



# The Messenger

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S STUDY

*If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves;  
But when they attend to what God reveals, they are most blessed.*

Proverbs 29:18 (*The MESSAGE*)

Eugene Peterson moved from the 'Church Militant' to the 'Church Triumphant' on October 22.

I thank God for the life and legacy of Eugene Peterson. I, along with numerous pastors, have been profoundly influenced by this strong Man of God. Thirty plus years ago, a pastoral colleague said to me: "*George, get abold of and read everything written by Eugene Peterson. He's a pastor who has a strong and important word for us pastors. He calls us to a higher integrity . . . as we live out our calling.*"

Peterson was pastor . . . a scholar . . . professor . . . and a prolific author who influenced and changed the church landscape. He called church people back to basics. He called pastors back to basics. Those basics were . . . and remain --- faithfully preaching and teaching God's Word. Discipling God's people. Equipping people to live out their calling. Participating in and leading regular and disciplined communal worship.

He was also a severe critic of the mass marketing of the Christian Faith as though it was a product to be consumed by a spiritually hungry and thirsty culture. He was critical of TV preachers who marketed the Gospel like it was the next best product to roll off the assembly line. And he avoided the public limelight. Quietly and faithfully . . . Pastor Peterson went about his work and calling with a passion and diligence.

And most of all . . . for most people --- people of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church --- Eugene Peterson will be remembered and revered for his paraphrase of the Bible known as *The MESSAGE*. Peterson was a Hebrew and Greek scholar of the highest order who translated the original Hebrew and Greek texts --- and put them into the language people use and understand. *The MESSAGE* sold millions of copies . . . and for good reason. The Scriptures came wonderfully alive in the *MESSAGE* paraphrase. A few examples . . .

**First, God. God is the subject of life. God is foundational for living. If we don't have a sense of the primacy of God, we will never get it right, get life right, get *our* lives right.**

**Not God at the margins; not God as an option; not God on the weekends.**

**God at center and circumference; God first and last; God. God. God.**

Genesis 1:1-2

Recently, I preached two messages on Isaiah 43:1-5. Note Peterson's rendition.

**But now, God's Message. "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called you by name.**

***You're mine. When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, You will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end --- Because I am God, your personal God . . . Your Savior.*"**

Isaiah 43:1-3

And Paul's final word's to Timothy . . . and so appropriate as we celebrate and give thanks for Eugene Peterson . . .

**I am about to die, my life an offering on God's altar. This is the only race worth running. I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that's left now is the shouting --- God's applause! Depend on it, he's and honest judge. He'll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for his coming.**

II Timothy 4:6-8

Thank God . . . for Eugene Peterson!

## NURTURE & GROWTH MINISTRY

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### *Nurture & Growth*

Thanks to all who participated in Finding God's Will Together, the four-week adult class on discernment. Some folks asked about options for further reading. There are countless books written on the subject. Below are some options to get you started. (The first two listings are resources used in the class.)

*Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*, Ruth Haley Barton

*Decision Making & Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way*, Nancy Bieber

*Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*, Henri Nouwen

*Sacred Compass: The Way of Spiritual Discernment*, J Brent Bill

*Discerning God's Will*, Ben Campbell Johnson

### *Wisdom & Wonder intergenerational gatherings in November*

November 11th	Breakfast: Faith Heroes (bring stories of your mentors in faith)
November 18th	Faith Heroes: Thomas Merton
November 25th	Christ the King: Gratitude Project

**ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO:**

**KIDS' GAME NIGHT**

**NOVEMBER 16TH**

**6:30-8:30**

Board games, card games,

large group games

Pizza will be served!

## HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (HPW)



### Thanks to all who made the Pumpkin Palooza & Quilt Show a success!

Though the misty weather may have affected the turnout, it did not dampen the spirits of those who participated. Lovely decorations, amazing silent auction gift baskets, great food, live music, clever crafts, tempting baked goods, farm animals, pony rides, and of course colorful quilts and lots of pumpkins—We are grateful for the many hands who helped make this a fun, fall event. Most importantly, we were so pleased to present Janet Haag, Director of NAMI Mercer with a check for \$2900. Special thanks to those who helped coordinate the festivities:

Decorations: Linda Robbins, Lindsay Burns, Mary Ann Consoli

Pumpkin Sale: Liz Blankstein

Quilt Show: Bev Mills

Silent Auction: Holly Plaag, Heidi Cox, Laddie Franz, Bev Mills

Food: Linda Stephan

Bake Sale: Anne Scheier, Anne Hayton

Crafts: Peggy Connolly

Pony Rides: Stan and Carol Krystek



# PUMPKIN PALOOZA & QUILT SHOW



# PUMPKIN PALOOZA & QUILT SHOW



# PUMPKIN PALOOZA & QUILT SHOW



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER 23

- PNC representative, Sandy Sherrard made a presentation/update to Session.
- Session reaffirmed that \$40,000 from Memorial Funds will be used in the replacement of Education Wing windows.
- Session approved the use of the sanctuary by choir Hopewell Hall on five Sunday afternoons.
- There will be a joint Session/Deacon Meeting held on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm
- The Leadership retreat for Hopewell Presbyterian Church will be held on Saturday, November 17th from 9:00-2:00 at Titusville Presbyterian Church. All are invited, RSVP to Cathy Peterson/Lucy Ducko.
- Sunday Of Service starts at 9:30 am at Calvary Baptist Church. Remember you get one hour of extra sleep the night before so you will have energy for the project you choose to work on.





**Family Promise®**  
of Hunterdon County, Inc.  
*Incorporating Interfaith Hospitality Network*

*"Every night, in Hunterdon County, a child is homeless..."*



**Family Promise** of Hunterdon is the only homeless shelter for families in Hunterdon County. **Family Promise and the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)** is a unique community partnership of paid staff and volunteers from a vast network of congregations throughout Hunterdon and Mercer County. They offer a continuum of services that includes shelter, food, homeless prevention/rapid re-housing, mental health services and after-shelter support. Our volunteers offer even more – love, support and companionship.

Twice a year for two weeks at a time, the Hopewell Presbyterian Church is the host for these homeless families. The next two week visit starts on Sunday, November 25, 2108 and continues through Sunday, December 9, 2018. If you wish to know more about Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network please check out their web site: [www.familypromisehc.org](http://www.familypromisehc.org)

We will have the sign-up posters in Fellowship Hall by November 4. If you are interested in participation during this upcoming visit please see the sign-up posters or contact Dick Scheetz, [deslms30@verizon.net](mailto:deslms30@verizon.net)

We also hope to have the **Christmas Giving Tree** available by mid-November. This will include the names of Family Promise children and parents, past and present, for whom we are asked to provide Christmas gifts.

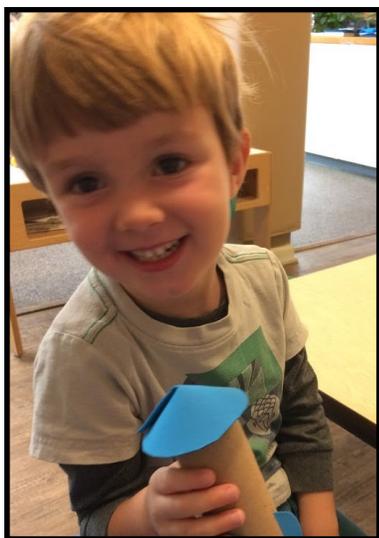
## CREATIVE CONNECTIONS PLAY SCHOOL



We started a unit on Outer Space simply because one of our students has an outer space backpack and another has planet leggings. If the kids are interested in a subject, then we study it!

We have been reading books about the planets and sketching aliens, planets and stars. We painted beautiful yellow paper that we shaped into a sun that we affixed to one of our ceiling lights. Another of our activities was building a rocket out of simple materials we have around the classroom. These rockets are hanging from the ceiling of our classroom, awaiting some planets to join them.

We will begin a messy, slimy good time in November with paper mache and see if we can construct some amazing planets to complete our Outer Space adventure. Stay tuned!



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION

### Sunday of Service (S.O.S.) November 4, 2018

9:30 AM—Kick-off Gathering at Calvary Baptist Church  
(Coffee and Bagels at 9:00 AM)

10:00 AM — Projects

5:00 PM — Supper and Closing Celebration  
at Hopewell Presbyterian Church

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

\* shows Community Event

#### Master HPC Calendar of Events

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

#### FAMILY PROMISE will be at HPC from 11/25 until 12/9

11/2	Journeymen (6:30 AM)	11/15	Bell Choir (6:30 PM)
11/4	*A Cappella Group Rehearsal (2:00 PM) Supper and Service for SOS (5:00 PM)		Praise Band (6:30 PM) Chancel Choir (7:30 PM)
11/5	Community Engagement & Mission (6:00 PM)	11/16	Journeymen (6:30 AM) *Girl Scouts Baking Cornbread (1:00 PM)
11/6	*Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) *Cub Scout Pack Committee (7:00 PM)		Game Night (6:30 PM)
11/7	Staff Meeting (11:00 AM) Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) *Central Jersey Modern Quilt Guild (6:30 PM) PNC (7:00 PM) *Cub Scouts (7:00 PM)	11/18	*Brownies (4:00 PM) *A Cappella Group (7:00 PM)
11/9	Bell Choir (6:30 PM) Praise Band (6:30 PM) Chancel Choir (7:30 PM)	11/20	Soul Friends (4:30 PM) *Boy Scouts (7:00 PM)
11/9	Journeymen (6:30 AM) Al Gesregan Memorial Service (11:00 AM)	11/21	Friends & Followers (9:30) Staff Meeting (11:00 AM) PNC (7:00 PM)
11/11	Bear Den (3:00 PM)	11/25	*A Cappella Group (7:00 PM)
11/13	*Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) Soul Friends (4:30 PM) Facilities and Finance (7:00 PM)	11/27	Soul Friends (4:30 PM) Session (7:00 PM)
11/14	Friends and Followers (9:30 AM) Staff Meeting (11:00 AM) Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) *Cub Scout Pack Meeting (6:00 PM) Deacons (7:00 PM) PNC (7:00 PM) *Hopewell Hall (7:30 PM) Ruth Circle (7:30 PM)	11/28	Friends and Followers (9:30 AM) Staff Meeting (11:00 AM) Wednesday Bible Study (11:00 AM) PNC (7:00 PM) *Hopewell Hall (7:30 PM)
		11/29	Bell Choir (6:30 PM) Praise Band (6:30 PM) Chancel Choir (7:30 PM)
		11/30	Journeymen (6:30 AM)

## WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP

As of October 30, 2018

Income

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 239,774.75
Per Capita	\$ 3,250.03
Flower Donations	\$ 1,350.00
Rental Income	\$ 27,000.00
Building Usage	\$ 2,280.00
Charitable Grants	\$ 3,638.00
Deacons	\$ 700.00
Sunday School Offerings	\$ 60.00
Small Group Resources	\$ 150.00
From Memorial Funds	\$ 2,550.00
From CCP School Payroll	\$ 25,945.80
Coffee Donations	\$ 200.00
Office Supplies Donation	\$ 200.00
Building Projects	\$ 150.00
Mission Trip Funding	\$ 3,200.52
Reimbursements	\$ 289.23
Womens' Retreat Security Deposit	\$ 1,500.00
Banking Interest & Credits	\$ 62.10

Total Revenue \$ 312,300.43

Expense

Salaries & Benefits/Ministry	\$ 103,081.90
Salaries & Benefits/Other Staff	\$ 117,436.87
Nondiscretionary Costs	\$ 39,454.69
Facilities	
General Bldg Maintenance	\$ 9,547.58
86-88 West Broad St	\$ 12,528.92
Manse	\$ 6,406.66
Community Engagement	
11% Tithes & Offerings	\$ 29,345.23
Deacons	\$ 700.00
Mission Trip Expenses	\$ 3,200.52
Family Promise	\$ 162.00
Sunday of Service	\$ 421.81
Advertisement & Promotions	\$ 255.19
Boy Scouts Troop 71	\$ 750.00
Worship & Stewardship	\$ 6,182.80
Hospitality & Fellowship	\$ 1,458.65
Nurture & Growth	\$ 5,737.46
Church Support	\$ 3,928.78

Total Expense \$ 340,599.06

Profit/Loss \$ (28,298.63)

Account Balances

General	\$ 47,349.90
Payroll	\$ 10,737.44



Kathy Walker's last Sunday before moving to New York. Farewell Kathy! You will be missed.

### COFFEE HOUR

- 11/4 Sunday of Service
- 11/11 Wichert & Stephan
- 11/18 Sutton
- 11/25 Bleickardt

### COMMUNION

- 11/11
- Joanne Hornberger / Pat Swartz
- Liz Blankstein / Laura Morreale

### USHERS

- 11/4 Sunday of Service
- 11/11 Scott & Jennifer Megaffin
- 11/18 Anne Hayton
- Ruth Mortensen
- 11/25 Joanne Hornberger
- Mary Ann Consoli

## WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

### HPC MUSIC NEWS



#### Holiday Season!

I love this time of year – the succession of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas! Then come New Year’s Eve and Day closely followed by the NFL Playoffs culminating with Super Bowl Sunday in early February. I know that we don’t all consider football games important, but they are to me. All in all that’s a lot to digest in approximately three months – both figuratively and literally! I do tend to digest a lot of food during these months that I will regret when I check the scale in February.

The church calendar is also packed in the upcoming months. Just like the secular celebrations associated with the holidays listed above, these events are not evenly distributed throughout the year. In fact, after Pentecost in May there is a long stretch without major holidays, commonly referred to as Ordinary Time, that does not end until late November with the close of the church year.

Our church year is not lined up with the calendar year and starts with the season of Advent in December. And don’t be embarrassed if you don’t remember the festival that ends the church year – it often gets a bit overlooked being so close to Thanksgiving and the lead-up to Christmas. The last Sunday of the church calendar is Christ the King Sunday and it falls on the Sunday after Thanksgiving this year, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

This is not an ancient holiday, being instituted a little approximately 100 years ago in the Roman Catholic Church. It was later adopted by the mainline protestant churches and celebrates that Jesus Christ is ruler over all creation and will return in glory. It’s a wonderful end to the story that the church year tells – we start with the waiting for Christ in Advent, celebrate his life and sacrifice through Lent and Easter, remember the founding of the church with the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and finish the year recognizing that Christ is ruler over all! So at Thanksgiving this year, remember to celebrate Christ’s power and rule over all creation!

#### An Upcoming Anthem Not to Be Missed...

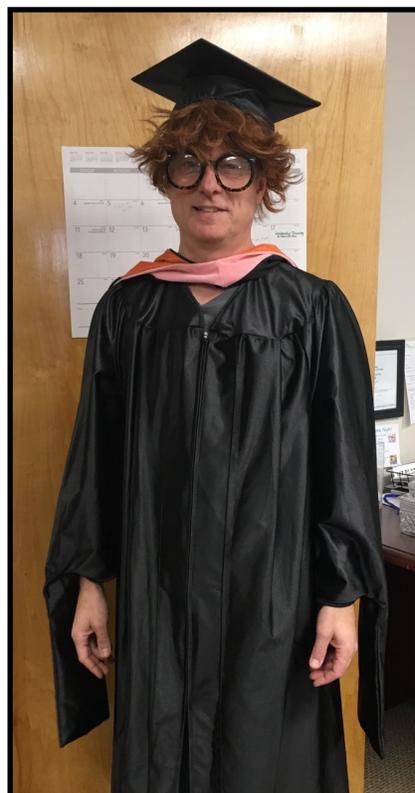
Later this month the choir will be singing an inspirational arrangement of the beautiful song “In Christ Alone”, written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. This particular setting is arranged by one of the best writers of contemporary Christian choral music, Mark Hayes. I haven’t picked the exact Sunday yet, so you’ll need to come every week to make sure you don’t miss it...

Here’s a little bit of the text to whet your appetite:

No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
 Can ever pluck me from His hand.  
 ‘Til He returns or calls me home,  
 Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.

Peace,

Charlie Ashton



Professor Charlie on Halloween  
 Here to do music with Creative Connections

# Hopewell Presbyterian Church

***The Messenger* deadline for the December issue is Sunday,  
November 25, 2018. Email [lducko@hopewellpres.org](mailto:lducko@hopewellpres.org).**

## PRAYER CONCERNS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

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### Thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving for the life of Al Gesregan (Sherry's husband)
- Thanksgiving for the life of Sally Bowers
- Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Eugene Peterson
- Volunteers
- the work of the PNC

### Intercession

- Scott - lung cancer (friend of Stan K.)
- Clara B. - peace and healing
- Greg - comfort, strength, and peace during a very difficult time (Lucy's friend's son)
- Stanley and Stan P. - healing from a boating accident (Linda S's cousin and his son)
- Nancy W. - upcoming surgery (friend of Judy & Mary Ann)
- Kelly B. - healing (friend of Judy C.)
- Jack - heart issues (friend of Lois G.)
- Mark H. - undergoing chemo (Judy C's friend)
- Betty - healing from surgery for cancer
- Bob P. - healing
- Diane - undergoing chemotherapy (friend of Nancy T.)
- Lorna - healing (friend of Lois R.)

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