

# The Newsletter of Hendersonville Presbyterian Church

January 2021
VOLUME 36 NUMBER 01













Dear Hendersonville saints.

As we begin our first New Year together, I wanted to pass on some words aimed at possible New Year's Resolutions, or at least a New Year's Challenge. I was recently asked about what I do about New Year's Resolutions. I told the person that I always resolve to lose weight, to study more, to finish writing a book, and to be someone who gives life. And often, I fail at fully achieving most of those resolutions.



Without fail, they always latch on to the last resolution – to be someone who gives life – and ask about what I mean.

So, as a challenge for others this holiday season, let me explain...

There is an old saying I heard years ago which says, "There are two kinds of people in this world; those who give life and those that take it." "How do you tell the difference?" you might ask.

Just spend time with someone. As our lives intersect with one another we will be able to tell. We want to hear what God is doing in the lives of others and want them to hear about what God is doing in our lives.

So, in order to figure out if someone gives life or takes it away, just spend time with them. If you leave feeling encouraged, challenged, or loved, then that person is the kind of person who gives life. If you leave feeling drained, suffocated, insulted, or abused, then that person has taken life.

Please understand that this is not an exercise in categorizing others. It is a challenge issued, though, to ask, "Am I the kind of person who gives life to others or takes life from them?"

Personally, I resolve and desire to be the kind of person who gives life to others. But, this is really HARD! I have been striving to be a better encourager to those around me for years. To be honest, it does not come naturally to me. I grew up with brothers in a competitive home, and then worked in youth ministry for almost 20 years. I am not the most sensitive pastor around. Stacy constantly reminds me that I am very good at sarcasm and not good at compliments. This is something I have been working on, as I have been honest with all of you in saying that Sarcasm is my super power.

Often times I will sit around the house and tell Stacy how talented or wonderful other people are at certain things and she always offers the same reply, "Have you told them that?" I often have to tell her, "No, but I really need to." I want to be the kind of man who encourages others. I want to be the kind of man who uses compliments liberally.

However, being a life giver is not simply about being good at paying compliments. Rather, it's about being aware of the needs of others as opposed to simply dwelling on our personal needs. In Philippians (2:3), Paul notes that we should "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others more important than ourselves". When we take on this attitude, we become life givers. In fact, all of Philippians 2 is really a standard for Christian Living we should all participate in, whether being like-minded in the essentials of



continued on page 3

### **Session Highlights**

The complete minutes of session meetings are posted on the Session Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall as soon as they are approved.

The December 2020 Session meeting was held by Zoom on Monday, December 21, 2020, at 6:30 pm. All Elders were present except for Charles Young, who was excused. Also attending were incoming Elders Deanna Crawford, Clay Haskins, Andy Morris, and Eloise Murray. Pastor Rob moderated the meeting.

The minutes of the November 16, 2020, stated Session meeting were approved as presented. Also approved was the earlier email vote to change the location of the King Street worship service on December 12, 2020, to the parking lot outside the church rather in the fellowship hall because of the discovery of a single Covid-19 case involving an attendee at the service the previous week.

The Session referred to the Church Re-opening Task Force to bring a recommendation to the Session at its January Session meeting regarding actions to take about holding worship services in the future if additional Covid-19 cases are discovered.

Don Elmore was dropped from the church roll at his request because he has moved out of the area.

The Session approved the creation of two new Designated Funds – Library and Stephen Ministries, to help overcome some of the changes in the new Realm software.

The Session approved an increase in hourly pay for Creative Beginnings' substitute teachers from \$8.00/hour to \$9.00/hour to compensate for payroll taxes deductions.

Pastor Rob gave a written report to the Elders, followed by a discussion of the report. The Boy Scouts will continue to be sponsored by the church and meet at the church during 2021. The search is being conducted for a new office manager to replace Rena' Johnson who resigned to take a position in a local company effective January 1, 2021. New church office hours effective January 1, 2021 will be Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm, and on Thursday from 9:00 am until noon. The church office will be closed on Fridays.

A reorganization of church ministries is currently being considered to possibly be effective during 2021. Mimi Jamieson was elected as the Clerk of Session effective January 1, 2021 and Eloise Murray was elected to be the Assistant Clerk.

Pastor Rob thanked the outgoing class of Elders for their service. They are Ralph Mitchell, Marvin Thomason, and Charles Young. Mimi Jamieson will continue on the Session for two more years and Louis Haynes will continue for one additional year.

- Louis Haynes, Clerk of Session

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. —Philippians 4:6-7

Deacon's Meeting - Jan 11, 6 pm Session Meeting - Jan 18, 6:30 pm

#### PLEASE JOIN US ONLINE IF YOU CAN'T BE WITH US IN PERSON

Go to our website, click on Worship and follow simple instructions. Also available on our Facebook page: (#hendersonvillepc).

Video of past services are available on our website and on YouTube.

If you do not have a computer or phone or other device with which to hear and see our worship service, we would love to discuss options available for you.

Please call the church office and someone from the Communications Committee will contact you.

#### **UPDATE DEADLINE**

Deadline for the UPDATE is the 21st of each month. If you have information or articles for the December UPDATE, please get them to us by November 21.

You can leave written copy/photos in the Communications mailbox in the Church office, or send electronically to the church office or direct to Brenda Bradshaw:

BrendaBrad@aol.com

Thanks for your cooperation!



#### **UPDATE**



Volume 35 Number 11 **November 2020** 



The Newsletter of Hendersonville Presbyterian Church



Rev. Rob McClelland

Editor:
Brenda Bradshaw

Production:



Church Office



Deadline for submissions is the 21st of each month.

the faith, thinking of others ahead of ourselves, or just reflecting the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus our Lord.

The truth is, people enjoy being around life givers because their spirit is refreshed. Life givers enter into relationships with the posture of a servant leader. They lead by exercising humility.

For them, relationships are not about getting affirmation from others, but rather living as an example of the grace of Christ in that relationship. The truth is, we all find ourselves being "takers" at some point. My hope and prayer is that during those times in our lives, we will be in the midst of life givers who are full of grace towards us, and who encourage us to become life givers again as well.

So, how about it? Can you make this a New Year's Resolution for 2021? Ask yourself, "Do I give life or take it? Do I find myself in community building others up, or using community to build myself up? Ask yourself, "Does HPC here in Hendersonville build people up, or is it a place that takes life from people?" My hope and prayer is that in 2021, I can personally be a life giver. How about you?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rob

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT UPCOMING OFFICE CHANGES

"With changes taking place in the Church office both staffing-wise and software wise, we need your help in a few ways.

The first is with regards to prayer. As we see staff changes and computer changes taking place, along with the changes within our culture because of the virus, we are asking you to please continually keep the church staff and leadership in your prayers. Our elders are working hard to lead us well through these unprecedented times and our deacons are working hard to try to find creative ways to care for the congregation. Please pray for the elders, deacons, and staff of HPC daily!

The second area of need is regarding communication. Going forward, we will be sending less and less hardcopy mailings out and doing more and more communication digitally. One of the areas which will be impacted is the Newsletter. In February, we will be moving to sending out a link via email, where you will click on it and it will take you to the newsletter for your reading pleasure.

We know that some of our Church Family would rather have a hard copy. If this is you, please email or call the Church office and leave us information that you would like us to send a hardcopy to you. We will add you to the list for hardcopy newsletters. We will need your full name and mailing address in the voicemail or email, to ensure we have up-to-date information within the new database. If we do not hear from you prior to January 20, you will be added to the digital email list for the Newsletter and will receive the publication in a digital fashion going forward. Only reach out to the office staff if you would like to get the newsletter in hardcopy form.

Thank you in advance for your help with these changes. We are looking forward to an amazing year ahead and are preparing even now for what God wants to accomplish in and through HPC in 2021 and beyond!"



#### Hendersonville Presbyterian Church

at the corner of 7th Avenue and Grove Streets. Parking lot is accessible from Grove Street, King Street and 6th Avenue (64 E).

#### We have a place for you!

Saturday Contemporary Service:
King Street Worship
5:00 pm - Fellowship Hall
Sunday Traditional Service:
11 am - in the Sanctuary



#### Farewell, but not Goodbye!

On Sunday, December 20, Pastor Rob announced to the congregation that Rena has taken a new job and will be leaving the church office. Though we will miss her cheerfulness and her skills and efficiency, we wish her well. Pastor Rob prayed for her next steps and presented her with a basket of well wishes from many whom she has served here.

#### Thank You Note from Rená

Thank you all so much for the cards, emails, phone calls and messages that you sent to me. I appreciate them so much! I am sad to leave the office, but I will see you on Sundays!

Thanks again! Rená J.



#### Two Worship Services with Holy Communion on Christmas Eve

The 4:30 service featured many of the young people of the church in various capacities . . .

The lighting of the Christ Candle by Raizle and Zoe Ramirez.



Reading of the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke by Victoria Dmytryszyn, Elianna Yoder and Walter Bashore.







Victoria

Elianna

Adding to the worshipful music was the Rev. Rob McClelland, who also delivered

the homily and led in the celebration of

Holy Communion at both services.

Walter

Special music by young pianists Kassie and Julia Everson and by Walter Bashore (not pictured at the piano), and beautiful vocal soprano solos by Rená Johnson. Music Directort/Organist Gayle Stepp also played beautiful organ solos (unfortunately she is not photographable, hidden behind the organ).



Julia



THE PARTY OF THE P

Pastor Robb

Karen and Roy



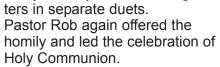




Ragena

At the 7:30 service, the Christ Candle was lit by Karen Grady and Roy Hathaway, scripture

was read by Ragena White, Louis Haynes and Bill Jones. Wonderful music was presented to the glory of God by many gifted singers and instrumentalists. Grant Sitler played his trombone and Gayle Stepp was not only the organist but also played a piano solo. Cathey Gilbert offered two lovely soprano solos, and Pastor Rob was joined by his three daugh-





Grant



Cathey







Taylor

Aileen

#### A message from Gayle

It was a blessing to have so many youths participate in the Christmas Eve services. At the 4:30 service some played piano, others read, still others gave out bulletins or lighted the Christ candle.

At the 7:30 service, each of Pastor Rob's daughters— Cameron, Taylor, and Aileen—joined him in singing. It is encouraging to see young members so willing to share their musical gifts.

As I observe today's youngsters,

I remember that my desire to play in church began at the young age of six. I told my parents that I knew I could play if they would only purchase a piano. I had watched the pianist who played for my grandfather's quartet rehearse with them in his parlor, and I had watched the pianist and organist at our church, and there was no question that I wanted to both accompany and play.

At seven, I received my heart's desire. My parents bought a piano. I remember going to my first lesson. I played a song called "I Will Climb the Apple Tree," the first stanza of which was an ascending scale. The second stanza was a descending scale. As soon as I arrived home, I showed my mother that I now knew how to play by performing the song I had just learned.

At any opportunity, I played. I still do! I reflect on past years and give thanks for teachers, mentors, and those who have instructed and encouraged me. Looking to the future, I reflect on the young musicians through the years who blessed our congregation with music, knowing that some are sharing their musical gifts. I will not name individuals for fear of leaving out someone.

When you have the opportunity, please say a word of encouragement and thanks to young musicians. Not only will it bless them; you will be blessed, as well!

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

-Psalm 95:1-7

#### 2020 HPC "Bell Ringers" for The Salvation Army



Ed & Jeanne Joran were among the Bell Ringers at our 2020 spot at Wal-Mart.

HPC volunteers rang bells at Wal-Mart from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> which constitutes a full day of bell ringing activity. We answered with the "Bell" despite COVID-19 issues this year that resulted in several other churches choosing alternate fund raising activities.

HPC's ringing efforts at the Wal-Mart grocery entrance resulted in donations totaling **\$556.87!** 

That's HPC's best donation day in the last six years thanks to this years Ringers including Darlene Davey, Dick and Eva House, Brenda Bradshaw, Peggy Richardson, Tanya Jones, Betty Muller, Bill and Sherri Jones, Dale and Linda Stephens, Clay, Becky and Beau Haskins and Ed and Jeanie Joran.

We will be ringing again next year. Ringing for The Salvation Army is a great Christian international organization and includes 52 offices in NC including our location in Hendersonville. Perhaps next year we will have a few bell ringers join our team that are not social security recipients. Let me know if you have any suggestions.

#### Children & Youth & Families

## WORSHIP WORSHIP

King Street
Contemporary Worship

Saturday, 5 pm Fellowship Hall

Children's Bible Study Saturday 9 am via Zoom

Youth Bible Study Saturday, 4 pm In Youth Room

Traditional Worship Sunday 11 am on the Sanctuary

or

JOIN US ONLINE

Website: Hendersonvillepc.org

Facebook: #hendersonvillepc



#### Children's Ministry

The children continue to meet via Zoom, on Saturday mornings at 9:00 am. Contact Lorna at: kids@hendersonvillepc.org.



#### Student Ministry

The students are asking lots of questions and digging deep into the Word of God, figuring out how it applies to daily life.

We meet on Saturday afternoons in the youth room at HPC at 4pm.

#### **Creative Beginnings**

Creative Beginnings would like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish all our church families and the community a very blessed and safe New Year. With gratitude and love.

Michele Revis and the CBCP Children





Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. — Matthew 19:14 (KJV)

#### Reintroducing the Reverend Dwayne Durham Assistant Pastor Hendersonville Presbyterian Church

All of us already know and love him, but a little refresher course might be in order, as new things keep being added to his resume.

The latest thing is his having become an ordained minister with all the rights and privileges afforded that office by the State of North Carolina. As such is now approved by the Session of Hendersonville Presbyterian Church to serve as our Assistant Pastor. Since 2003 Dwayne has been the Associate Lay Pastor here—except for a two-year hiatus when he was interim pastor at Riceville (NC) Presbyterian Church. Though he is



now currently active on staff, his official ordination and installation will be postponed until the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, so that his family and friends can join with him and all of us in that celebration.

In another career, Dwayne is the Director of Sports Medicine at Pardee UNC Health Care. And just this past spring he was awarded the 2020 North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Elton Hawley Athletic Trainer of the Year Award.

And lest we forget to mention, Dwayne—affectionately known to many



admirers as "Doc"—is also an accomplished musician. For a number of years he has been the leader of one of the areas favorite bluegrass bands,
Appalachian Fire. While serving

here at HPC, "Doc" originated the Blue Grass Bash, a once-a-month Sunday night worship service that featured his band and others from the region with outstanding music, heart-felt and touching testimonies and homilies along with free ice cream and cookies. It regularly drew 200 or more from all over the county. The event celebrated its 10th anniversary not long before the Covid crisis shut it down, but not before it had become one of the most successful outreach efforts in the history of our church.

The basics: He was born and raised in Hendersonville, graduated from East Henderson High School, I where he began as an athletic trainer while still in his junior year there. He went on to A-B Tech and earned a two-year degree in Emergency Medical Science and served for eight years with the EMS here in Henderson County. He completed his BS degree at Appalachian State and his MS at Western Carolina. (So what is it about all this orange gear with tiger paws, Dwayne?)

Dwayne joined HPC (then First Presbyterian Church) a few years after marrying Leshea. We think we have her to thank for bringing him (and the whole Durham family) into the fold!

A fun side note that truly reveals Dwayne lighter side—

When he was asked by a reporter, "How do you handle all of your different roles?" Dwayne replied, "First off, I'm married to a very understanding woman. I tell people that I'm an athletic trainer, a businessman, a pastor and a musician. The reason I do all this is so when I grow up I'll know what I want to be. I do a lot, but I have a lot of help. I have a lot of great people around me."



We are here to support you in this coming new year. I'm sure many of you have "Honey Do "lists for your family members. Let us, your Church Family, help fix those nagging problems. We will wear our masks and follow all protocols that the various government agencies require. So sit back and let us help you.

How about this Limerick?

Have a problem causing you to grey?

Fix-It Friends your issue will sway.

We can small issues fix, Shelves and light fixtures affix.

Give us a call on any weekday.

Call Roy Hathaway at 828 676-8788

### A THANK YOU TO THE FIX-IT FRIENDS

Dear Fix-It Friends,

I recently was in need of some electrical work that had to be done immediately, and my electrician canceled on me.

Thanks to Roy Hathaway, the job was completed on time.

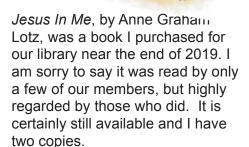
Please accept this donation and my thanks for the work your group does for thos of us who need a helping hand.

Sincerely,

Carol Saluppo

Fix-It Friends notes that all work is done free of charge. Occasionally a recipient of Fix-It Friends' labors of love see fit to give a monetary thank you gift. All such money is held in a desig\nated fund with the church to be used for any expenses associated with Fix-It Friends' work that a work recipient is unable to afford.

### LIBRARY **NEWS**



Because I value this book so highly, in a way to tempt you to studying it, we now have a DVD and study guide based on the book. In an eight-session study, the author will show us how to develop a personal and intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. Learn why he is not an optional extra, but a necessary priority in the Christian life as we explore his purpose, character, power, prayers, position, and purity. You may either read the book, check out this new DVD Study for yourself, or even better, use it for a small group study.

Now, since we are not through the Covid crisis, a new book, 101 Ways to be Less Stressed, seemed to be a timely new addition to our church library.

A preview states, "We know we need to eat right and work out to stay physically fit. But, do we give that sort of attention to our mental health? Neuroscientist Dr. Caroline Leaf offers over a hundred simple ways we can improve our mood, relieve stress, boost our brain power, and gain the resilience that will help us move gracefully through challenging times."

Okay, I am expecting a stampede to read this book. Give me a call for this and other library items you are interested in perusing.

> —Sara Emel 713-882-0413

#### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Macdonald, Katherine, Rhoda Suesz
- Caryl Mobley 3
- Steve Byrd, Sam Elliott, Dorothy Managan, Sharon Mitchell, Linda Stephens
- Mary Sizemore 6
- Cathey Gilbert, Sarah Walrath 8
- 9 Lin Campbell, Jannelle Martin, Bob Murray, Nan Rich
- Dallas Burns, Sharon Candell 10
- Lorna Bashore, Ruth Dykstra 13
- 14 Joan Manfre, John Rich
- Jacob Mcdonald, Dorothy Pickens, Bette Lee Taylor 17
- Don Holmer 18
- 20 Barbara Pharr
- 22 John McCaslin
- Brenda Bradshaw 23
- 24 Patty Collins, Bill Jones, Judy Van Wagoner
- Marcia Elliott, Roberta Swanson 25
- 30 Cindy Leonard

#### Congratulations to an exemplary Christian lady:

Reading the Times-News cover story on Saturday, December 26, brought a smile to my face and a song to my heart. An article about Barbara and York Pharr's daughter, Jennifer Pharr Davis, was on the front page!

On December 11, 2020, Jennifer was named to the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition, a non-partisan, federal advisory committee supported by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

In 2011, Jennifer set the record for the fastest-ever thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail and has written numerous hiking guides and best-selling books, including her memoir of that first thru-hike, Becoming Odyssa and The Pursuit of Endurance: Harnessing the Record-Breaking Power of Strength and Resilience.

Jennifer has hiked thousands of miles of trails in all 50 states and on six continents. In 2011, Jennifer was a National Geographic Adventurer of the year. She is also an Ambassador for the American Hiking Society.

In the article, Jennifer spoke about being named to the Council and included her husband and children as a part of that honor: "We're just really honored. We're hoping we can contribute, have a voice for the outdoors, and all the health benefits that getting outside brings and make

that a part of the council that's very, very heavily focused towards traditional sports."

Jennifer and her husband Brew are the proprietors of Blue Ridge Hiking Company in Asheville—and Brew, a musician, (brewdavis.com) has presented a musical program in our church.

The Davis' have two amazing children, Charlotte ("Charley"),8; and Augustine ("Gus"), 4.

I know everyone in our congregation would like to congratulate Jennifer. We are so very grateful for her influence!

Barbara Pharr furnished this lovely photo of Jennifer in the White House's famed Rose —Submitted by Gayle Stepp



#### PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Frank Ahern
Jean Austin
Ray and BeverlyBarstow
Jeanie Beinert
Don Bentzen

Carol Broyles

Lloyd and Sharon Candell

Teresa Compton Deanna Crawford Nadine Dillon

Jauhneil Durham

Nancy England

Jim Finch

Marilyn Haynes Peggy Finch-Hyatt

Ed and Barbara Henderson

Charlie Horne Bob Hollis

Ginger Houlton

Mark Lemelman

Nancy Payne

Bobbie and Dave Radcliffe

Joanne Radman

Ed Smith

Irene Solbakken

Geri Sorrell

Linda Stephens

Larry Stepp, Sr

Dave Stewart

Bob and Sarah Walrath

Heidi Weicker

Paul and Anita Weinert

Jan Alford's brother Jake

Rick Austin's mother

Clara Baynes mother-in-law

Gil & Carol Broyles granddaughter Kristen and Jeff Deanna Crawford's friend

Eddie Youngblood

Donna Dalton's grandsn Ryan Len and Ruth Dykstra's great-grandson Hudson Marilyn Frenier's daughter Natalie Maureen Heaphy's sister Lynn Moore

Bob and Linda Hollis' son Scott Don and Brenda Holmer's

son-in-law Mitch

Eva House's daughter-in-law's Richard and Mary Wolfe

Eva House's cousin Robin
Dick and Eva House's friends:

Evelyn Douglas, June Beddingfield,

Becky Knapp, The Hollers, Ray and Christie Strickland

Ben and Willie Johnson's grand-

daughter Kathryn

Tanya Jones' friend Diane Garnder husand and grandson

Nancy Lindsay's mother Pat Chris and Beth Matthews

and family

Betty Muller's granddaughter

Chelsey Mossberg

Nancy Payne's son Chris

Glenn Richardson's friends Jeff

and Renee Wuff

Peggy Richardson's friends Roger

and Brenda Peters

Dale and Anita Rozell's son-in-law

Danny

Lynette Stark's mother Gayle Stepp's friend Caleb

Bette Lee Taylor's friend Barbara's

daughter Carolyn

Bette Lee Taylor's daughters

Kristin and Julie

Bob Thrower's friend Doug Bowles

#### Let's show our love to our shut-ins with cards, prayers and visits.

Nadine Dillon Accordius Health 200 Heritage Circle Hendersonville, NC 29891

Rosie Pardue
Wesley Court Assisted Living
916 Wesley Court
Boiling Springs, SC 29316

Irene Solbakken Carolina Reserve - Laurel Park 1825 Pisgah Drive Hendersonville, NC 28791

> \* At Home See Church Directory

\* Ray and Beverly Barstow \* Geri Sorrell \* Ardie Steven

## For prayer chain concerns, please call:

Tanya Jones at 692-8678 or the church office.



# INTERFAITH ASSISTANCE MINISTRY (IAM) helps citizens of Henderson County who are in financial need.

The IAM pantry focus for JAN - (based on last year's requests) canned chili, individual fruit cups, canned vegetables.

Clothing needs: Big need right now is warmth for winter - coats and shoes for children and adults, all sizes. Also girls clothing sizes 0-24 mos.

Another need now is for queen size bed liners.

You can leave your donations at the church.

#### And All Those in Military Service

The Matthews' son Nick and wife Alaura in South Carolina; their son Pete and wife Laura in Arizona, and their son Sam in Virginia; and John Woodham's son Tee

#### **Hospital Visitation Schedule**

Jan 3	Darlene Davey	595-9105
Jan 10	Donna Dalton	674-0335
Jan 17	Ed Joran	702-0318
Jan 24	Scott Perry	696-5764
Jan 31	Linda Ander	707-8245

Thanks to all involved in hospital visitation

#### MISSIONARY CARE COMMITTEE

#### **CANDY RIEGER**

MISSIONARY VENTURES INTERNATIONAL DOMINICAN REPUBLIC / HAITI

Ever wonder how the pandemic affects the work of he church in other places? Several missionaries have given praise for the way people are learning to use new technology to communicate the message of hope. Here's an email we received from Candy back in October:

IWhere to begin? I have had a crazy 2020 so far, but I give thanks and praise that God kept me with loving friends/believers during the quarantine time we all went through beginning in March. I had a



ticket to fly back to the DR on the 27th of March, and the DR borders closed on March 24. So I did a lot of reading, was able to take nice walks (alone), and the little church I attend in Orlando did my shopping and delivered my groceries every week. The weekly fellowship group learned how to use ZOOM, and we all practiced encouraging one another. I only grieve for the tens of thousands who've lost loved ones, employment, residence, savings.

When I was finally able to fly back to the DR (mid July), I found we (in the DR) were under very strict curfew hours: 5 AM to 7 PM (8 PM in country-side). The police patrolled the streets and made it clear they were not playing. Everyone in my experience was compliant and cooperative—still are. The curfew is now 5 AM to 9 PM; we all (no exceptions) wear masks and distance (as best we can) ourselves. No one wants to be sick. Numbers are fairly steady right now, and there's a lot of talk in news about not letting our guard down. Haiti seems to have been spared what could have been a devastating plague.

While I was fairly confined, pastors here in the DR and in Haiti began to really use WhatsApp and Messenger and Zoom very effectively. The internet enabled us to join in prayer and fellowship and address emergency needs for food (we were able to supply 130 families in Labruyere and another 80 families in Vaudreuil, and approximately 300 families in the communities near Monte Cristi in the DR). Over all, we could see God's hand in protecting and providing.

I made a quick return trip to the States last month in order to be "on duty" for a week-long training and onboarding of new missionary candidates. We have this special training (called Orientation Week) twice annually. My role is to get applicants going—forming initial relationship, coaching them through application processes, and then acting as mentor and encourager-in-chief. We received 12 new full-time missionaries this time, and I have a couple already beginning the application process for next session! So, while the world is struggling and unsure of the future, we are growing and establishing new footholds for the kingdom—working while we have light!

I read this morning that our new president (Luis Abinader) is asking for a 45—day extension of the DR's emergency status. This means continued curfews and masks and social distancing. But it is a small price to pay if this will prevent illness and death. Meanwhile, let us continue to pray for advances in medicine, and above all, God's hand of protection.

I have so many unanswered questions about schedules and priorities going forward. This pandemic really calls us to live in the moment, doesn't it? It is an exciting, challenging, time to be alive. Please pray with me that I will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading — what are HIS priorities, HIS schedule. And then, having heard, pray I will be obedient, not leaning on my own understanding, but in all my ways acknowledging Him. He will direct my/our steps!

I am very aware of the support and prayers coming my way from Hendersonville. I love you all so much! —Candy

## Designated Fund for Missionary Care and Local Missions

These two funds were established in September 2013 to replace the no longer available, long-standing Lovett Fund. The only source of monies now for missionary transportation costs for Table Talks or to preach; shortfalls; or special needs not covered by the church's annual Benevolence support, is from the Missionary Care Designated Fund. When Henderson County organizations our church supports through Local Missions are in need of extra monies for their support, the only source is the Local Missions Designated Fund.

This is a reminder that, should you want to give to either of these accounts, please write your check to the church and on the bottom state either "For Missionary Care DF" or "For Local Missions DF." Both committees thank you.



#### **The Great Commission**

After His resurrection Jesus commanded his disciples as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Now that 2020 is past and we have a new year ahead, we want you to join us as we hope and pray for Covid 19 to retreat and our world to open up again. With the vaccine being distributed and our faith in God's good gifts for us, let's think about how the pandemic is affecting all of us.



Perhaps you have been staying home and socializing only via internet for almost a year now. The thought of "rejoining society" and sharing handshakes and hugs with those outside your immediate family may be daunting, and even scary. And yet we long to share that warmth with others again, and we know that spending time with friends and extended family is one of God's many gifts for us.

Are you struggling with *pandemic fatigue*, the mental and emotional exhaustion that comes from the stress, disruption, and challenges we have faced this past year? Have you been asking questions such as What does the future hold, Lord? What will become of me? Why do I find more questions than answers?

If you are feeling isolation and loneliness, anxiety related to your own health or that of loved ones, grief due to losses you have experienced, or stress related to all of the unexpected challenges you have faced over this past year, a Stephen Minister is ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. We can offer this private care and support by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person. Please call the church office or Caryl Mobley (828-891-9709) if you would like to speak to a Stephen Minister.

#### God's Word:

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His steadfast love endures forever! . . . The Lord is my strength and my might; He has become my salvation . . . I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord . . . Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. Psalm 118:1, 14, 17, and 19 (NRSV)

#### And a prayer:

Heavenly Father, give me confidence in your great promises and unwavering hope in your lavish mercy. Let me feel your tender compassion. Be with me, Lord. Lead me into the future where you are. Grant me a living faith and, by the strength of your arm, lighten my load. Cheer my heart, sustain me by your mighty power, and lead me in the paths of your own choosing. In Christ's name, Amen

(Prayer adapted from Cries of Faith, Songs of Hope: Prayers for the Times of Our Life by John Gugel)

> "I will lift up my eyes unto the hills, from whence comes my strength." —Psalms 121:1

#### INVITE A FRIEND TO WORSHIP WITH **US IN PERSON OR VIA** LIVE STREAMING

INVITE A FRIEND to share our Saturday or Sunday service in person or join us online for 11 am Sunday Worship. Go to:

henderesonvillepc.com click on "Worship" and follow the simple instructions. Also available on our Facebook page (#hendersonvillepc).

Video of past services are available on our website. Facebook and on YouTube.



### **HELP WANTED**

#### **CAN YOU HELP with** Live Streaming?

We need a few more helpers who are able to sit in the balcony on a Sunday morning (probably only one Sunday a month) to help with the Live Streaming of our 11 am service. It isn't difficult, and training takes just a short while. Please contact Sharon Mitchell to volunteer: slpb123@gmail.com

or 828-290-2121

#### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Her 699 Her Tel: Fax e-m

Hendersonville Presbyterian Church 699 North Grove Street Hendersonville, NC 28792-3729

Tel: 828 692-3211 Fax: 828 692-6872

e-mail: office@hendersonvillepc.org

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### The happy faces of Operation Christmas Child

Approximately1500 boxes packed by the generous folks at HPC, and a whopping total of 9,222 shipped from the collection center in our parking lot!

Way to go, EVERYONE!



Thank you for your ongoing support of Operation Christmas Child. Our church has been involved in Operation Christmas Child for over 20 years. It is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. The mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Many people buy items throughout the year when something is on sale. If you would like more information about this Christian mission project, please contact Dale Stephens at 828 891-7155







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