

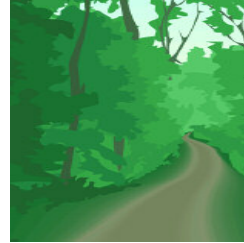
# NEWS OF HOPE

New Hope Presbyterian Church  
Pastor: Anne Morgan

March/Vol. XXIX  
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## LENT

### A Journey in Search of Transformation



As we feel the ashes touch our foreheads and hear the words, “You are a child of God. Of dust you were made and to dust you will return,” the words bring some discomfort as they seem to minimize who we are. Doesn’t the psalmist tell us that God made us just a little lower than angels? The words are not meant to minimize, but to invite us to reflect on and to take stock of ourselves and our relationship to the Divine.

I want to thank Ken Chatfield for sharing his life’s journey with addiction (February 22, 2010 marked his 29th year of sobriety) in such a meaningful way. He offered us an excellent approach to Lent by putting his own journey in the context of a spiritual journey.

The 12 Steps that offer to heal addictions are powerful tools for any person, and they speak to the central theme of Lent. That theme is moving toward awakening and transformation which can come through observing intentional spiritual practices. During the season of Lent each year, the natural world is awakening – bulbs, flowers, trees, animals are returning from their time of rest and dormancy in winter as they begin to awaken.

Below I have used some the concepts of the twelve steps for us to consider using through Lent. The process may take much longer than the five remaining weeks of Lent, but the rewards are immeasurable.

- *Admit that I need to focus intentionally on my spiritual journey.*
- *Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself.*
- *Seek through prayer and meditation to improve my conscious contact with God, praying for knowledge of God's will and the power to carry that out.*

The Twelve Step programs are meant to lead to spiritual awakening or transformation. If you need resources for your journey, please contact me. Poetry has become a powerful tool for me and I will be placing copies of poems on the Worship table in the Narthex. You will also find there a scriptural aid through Lent. My prayer for all of us is that we will discover those practices that will transform and awaken us to the person God created us to be.

– Anne

## Upcoming Events

### MARCH 6

John Bell Workshop  
Northminster PC, Hickory

### MARCH 7 6:00 PM

Lenten Taize´ Service with  
flute and pianist

### MARCH 14 11:00 AM

(Daylight Savings Time begins)  
Drama, *God Will Call*  
during worship

### MARCH 20 9AM - 4PM

*Practical Bible Study for  
Tough Times*  
1st Presbyterian, Morganton

### MARCH 21

Middle School Rally at  
Montreat

### MARCH 28

Palm Sunday  
Congregational Dinner

### MARCH 28 – APRIL 3

Holy Week

### April 1

Maundy Thursday Service

### April 3

Trip to Labyrinth at Crossnore

## SESSION NEWS

The newly elected Session met in February and the following leadership for Ministry Groups were determined:

**Worship Ministry** - Angela Lepro and Johnnie Zorn

**Education Ministry** - Jessica Young

**Outreach Ministry** - Laura Brown and Kim Presley

**Stewardship Ministry** - Bud Weeks

**Evangelism Ministry** - Ruth Lewis

**Congregational Life** - Temporarily by Angela Lepro and Kim Presley

**Clerk** - Robin Bradley

We need someone who will help organize and oversee Congregational Life. Kim has agreed to be in charge of the monthly church luncheons, and folks are needed to help her. Angela is organizing the fellowship time. Please let Robin or Anne know if you would be willing to oversee and/or serve on this team.

### BUDGET CUTS

Despite the appeal by the Session for new or increased pledges or one time gifts, they had to make cuts in order to approve a balanced budget for 2010. \$1000 was cut from Outreach, \$2900 from Personnel, a total of \$2050 from Education, Worship, and Congregational Life, and \$200 from Administrative. Please see Jay if you have any questions.

## Congratulations!

Givens Estates Retirement Community was listed as one of the top 10% retirement and care communities in the United States by *US New and World Magazine*. Only 4 communities in North Carolina made the list, and Givens is the only one located in WNC on the list.



## A NOTE FROM DAVID

About three months ago, the Presbytery contacted me about placing my name before the session of Oak Forest Presbyterian Church as a three month part-time interim stated supply. They have been through some major transitions over the past few years and need a time to evaluate and discern their future.

In February their Session voted to call me to service from March through May. I preached for them the last two Sundays in February.

I am excited about this new challenge, but as I told the New Hope Session of this development at their meeting in February, I realized the sense of loss and closure that this means at least for awhile. I will miss you all, especially the choir and learning with you.

Thank you for your support and welcome of the past twelve months, not to mention the past 13 1/2 years.

David

## A Request from the OFFICE

*If you leave an item in the office, please indicate to whom or where it goes. Presently we have a square cake pan, which we have put in the kitchen, and a bag containing 2 puzzles. If you left the puzzles, please let us know the person for whom they were intended.*

*Thank you.*

## OUTREACH

### OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER

Literacy Counsel of Asheville will offer training sessions for volunteers to help adults learn to read. These classes will be offered sometime in the late summer. The unique aspect of this training that it will be held at Givens Estates instead of downtown Asheville. Helen Cable is organizing this effort and would like to know by June if you would like to participate. The counsel would like to have 12 people in order to hold the class. Please contact Helen if you are interested, or have any questions.

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY SCORE



Thank you all for supporting the Souper Bowl collections and luncheon. We raised more than ever before:

**118 cans collected and \$271.50 in cash which will be sent to Manna FoodBank.** Thanks to David Presley for providing our in house "store" to help with the canned goods.

## STEWARDSHIP

### BUDGET REPORT

2010 BUDGET (through 1/31/10)	To Date Budget	To Date Actual	Jan Actual
Operating Contributions	10,875	12,074	12,074
Initial Operating Balance	663	663	
Total Operating Balance	12,578	12,773	12,773
Total Operating Expense	11,958	11,144	11,144
Operating Balance	1,283	2,292	
Capital Contributions	675	440	440

For more detail, please see the Stewardship Committee bulletin in the NatheX.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

### From The Young Family:

*To everyone who thought of us, prayed for us, called, visited and sent cards, brought food, giftcards and firewood, gave money to help us get hot water. . . we are eternally grateful. The beginning of 2010 was one of the worst times in our lives, and yet, through the constant support and care of our church community, it became one of the best and most loving times of our lives. We do not know what we would have done without our church family during these trying weeks, and luckily, we did not even have to think about it. God has truly blessed us; from keeping Mom in good health while we took her to Puerto Rico to be with our family in the passing of her father, to keeping Dad strong while he underwent critical head surgery, to continually surrounding us with love and support from our church and our friends. Please continue to pray for Dad, that this smaller hematoma in his head will disappear as the doctor says it might. So many thanks to everyone again and God Bless!*

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship hour after church is a chance to visit and catch up with each other and with our visitors. When we leave church after services, we go home or go out to eat, so we really don't need a lot of munchies. Just a cup of coffee or a glass of juice hits the spot when we gather in the Narthex after services.

How can you help? We need people to take turns serving coffee, juice, and whatever else you would like to bring. Let's keep it simple. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex and we hope you will participate at least one Sunday during the year or maybe even two. If no one signs up for a particular Sunday, there will be no coffee or juice available that Sunday. Please consider participating in this service to our church. I will be glad to show you how it's done if you need help.

—Angela

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## LENTEN STUDY—SUNDAYS AT 9:30

### Pausing on the Road to Jerusalem

Independent weekly studies of major themes in Lent. Weekly handouts are available in the Narthex.

#### February 28 – The Meanings of the Cross

*Luke 13:31-35*

#### March 7 – The Urgency of Repentance

*Luke 13:1-9*

#### March 14 – Unconditional Love

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

#### March 21 – Joyful Use and Misuse of Earthly Pleasures and Blessings

*John 12:1-8*

#### March 28 – The Dynamics of Power and Authority in God's Vision for Us

*Luke 19:28-40*

(We will save our study of Paul until the fall.)

### A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY Practical Bible Study for Tough Times

Saturday, March 20

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

1st Presbyterian, Morganton

The Christian Education Committee of the Presbytery of WNC is bringing Dr. Francis Taylor Gench, Professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, graduate of Davidson College and UTS, VA, and daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Randy Taylor. She is the author of *Back to the Well: Women's Encounters with Jesus in the Gospels, Hebrews and James*, and two studies for Presbyterian Women.

Information and Registration Forms are available in the narthex and at [www.presbyterywnc.org](http://www.presbyterywnc.org)

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

For those who would like to join the Christian Ed. committee, or simply attend a meeting, please feel free to email Jessica Young at [jessyou@gmail.com](mailto:jessyou@gmail.com). We had such a wonderful experience with our Advent service program that we would like to brainstorm ideas for activities to do during Lent. Any and everyone is welcome!

— Jess

Begin Getting The News Out!  
KidShine Arts Camp registration  
opens soon.

Camp dates this summer:  
August 9-13

## WORSHIP

### CALL FOR FLOWERS

When we come to church each Sunday it is so nice to look out of the sanctuary windows and see our beautiful mountains. The frosting on the cake would be to look around and see some beautiful flowers on the side of the communion table. Won't you help and sign up to bring flowers one Sunday? The flowers can be purchased, picked from your garden, or the church garden. We have plenty of vases in the kitchen, or you may choose to bring them already arranged from home.



Please sign up on the sheet provided in the Narthex. It would be wonderful to have all the spaces filled up and the sanctuary dressed with flowers each week.

## Congregational Joys & Concerns

**JOYS:** **Anna Himes** has returned to her condo at Givens from rehab; **Rosemma Coppess** has healed remarkably well from a bad fall; **Jean Fesperman** is doing well since her surgery;

**CONCERNS:** The people and rescue teams in Haiti; **Lynn Young** is doing well following a second procedure on 2/20 to reduce fluid under the skull caused by a fall; **Annette Sheffield** fell on 2/19 and fractured her shoulder in two places; **Heinz & Marie Henkens'** daughter-in-law, Helena, had a double mastectomy; **Debbie MacMillan** is slowly regaining her strength after back surgery; **Helen Cable's** friend, Shan, has Stage 3 colon cancer (the mother of preemie Riley, for whom we also prayed — he is doing very well now); **Stephanie Patton** and family in the death of Stephanie's mom, Mary Elizabeth Ball; **Mazie Burkett's** knee replacement surgery has been postponed until May; **Bob and Joyce Reaume; Blanche Carper and Jean Magaw** and their families in the deaths of their husbands; **Margot & Bernard Coleman's** grandson, Evan; **Bob Clinton's** nephew, James Cathro, serving in the Navy in Iraq; **Becky Ledbetter's** daughter, Kim; **Bill and Ann Higgins'** granddaughter.

## USHERS, GREETERS AND NURSERY HELPERS

SERVING THIS MONTH	MAR 7	MAR 14	MAR 21	MAR 28
USHERS	Carol Parker Abby Bates	Carol Parker Abby Bates	Bambi Teague Abby Bates	Dorcus Zook Abby Bates
GREETERS	Ann & Bill Higgins	Becca Ireland Family	Scott Murrison Melissa Vandermark	Presley Family
NURSERY	Jessica Young	Tracey Young	Melissa Vandermark	Sandy Weeks

**New Hope Presbyterian Church**  
**3070 Sweeten Creek Road**  
**Asheville, NC 28803**



**MARCH**  
**2010**