



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

Worship & Community

Website, Zoom & Communication

By Mac Schafer

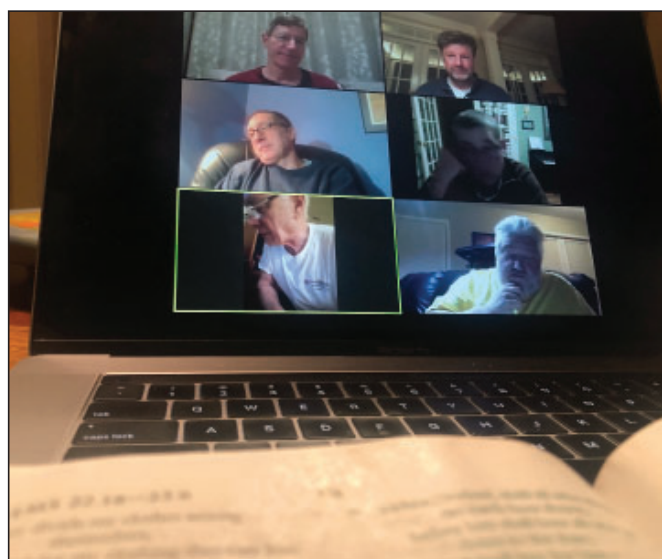
Pastor & Head of Staff

Thanks to all of you who went to the website last weekend to engage in worship (<https://www.hmpec.org/sermons>). We heard from many of you about how you did this, what the experience was like and who you were with. I heard from one father who watched with his family and wrote: “Thanks for the touchstone this morning! We also learned that with Fritos, our youngest son can sit in (worship)”

Doing worship differently in the days ahead may help us discover new things about ourselves, our families and our relationship with God.

Sunday Worship

For Sunday, March 22nd our worship will again be available online on the church website. We hope you will join in if you have



MEETING – *Some of the guys who attend Waking Up with the Word meeting via Zoom. A bible for their study is at the forefront of this image.*

not tried it yet. One of the lectionary texts for Sunday (amazingly) is Psalm 23. I will preach on it. The other lectionary texts are 1 Samuel 16:1-13, John 9:1-41 and Ephesians 5:8-14 if you would like to read these for your personal devotional time.

(Continued on page 2)

Worship & Community

(Continued from page 1)

Online Meetings

Your staff met Monday on Zoom (a audio/visual online conferencing platform) and as of writing this, I have conducted two of my regular Bible studies (Waking Up with the Word & Seeing The Word) with Zoom. Other staff, groups and ministry teams may be using this tool to gather to meet from a safe distance in the days and weeks ahead. Your Session will be meeting via Zoom on Monday, March 23rd for their stated meeting and will communicate with you again about directions forward in the days after they meet.

Staff Contact Info

On the back of this issue of the Weekly Window is a list of staff names, positions, and e-mails. If you or someone you know needs

pastoral attention, or if you have creative ministry ideas for this time, or simply need someone to talk to, please refer to this list.

I want to close with a prayer from Jill Duffield, editor of the *Presbyterian Outlook*. Let us pray:

“God of all that is seen and unseen, our anxiety rises as the invisible coronavirus spreads. We worry about the impact of this illness on healthcare workers, older adults, those already physically fragile, the vulnerable among us and people whose livelihoods are tied to the regular movement of people and commerce. We recognize in this moment how inextricably connected we are to one another and we hope that this unmistakable realization will shape all our actions in ways that foster the common good, increase compassion

and expand communal care.

As people in positions of leadership in religious communities, educational institutions, hospitals, government and local communities face difficult choices about how to address the complex challenges this virus brings, grant them wisdom and courage. Knowing that we are flawed and that our knowledge is incomplete, make us humble in our judgment, patient with one another, and gracious toward those tasked with the burden of making hard decisions in the days ahead.

Bring healing to the sick, strength to the caregivers, comfort to those who mourn, peace to those in quarantine and mercy to all of your beloved creation. Amen.”

You are loved beyond your wildest imagination

Social Media

Hudson Memorial is on Twitter (Hudson Memorial PC), Instagram (hudsonmemorialpc), and facebook (HudsonMPC). Our Twitter and Instagram accounts have quotes, poetry, prayer, scripture, and images. Follow us and like us!



Session

Annual Elders' Retreat: Food is the Currency for the Kingdom of God

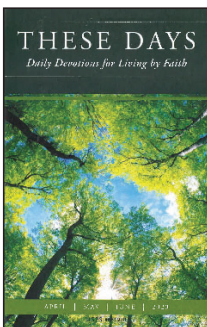
Your session and members of the Huger Action Task Force met at First Presbyterian Church Raleigh for their annual retreat on Saturday, March 7th. Their retreat leader was the Reverend Dr. Noah Campbell. Dr. Campbell is Associate Rector at St. George Episcopal Church in Memphis, Tennessee and previously Director of the Memphis Food & Faith Center, now Memphis Tilth (memohistilth.org). Pastor Mac and Noah got to know each other through the Doctor of Ministry program of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The session brought in Dr. Campbell because of our congregational emphasis on food insecurity. Noah's topics included the development of his own



On March 7th, the Session met with The Reverend Dr. Noah Campbell with the theme of "Food as the currency for the kingdom of God."

garden in his backyard, scripture on the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and discussing what the phrase, "Food is the currency for the Kingdom of God" actually means (ask an elder what they think!). Noah cast a vision to your elders

of being gardeners for the congregation. The session prepared a lunch with dishes that were meaningful to their families of origin. We spent the afternoon telling stories around food from our lives. The retreat concluded with the Lord's Supper.



These Days Devotionals

These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith are now available. This issue includes devotions for April through June. Topics are: The Power of Tender Mercy, New Life in Christ, and Presents and Presence. To obtain a copy e-mail Patty at pshaver@hmpc.org or call the office at 919-787-1086. Devotionals will be mailed so be sure to include your name and address.

Giving & Finance

A Note from the Chair of the Finance Committee

By Bill Flueckinger

Chair of Finance Committee

Several people have asked questions about giving while in person services and meetings have been suspended. There are a number of ways to continue giving if you wish to take advantage of them. Your continued support will assist us in maintaining a strong position.

Checks can be mailed to the church but please do not send cash through the mail. The address for mail is:

Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church
4921 Six Forks Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

You also have the option of making donations online at the Church's website hmpc.org via credit card. You will have the option of

donating one time, weekly or monthly. You will need to create a login if you have not already done so. The login will consist of your e-mail address and a password.

Bill-pay through your bank is another option.

You may also wish to consider setting up a recurring Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) directly from your checking account. Funds will be drafted from your account on the 15th of the month or the next business day after the 15th. To set this up you will need to provide Pat Cash a voided check and instruction by written note or email.

We look forward to the time we will be able to meet face-to-face and worship together on Sunday mornings. In the meantime please take all precautions to stay safe and healthy.

Youth Ministry

This Week

Sunday, March, 22

High school youth and leaders will have an online e-gathering at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Watch for e-mail and text messages for more updates.

Middle School Youth – The Sunday school lesson was sent to all middle school youth and families.

Ping Pong Gratitude – Special thanks to Talley, Ken, and Susan Krause for donating a wonderful Ping Pong table to the youth game room. We are grateful!

Spring and Summer Youth Events. Although some of the following events may eventually be canceled or postponed, they are still a possibility, so keep them on your calendars until further notice.

- Confirmation Retreat, April 17-19 at Camp Caraway
- High School Lock-In, April 25th
- Confirmation Sunday, May 3
- Graduation Sunday, May 17.
- Massanetta Middle School Conference June 23-26
- Mission Trip to Maryland, Massanetta, & More is June 14-20
- Montreat Youth Conference (grades 8-12), July 19-25

Spiritual Growth & Nurture

By Debbie Kirk

Associate Pastor

In times of disorientation we cling to the things we have counted on in the past to bring us clarity, comfort, encouragement and a sense of peace. A pandemic is something we have not experienced before and it challenges all of the systems we rely on to keep us safe and secure. From homes and play grounds, to work places and public spaces, to businesses, schools, and faith communities, things are changing in ways we are only beginning to understand. For some of us it is inconvenient, for others it is dangerous and the great unknown is how this will play out in the months to come. Liturgically we are in the midst of Lent, where the theme of wilderness requires our focus on those times when we find ourselves wandering in circles because the way ahead is so unclear. Or we are too immobilized by circumstances to move at all.

The current book selection for the weekly Women at the Well devotional group is *Fire*

by Night by Melissa Florer-Bixler. In Lent, the topics we are discussing are particularly meaningful – this image from the author describes some of what I am having a hard time articulating right now: “we are feeling our way through a dark room, our hands around the outline of something we do not understand, doing our best to feel for the edges, to get a sense of where we are, of who we are, and of the God we discover along the way. We’re asked to wait a while longer.”

We hope you are finding sources of encouragement and solace in these days. Social media is filled with them but you may find a good book or long walk is what you need. One credible source of thoughtful, reasonable and wise counsel is Fred Rogers Productions www.fredrogers.org.

“In times of crisis, a timeless quote from the late Fred Rogers tends to emerge again and again on social media: ‘Look for the helpers.’ His mother reminded him to find these people in times of tragedy and anxiety, and it continues to ring true because

of the man who made the comment. ‘You can always find people who are helping,’ he said. As the impact of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic continues to shape our daily lives it’s easy to feel like your individual actions may not matter in the grand scheme of things. But consider being a good neighbor – and help your community. It can help alleviate any feelings of helplessness you may face as the virus continues to spread worldwide.”

Singer/songwriter David LaMotte’s rendition of *We Are Each Other’s Angels* is bringing me comfort as well. You can find it on his website www.davidlamotte.com under Videos, and on YouTube. “We are each other’s angels and we meet when it is time. Now go answer your calling, go and fill somebody’s cup, and if you see an angel falling won’t you stop and help them up.”

In the coming days some of us will be helpers and some of us will need help. Know that wherever you find yourself and your loved ones God is with us and we are in this together.



Debbie Kirk

Children's Ministry

Expanded Position

When the Session approved the 2020 budget at the end of January, they approved funding for the creation of a half-time Children's Ministry position. Along with present responsibilities, this expanded position will include weekday office hours, greater connection to the preschool community, coordination of special events like Vacation Bible School, volunteer training and engagement, an emphasis on growing and expanding our ministry with children and their families, and more.

This expansion is part of a larger vision created by a task force on children's ministry and presented to session in 2015. At that time the HMPC children's ministry was run solely by volunteers. Four years ago session approved a quarter time position that Lee Corbett has served in. Lee has faithfully coordinated the children's Sunday school program and supervised our childcare and nursery staff. We are thankful for her service to Christ through this church.

This month we have begun the search for the half-time

Children's Ministry director. Lee Corbett will serve in the quarter time position until Sunday, May 31st at which time we will celebrate her ministry at HMPC. We hope to have the part-time position filled by June 2020. Please pray for the process.

If you have questions or thoughts you would like to share on children's ministry at HMPC as we move forward, please e-mail Pastor Mac at mschafer@hmpc.org

Thank you for your prayers and support of our growing children's ministry efforts.

Vacation Bible School

August 3-7, 2020

Register for VBS "Rocky Railway – Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through" Join us for a fun week of music, crafts, experiments, games, and explore where God's power can take you!

Registration for church members begins Monday, March 16th and for non-members on March 30th.

VBS will be held August 3-7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. with classes for children age 4 (by August 31) through rising 4th graders. Registration packets are available at the entrances, as well as online at <https://www.hmhc.org/vbs-2020>.

Cost

The cost for members is \$20/child and \$30/child for non-members. Siblings receive a \$5 discount. Five day volunteers receive a 50% discount in tuition.

Volunteer

Non-Members may volunteer. All volunteers must consent to a background check and non-member volunteers will be paired with a church member at all times. Space is limited.

For more information contact VBS Chair Sarah Edge at sarah@sarahedge.com.

Session

Congregational Meeting for Elections

Postponed Until Further Notice

The Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing elders, deacons and members of the Nominating Committee is postponed until further notice. Bios and photographs of the nominees are listed below.

Ruling Elder Slate

The Nominating Committee has completed their work and put forward the following people to be considered as candidates for Elders and Deacons:

Ashley Edmister

Family: I have been married 14 years to Zach, and have two kids. Katherine is 11 and Ella Grace is 8.



**Ashley
Edmister**

Work Experience: I lead the Retail Activation team for Burt's Bees. I have worked there 15 years in sales and marketing.

Interests and Hobbies, Community Activities, Civic

Clubs: I enjoy spending time at the beach, hanging out with my family and friends, skiing, traveling, music, and reading. I volunteer for Dress for Success Durham and the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, and volunteer at my kid's schools and PTA board member.

Church Activities, Committees and Service: Currently serving my first term on the HMPC Session and as a middle school youth leader. Previously, I served on the preschool board, as a middle school Sunday School teacher,

volunteer with the elementary age Sunday School, Discover Hudson Committee, and the Children's Committee.

HMPC Membership: Joined July 2011.

Sandy Geiger

Family: Daughter Stephanie graduated from ECU, son Steve graduated from NCSU. Sandy has five grandchildren



**Sandy
Geiger**

Work Experience: Six years as a pediatric nurse and 23 years working for the State of Maryland Mental Health and Hygiene in the area of addiction education, prevention and treatment.

Interests and Hobbies, Community Activities, Civic Clubs: Enjoys patio gardening, attending sporting events, and is a would-be decorator. Likes walking, enjoying simple pleasures of life and sharing experiences with grandchildren. Is involved in the Chandler Place HOA.

Church Activities, Committees and Service: Finishing up third year as an Elder,

(Continued on next page)

Nominating Committee

(Continued from previous page)

Liaison for Worship Committee, serves on the Sacristy Guild, is an Usher and serves on the Welcoming Team. Is a member of Hannah Circle, coordinates outreach to Capital Towers, delivers Meals on Wheels, participates in Brown Bag Lunch, Seeing the Word, Women at the Well, and is an regular office volunteer. In the past, served with Wake Interfaith Hospitality, prior Deacon, HMP Board and Mission Committee.

HMPC Membership: Joined Hudson in November 2004.

Rick Melling

Family: I am blessed to have a wonderful family! My wife Karen and I have been married for 22 years. Our daughter Nikki is 21 and a junior in college and our son Reid is a senior in high school. My mother-in-law Ruth Herpich is also a big part of our family.

Work Experience: I am a self-employed engineer and have been involved in commercial building design for 25 years. I design hvac, plumbing, electrical, and fire alarm systems, primarily for multi-family apartment communities, high rise apartment buildings, nursing homes, office buildings, and restaurants.

Interests and Hobbies, Community Activities, Civic Clubs: My primary interests and hobbies are centered around sports. I play tennis, golf, hockey, and enjoy skiing. I



**Rick
Melling**

coached youth basketball and baseball teams for both of my kids. As a family we enjoy vacations to amusement parks and the beach.

Church Activities, Committees and Service:

I have served on a few committees during my 20+ years at Hudson. I'm currently a member of the Finance Committee, have served on the Property Committee and Nominating Committee, was a youth group leader for several years, and sang in the choir. I helped with the Presbyterian Men in the past and with outdoor maintenance.

HMPC Membership: My wife and I became members of Hudson in July 1999.

Caroline Smart

Family: David and I have been married for almost 35 years. While we are both Southerners at heart, we raised our family just outside of Denver, Colorado. We have three grown children and one grandson. 2020 will be another big year for us; we have two more grandbabies on the way and our son is getting married.



**Caroline
Smart**

Work Experience: I spent the first 25 years of my working life in the private sector administering employee benefits. Since moving back to North Carolina in 2010 I have worked for the North Carolina State Health Plan, a Division of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer. I am responsible for the operations of third-party contracts which administer health benefits for state employees, retirees

(Continued on next page)

Nominating Committee

(Continued from previous page)

and their dependents.

Interests and Hobbies, Community

Activities, Civic Clubs: While you might not be able to tell it if you saw my yard, I dream of being a great gardener. I tend to be a workaholic. Outside of work, family and church, there is not much time for other things.

Church Activities, Committees and Service:

We joined HMPC shortly after moving to Raleigh in 2011. I joined the Personnel Committee not long after that.

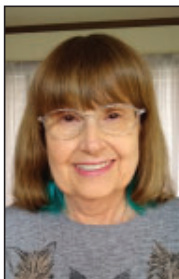
Deacon Slate

Pat Balledda

Family: I have been married to Fred, for 52 years. We have two daughters and one grandson.

Work Experience:

I taught at Hudson Memorial Preschool for 20 years, and for several years prior to that in Mississippi.



**Pat
Balledda**

Interests and Hobbies, Community Activities, Civic

Clubs: I love to read, do tai chi and qi gong. I recently have taken up drawing and oil painting again.

Church Activities, Committees and Service:

I am currently a Deacon and on the Chancel Guild, and attend Sunday School, Women at

the Well, Brown Bag Lunch and Seeing the Word.

HMPC Membership: I have been a member since September 1987.

Wilson Cheeley

Family: My Mom, Phyllis Cheeley, is a Hudson member. I live in Cary and have cats.

Work Experience: I have been a teacher for 22 years, teaching third and fourth grades.

Interests and Hobbies, Community

Activities, Civic Clubs: I love watching football, swimming, reading, using power tools and serving God.

Church Activities, Committees and Service:

I have served as Deacon Moderator, served six years as Middle School Youth Leader, been a KidzPraise teacher, served on a Director of Christian Education Search Committee, and currently serving on the Youth Committee and teaching my fourth group of Confirmands. As a high school youth at Hudson, I attended trips to Arizona, Tennessee and two in North Carolina. I have served as an usher and on the Children's Message Team.

HMPC Membership: I have attended Hudson since preschool and joined as a confirmand in 1988.

Denise Crosson

Family: I have been married to Jack for 31 years, and we have three wonderful adult children – Sean, Jenny and Gabby. Jack and I

(Continued on next page)
Weekly Window | 9

Nominating Committee

(Continued from previous page)

are both from the Philadelphia area and first met in high school. We moved to Raleigh in 1996 when Jack was presented with a great job opportunity. We have loved raising our children in this beautiful city and in this church.

Work Experience: Currently, I am a Principal Customer Experience Tester at SAS Institute and have worked at SAS in the software testing field in various capacities for 19 years. Before SAS, I was a software developer at a startup and at Lockheed Martin and General Electric.



**Denise
Crosson**

Interests and Hobbies, Community Activities, Civic Clubs: Love cooking, reading, tap and musical theatre dance, and travel, especially traveling to visit our children in Gainesville, FL, Los Angeles, CA, and Boone, NC. Currently volunteer at the NC Food Bank with SAS. Previously volunteered as an elementary school tutor for 12 years and volunteered for multiple Habitat for Humanity Builds.

Church Activities, Committees and Service: So grateful to have been involved in many different areas of the church with so many truly fantastic people. Worked as a KidzPraise Sunday school teacher and shepherd for many years, previously served as Deacon for two separate terms, Deacon Moderator during one term, served on the Mission Committee and am currently a member of the Fellowship and Welcoming committees, Miriam Circle, and a regular attendee of Bonhoeffer Babes.

Currently HMPC Membership: I have been a member of Hudson since March 1997.

Judie Greenawalt

Family: I grew up in Muncie, IN. I moved to Raleigh from Chicago after taking early retirement from my retail career. I currently share my home with my 15 year old rescued cat, Katie. My sister and brother-in-law live in Wake Forest. I am a proud aunt and great-aunt!



**Judie
Greenawalt**

Work Experience: Department store manager, buyer for 34 years in Cincinnati, Peoria, IL, St. Louis and Chicago. Real estate broker for 13 years in Raleigh, and retired in 2018.

Interests and Hobbies, Community Activities, Civic Clubs:

I am an avid reader of suspense and mystery novels. I enjoy swimming and walking. I have been playing fantasy football for over 20 years in my family's league, plus the family football and March Madness brackets pools. I have been Museum of History volunteer since 2003.

Church Activities, Committees and Service: I am Chair of the Memorial Services Guild, Treasurer and Co-Moderator of Presbyterian Women, Chancel Choir President. I participate in Women at the Well and Boomers, and am a regular office volunteer. I am an ordained Deacon and past moderator, and have served on the Stewardship Committee.

(Continued on next page)

Nominating Committee

(Continued from previous page)

HMPC Membership: I have been a member of Hudson since April 2005.

Keto Komono

Family: Married to Henriette, and have five children – Steven, Darrin, Cissy Elisa, S. F. Yiya, Mia Elizabeth, and two grandchildren, Madeleine and Levi.

Work Experience: Retired from Pfizer Global, was Technician, (Research and Development/Floor Vaccine Mfg. Supervisor).



**Keto
Komono**

Interests and Hobbies, Community

Activities, Civic Clubs: I enjoy reading, travel, fishing, soccer, basketball and swimming. I am a member of WCPSS PTA, YMCA member, Soccer Trainer.

Church Activities, Committees and Service:

Have completed one term as Deacon (2019). Served on Adult Education Committee, Hudson Handy Helpers, 2019 Avery County Mission Trip, help at church work days, volunteered with VBS, Children's Sunday School and Truck Run with North Raleigh Ministry.

HMPC Membership: I have been a member since January 1992.

Music

Handbell Ringing Opportunity

The Hudson Handbell Ringers has openings for two handbell ringers for the upcoming fall season. If you read music well, have a good sense of rhythm, enjoy music making with others, and can commit to a weekly one hour rehearsal Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m., the Music Ministry would like to know. Openings are by audition. If you are interested, contact Phil Hayden at 919-931-5327, [phayden@](mailto:phayden@hmpc.org)



hmpc.org, or speak to him following a worship service. The Hudson Handbell Ringers are a caring, supportive small music ministry team that would love to know about you!

Church Operations

Accessing Staff and 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 be posting 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

Lee Corbett – lcobbett@hmpc.org
Children's Ministry Coordinator

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



Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church (USA)

4921 Six Forks Rd., Raleigh, NC 27609 * 919-787-1086 * www.hmpc.org