



the weekly Window

June 14, 2020

Out to the life and ministry of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church (USA)

In Appreciation & Celebration of Tom Carpenito

Clerk of Session 2014-2020



By Mac Schafer

For six years (two terms) Ruling Elder Tom Carpenito has faithfully served as the Clerk of Session of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church. On behalf of the leadership of the church I would like to express our deepest appreciation for his ministry.

Tom served on Session as Ruling Elder two terms before accepting the role of Clerk. Tom has humbly and faithfully been a foundational presence for the Session.

He has always carefully picked his moments to

speak. When he did chime in, my sense was the body took his words and guidance very seriously. Tom brought wisdom and years of church leadership to the table. This is the second time Tom served as Clerk of Session for a church. He served as Clerk for his church in Wilmington, Delaware years ago. Tom has been a trusted sounding board for me as pastor. I could always count on him to discern various issues, polity and pathways forward. One of the quiet and most important roles

of a Clerk is the countless minutes and documentation of the actions of a church Session. Special thanks to Tom for his careful attentiveness to this work. Tom always got the highest marks from presbytery for his work as Clerk.

As Tom concludes his tenure as Clerk, he will continue his ministry in the local church on the HMPC Foundation. On the following page is an interview I had with Tom about his tenure as Clerk.

(Continued on page 2)

APPRECIATION

Tom Carpenito

(Continued from page 1)

Mac:

What has been the most rewarding part of serving as Clerk of Session for six years?

Tom:

Being a member of a team that continually sought to discern God's plan for Hudson and then was able to identify and initiate several major initiatives which significantly enabled Hudson to enhance our ministries in service to God. These initiatives included:

- two capital campaigns which significantly enhanced our facilities, reduced debt, and increased our endowment;
- the task force that made recommendations to redefine our Sunday morning schedule and make needed upgrades to the sanctuary;
- a prayerful and thoughtful examination of Hudson's response to the legalization of same sex marriage;

- and now our effort to help with food insecurity.

Although I was not a voting member, it was meaningful to be able to participate in the discussion and provide my perspective where appropriate.

Mac:

Where have you sensed God's movement?

Tom:

As the Session went through the discernment process for the initiatives that I have mentioned, it was evident that we were being guided by God.

Mac:

What are some of your hopes for the church as we move forward?

Tom:

My hope is that we will continue to seek out new initiatives that enhance our ability to serve God. For

“My hope is that we will continue to seek out new initiatives that enhance our ability to serve God.”

example, one of my hopes is that we will one day be able to have a full-time director of children's ministries on staff.

Mac:

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Tom:

I continue to be moved by the efforts of the members in our congregation and our staff to take action to help others both within and outside the congregation.

Mac:

Tom, we are grateful for your service to Christ through the church.

Please take a moment in the coming weeks to thank (via text, e-mail or written letter) Tom for his service to the church.

Virtual Wall Raising Ceremony

Friday, June 19

As you know, much of Habitat construction has been suspended since mid March and Habitat staff have been faithfully planning for the time it can begin again while working with small professional crews to work on the homes already in process. We have good news about the Interfaith Build, even as restrictions are still in place. Here is the latest update from Rick Beech, Vice President for Faith Relations:

Dear Interfaith Family,

You are invited to the first ever, Habitat Wake Virtual Wall-Raising Ceremony on Friday, June 19 at 12:30 p.m. The walls that you faithfully built on Leap Day, February 29, are now coming out of storage. The site improvement delays are behind us in Abbington Ridge. Our construction team, which has been patiently finishing the nine homes started pre-COVID 19 without volunteers, are now ready to start additional homes. The construction superintendent assigned to our home, in partnership with a small professional framing crew, will be standing the walls of Interfaith Build 2020 during June 17-19. Our superintendent will be providing us a tour of the recently raised walls on this Zoom call.

Since it is hard to shelter at home when you don't have a good home to shelter in, we are moving forward with building the Interfaith Build home. The homebuyer, Amber, is thrilled to have her home beginning. Amber will join us at this Zoom Wall-Raising Ceremony on June 19. She is excited about meeting you. Amber grew up in Long Island, NY and has lived in the area for 13 years. She works as a customer service representative at

Duke Energy Progress. She has two children: Anthony (16) and Imani (7). Amber indicates that she is eager to show her children the value of hard work and provide for them a home of their own. She says that "I will feel so accomplished" by being able to do this. Thank you for being a partner with Amber in helping her to be so accomplished in life!

We have a three phase volunteer staggered re-entry plan. You can click on this link <https://www.habitatwake.org/were-together> for details. The first phase starts later this month. It calls for a homebuyer representative from each family to join the construction team in working on their home. If that phase is successful, we will move to phase two when we bring a person or two from our skilled volunteer laborer team, the Force of Habit(at), to work on these homes. If that goes well, we will start phase three by adding a couple designated sponsor volunteers to join this crew. If there is a chance that we can safely add volunteers from the Interfaith Coalition to build Amber's house, I will certainly keep you posted on all the details. Until then, please join us on [Zoom](#) Friday, June 19 at 12:30 p.m. for our Virtual Wall-Raising Ceremony.

For more information contact [Cary Dickerson](#) or [Debbie Kirk](#).

Seeing the Word

Monday, June 15

Seeing the Word is a scripture study that utilizes images from the *Saint John's Illuminated Bible*. The group meets on the third Monday of the month at 12 noon on Zoom. Let Pastor Mac (mschafer@hmpc.org) know if you would like a Zoom invitation.

Waking Up With the Word

Tuesday, June 16

This men's bible study will meet on Zoom every Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. while we are sheltering in place due to COVID-19. The group centers on the scripture that will be preached on the following Sunday. If you have not received an invitation to the group and would like to, contact Mac Schafer at mschafer@hmpc.org.

Women at the Well

Wednesday, June 17

Women at the Well has begun its weekly group meetings at 9:15 a.m. *Fierce, Free and Full of Fire* by Jen Hatmaker is our book selection and can be found on Amazon and other retail outlets. The author is this year's keynote speaker at the Montreat Women's Conference which many of us will be attending in August. Current participants will receive the assignments and Zoom links and we welcome others to join us! For more information contact Debbie Kirk (dkirk@hmpc.org).



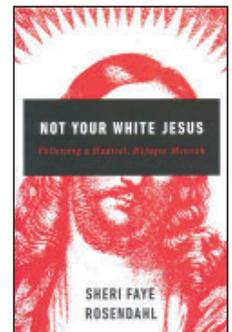
Thursday, June 25 & July 9 & 23

The monthly Women at the Well meets at 6 p.m. and will continue every other Thursday evening. Current participants will receive the podcast selection and Zoom link and we welcome others to join us! Contact Debbie Kirk (dkirk@hmpc.org) to be added to the participant list.

Sacred Conversations

Sunday, June 14

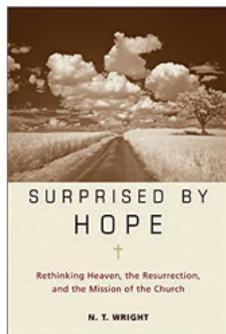
In light of the of the current incidents of racial injustice in our nation and long history of the same, Pastor Debbie will use the book *Not Your White Jesus: Following a Radical Refugee Messiah* by Sheri Faye Rosendahl as the basis for our conversations. Together we will prayerfully consider the call to be faithful disciples as we follow the counter cultural, revolutionary Jesus. All are welcome to join us! [Join Zoom Meeting here.](#)



Surprised By Hope

Wednesday, June 17

What does the Christian church have to offer the world in this time of uncertainty, confusion, and fear? Can we only offer hope for a better life in the world to come? Or is “Christian future hope ... deeply intertwined with how we live today?”



Don Slater will facilitate part two of a **series of six weekly virtual classes on Wednesday at 7 p.m.** The class will explore these ideas using a DVD series connected to the book *Surprised By Hope Rethinking Heaven, Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* by N. T. Wright, biblical scholar

and Bishop of Durham, England. Each session will consist of watching a DVD presentation by Wright and a group discussion of the ideas presented. Purchasing the book might be useful but is not required.

Contact Don Slater at dj Slater107@mac.com for more information and to express your interest, so that you may be invited to the virtual sessions.

SPECIAL OFFERING

COVID-19 Assistance

June 21

We will have a special offering for COVID-19 assistance through our Good Samaritan Fund. The money raised will be used to help members and friends with COVID-19 related hardships. If all the funds received are not needed for COVID-19 related needs, the balance will be used in accordance of Hudson’s Good Samaritan Fund

guidelines.

You may mail in your donation, donate online, or text to give. Text the amount and samaritan to 888-906-0744. Example (25 samaritan). If you have not done this before, you will be prompted to enter your information. Once it has been entered, you will not have to enter again the next time you use text to give.

Groups & Classes



Although we are social distancing due to COVID-19 many groups and classes are meeting online! Contact a group leader for an invitation.

Biannual General Assembly Meeting

By Debbie Kirk

I have been excited about being elected a commissioner to the General Assembly's at biannual meeting of the PCUSA June 19-27. The host city team in Baltimore was completing over two years of planning and preparation when COVID-19 changed everything and meeting in person was no longer possible.

The Office of the General Assembly national staff acted quickly and are doing a wonderful job amending the assembly to an abbreviated and online gathering. One decision was to change the theme and foundational text of the assembly to those that would more appropriately address the current situation.

This scripture was selected by Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II to go along with the new theme of the 224th General Assembly: "From Lament to Hope." Why have you forgotten us completely? Why have you forsaken us these many days? Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old. Lamentations 5:20-21 (NRSV)

I have a number of meetings in preparation for using the various virtual platforms required. Though this is not what I expected the assembly to be I am confident that God is doing a new thing among us and I am honored to be a part of it. Here is the official statement from our national staff:

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in unprecedented times. Within a few short months, an unknown and unseen virus has ravaged nearly every corner of the planet. Loved ones who were healthy have been struck down. Families have had to grieve without having an opportunity to personally say goodbye. Our churches are facing difficult times as pastors and staff find new, innovative ways to minister from a distance as the future of their churches remain in question.

For the first time in our denomination's history, we are preparing for a General Assembly that will be totally online. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly has had to make some difficult decisions as we looked at numerous options ranging from a full assembly agenda to our final decision to shorten the assembly and to focus solely on critical business issues. In making these decisions we recognize that these unusual times prevent us from living into the fullness of who we are. Part of the grief COVID-19 has invited into our lives is the inability to be fully ourselves within the parameters of what we can do with what we have in a particular time frame. In other words, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is much more than standing rules, budgets, and elections. As our Stated Clerk recently said, "We are not divorcing ourselves from the work of social justice." We are about justice. We are advocacy. We are theological and we are prophetic. But in these times of a pandemic, this is the necessary response in considering the health and well-being of the hosting community, commissioners, advisory delegates, observers, and staff.

Join us as we step into these uncertain times with the faith and certainty that God will sustain and embolden us into the future. To access the assembly follow this link <https://ga-pcusa.org>. I look forward to sharing my experience with you!

Garden Display



June

Susan and Glenn Grigg invite you to stop by their garden to see the daylilies in bloom anytime during the next two weeks. Some are in the front yard, but most are in the side and back yard behind the fence keeping out the hungry deer. Gardens are full of different colors, but there are no clashes or arguments. The address is 105 Trotters Ridge Drive, Raleigh. Call 919-870-8345 to let them know you are coming. They will practice social distancing or stay inside, your choice.

Virtual Bingo

Hudson is looking into doing a virtual “Bingo” night via Zoom. Contact Pat Cash if you are interested in joining in the fun. E-mail Pat at pcash@hmhc.org or call 919-787-1086.



Update

May

- Sustained the examination of the Elders and Deacons for the class of 2023.
- Asked the staff to design a worship service to be held outdoors and conduct a trial run with the Session and the Diaconate.
- Approved the plan for Vacation Bible School for later this summer.
- Approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee to have a special offering in June supporting COVID-19 financial assistance through the Good Samaritan Fund.
- Approved the request to allow the teachers from the Preschool to enter the building and “shut down” the classrooms in an orderly fashion. Social distancing guidelines will be maintained.
- Supported the development of a plan by the Hudson Preschool Board to reopen Hudson Preschool for a July session. (The Preschool Board later voted to cancel the July session.)
- Approved the use of the outside property of Hudson by the Boy Scout troop ensuring that social distancing guidelines are utilized.

Giving

Your financial support is vital to the church. There are several ways you can give. For more information go to hmhc.org or contact Pat at pcash@hmhc.org.



YOUTH

2019-2020 High School Graduates

Congratulations to the Class of 2020, Hudson's High School Graduates (for more information on these amazing young adults, including their plans for next year and their favorite church memories, please see the Class of 2020 Bulletin Board near the Elevator on the first floor of the church once the building re-opens.



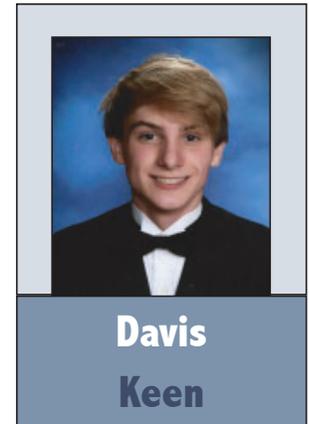
Sanderson High School



Trinity Academy



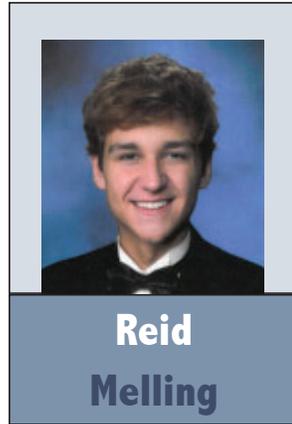
North Raleigh Christian Academy



Sanderson High School



Millbrook High School



Sanderson High School



Raleigh Charter High School



Millbrook High School

2019-2020 High School Graduates



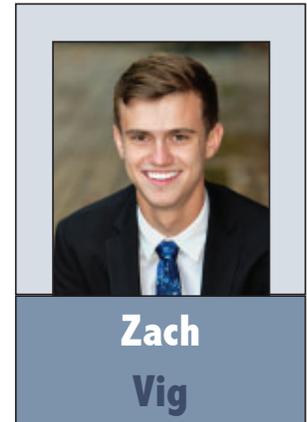
Raleigh Charter
High School



Millbrook High
School



St. David's
School



Trinity
Academy

* Not pictured are Robbie Crawford, Ben Holmes (Enloe High School), Austin Poythress, & Abby Corbett (Enloe High School)

Youth Group News

This Week

Montreat Update – Due to safety concerns over Covid-19, Montreat Conference Center has cancelled all onsite youth conferences this summer. Parents and participants, watch your e-mail closely over the next few weeks for information about refunds and possible online options for July. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Frank Boyd](#).

Youth Committee Needs You – The Youth Committee is made up of youth, parents, and other HMPC folk. If you would like to learn more about serving on this wonderful committee, or getting involved in the Hudson youth program in some other way, contact [Monica Maxwell](#), Youth Committee Chair, or [Frank Boyd](#), Director of Youth Ministries.

Spring and Summer Youth Events – Some of the following events have been cancelled, postponed, and others remain scheduled, but their status could change. We will continue to list them with as much updated information as possible. Watch your e-mail for updates.

- Confirmation Sunday will be rescheduled.
- Montreat Youth Conference July 19-25.
- VBS, August 3-7.

SPECIAL OFFERING

CALENDAR

Memorial Gifts

May

In Memory of Jane McDougal by:

- Patricia Gregory
- William & Kathleen Gilbert
- Will & Julia Thompson
- Lynda Purcell
- Nancy Basham
- Bruce & Barbara Buchanan
- Carolyn Scott

FOUNDATION

Birthday Gifts

May

Realizing that each year of life is a gift from God, the Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church Foundation created the Birthday Offering program to allow church members to express their gratitude to God through a gift to the church. Last month Foundation Birthday Gifts were given by:

- Georgia Towns
- Barry Cobb
- Polly & Don Haydon
- Olene Franks
- Linda & Ace Ornt

Zoom Meetings

Below is a list of upcoming meetings. If you are part of a committee or group and have not received an e-mail invitation, contact your group leader.

Sunday, June 14

- 11:30 a.m. – Sacred Conversations

Monday, June 15

- 12:00 p.m. – Seeing the Word
- 7:00 p.m. – Session

Tuesday, June 16

- 6:30 a.m. – Waking Up With the Word
- 9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 17

- 9:15 a.m. – Women at the Well (weekly)
- 7:00 p.m. – Surprised By Hope

Thursday, June 18

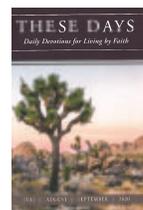
- 6:00 p.m. – Women at the Well (monthly)

Sunday, June 21

- 11:30 a.m. – Sacred Conversations

Devotionals

These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith for July through September are available outside the north entrance door. Stop by and pick one up, or contact Patty (pshaver@hmpc.org) to have one mailed.



OPERATIONS

Accessing Staff & Deacon on Call

During the time that the office is closed due to COVID-19, please be assured that you can still get in touch with all staff and the Deacons' Prayer Line. Below is a list of staff and their e-mail addresses. Staff is monitoring e-mails and voice mails multiple times a day, and the Deacon on Call is accessing voice mails left on the Deacon Prayer Line at least twice a day. We will continue to stay in touch, even though it is not face-to-face at this time.

Social Media

You may also follow Hudson on social media. Hudson Memorial is on Twitter (Hudson Memorial PC), Instagram (hudsonmemorialpc), and facebook (HudsonMPC). The staff will post regularly.

Staff Directory

Mac Schafer – mschafer@hmpc.org
Pastor & Head of Staff

Debbie Kirk – dkirk@hmpc.org
Associate Pastor, Spiritual Growth & Nurture

Aleta Ash – aash@hmpc.org
Minister of Visitation

Philip Hayden – phayden@hmpc.org
Music Director & Composer

Frank Boyd – fboyd@hmpc.org
Director of Youth Ministries

Rachael McConnell – rmcconnell@hmpc.org
Director of Children and Family

Gina Hayek – ghayek@hmpc.org
Children's Music Director

Carol Yeargin – yeargin@bellsouth.net
Organist

Pat Cash – pcash@hmpc.org
Business Administrator

Susan Gressel – sgressel@hmpc.org
Bookkeeper

Patty Shaver – pshaver@hmpc.org
Administrative Assistant

Dorothy Roche – droche@hmpc.org
Preschool Director

Joyce Hawkins – jhawkins@hmpc.org
Assistant Preschool Director

Hope Parangi – hparangi@yahoo.com
Church Hostess



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED