to the joy of community service and hopefully inspire them to volunteer more often. There is nothing like the knowledge that you are having a positive impact on the world.”

HOPEWELL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "HELPING OTHERS"

"LET US HELP EACH OTHER
TO LOVE OTHERS AND TO DO GOOD."

- HEBREWS 10:24

July 15 to July 18

6:30 pm to 8 pm

At Calvary Baptist Church

3 East Broad Street

Special Guests every night

Family Promise

The Watershed Institute

Save -A friend to homeless animals

Ties to Home

Music, Games, Crafts,

Lesson, and Snacks

A special project each evening

For more info or to sign-up

call 609-466-1880

Two volunteers are needed! Contact Cathy Peterson if you can help.

TOTE BAGS NEEDED

Please bring in tote bags on an ongoing basis for the main Hopewell Council of Churches Food Pantry at Calvary Baptist Church. Their sturdiness makes them much better than grocery paper and plastic bags to transport items for clients. Please place them on the decorated food pantry cabinet in our Education Wing lobby. They will be taken to Calvary Baptist.

A NOTE FROM DAWN

Dear Hopewell PC Friends,

As I prepare to move to Charleston, West Virginia in a few weeks to begin my new call with the Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, I wanted to let you all know what a gift it has been to serve you as your part-time interim these past few months. In addition to the spiritual fullness of Lent and Easter, this was a season in which life's ongoing pattern of grief, joy, pain and possibility continued to flow through the shared life of this community in ways that build our faith and fill us with gratitude and hope. It has certainly been an exciting time, as you all met your new pastor, Melissa Martin, and can now eagerly anticipate the beginning of her ministry with you in a just a couple of weeks!

As my own move gets closer, I find myself experiencing a strange mix of eagerness, curiosity, and even concern. While I am confident that God has called me to these new people and this new community, there is much that is still unknown. Will members of the congregation accept me as their pastor? What are the blessings and challenges we will face together? What will they expect of me? How will we get through the times I disappoint them? (and I will...) How can I best embrace who they *are* while helping them continue the journey to who they are *becoming*? Every pastoral call comes with its share of accompanying questions. Even in the midst of such questions, pastors strive to honor our ordination vow to serve God's people "*with energy, intelligence, imagination and love,*" but we also commit to the truth that we can only do so with God's help. As with everything else in life, it boils down to trusting God and seeking to serve God with integrity. Even in our brief time together, I have seen God working in amazing ways among you. There are challenges, of course, but there is also amazing grace and abiding goodness. You already have a great deal of energy, intelligence, imagination and love to spare and I believe wholeheartedly that God has been, is, and will continue to be, faithful to the Hopewell Presbyterian Church!

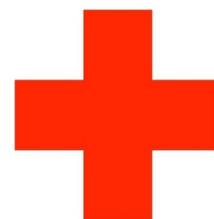
I leave you with a heart filled with gratitude. Thank you for welcoming me into your lives and for your willingness to try new things, even if they seemed a little wacky. Thank you for your encouragement, support and prayers. Thank you for the gracious send-off, (complete with that beautiful and delicious cake!) I am so happy for the new things God has in store for the body of Christ—in Hopewell, New Jersey AND Charleston, West Virginia--and I affirm my belief that "*the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*" (Phil. 1:6)

Always yours in faith, hope and love—
Dawn

THANK YOU!

Thank you once again for allowing Hopewell Gives Back to use the Fellowship Hall for a Red Cross Blood Drive. Your continual kindness and support of Hopewell Gives Back can't be thanked enough. From our donation we gave 40 pints of blood which can save up to 120 people's lives. This donation would have never been possible if you did not allow us to use the church.

Sam Fowler
Gavin Fowler
Sarah Cleveland



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 25, 2019

- On 2/26/2019 session approved \$20,000 for renovations of the manse. The total amount spent since that date has been \$19,042.01. Approved the request from Facilities & Finance for an additional \$20,000 for manse renovations and improvements from the remaining \$34,000 in the fund.
- Thanked Rev. Dawn Adamy for her service to Session and the congregation of HPC.
- Watch for details on our Pool Party to be held at the Sutton's on Sunday, August 25 (rain date is August 24).

MANSE KITCHEN REMODEL



BEFORE



AFTER

We look forward to welcoming Melissa to her new home. Work is still in progress. Granite countertops and appliances are on the way! Thank you to all who have donated funds and labor to this very important project.

See the next issue of The Messenger for pictures of the completed work.

FACILITIES & FINANCE MINISTRY

As of May 28, 2019

Income

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 118,612.00
Per Capita	\$ 4,011.50
Rental Income	\$ 13,801.58
Building Usage	\$ 2,035.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,100.00
Flower Donations	\$ 740.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 1,272.00
Special Event Donations	\$ 158.00
Proceeds from Presbytery Luncheon	\$ 690.00
Womens Retreat	\$ 1,100.00
Charitable Grants	\$ 1,955.20
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,430.00
From CCP School Payroll	\$ 23,280.65
From Building Fund	\$ 17,272.78
From Memorial Funds	\$ 19,286.93
Reimbursements	\$ 51.60
Energy Credits	\$ 101.56
Banking Interest	\$ 2.83

Total Revenue

\$ 206,901.63

Expense

Salaries & Benefits/Ministry	\$ 33,102.92
Salaries & Benefits/Other Staff	\$ 82,749.15
Nondiscretionary Costs	\$ 23,976.22
Facilities	
General Bldg Maintenance	\$ 4,908.36
Education Wing Windows	\$ 19,286.93
86-88 West Broad St	\$ 9,778.23
Manse	\$ 24,458.45
Community Engagement	
11% Tithes & Offerings	\$ 11,186.12
Mission Trip Expenses	\$ 500.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,430.00
Family Promise	\$ 108.00
Misc Guest Expenses	\$ 100.00
Worship & Stewardship	\$ 2,499.01
Hospitality & Fellowship	\$ 1,638.78
Nurture & Growth	\$ 4,387.01
Church Support	\$ 2,659.88

Total Expense

\$ 222,769.06

Profit/Loss

\$ (15,867.43)

Account Balances

General	\$ 31,501.64
Payroll	\$ 9,816.49

USHERS

7/7	Rebecca & Emma Redman
7/14	Tiernan & Josie Blankstein
7/21	Tim Sutton & Molly Peterson
7/28	Rice Family
8/4	Martha Camp & Renee Richardson
8/11	Barbara Holcombe & Linda Stephan
8/18	Michael & Bev Mills
8/25	Doug & Linda Robbins

COFFEE HOUR

7/7	Altieri
7/14	Burrow
7/21	Ludeke & Camp
7/28	Ardastra
8/4	Yingling
8/11	Peterson
8/18	Tonkin
8/25	Stephan & Wichert

COMMUNION

7/7
Anne Hayton & Michelle Yingling

8/4
Chris & Barb Pauley

WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY HPC MUSIC NEWS



A hymn for summer...

I know it's a little old fashioned sounding to some younger ears, but I still have a soft spot for the old favorite "In the Garden". It's not in many updated hymnals, but it was my father's favorite hymn, as well as his mother's, my grandmother. Here's a bit of it:

*I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses...
And he walks with me and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known.*

One criticism I have heard of this hymn is that it is too focused on "I" as opposed to "We". I get the point, but I feel both approaches to God are necessary and complementary. We need to come to the God as his people, but we also need personal, unique experiences to feel close to God. And that bit about "none other has ever known" does not mean the speaker is God's favorite, but that each person has a unique relationship – every person has the potential to have a closeness to God that is special and different from everyone else. That's how I see it, for what it's worth...

A break for the choir...but not the Praise Team!

The choir is resting and recharging their batteries before I put them back to work next September (with the exception, of course, of Melissa Martin's first Sunday – July 21st). The Praise Team, however, gets no rest. Our faithful core of Ken Fredeen, and Chris and Barb Pauley will continue their dedicated service, with the exception of occasional vacations. I'm so grateful for their service to HPC, week in and week out. I also want to thank Josie for the wonderful addition of violin and ukulele that she has been providing. And I also enjoy the guest appearance of other vocalists, including Cathe Burrow and Liz Blankstein (and their tambourine skills!), and Chris Rice on the Djembe (African drum). What a wonderful group of volunteers – our services would not be the same without them!

Starting our next chapter...

Of course the biggest news of the summer is the official start of our new pastor Melissa Martin. I'm sincerely excited to get to work planning worship with her, and to work with all of you to support her as we discover together God's continuing plan for HPC. As we welcome her energy and ideas for this church, it's a perfect time for each of us to consider how we can lend our personal talents and ideas to the life of HPC.

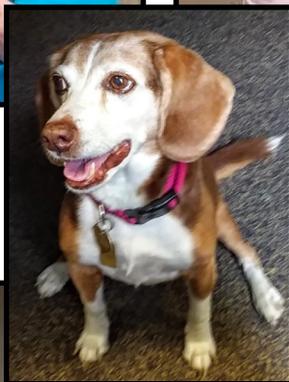
Sincerely,

Charlie Ashton

WHO ARE WE . . .

The “Who Are We?” ladies are **Fiber Friends**, part of a monthly opportunity at HPC that you may not have known about. On June 18 Peggy Sheats, Carlana Sargent, Jane Hostetter, Lois Grieves, Marilyn Licciardello, Lindsay Lowry and I got together for a few hours of craft work and conversation. Others who also enjoy coming include Lesley Galbraith, Lori Horton Elsie Muentener, Dottie Wichert, and Joanne Hornberger. Our June projects included a knitted baby blanket, an autumn-themed pieced quilt, a counted-cross-stitch lighthouse picture, a fabric toddler book, a knitted afghan of 30 different-stitch squares, a collection of song sheets, and a knitted prayer shawl.

The next **Fiber Friends** gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16 at noon in the Conference Room. Come and give it a try, it's a great way to stay in touch and share creative ideas. You're very welcome to bring your lunch and any craft project you're working on. What will we talk about next time? All sorts of things; come find out, and share some of your own stories!



Join the fun!



Hopewell Presbyterian Church

609-466-0758

***The Messenger* deadline for the September 2019 issue
is Sunday, August 18.**

PRAYER CONCERNS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Thanksgiving

- The life of Bob Burns (Lindsay's father-in-law)
- Melissa Martin - arriving on July 15th
- The ministry of Dawn Adamy

Intercession

- Comfort & Peace for the Burns family
- John S. - healing
- Patrick L.
- Heather - complications with recovering from surgery
- Erica L. - peace and perseverance (Linda S's niece)
- Bob - healing from a heart procedure

- Mary Claire - healing from a hip replacement (Pat S's sister -in-law)
- Frank - cancer (friend of Pat S.)
- Lyle K. - healing
- Lori H. - continued healing and as she seeks additional medical advice for recovering from serious head injury
- David R. - healing (Doug R's cousin)
- Carole W. - healing, comfort & peace (Judy C's friend)
- Scott - lung cancer (friend of Stan K.)
- Clara B. - peace and healing
- Bob P. - healing
- Diane - undergoing chemotherapy (Nancy T's friend)

Hopewell Presbyterian Church
80 West Broad Street
Hopewell, NJ 08525

