

October 2017

HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Mary Hullfish, Sexton

The Messenger

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S STUDY

Note three important texts . . .

"When Jesus saws the crowds and looked at them, His heart broke for the people. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, 'What a huge harvest...'" (Matthew 9:36-37)

"I am the good shepherd." (John 10:11)

"The Lord is my shepherd..." (Psalm 23:1)

In a recent gathering, one of our members said, *"We need to reach out to young families."* Another person said, *"We need more kids."* Another person commented, *"We need to connect with singles."* These are valid concerns. Understandable concerns. Real concerns. Important concerns.

Let me raise some potentially awkward questions. *Why? Why do we need to reach out to young families? Why do we need more kids? Why do we need to reach out to single people? Why should we attempt to connect with single people? What are our motives for what we do?*

Is it to turn our membership decline around? Is it to make HPC's numbers look attractive to potential candidates for our next pastor position? Is it to maintain our current level of ministry/mission? Is it to maintain financial viability? Is it to . . . ? (Fill in your own motive/reason.)

Or is there a deeper motive? A more important motive. A Biblical motive. A *Jesus motive* . . .

There is. It's about the *'heart of Jesus'*. Jesus looks at humanity. All humanity. And His heart breaks. He looks at people...ALL people...and He sees people who are confused. Aimless. Hurting. Broken.

And friends . . . this is ALL of us at one time or another. None of us is exempt. None of us has it all together. I know. I have been in places of brokenness many times. And I have had conversations with many HPC people . . . and you have shared those times and places where you, too, have experienced confusion...aimlessness...and brokenness. Hurt. Devastation. This goes with the 'territory' of being a sinner. A flawed human being. A member of the human race. This is the reality of it all.

But here's the good news. The encouraging news. The best news. The liberating news. The Gospel.

Jesus is a Savior whose heart breaks for people. All people. You and me included. And we can say in faith and boldness . . .

"The Lord is my shepherd. The Lord is our shepherd at HPC."

And what is our calling. Our mandate. Our mission. Our commission. Our privilege. And our joy . . . ?

It is to proclaim the Good Shepherd Jesus to people who need Him...and may not even know it!

And this group of people is . . . legion!

On Saturday, September 23, Meredith and I walked around the Harvest Fair. And I noted a large number of young people. Young families. Older people...seniors like yours truly. And I will dare say . . . most of these people have no real connection to a community of faith. This is the huge harvest Jesus is talking about.

I also observe the crowds at the Brick Farm...or the Borough Bean...or Orlandos (my go-to place for gyros and coffee ice cream cones). The people there are also the huge harvest Jesus is talking about.

And our challenge as a congregation . . . ? It is to know how the *Gospel Message* connects with these people. People who experience confusion. Aimlessness. Broken-ness. Fear. Anxiety. Hurt. Our call is to work in *every way possible* to connect these people . . . to the Good Shepherd.

Let's be on with the best line of work in the world...and in doing so...give God cause for joy!

George Betz, Interim Pastor

MISSION STUDY REPORT COMPLETED

After six months of meeting, reading, thinking, writing, listening, and praying, your Mission Study Team (Ian Burrow, Martha Camp [Co-Chair], Stan Krystek, Scott Megaffin [Co-Chair], Cathy Peterson, Renee Richardson, Kathie Sutton, and Rev. George Betz [Spiritual Director]) are pleased to announce that the Mission Study Report was presented to Session on September 27th. It is planned to have copies of the final report available for pick-up at the worship service on October 15th, and to schedule an opportunity for the congregation to discuss the report and to ask questions.

The completion of the report, and its acceptance by Session, enables our church Nominating Committee to begin actively seeking candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). When formed, the PNC will be charged with identifying a candidate to become our next full-time pastor. The main purpose of the Mission Study Report is to assist the PNC in their process by lightening their workload and shortening their timeline through its information, insights, and recommendations. A copy of the report will also be sent to the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of New Brunswick to assist them in their upcoming supportive role in our pastoral search.

The report seeks to accurately distill what was learned, from the various congregational meetings and discussions held earlier this year, into an insightful narrative with clear recommendations. While acknowledging the very real challenges that face this congregation, the report affirms the many strengths and gifts with which HPC continues to be blessed by God. It identifies our wish for a pastor with strong relational and discipling skills. It recognizes our wish to be clear-visioned disciples in the world of 2017 and beyond, supporting hopes, and healing hurts, with the Good News we have to share. It affirms that we:

Know we are loved, trusting in God's Word, and that we will
Grow as followers of Jesus Christ,
Show compassion and grace to all in Jesus' name
Go where God is at work making disciples, and join in.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! The Bells of Hope are seeking new ringers!

Expand your horizons and consider acquiring a new skill! We rehearse each Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Welcome Center to prepare to play in Worship once per month. If you played years ago and would like to return, welcome back! If you have never played and would like to learn, you can be taught to ring a bell properly in two minutes! Start with one bell and as you begin to gain confidence you will be amazed at how quickly you begin to progress to the other bell ringing techniques! Come and give it a try!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 26TH

- Session approved replacing all of the windows on the first floor of the Education Wing (25 windows) at a total cost of \$20,000 to come from the Memorial Funds.
- Session heard and approved of the Mission Study Team report.
- The Community Engagement Ministry updated it's Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall with two items: Care Giver Workshops to be held October 7 and November 4 at the Sand Hills Community Health Center (registration information available), and Community Resources near Hopewell, NJ information.
- The Church Has Left the Building (TCHLTB) will start at the Baptist Church on Sunday, November 5 and break off into separate groups. Look for the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall for donations needed and mission opportunities for you to participate in that day. The evening service will end the day at our church.
- REMINDER: The Board of Deacons and Session will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday, October 24 at 7:30 pm in the Lounge. Please keep all church leaders and ministries in your prayers.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Did you know that the deacons have the privilege of allocating funds to local, national and global missions and outreach initiatives? Examples of these initiatives include Arm in Arm, a local outreach which was recently spotlighted in our Sunday morning worship service, the 2017 mission team trip to Clarksburg, VA, and hurricane relief efforts through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Friends for Health in Haiti. You may be aware that a fixed percentage of all HPC tithes and offerings is earmarked for the Board of Deacons and is the largest source of the funds which we distribute to these and other worthy outlets. But you may not realize that you can make a donation anytime designated expressly for the deacons, and the full amount will be applied to one or more of the ministries that the deacons support, as specified.

Recently an anonymous donation of \$500 in honor of Billie Elson was designated to the deacons for the Lucy Ducko Scholarship Fund. This annual scholarship was approved to commemorate Lucy's 25th anniversary and is meant to bless the average student in need as a means of recognizing their community service. The scholarship originated in 2013 because, "Lucy is the constant champion of average, everyday people, especially kids. For many years, her home was a revolving door of young people . . . some who could not afford to go to college . . ."



HPC Office Manager
Lucy Ducko

The 2017 recipient was Hopewell Valley Central High School graduate Madison Parker who volunteered throughout her high school career at the YWCA in Princeton, Children's Specialized Hospital, and other local organizations. Miss Parker plans to study Spanish and Public Health at Clemson University. She writes, "I look forward to a life of service and helping others in whatever way I can. I hope to one day be back and living in Hopewell, volunteering for our community." Her thank you note to HPC upon receipt of the scholarship award says, "It means a lot to me because my faith is close to me . . . This year, I decided to be confirmed, so I take this as a sign from God."

We look forward to seeing the way God works through Madison and through the local, national and global organizations with whom we partner financially. Keep an eye on this space for more updates on how HPC missions and outreach funds are mobilizing resources in service to the Kingdom, and we welcome your designated donations in support of that service.



PUMPKIN PALOOZA SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

Pumpkins, Baked Goods, Crafts, Soup by the Quart, & a Delicious Meal will be available for sale!

Volunteers are desperately needed! Please consider how you can help with the day. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office.

The first opportunity to volunteer is on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 4:00 PM to unload pumpkins.

NURTURE & GROWTH MINISTRY

S.O.S...*the cry for help that rises every time we hear the word “evangelism”. We often find it so difficult to talk about our faith. It does not have to be this way. All we need do is pay attention to the presence of God in our lives then **SHARE OUR STORY**. As you read Cathe’s piece below, imagine her telling this to a friend over coffee or tea. It’s called witnessing and we are already equipped. I am grateful to Cathe for sharing this and I invite you all to fill my inbox with your God-sightings.*

Blessings from the Fall

August 2nd will be my anniversary of the day that I encountered God. That was the day that I slipped at the gym and broke my leg at the ankle. A moment lying in a wet bathing suit on the floor at poolside in Princeton when I thought I was totally alone because Ian was in Washington, DC. Not true! God sent his angels – my trainer, the EMTs, hospital doctors and nurses and most importantly God was by my side, crouching next to me, holding my hand, in the form of Barbara. Barbara, someone with whom I would occasionally exchange morning ‘hellos’ at the gym, followed the ambulance to the ER and she was my advocate helping me make decisions on my surgery and care, and then she loaned me wheelchair and other medical devices, and she even met us upon our arrival home from the hospital to help Ian move furniture and get me situated.

Although I have said more than once (!) that I wish I hadn’t done this, I am concentrating on the blessings that have come from my fall. In addition to a direct and close encounter with my caring God in the form of Barbara, I was blessed by kind nurses, surgeon, aides, even the woman who brought my meals in the hospital. I continue to be blessed by Ian, my caregiver *par excellence* who is even willing to be awoken in the middle of the night and soothe me by reading a Winnie the Pooh story. And then HPC went into action and we were blessed with cards, telephone calls, delicious fortifying meals, loan of scooter, emails, visits, rides to PT, and enveloping prayers. My sister together with deacons and friends have stepped in to help with my parents’ needs now that I cannot. I am blessed to be able to work remotely. (Be careful what you wish for! Earlier this summer I had expressed the desire to work from home a few days a week.). I have been blessed with a new appreciation of our Welcome Center and elevator as well as the challenges to those who have mobility issues. And although a harder blessing to experience - I am made humble. My pride of being self-reliant, independent and capable has been pulled out from under me.

God loves each of us as we are. Yet, perhaps when we get a little too confident in our own abilities and our personal control of our little bit of the world we are given blessings from a Fall. All I know is I met God personally through Barbara and those people he placed at my side. May God use me in similar ways.

Cathe Burrow



Kathie, Cathy, Cathe, and Betsy!

NURTURE & GROWTH MINISTRY (continued)

This Month in Wisdom & Wonder:

THE ADULT CLASS, 9:15-10:15 in the lounge

October 1 and 8, Dale Allison:

The Sermon on the Mount

Christians have long puzzled over why the sermon on the mount seems to ask us to do what is impossible. Who does not get angry? How can we love our enemies, or our neighbors as ourselves? This class will look at what Christians down through the ages have made of Matthew 5-7 and then offer some suggestions as to what lessons we can take away for ourselves.

October 15, Pastor George:

“The Connection that Empowers”

Jesus sets some high standards and expectations for his followers. He calls and sends His missionaries to continue His work. How do we ‘pull it off’ and Who/What is our power source? Come and learn as we take a close look at John 14:12-21 and John 15:1-17.

October 22 and 29, Mark Dixon:

The Reformation 500 Years Later

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed a document to the door of the “Castle Church” in Wittenberg, a backwater town with an upstart university. This document, the Disputation on the Power of Indulgences, or the 95 Theses as it is commonly known, is credited with launching the Reformation. Despite that symbolic significance, the Theses themselves are largely overlooked. Students of Luther are much more likely to read his famous treatises from 1520, or his monumental essay on humans’ (in)ability to choose between good and evil, *The Bondage of the Will* (1525). In this class, Mark Dixon will introduce the Theses and the historical context in which Luther wrote them.

Although we are observing the 500th anniversary of a specific incident—the posting of the 95 Theses—2017 is also a time to reflect on the Reformation and its significance more broadly. Like any mass movement, the Reformation was disruptive, messy, and of course vigorously contested. What do we miss when we think of the Reformation as a preordained and orderly transformation of society? In this second session, Mark Dixon will discuss Luther’s fight for the soul of the Reformation, and his debates with figures within and outside the movement, offering us a chance to reflect on the relationship between myth and history.

THE TRIBE (Our multi-age class for children and youth), **9:15-10:15 upstairs in the education wing** Students will take a closer look at Ruth, Hannah, Samuel and Martin Luther

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.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all who completed a growth group survey. At the writing this article we are finishing the data analysis portion of the project. We expect new groups to be announced and started before the end of the month. Please be on the lookout for an updated list of Growth Groups in the bulletin, your email, on the website and the Nurture & Growth bulletin board.

KICK OFF BREAKFAST - SEPTEMBER 10, 2017



FALL KICK OFF BREAKFAST



Doug -
Thanks for all
you do !

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION MINISTRY

The Church Has Left the Building (TCHLTB) will be Sunday,

November 5th. We will meet at 9:00 at the Calvary Baptist Church (CBC) for a short commissioning service, then proceed to our different service project assigned location. The Ministry is seeking a volunteer to lead the TASK project.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Soup starter for Fisherman Mark	CBC	Leader: Joann Hornberger.
Sandwiches for TASK	HPC	Leaders: TBD
Wagon Train food collection meets	HPC	Leaders: Boy Scouts
TBD Hearts & Hammers or Habitat Project	TBD	Leader: Sean Jackson
Tie/knot blanket ends for soldiers	CBC	Leaders: from CBC
Clean up kits for hurricane areas	Methodist	Leaders: from MC
Lawrenceville Nursing Home visit	CBC	Leader: Joanne Tonkin
Arm & Arm (Project TBD)	TBD	Leaders: Liz Blankstein
Service for seniors	TBD	Leader: TBD

The day will culminate with a closing service at our church.

If you are a senior and need some help with light projects (raking leaves, cleaning, etc) please contact Anne Hayton. If you know of someone in need, that has a local "handyman" project, please contact Sean Jackson.

Collection boxes for items needed for TCHLTB are located on the pews by the stage. Please bring the following items for the soup mix, clean up kit and fleece blanket projects.

- Items for the soup mix starters follows -
- Pint size Mason Jars with lids = 2 dozen
 - Mason JAR LIDS ONLY = 3 dozen
 - Split Peas = 10 lbs
 - Romano Beans or Cranberry Beans = 10 lbs
 - White Navy Beans = 10 lbs
 - Pinto Beans - 10 lbs
 - Pearled Barley = 6 lbs
 - Beef Bouillon powder (Pennington Market) - 5 (7.93 oz jars)
 - Onion Flakes = 6 jars (5.5 oz jars)
 - Parsley Flakes - 30 oz
 - Oregano = 30 oz
 - Garlic Powder = 10 oz
 - Basil = 10 oz
 - Bay Leafs - 3 jars
 - Snack Bags for spices = 3 boxes (need 60)

For Fleece blankets - two 2-yard coordinating pieces of fleece (perhaps a solid and a print)

A collection list for the clean up kits to be used in States affected by the hurricanes will be available soon.

Sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for the project you will be participating in for TCHLTB on November 5th

Reminder: We are currently collect socks for Arm & Arm. Please put in box on pew in Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION MINISTRY

Caregiver Resources:

Check the CEMM bulletin for some Caregiver resources. A Resource Handbook, "United Way Caregivers Coalition - Pathways for Caregivers" publication is available to view in the church office. Some of the topics are

- Becoming a caregiver for a loved one
- Where to Begin
- Caregiver support & Self Care
- Care Management
- Social security, Medicare, & Medicaid information
- Legal Matters & Important papers

You can order a copy from the United Way of Northern New Jersey, if you are interested in receiving this free booklet. Though they don't officially serve Mercer County; they cover Somerset County and the northern counties, Pat spoke with them and they will send copies to our church members. It contains general information, not north Jersey specific information.

They also have DVD available, that you can obtain for free. One is called "How to avoid burnout for Caregivers of loved ones." You can borrow it from the church office until it's added to the library.

Care Givers Group

All are invited to our 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

Caregiver Workshops at the Sand Hills Community Wellness Center
Cost: \$12 each or \$20 for both

October 7, 9:30-11:30am

You Are Here.

Facing the Future by Defining the Present

Through writing, meditation and group reflection, participants will recognize and define the needs, dynamics and concerns we face as caregivers.

November 4, 9:30-11:30am

Brace for Impact.

Strategies to take with you, when you visit aging loved ones.

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

Note: Greater details on the workshops and speakers bios are on the CEMM bulletin Board.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MISSION MINISTRY

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)

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 10/3 | * Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) | 10/15 | * Daisy Meeting (4:00 PM) |
| 10/4 | Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) | 10/17 | * Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) |
| | * Cub Scouts (6:00 PM) | 10/18 | Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) |
| 10/5 | Women in the Word (7:00 AM) | | * Cub Scout Pack Meeting (6:00 PM) |
| | Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM) | | Ruth Circle (7:30 PM) |
| 10/7 | Pumpkin Palooza (10:00 AM) | 10/19 | Women in the Word (7:00 AM) |
| 10/7 | Columbus Day - Church Office Closed | | Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM) |
| 10/10 | * Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) | 10/24 | * Boy Scouts (7:00 PM) |
| | * Cub Scouts (7:00 PM) | | Session and Deacon Meeting (7:30 PM) |
| | Facilities and Finance (7:00 PM) | 10/25 | Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) |
| 10/11 | Wednesday Bible Study (1:00 PM) | | * Cub Scouts (6:30 PM) |
| | * Cub Scouts (6:30 PM) | | * Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM) |
| | * Central Jersey Modern Quilters Guild (7:00 PM) | 10/26 | Women in the Word (7:00 AM) |
| | * Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM) | | Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM) |
| 10/12 | Women in the Word (7:00 AM) | 10/27 | * Boy Scout Court of Honor (5:30 PM) |
| | Bell Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM) | | |
| 10/13 | Swartz Rehearsal (5:00 PM) | | |
| 10/14 | Swartz Wedding (4:30 PM) | | |

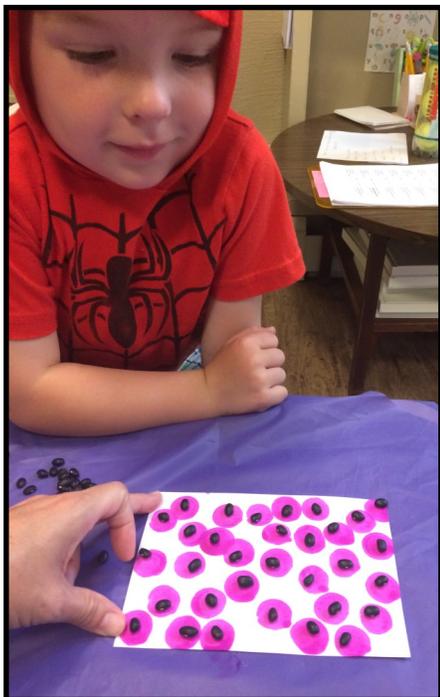


The Blanksteins and Doug and Linda Robbins spent the day representing Creative Connections Play School at the Hopewell Harvest Fair on September 23rd.

Many people stopped by to play the Plink-o style game. We had players of many ages participate.

It was a hot day, for sure, but we enjoyed interacting with the crowds. It was a pleasure and we hope we brought attention to our new church ministry, CCPS.

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS PLAY SCHOOL



We've had a fantastic start to our school year at Creative Connections Play School. We have jumped in with both feet with color mixing, counting, alphabet games, building and playing. It is a super group of kids, some three, others four with almost an equal numbers of boys and girls. We are getting to know each other and learning to follow a loose schedule. We leave lots of time for spontaneous learning, like when we talked about the sawdust left behind when some bushes were removed for a new air conditioner.



WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

As of September 25, 2017

Income

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 219,577.00
Per Capita	\$ 2,938.96
Flower Donations	\$ 959.00
Office Supply Donation	\$ 375.00
Coffee Donation	\$ 200.00
Charitable Fund Donation	\$ 700.00
Rental Income	\$ 23,800.00
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	\$ 64.41
Total Revenue	\$ 283,319.12

Expense

Salaries & Benefits/Ministry	\$ 87,540.81
Salaries & Benefits/Other Staff	\$ 92,723.18
Nondiscretionary Costs	\$ 32,224.71
Facilities	
General Bldg Maintenance	\$ 9,388.86
86-88 West Broad St	\$ 12,480.50
Manse	\$ 2,658.97
Community Engagement	
11% Tithes & Offerings	\$ 26,782.47
Deacons	\$ 1,130.00
Mission Trip	\$ 5,376.95
Family Promise	\$ 84.00
Worship & Stewardship	\$ 2,431.07
Hospitality & Fellowship	\$ 4,961.64
Nurture & Growth	\$ 3,948.54
Church Support	\$ 5,210.96
Total Expense	\$ 286,942.66

Profit/Loss

\$ (3,623.54)

Account Balances

General	\$ 57,622.83
Payroll	\$ 9,989.43

COFFEE HOUR

10/1	Hospitality & Fellowship
10/8	J. Consoli/Hayton
10/15	Mary Martha Circle
10/22	Holdcraft/Sutton
10/29	Fondue Coffee Hour

COMMUNION

10/1	* Linda Stephan Mindy Kibbey Bonnie Altieri Judy Consoli
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USHERS

10/1	Rebecca & Emma Redman
10/8	Lowinn & Mindy Kibbey
10/15	Scott & Jennifer Megaffin
10/22	Pat Swartz Peggy Sheats
10/29	Morreale Family Jane Hostetter

NEW ADDRESS

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

WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY HPC MUSIC NEWS



The Choir is back!

It was wonderful to get the choir back together and get back to work this past month! We enjoyed a combination of rehearsal and dinner at my house at the beginning of the month. The weather cooperated and we were able to sit outside and feed the mosquitos as we fed ourselves. Then it was back to work – singing together to the glory of God. It's a wonderful privilege to be a part of leading worship. And it's a lot of fun, as well!

And it's never too late to join us – even if you missed the kick-off picnic. If you'd like to be a part of the “joyful noise” we endeavor to create, please talk to me. There's always room for more in the choir...

Hymn Spotlight: Old Favorites – a Wonderful Way to Connect Across the Years

Recently I have been talking with Carlana Sargent about the music she would like included in the memorial service to celebrate the life of her mother, Anna Ruth Eshom. Anna was blessed with 98 years, and Carlana chose three hymns to celebrate that full life. I was struck by the overlap between her choices and hymns that my family used in services for my parents and grandparents. What struck me most was how much the hymns are not relics of previous generations, but are truly meaningful to so many people today. Perhaps the most universal of them all – and a hymn that speaks to both the “churched” and the “unchurched” – is the choice of “Amazing Grace”.

Also widely popular is another choice of Carlana: “How Great Thou Art”. Whether or not you have a church background, the soaring melody in the refrain is inspiring. And the poet's use of nature imagery can unify a group of people who have shared in the glory off God's creation. Consider these words from the first verse:

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

Who has not been awed by stars on a clear night? Or by the sheer power of lightning strikes and the thunder that follows?

The third choice is one that was a particular favorite of Carlana's mother – and was my father's favorite hymn. Of the three, it is perhaps the one that feels a bit older, but it still speaks to me. Again, it relies on the listener's relationship with God's incredible creation. I know I have featured this hymn before, but here's the first phrase of “In the Garden”:

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses,...

I'll bet some of you are singing or humming the refrain after the suggestion of just the first words. But I'll bet many of you don't know this old favorite, first published over 100 years ago in 1912. There are many wonderful recordings of this song by many of the best know singers of the 20th century. So here's this month's homework: go online and find some of the recordings of this simple, beautiful hymn and let me know which singer's version you like best...Roy and Dale Rogers?...Johnny Cash?...Doris Day?...Elvis Presley? Maybe someone I've never heard of...

See you in church,
Charlie Ashton

Hopewell Presbyterian Church

***The Messenger* deadline for the November issue is Sunday,
October 22, 2017. Email lducko@hopewellpres.org.**

PRAYER CONCERNS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving for the life of Anna Eshom (Carlana's mother)
- Thanksgiving for the life of Alex Stevens
- Thanksgiving for the life of Hope Graves (friend of the Yingling family)

Intercession

- Stan K. - healing
- Anne S. - healing
- Rich & Angie C. - living in Puerto Rico and dealing with significant issues from Hurricane Maria (Sue's son)

- Cathe B. - healing from a broken leg
- Helshi - breast cancer (Liz B's step-mother)
- Stephanie - breast cancer (childhood friend of Liz B.)
- Charlie V. - healing (Judy Consoli'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
- Lyle K. - healing

Hopewell Presbyterian Church
80 West Broad Street
Hopewell, NJ 08525

