



The Messenger

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S STUDY

Do you remember Wayne Gretzky. He was one great hockey player. In fact he was called the *Great Gretzky*. He played hockey with a winsome passionate abandon. He was a prolific scorer of goals and he assisted others in scoring goals. He was great as an individual...but he was also a great team player. And he inspired a generation of would-be hockey players. He once said something that really grabbed me.

"I have missed 100% of the shots I didn't take!"

This is a profound statement. Wayne Gretzky scored many goals. And he also missed many times. But he kept shooting. Moving over to baseball... consider Babe Ruth. Until Hank Aaron broke his homerun record of 714 --- The Babe was the homerun king. But he also held the record of most strikeouts. But he kept swinging. I think you get the point. To succeed in anything... we need to 'keep swinging'. We need to *'keep shooting'*--- even though we will not score a goal or hit a home run every time. But the point is: We need to try. We need to 'go for it'. We need to step up and take a chance. Take a risk.

Question. What *'shot'* is God calling you to take in this season of your life?

For all of my ministry life in churches, I have been inspired by parishioners who have 'taken shots'. A 71 year old woman in my Maplewood congregation started taking piano lessons and in three years became quite proficient. Another man in that congregation was a successful vice-president of a large insurance company. Earning a very large salary. But he was not fulfilled. Fred always wanted to be an investment broker. He started taking evening courses to get licensed. He connected with someone in the church who was a broker and was mentored by him. At age 44, he left his insurance job and started working at a local investment firm. It was not instant success. But three years later... he making more money than he was making in the insurance business. But the best was... Fred was doing what he loved!

A couple in my Millstone Church made a choice to try something different. They decided to take up ice-dancing. They were both in their late sixties. They continue to dance competitively. And they are having a blast. They continue to act (and skate)... very young!

Talk about 'young'... I had a friend in Bethlehem Pennsylvania named Barry Young. Barry was a successful pharmacist and the owner of a medical equipment company that served the Lehigh Valley. Barry was also a strong Disciple of Jesus who strived to obediently follow Jesus. In his middle fifties... Barry received a call to become a Spiritual Director. He trained at the Shalem Institute. Became fully certified. And he took a big risk. He sold both of his businesses and went into Spiritual Direction full-time. Countless lives were affected by his ministry. Barry died three years ago... but his legacy continues in the lives of the people he guided. This continues to inspire me.

And how 'bout you...? Where is God calling you to *'take a shot'*? And where might God be calling you to take a shot in your faith journey? Where might God be calling you to try something... do something... differently? It's called... *'stepping out in faith'* --- not be totally sure where God might be leading you. And yes... this can be risky. It can be scary. But it might be the best thing you ever do in your life!

And what about HPC? Where is God calling HPC... at this time in our life... to *'take a shot'*? Try something we have never done before. Take a risk. Go for broke. Pursue a task. A vision. A new way of doing ministry and mission? Pursue what appears to be the impossible dream. But maybe... just maybe... that dream is being planted in us by God! And know this: All we have to lose... is our life for the Kingdom! Wow!

Back to Wayne Gretzky... *"I have missed 100% of the shots I didn't take!"*

What *'shot'* is God calling you to take? What *'shot'* is God calling HPC to take?

Go for it! Go for it!

George

CONFIRMATION — JUNE 11, 2017



OUR CONFIRMANDS AND MENTORS



Kate Jackson with Mentor, Becky Ludeke



Haley & Paige Yingling with Mentors, Jen Megaffin & Kathie Sutton



Tiernan Blankstein with Mentor, Barbara Pauley



Christopher Rice with Mentor, Charlie Ashton

NEW MEMBERS — RECEIVED ON JUNE 18, 2017



The Bleickardt Family: Laurie, Eric, Abigail, Gregory & Justin



Roxanne Jones

MISSION STUDY TEAM UPDATE: CLOSING IN ON THE REPORT

Who is God calling us to be? How are we to prepare for that?

How do we discern God's purpose for this congregation by looking at our vision, mission, values, goals, strengths, and the needs around us?

The Mission Study Team has been meeting weekly since April 17th with these bullet points in mind. With able co-chairing from Martha Camp and Scott Megaffin, and spiritual direction and commentary from Pastor George, we have moved steadily forward towards our goal of completing the Mission Study Report during July. Our meetings are a combination of prayer, devotions, and focused discussion on where God is leading this church. As with all small groups, we have got to know each other better and value our time together. There is laughter at times!

Through the listening groups, church meetings, and the after-church bible studies of the last few weeks we have obtained much information and insight on how people are feeling about our church now and in the future. Thank you to all who have contributed. If you have not felt called to share your thoughts, that is perfectly OK, but if you change your mind it's not too late either! Get in touch with any of us at the email addresses below and we will be more than happy to include your perspectives.

The Mission Study Report document seeks to help take the church from its past into the future. This is no easy task! However, it is one required by our Presbyterian polity and is an integral part of the process that leads to the calling of a new pastor. Once the Session and the Presbytery of New Brunswick have approved the Report, the way is clear for the Session, through our Nominating Committee, to appoint a Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the search process. The report will also be presented to the congregation.

What will the report say, you may well ask? It will contain an analysis of our congregation, based on our understanding of what we heard at all the events over the last few months. The emphasis will be on the future: how these insights help us discern what we are to do next as a church community.

It will also have a community analysis component. It's no secret that Hopewell Valley is now largely an affluent, white, highly educated community with high expectations. It is getting wealthier and less religious with every passing year. How do we engage with this community in a faithful way? What are their burdens and stresses? What are their hopes and fears? What about the small number who are left out of all this? These are some of the things we have been wrestling with.

Please keep us in your prayers as we move forward with the report.

Ian Burrow

Your Mission Study Team is

Ian Burrow burrowintohistory@gmail.com

Martha Camp (Co-Chair monsa27@yahoo.com)

Stan Krystek firstchancefarm@msn.com

Scott Megaffin (Co-Chair) smegaffin@yahoo.com

Cathy Peterson cpeterson@hopewellpres.org

Renee Richardson rerichardson@verizon.net

Kathie Sutton tkssutton@aol.com

Rev. George Betz gbetz@hopewellpres.org

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 - July & August Sundays

Worship (10:30 AM) & Coffee & Fellowship (11:30 AM)

* shows Community Event
** shows Community Events open to all

7/4	Office Closed	8/2	** Yoga (7:00 PM)
7/5	** Yoga (7:00 PM)	8/3	Women in the Word (7:00 AM)
7/6	Women in the Word (7:00 AM)	8/9	Quilters Guild (7:00 PM)
7/10	* Central Jersey Modern Quilters Guild (7:00 PM)		* Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM)
7/12	** Yoga (7:00 PM)		Ruth Circle (7:30 PM)
	* Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM)	8/10	Women in the Word (7:00 AM)
7/13	Women in the Word (7:00 AM)	8/16	** Yoga (7:00 PM)
7/17	Community Engagement & Mission (6:30 PM)	8/17	Women in the Word (7:00 AM)
7/20	Women in the Word (7:00 AM)	8/21-8/25	* Soccer Shots Camp (9:00 AM)
7/24-7/28	* Soccer Shots Camp (9:00 AM)	8/22	Session (7:30 PM)
7/26	** Yoga (7:00 PM)	8/23	** Yoga (7:00 PM)
	* Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM)		Annie's Chorus (7:30 PM)
7/27	Women in the Word (7:00 AM)	8/24	Women in the Word (7:00 AM)
		8/30	** Yoga (7:00 PM)
		8/31	Women in the Word (7:00 AM)

The Church has Left the Building (TCHLTB) — Save the date: November 5, 2017

Once again in the fall we will be participating in TCHLTB. The theme this year, from the Gospel of Matthew is **“Launch: The Church Has Left the Building.”** Jesus told us to be salt and light in the world not in a church building. The Sermon on the Mount was not intended to be lived solely within the four walls of a sanctuary. Jesus wants to launch His people to live on the outside what we believe on the inside.



SHARING OUR SPACE



PAINTED OAK NATURE SCHOOL GRADUATION



WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH JUNE 20, 2017

Income		
	Tithes & Offerings	\$ 148,419.00
	Per Capita	\$ 2,938.96
	Flower Donations	\$ 884.00
	Office Supply Donation	\$ 175.00
	Charitable Fund Donation	\$ 700.00
	Rental Income	\$ 15,700.00
	Deacons	\$ 30.00
	Womens' Retreat	\$ 3,150.00
	Youth Retreat	\$ 1,200.00
	Special Event Donation	\$ 180.00
	Insurance Reimbursement	\$ 2,269.51
	Building Usage	\$ 1,641.80
	Sunday School Offerings	\$ 200.00
	Mission Trip Funding	\$ 650.00
	Solar Energy Credits	\$ 4,777.50
	From CCP School Payroll	\$ 9,916.80
	Misc	\$ 39.66
Total Revenue		\$ 192,872.23
Expense		
	Salaries & Benefits/Ministry	\$ 57,314.98
	Salaries & Benefits/Other Staff	\$ 61,580.40
	Nondiscretionary Costs	\$ 22,228.99
	Facilities	
	General Bldg Maintenance	\$ 4,486.32
	86-88 West Broad St	\$ 8,018.01
	Manse	\$ 2,065.66
	Community Engagement	
	11% Tithes & Offerings	\$ 16,284.07
	Deacons	\$ 30.00
	Mission Trip	\$ 776.00
	Family Promise	\$ 84.00
	Worship & Stewardship	\$ 1,789.07
	Hospitality & Fellowship	\$ 3,804.09
	Nurture & Growth	\$ 3,050.82
	Church Support	\$ 3,849.44
Total Expense		\$ 185,361.85
Profit/Loss		\$ 7,510.38
Account Balances		
	General	\$ 70,121.65
	Payroll	\$ 8,631.53

COFFEE HOUR

7/2	Plaag/Treible/Cox
7/9	Mills
7/16	Burrow
7/23	Peterson
7/30	Mortensen
8/6	Robbins
8/13	Session
8/20	Friends & Followers
8/27	Scheier

COMMUNION

7/2
* Joanne Hornberger
Liz Blankstein
Sandy Ogg
Nancy Treible

8/6
* Linda Stephan
Cathy Peterson
Bev Mills
Carlana Sargent

USHERS

7/2	Franz/Grieves
7/9	Tonkin
7/16	Sargent
7/23	Burrow
7/30	Ogg/P. Ludeke
8/6	J. Consoli/Cook
8/13	Scheier
8/20	Hayton/Mortensen
8/27	Holdcraft/Sherrard

WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY HPC MUSIC NEWS



Summer – a time to take stock...

As a lifelong teacher, the beginning of summer is the *real* end of the year to me – much more so than December 31st. The end of the school year had significance for all of us as children as we would complete one grade and look forward to the next – for teachers it is a time to say goodbye to one group of students and start to prepare to welcome a new bunch in the fall. And, if you are prone to reflection, it's a time to evaluate your efforts of the past ten months and think about what you were happy with, as well as areas that you could better serve your students.

As Hopewell Presbyterian Church discerns its next steps through prayer and discussion groups, I'm struck by the parallels. In both cases, we are charged to serve and to meet people where they are. We, the church, just like teachers, must be careful to avoid getting stuck in routines that may have served one group of students, but do not serve our new students as well. And good teaching, like good "churching", is about helping people learn and grow and become better versions of themselves.

One key difference – we force people to go to school, but we can't force them to go to church. With God's help, we need to work to make our church the place people can't wait to return to, week after week. We need to bring our best ideas, energies, and selves to the task.

Hymnal Study: "DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION", hymns #719 to #748

George's sermons have been inspiration for how to move forward and invigorate HPC. We have a great church – and a wonderful group of people coming together to glorify God. How do we invite others in and welcome more of our neighbors into this fellowship?

Certainly we should worship together, read God's word, and pray as ways to find inspiration and ideas. I would suggest that music can also play an important role – engaging both the head and the heart. I invite you to spend some time with a hymnal and look through the section labeled DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION (#719 to #748). This section is filled with powerful, biblically sound texts that will inspire you – and may stick in your head as you go through your daily activities!

Consider the first verse of one of my favorite new hymns, "Will You Come and Follow Me", #726:

"Will you come and follow me if I but call you name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

What a wonderful devotion – a call by Jesus to do his work in the world and grow in his love.

Your homework assignment:

Check out those hymns! And please share with me any that touch you in particular. I'd love to share your favorites with others in the next Messenger. If you have a favorite you would be willing to share, you can tell me in person or email me at cashton@hopewellpres.org.

See you in church,
Charlie Ashton

NURTURE & GROWTH MINISTRY



Nurture & Growth

Ideas abound and plans are underway to further develop
Wisdom & Wonder.

Save the date:
September 10th @ 9:15
Kick-off Breakfast

That gives you eleven weeks to invite friends & neighbors
to join us & see what's cookin' for the coming year.

Hopewell Council of Churches — Parents Night Out

Parents — Get a summer break and have an evening off! The Hopewell Council of Churches volunteers will provide fun & entertainment for the kids while you have a night out. Local restaurants giving discounts: Antimo's Italian Kitchen and Brothers Moon.

When: Saturday, July 22nd, from 5:00-8:00 PM

Where: Hopewell United Methodist Church

For more information and registration call: 609-466-0471 or go to www.hopewellmethodist.org.



NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY, STARTING IN THE FALL

Creative Connections Play School became a Ministry of our church last December. Some of our HPC members have volunteered to serve on our Board. Linda Robbins is our President, setting the agenda for our Board meetings and providing her artistic flair on bulletin boards and our door wreath. Her husband, Doug, serves as our Treasurer and has solved countless issues within our school rooms, from hanging bulletin boards to fixing leaky sinks to changing locks. Dick Scheetz serves as our Secretary and has helped us stay organized as we work diligently towards licensing. Liz Blankstein serves as the Director of the school as well as the Head teacher. Maria Santomauro (founder of CCPS) and Alex Stephan (yes, she's Linda's daughter-in-law), our parent representative, round out the Board. CCPS is grateful for their service and we look forward to continuing our work together as we get ready for seven students to begin school on September 7th.

Creative Connections Play School is looking for more people interested in volunteering with our students. We spend time reading each day, usually during our 11:00 hour and we are hoping some congregation members would enjoy spending time reading storybooks at our school. We have a couch with throw pillows, so you can be comfortable as you read or as you listen to our students read to you. You could sign up to come once a month or more often if that suits your schedule. We are flexible! If you have a different gift to share, we are open to suggestions. Our art studio is an amazing place to visit- maybe you have an artistic side you would like to share with 3, 4 and 5 year olds? Perhaps you have a skill that you could show the children, like a sewing talent or a special tool that a child would enjoy learning how to use. Use your imagination...we bet there is some way you could contribute to the success of this new ministry of Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Please email or see Liz Blankstein (lizblank220@gmail.com) with any questions.

BOARD OF DEACONS

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.

We are pleased to announce that a \$1000 scholarship was awarded on June 15 to Madison Parker of Hopewell Valley Central High School on behalf of the Board of Deacons and Congregation of Hopewell Presbyterian Church. This scholarship fund originated in honor of Lucy Ducko.

The 2017 recipient is a lifelong resident of Hopewell Township who has served as class president and a leadership mentor for younger peers at her high school, with a platform of diversity and tolerance. Madison has also volunteered at the YWCA of Princeton where she is working to create a garden for their oldest preschoolers and revitalize the front landscaping and community garden boxes. Her other volunteer experiences include serving at Children's Specialized Hospital and tutoring. She is a member of the National Honor's Society, the Spanish National Honor's Society and the Dance National Honor's Society.

Miss Parker plans to attend Clemson University studying Spanish and Public Health to prepare for a future "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."

Congratulations, Madison Parker! May God bless you in your studies and your career of service. May He give you a heart to love Him and to love others, and may He anoint your mind and hands to serve.

Hopewell Presbyterian Church

**The Messenger deadline for the September issue is Sunday,
August 20, 2017. Email lducko@hopewellpres.org.**

PRAYER CONCERNS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Thanksgiving

- Confirmands & New Members
- Mission Study Team
- Thanksgiving for the life of Carl Fredeen (Ken's father)
- Thanksgiving for the life of John Wetzel (Peg P's brother-in-law)

Intercession

- Allen & Helen - prayers for release (Cathy P's father)
- Jane H. - healing from a hip replacement
- Helshi - breast cancer (Liz B's step-mother)
- Stephanie - breast cancer (childhood friend of Liz)
- Mina - healing from brain surgery to remove a tumor (3 years old)

- Richard - hospitalized (resident of Little Haven)
- Lud A. Sr. - healing
- Ben - 6 year old with rare blood disorder needing a bone marrow transplant (friend of Holly P.)
- Gail healing and comfort during chemotherapy (friend of Cathe and Ian B.)
- Kaethe H. - COPD worsening (sister-in-law of Barbara)
- Lorna - healing (friend of Lois R.)
- Susan W. - pancreatic cancer—comfort and peace
- Heidi - to take control of her bi-polar disorder and peace for her family (Barbara H's friend)
- Charlie V. - healing (Judy C's friend)
- Eric M. - healing

Hopewell Presbyterian Church
80 West Broad Street
Hopewell, NJ 08525

