



The Messenger

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S STUDY

October 31, 1517 ---- The beginning of major *Paradigm Shift* that changed the world

January 21, 1968 ---- The beginning of major *Paradigm Shift* that changed my world

“What is George talking about?” . . . someone may be asking. Let me tell you about a paradigm shift that changed my life and changed my whole understanding and practice of ministry. Here goes . . .

For the first time in my young driving life, I had wheels. My own wheels. A brand-new stripped down basic 1968 Volkswagen Beetle ‘Bug’. Very stripped down...with no radio! Purchased from Chnapco Volkswagen in Fairfield NJ for \$1807 hard-earned dollars. But it was mine! On my first Sunday back at Moravian College, January 21, 1968, I decided to head north on Center Street and go to church at the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem. Let me share some vivid and lasting memories of that first-time worship experience . . .

After parking my ‘Bug’ in a large parking lot, I headed for the front entrance and entered the narthex. Immediately, I was welcomed by a friendly greeter. She approached me, held out her hand and said, “*Hi, my name is Polly. Welcome to our church. And your name is . . . ?*” I told her my name. She then inquired, “*Are you a college student?*” I told her I was a sophomore at Moravian. She led me to the entrance of the sanctuary and connected me to an usher. He asked me, “*Where would you like to sit?*” In good Presbyterian fashion, I asked to be seated in the last pew in the back of the sanctuary.

It was one great, inspiring, and enjoyable worship service. Great hymn-singing. Great choir anthems. And a sermon by a guy named Lloyd Ogilvie that really zinged me. Wow! This was one great experience for one struggling agnostic at the beginning of a new, exciting, and scary faith journey.

The service was over before I knew it. Time does fly when you are having fun. I got up to head to coffee/fellowship time . . . a college student eager to indulge in free ‘eats’. As I was leaving the sanctuary a woman approached me, held out her hand to my hand and said, “*Hi, I’m Mary Roberts. What’s your name?*” I told her my name. Then she asked, “*Is this your first time worshipping with us?*” I told her it was. Then she asked, “*Did you enjoy the service?*” “*Oh yes!*” I responded. “*Everything was great. The singing. The choir. And what a sermon! But I have a question. I’m curious.*” I lifted up a copy of the bulletin and pointed to the CALL TO WORSHIP. And I began my query. “*I don’t quite understand this section.*” Pointing to the CALL TO WORSHIP, I noted: **Pastor**. And the next line was printed **MINISTERS**. “*Could you please explain this? I’m confused.*” My new friend, Mary, didn’t skip a beat. She responded. “*in this church, we have 1600 ministers . . . all the people . . . and we have four pastors.*” I still wasn’t quite understanding what she was saying. I had never seen or heard this terminology. “*Could you please explain a little further?*” I asked. And she did. “***We believe that all Christians are called to be ministers and that the purpose of our pastors is to equip and train us . . . ALL of us . . . for the work of ministry. And I have to tell you, George . . . it is wonderful!***” With that explanation . . . I understood. I ‘got it’. Though not fully . . .

That was almost fifty years ago . . . but it was a day that changed my life and changed what would become my life’s calling and work as a pastor. I am a minister who works as a member of a team of ministers. My role...my calling...my ‘gift’ is to ***equip my fellow ministers to fulfill their calling.*** Let me lift up two texts that inform me and energize me: Ephesians 4:11-12 and Colossians 1:28-29 . . .

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S STUDY (*continued*)

The Apostle Paul writes,

“Christ gave gifts that some would be...pastor/teachers for the purpose of *equipping the saints* (all disciples of Jesus) *for the work of ministry* . . .”

The Apostle Paul writes,

“It is Christ we proclaim...teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that *we may present everyone mature in Christ*. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he [Christ] powerfully inspires within me.”

Saints of HPC: By God's grace ---- You . . . **ALL of you** . . . are God's called ministers. Therefore:

**Live out your ministry . . . fulfill your calling . . . and . . .
discover the joy of it all --- as you give God cause for great joy!**

Grace & peace,

George

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 26TH

- Session meet in a joint meeting with the Board of Deacons in an excellent and enjoyable meeting on October 24.
- Hospitality & Fellowship Ministry reminded Session to come this Sunday for Fondue Sunday, remember to bring those undies for Family Promise.
- TCHLTB donation items are needed to be brought in no later than November 1st so those leaders can have time to purchase items not supplied by that date.
- November 5th service at HPC will be at 6 pm after the 5 pm "PIZZA DINNER and MORE" with those that have participated in every way that made the day a success! (Yes, this includes those that prayed for it to be a success!) PLEASE COME AND ENJOY with everyone involved from all the churches and friends of friends!
- Session approved moving Communion Sunday to November 19th as Pastor George is taking a vacation from November 6-11.
- Creative Connections Play School has completed the outstanding items on their check-list. License coming in the near future.
- November 9th some local Clerks of Session will be meeting at HPC that evening with D. Paul La Montagne, Stated Clerk of New Brunswick Presbytery at 7:30 pm to review Minutes and Membership Rolls and Registers of their congregation for 2017.

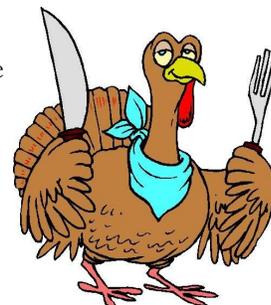
FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise will be joining us for two weeks including Thanksgiving. They arrive on Sunday, November 19th and will be leaving on Sunday, December 3rd. The sign-up boards are up in Fellowship Hall – we need meals prepared, overnight supervision and playtime/free time supervision.

For THANKSGIVING we are opening up the 2:00 meal on Thursday, November 23 to ANYONE in the community who would like to join us. If you are interested please sign up in Fellowship Hall as well OR contact Dick and Linda Scheetz.

Finally we will once again be receiving names of Family Promise children for whom we will be their “secret Santa”. That sign-up will be posted in mid November.

Once again, thanks to everyone of you for your support of this ministry!



NURTURE & GROWTH MINISTRY

We Need Your Help!

Coming in November... Our intergenerational gatherings will focus on “Expressions of Advent”. Please begin collecting devotions, art/images and music celebrating Advent, for us to share around tables. If possible forward anything you find so we can prepare it for projection to the group. cpeterson@hopewellpres.org “advent” in the subject line.

New Growth Groups Forming:

After a summer hiatus, **Friends and Followers, a small group for women**, is beginning again. We meet at 4:00 Tuesday afternoons at the Sutton home, 5 Kings Path. Please contact Cathy Peterson or Kathie Sutton for more information.

On November 2nd a **new group for men and women** will begin meeting Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30 in the Conference Room. For more information contact Dick Scheetz.

Be on the lookout for announcements about the formation of more groups as plans continue to take shape.



Join us for the next Church Family Breakfast
on Sunday, November 12th, at 9:15 AM.
Enjoy good food and warm fellowship!

PUMPKIN PALOOZA

Thank you to everyone who helped make Pumpkin Palooza 2017 such a smashing success!



PUMPKIN PALOOZA



PUMPKIN PALOOZA



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION MINISTRY

THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

Sunday, November 5th

Members of Hopewell churches will be leaving their church building and will be leaving our buildings to be the hands and feet of Jesus to do community service projects.

- Make lunches for TASK (HPC Kitchen)
- Hearts & Hammers
- Atrium of Lawrenceville Visit
- Make soup mixes for Fisherman's Mark (Calvary Baptist Church)
- Pack disaster relief buckets (Hopewell Methodist Church)
- Wagon Train
- Team Luca 5K Run/Walk (Meet at Mercer County Park at 9:00 AM) registration cost is \$30

On Sunday, November 5th, instead of our usual church service we will be providing service to our community. The day starts with bagels and coffee at Calvary Baptist Church at 9:00 AM followed by a brief commissioning service at 9:30 AM. Next participate in one of the above service projects offered during the day. Then come to Hopewell Presbyterian Church at 5 PM for pizza followed by a community worship service at 6:00 PM

Are you aware of how our building is being used? Check the newsletter each month for a list of scheduled activities.

Master HPC Calendar of Events - Sunday

* shows Community Event

Sundays

Wisdom & Wonder (9:15 AM), Worship (10:30 AM) & Coffee & Fellowship (11:30 AM)

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 11/1 | Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) | 11/14 | * Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) |
| 11/2 | Women in the Word (7:00 AM) | | Facilities and Finance (7:00 PM) |
| | Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM) | 11/15 | Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) |
| | Bible Study (7:30 PM) | | * Cub Scout Pack Meeting (6:00 PM) |
| | * Girl Scouts (7:30 PM) | 11/16 | Women in the Word (7:00 AM) |
| 11/7 | * Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) | | Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM) |
| | * Cub Scout Committee (7:00 PM) | | * Sourland Conservancy (7:00 PM) |
| | Facilities and Finance (7:00 PM) | | Bible Study (7:30 PM) |
| 11/8 | Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) | 11/19 | * Family Promise Arrives through 12/3 |
| | * Cub Scouts (6:30 PM) | 11/21 | * Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) |
| | * Central Jersey Modern Quilters Guild (7:00 PM) | 11/22 | Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) |
| | * Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM) | | * Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM) |
| 11/9 | Women in the Word (7:00 AM) | 11/23 | Thanksgiving Dinner (2:00 PM) |
| | Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM) | 11/28 | * Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) |
| | * Presbytery Minute Reading (7:00 PM) | | Session (7:30 PM) |
| | Bible Study (7:30 PM) | 11/29 | Deacon Meeting (7:00 PM) |
| 11/12 | * Daisy Meeting (4:00 PM) | 11/30 | Bible Study (7:30 PM) |

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION MINISTRY

Caregiver Workshop:

When: November 4th, 9:30-11:30am

Where: Sand Hills Wellness Center, 57 Sand Hills Road Kendall Park, NJ.

Cost: \$12

Brace for Impact. Strategies to take with you, when you visit aging loved ones. Often the information we gather over the phone from an aging loved one is not what we find to be true when we see them face to face. More often than not, getting a clear picture from a distance leaves us feeling worried. When we plan face to face visits, we need strategies to gather information about our loved one's health and a clear picture of how they are managing at home. This workshop will give you: Three tips to determine if your senior needs help The consequences of isolation and loneliness and ways to help combat them How to navigate through the holidays with you family (family dynamics) – old roles, resentments, siblings disagreeing on what needs to happen with mom and dad. The California Syndrome

Workshop Leaders:

Beth Scibienski She is a Presbyterian pastor, a writer, a Reiki Master and the co-host of the 'Two Pastors' Podcast.

Deb Hallisey is now founder of Advocate for Mom and Dad LLC. She blogs on caregiving issues at www.advocateformomanddad.com, consultants with families who are starting out on this journey, and can be found speaking at various venues throughout Mercer County, on the radio and local TV.

To reserve your spot, make check payable to Sand Hills Wellness Center, Send to 57 Sand Hills Road Kendall Park, NJ.

Monthly caregiver group: This caregiver group meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at Kingston Presbyterian Church from 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.. All are invited to this monthly Care Givers Support Group.

"I lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." ~Psalm 121:1-2

Caring for loved ones can be a challenging season of life. Let's create a space to care for you. Once a month let's gather, let's pray, let's be encouraged alongside each other so we can care for those in our lives who need us. Join Pastor Sharyl on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 8:30-9:30am in the Ladies Parlor for a time of encouragement, care and safety for you.



Hopewell Council of Churches

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Old School Baptist Church

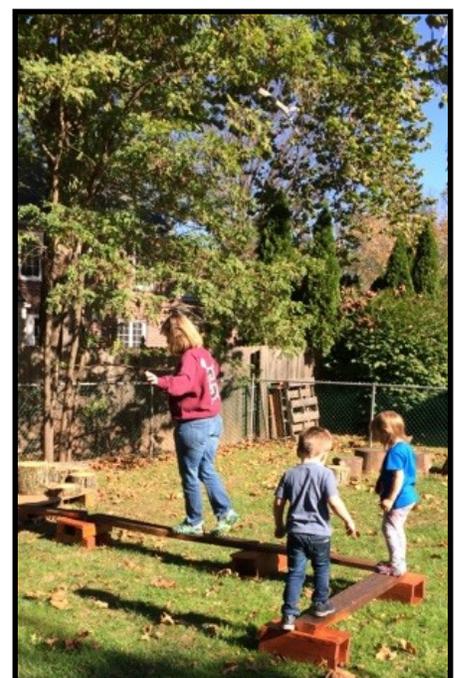
November 22, 2017

7:30 PM

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS PLAY SCHOOL



We have been so blessed to have an Eagle Scout do this project for CCPS. Lucas Carskey-Wilson made us a large sink feature to improve our mud kitchen and he built us a stage as well. When asked, he further provided us with loose parts to turn our stage into an “Adventure Playground”. We can use the wood boxes, planks and colorful wooden blocks to build different things each day. This is one of the favorite features of our school. Our playground is an extension of our classroom and learning happens there each day. CCPS is seeking more pieces for the Adventure aspect of our school. If you have any wooden planks, plastic tubes or perhaps an old tire or two hanging around, please speak to Liz Blankstein about donating them to our school.



WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

As of October 23, 2017

Income

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 242,058.00
Per Capita	\$ 2,973.96
Flower Donations	\$ 959.00
Office Supply Donation	\$ 375.00
Coffee Donation	\$ 200.00
Charitable Fund Donation	\$ 700.00
Rental Income	\$ 26,500.00
Deacons	\$ 1,130.00
Womens' Retreat	\$ 3,150.00
Youth Retreat	\$ 1,200.00
Special Event Donation	\$ 180.00
Insurance Reimbursement	\$ 2,269.51
Building Usage	\$ 2,235.30
Sunday School Offerings	\$ 200.00
Mission Trip Funding	\$ 5,376.95
Solar Energy Credits	\$ 4,777.50
From Building Contingency Fund	\$ 554.10
From CCP School Payroll	\$ 13,631.39
Misc	\$ 71.88

Total Revenue \$ 308,542.59

Expense

Salaries & Benefits/Ministry	\$ 96,293.87
Salaries & Benefits/Other Staff	\$ 103,158.71
Nondiscretionary Costs	\$ 36,126.10
Facilities	
General Bldg Maintenance	\$ 9,512.91
86-88 West Broad St	\$ 12,857.91
Manse	\$ 3,031.33
Community Engagement	
11% Tithes & Offerings	\$ 26,782.47
Deacons	\$ 1,130.00
Mission Trip	\$ 5,376.95
Family Promise	\$ 138.00
Worship & Stewardship	\$ 2,581.07
Hospitality & Fellowship	\$ 5,001.50
Nurture & Growth	\$ 3,969.90
Church Support	\$ 5,301.30

Total Expense \$ 311,262.02

Profit/Loss \$ (2,719.43)

Account Balances

General	\$ 55,146.57
Payroll	\$ 13,369.80

COFFEE HOUR

11/5 TCHLTB
 11/12 Scheier
 11/19 F. Homan/L. Stephan
 11/26 Plaag/Treible/Cox

COMMUNION

11/19
 Doug McCleery
 Dick Scheetz
 Anne Hayton
 Michelle Yingling

USHERS

11/5 TCHLTB
 11/12 McCleery Family
 11/19 Jackson Family
 11/26 Doug & Linda
 Robbins

NEW ADDRESS

Cathy & Eric Peterson
 6060 Schlentz Hill Road
 Pipersville, PA 18947

WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

HPC MUSIC NEWS



HPC Music News

A Favorite Thanksgiving Hymn...

I'm sure I've written about this hymn before in this space, but I can't help thinking about "We Gather Together" as we approach Thanksgiving. It was not a part of my youth, but it was for my wife. Demi and her extended family would gather at her grandparent's house in great number to celebrate the holiday. Every year, as a blessing on the meal, they would sing at least one verse of this hymn from memory – the first verse:

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
sing praises to His Name, He forgets not His own.*

It's a beautiful, memorable tune – and I love the first and last lines of the first verse. What a wonderful tradition to join. I was always a little puzzled by the third line, though, but never looked into it at the time. In recent years I learned more about its history as a song of national pride, more than the Thanksgiving theme we use it for. And the wicked oppressing is not a general reference to evil in the world, but a very specific reference to Spanish occupiers of the Netherlands!

Here's some a little background, courtesy of the website hymnary.org (a wonderful source of a great variety of information on the songs and hymns we love to sing):

This hymn was originally a Dutch patriotic song, written around 1600 to celebrate the freedom of the Netherlands from Spanish rule. However, God's kingdom transcends national and ethnic boundaries. When the Church sings this hymn, she is reminded of the words of the apostle Paul: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12, ESV). The day will come when God will overthrow the devil and all evil. Even now, we can say, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). In singing this hymn, the people of God seek His help and thank Him for His presence in the pursuit of victory over evil, for we know that God "forgets not His own."

Isn't it interesting how God can use a song, designed for one occasion, to enrich a very different celebration, many centuries later? Music is so powerful and flexible, and the line between historical events and symbolic concepts can be very blurry. Consider also the third verse, which was not generally sung at the Thanksgiving table:

*We all do extol Thee, Thou leader in battle,
and pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised; O Lord, make us free!*

I've always heard these as symbolic of the battle of good versus evil, but now I also hear it in the context of physical battles between flesh and blood human beings – people who faced tribulations far greater than I, and who leaned on God for strength. Food for thought as we enjoy our annual turkey dinners...

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Charlie Ashton
Minister of Music

Hopewell Presbyterian Church

The Messenger deadline for the December/January issue is Sunday, Sunday November 19, 2017. Email lducko@hopewellpres.org.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving for the birth of James Joseph Van Dyke (Gary & Linda Mesh's grandson)
- Thanksgiving for the birth of Margaret Adeline Miller (Martha & Ray Camp's granddaughter)
- Thanksgiving for the life of Carl J. Walker, Sr. (Kathy's father)
- Thanksgiving for the marriage of Lela Swartz and Carson Gentry

Intercession

- Rich A. - healing from an injury
- Kevin L. - healing (Cathy P's nephew)
- Rich & Angie C. - living in Puerto Rico and dealing with significant issues from Hurricane Maria (Sue's son)

- Cy - cancer (Pat S's uncle)
- Peggy S. - healing from a hip replacement
- Debbie R. - continued recovery from a heart valve replacement surgery (friend of Betsy W.)
- Helshi - breast cancer (Liz B's step-mother)
- Stephanie - breast cancer (friend of Liz B.)
- Charlie V. - healing (Judy C's friend)
- Gail - healing and comfort during chemo (friend of Cathe & Ian)
- Lorna - healing (friend of Lois R.)
- Susan W. - pancreatic cancer—comfort and peace
- Geri - breast cancer
- Christine H. - diagnosed with cancer of the appendix

Hopewell Presbyterian Church
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Hopewell, NJ 08525

