A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches





of words taking place in culture today. That is why I find certain quotes so meaningful. In a short, succinct way, an author or speaker can challenge or convict me, who they do not know, of a great truth which they are expounding upon. And their argument for truth challenges me to grow.

At the beginning of each year, I reread Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together." It is such a great work! If you have not read through this beautiful book at what fellowship among disciples can and should look like, I would encourage you to read it. I hope to study it with the Session in the near future.

In Life Together, Bonhoeffer says, "Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. At the end all his disciples deserted him. On the Cross he was utterly alone, surrounded by evildoers and mockers. For this cause he had come, to bring peace to the enemies of God. So, the Christian, too, belongs not in the seclusion of a cloistered life but in the thick of foes. There is his commission, his work."

This quote challenges me, and should challenge you to look at who you are spending time with. Do you surround yourself with a group of only Christian people who believe the same thing as you? Or do you have areas of life when you are around people regularly who are not believers in Jesus, so that you can build relationships and earn the right to share Jesus with them?

As we move forward in 2023, we will be focusing on how we can effectively reach out to engage the ever-changing culture around us with the never-changing truth of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. I will encourage you now to prepare yourself and begin now praying for who God might be calling you to love well and share the grace of Christ with so his kingdom can grow.

If that was not a big enough challenge, Bonhoeffer then quotes Martin Luther when he writes, "The kingdom is to be in the midst of your enemies. And he who will not suffer this does not want to be of the Kingdom of Christ; he wants to be among friends, to sit among roses and lilies, not with the bad people but the devout people. O you blasphemers and betrayers of Christ! If Christ had done what you are doing who would ever have been spared."

Wow! That is a good challenge! Even when we don't like hearing it.

Yours in Christ,





Session Highlights - January 23, 2023

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

Session met with 10 elders, Rev. Charles Reed, Deacon Priscilla Rouse, and Treasurer Larry Mobley.

There had been several email votes taken which were reconfirmed:

- a. Setting a date for ordination/installation of officers on Jan. 8;
- b. On changing church insurance from Brotherhood Mutual to Church Mutual on January 1, which will save the church about \$10,000 this year;
- c. And two end of year bookkeeping changes required for Creative Beginnings.

The Deacon's Report was given by Priscilla Rouse who commented that she was excited about the enthusiasm level of the new group of deacons. At the Deacons request, the pre-COVID quarterly communion at Carolina Village and Lake Point Landing was reinstituted. There was prayer for the Deacons and their work, followed by a roundtable of prayer for members facing various concerns.

Pastor's Report began with a multiple choice pop quiz on the duties of the session versus individual elders and deacons, followed by a discussion of <u>The Book of Order</u> descriptions of these duties. Rev. McClelland then gave a report on his recent Mid-Sized Church Conference in Orlando. This included an admonition that the session needs to be prepared to face a variety of newly developing issues arising from our current cultural environment. This was followed by a discussion of our book study of <u>Church Unique</u>, including a brief review to bring the new elders up to date, which included our previous work to identify local problems,and issues, our collective congregational strengths, and our core values (printed in our November Highlights).

Finance Committee reported that the General Fund balance at the end of the year was approximately \$170,000 after the previously approved move of the surplus income from 2022 to Global Mission (10%), Local Outreach (10%) and Building (80%) Designated Funds. There was a lengthy discussion of the level of church funding for Creative Beginnings.

Discipleship Ministry after Easter this year will organize a week in which the church gathers together to honor God and His Word by reading the entire Bible in one week (80 hours or 14 hours a day at 30 minutes per reader) in the Sanctuary. There will also be a need for additional persons for security and welcoming, beyond the 28 readers a day required in order to make this event an outreach to the community.

The Clerk requested the production of a Church Directory with members and "friends" names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses along with the Church Organizational Chart. This printed hardcopy will be available for members who have difficulty accessing all this information which is available on our website through our Realm software.

Respectfully submitted, Mimi Jamieson, Clerk

Deacon's Meeting - Feb 13, 2:30 pm Session Meeting -Feb 20, 6:30 pm

TO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Jacqueline (Jackie) Eadie January 3, 2023

> Our Christian sympathy is extended to her family and friends.

UPDATE DEADLINE

Deadline for the UPDATE is the <u>21st of each month</u>. If you have information or articles for the March UPDATE, please get them to us by Febtuary 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

Volume 38 Number 02 February 2023



Pastor Rev. Rob McClelland Editor: Brenda Bradshaw Production: Church Office

Deadline for submissions is the 21st of each month.

MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR and HANDBELL/HANDCHIME CHOIRS

- Wed. 3:00 Handbell Choir reearse in preparation for ringing on March 19
- Wed. 4:00 Choir

New Choir Members are always WELCOME.

Those interested in joining may call Gayle at 692-3211 Ext. 6 or just come to the Choir Room on Wednesday at 4 pm.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION



Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month and at other special services. We will share Communion together at Sunday services on February 5 and March 5.



REMINDER:

If you would like to honor or remember a loved one with altar flowers, a calendar is available outside the office door on which you may sign up for the opportunity of providing the flowers for any available Sunday worship service.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Victor Luttmann, Carol Stewart
- 5 Patricia Johnson
- 6 Donna Dalton, Vivianne Henry
- 9 Meredith Hickson, Margaret Regeness
- 12 Paula Bonner
- 13 Ellen Bashore-Elley
- 15 Jerry Miller, Carol Saluppo, Keith Smith
- 18 Norris Bond, Darlene Davey, Lynne Hemenway
- 19 Kevin Reid
- 21 Ed Foster
- 22 Glenn Compton
- 23 Ed Smith





New Elders and Deacons installed on January 8

Pictured above are the officers installed at the 11 am service From left to right are: Richard Thomas, deacon; Pat Johnson, elder, Doug DiRienzo, elder; Mimi Jamieson, elder; Susan Sitler, deacon; Sara Emel, deacon, and Maureen DiRienzo, deacon. Installed at the early service were: David Demirgian, deacon, and Robert Wallace, elder.

The Reverend Robert T. Henderson February 21, 1928 – December 23, 2022

Pastor Bob Henderson will be remembered by many of the older members of our congregation as a man of great faith and an incredible gift of teaching. He and his wife Betty brought The Bethel Bible Series to our church and trained more than 20 Bethel Bible teachers who,



in turn, took an amazing percentage of the membership on the exciting two-year journey through Scripture.

One visiting pastor confessed that he loved being in our pulpit, but that it was daunting to realize the degree of biblical literacy in his audience.

Pastor Bob served as pastor here from 1979 through 1992.

Member Life Committee

Our Member Life committee continues its commitment to provide our members a means of enjoying fellowship with one another between or after our church services. A cup of tea or coffee, not to mention our delicious homemade cookies, encourages new friendships to be established and our church to be a blessing to all.

However, this is not all of what our Member Life committee is about. We plan outside activities such as the wonderful church picnic, and outside adventures including our past year's Lake Lure cruise and lunch.

Our church directory is now available to you through our Realm app, certainly a way to keep in touch with church friends and a way to contact new friends.

On Sunday, January 8th . . .

the Fellowship Hall was the scene of many hugs and warm birthday wishes for our dear Dorothy Managan who turned 100 years old on January 5th.





Both coffee hours were packed with friends of all ages to sing to her and enjoy the beautiful birthday cake.





Our other centenarian, Miss Margaret, sat beside Dorothy and provided a wonderful photo op.

Dorothy's five adult children were also there to help her celebrate this very special occasion.



A special table was set up to display pictures of Dorothy's life, a book of her biography, and a framed list of her wise counsel to her grandchildren.

A Contraction of the second se

We applaud Dorothy's 100 years of service to her country, service to her God, and service to her fellow man. Disce

THANKS, VOLUNTEERS!

The Member Life Committee wants to thank all those who have contributed in making our Coffee Hour a big success this year. As you know, coffee hours don't just happen. It takes conscious effort and committed people. Every Sunday there are dedicated ladies who arrive early to prepare coffee and trays of cookies to serve both services. Others stay after church to clean up. Still other saints keep us well supplied with their delicious homemade cookies as well as those who contribute the store bought variety. So it takes a dedicated team to keep things running smoothly.

We especially appreciate OCC and Women in Ministry for their valuable help during the year.

Remember, at its best, a church coffee hour is a venue for the Holy Spirit to work. It is in relationship with others and time spent together that Christians grow in their love for others and for God.

We invite new worshipers to get involved in the coming year in this joyful ministry!

In Christ,

Sara Emel and Betsy Price

NEEDED: MORE VOLUNTEERS

We need men and women to greet Sunday

arrivals and help direct people as needed. We will divide up the doors and hours to cover the main entrances from the time we open Sunday morning, through Worship and Sunday School, and then to lock up the building. The more volunteers we have, then the fewer days and

hours each would need to serve.

Please call the church office (828-690-3211) to help.

Thank you!



HPC Children



In February ...

Join us Sunday morning as we seek to learn more about R-E-S-P-E-C-T !

> Disclaimer: you just may hear Aretha belting out her song through the hallways as we go deeper discussing how we can show others they are important by what we say and do!

Sundays, 11 am-12 noon in Room #112



Do you love working with children?

If so, then HPC Children's Ministry would LOVE your help!

Our nursery is open on Sundays from 8:45-10:30 am and would LOVE more volunteers.

Our children's hour from 11 am-12 noon on Sundays would LOVE more volunteers working with out K-5th grade children!

Contact Stacy McClelland at dcm@hendersonvillepc.org or 828-692-34211 for more details.

Creative Beginnings



After dwelling on the joyous gift of the birth of Christ, in the new year,we typically move into discussions on how we are a community. We encourage the children to think about how a community is a group of like-minded individuals working together in love.

CBCP is honoring the core values proposed by Pastor Rob. We are a community devoted to mission outreach within Henderson Co. We are spreading the love of Christ amongst our school families and reaching out to new families in the county. We are Intentionally hospitable with our open doors and joyful smiles. CBCP is reaching and influencing intergenerational families with most of our students seeing participation in school activities from both their parents and grandparents.

We are, of course, biblically based in our curriculum with our Bible stories, verses, songs and chapel services, as well as in our approach to discipline incorporating God's love and the "Golden Rule." And there is no doubt that our teachers are providing sacrificial service to provide their students with a loving, creative, and enriched learning environment. Each one of them is devoting hours outside of the classroom and apart from their family time to ensure that we are running CBCP to the highest standards of love, learning and fun centered around Christ's love.

It is truly a blessing to be a part of a community that embraces these values and has members devoted to their mission and service. As we celebrate yet another joyful holiday on the 14th, let's all remember one of our favorite Bible verses here at CBCP,— "We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19.

Pictured in the hallway we now have our "Community Tree of Love," which is being created by the children and families of CBCP to represent visually how a community loves one another. Circles are available on the information desk across from the tree if anyone would like to add their own circle leaf of love.

Thank you, Katrina Bowen

Link your shopping VIC cards to Creative Beginnings

Here's how ...

Help Creative Beginnings to earn dollars while you shop. You can do this at the register when you check out or online. The rewards that we receive go directly towards our purchases of supplies for the school year. Unfortunately, we must re-enter these numbers each year. Thank you for being a helping hand for our community of little learners.

- * Office Depot- <u>https://www.officedepot.com</u> The ID number is 70201197
- * Harris Teeter- Needs to be done at the register in the store The ID number is #5192
- * Ingles Tools for Schools -<u>https://www.ingles-markets.com/tools-for-schools-link</u> The ID number is 11006 To link your card be sure to use ALL the numbers on your card including any zeros.
- * AmazonSmile- We receive .5% of all your Amazon purchases. Link it just once and you are good to go. Our Unique AmazonSmile link: <u>https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf</u> redirect?ie=UTF8&ein=82-1699901&ref_=smi_ext_ch_82-1699901_cl

Beginnings BEGI Recycle PRE Ink Jet Cartridges For Cash

Creative

Let's turn trash into cash. CBCP has started a recycle program for ink jet cartridges. We have a basket on our information table at the first playground door. You can drop them off anytime and we will be able to recycle them into cash used to purchase supplies like paper, tape, and cardstock. Things we use quite often. So help save the planet and earn money for CBCP at the same time.

One little, two little, three little children love to hear stories ...

And many sweet allegories! Would you like to volunteer for storytime March through May with Creative Beginnings Preschool? If interested in giving time as a storyteller in our preschool classrooms, please contact Stacy McClelland via email at dcm@hendersonvillepc. org or church phone at (828) 692-3211.



Thank you for your ongoing support of Operation Christmas Child!

It's Never Too Early to Think About Christmas!

Last November our church packed 1853 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse program. We were able to do this because of your loving generosity. Each box contained school supplies, soap and washcloth, toothbrush, toy, and assorted other items. After a holiday is a great time to get



a bargain. A stuffed animal with a heart says love in December as well as February. We are still collecting clean milk carton lids (with no printing please) and greeting cards. All donations can be left at church in the orange bucket outside of the church office.

Volunteers are needed to join the OCC team. We meet once a month. It would be a blessing to have some young people join us. A volunteer is also needed to be a drop off location leader. Contact Dale Stephens at stephedi51@gmail. com for more information.

After receiving shoebox gifts, many children are invited back to participate in a discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. Through this 12-lesson course, which includes Bible stories and Scripture memorization, they learn how to follow Christ in their daily lives as they share Him with friends and family. More than 14.9 million children have enrolled in this program since 2009. Will you help this Christian outreach program?

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Learn, Grow, and Serve by becoming a Stephen Minister

Do you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Hendersonville Presbyterian Church will be training another class of Stephen Ministers this spring beginning in March. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness.

When Stephen Ministers and people going through challenging experiences work together, God accomplishes wonderful things! Is God calling you to get together with this team?

There are twenty classes in the training and they will be taught over four months. Here are a few of the topics you can learn about:

- The Art of Listening
- Distinctively Christian Caring
- Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly
- Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
- Crisis Theory and Practice
- Confidentiality
- Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources

If you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry, please contact Pastor Rob or Pastor Charles, or Sara Emel or Caryl Mobley, or call the church office so Susan can have one of us contact you. We would love to hear from you soon, after you have prayerfully considered this opportunity.

... from The Message:

Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get. —Matthew 7:12



"All You Need is Love", in the words of John Lennon, and in the words of your librarian all you need is a good book about LOVE!

There are some great stories about love in the fiction section of the library. Karen Kingsbury is a favorite author and 2 of her novels you might want to read are <u>Truly, Madly, Deeply</u>, a Baxter family story about Tommy fighting crime and fighting to save his girlfriend in her medical battle. Another Kingsbury title is <u>A Thousand</u> <u>Tomorrows</u>, a story about unfailing love in a race for time for Ali and Cody.

<u>The Scent of Love</u>, by Keith Miller is an evangelism outreach book of 6 sections exploring authentic Christian love.

Jan Karon is a familiar author whose novel <u>Come Rain or</u> <u>Come Shine</u> will delight as it is the story of a June wedding between Dooley Kavanaugh and Lace Harper, who are favorite characters from the Mitford novels.

Finally, Sue Monk Kidd's novel <u>The Invention of Wings</u> is a story, set in 1803 in Charleston, of the relationship between 11-year-old Sarah, who is given ownership of 10 yr old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. It follows their lives over 35 years and their journey to strive for lives of their own and the uneasy ways of love.

Please drop into the library and share our love of good books!

Carolyn Baker, Librarian

An invitation for Sunday mornings

The Trinity Bible Study Class is one of HPC's Sunday School offerings for adults. It is a social class where together we learn, share, question, and grow in our understanding of the New and Old Testaments and how it all apples to us today. We meet each Sunday morning in Room 210 at 9:30 am. We are currently studying the Gospel of Luke and will soon move to some short books in the Old Testament: Song of Solomon, Lamentations, and Haggai. If you don't know what's in these books, then you ought to come for a visit.



Next meeting February 13

Please join us for our February Women in Ministry program on Monday, February 13th at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

We will continue with our Bible Study of Priscilla Shirer's The Armor of God, led by Pat Johnson. We will be doing Lesson 4 on the Shoes of Peace.

- 9:45 Fellowship & Refreshments
- 10:00 Welcome and Devotions
- 10:15 Bible Study Lesson 4, "The Armor of God"

A short fellowship circle will take place after the study. All women of the church, young and old, are welcome.



Say hello to the Member Life Committee ladies who helped plan the lovely celebration for Dorothy's 100th birthday. What a very special occasion! Well done, one and all.

[See page 5 for story and more photos.]

MISSIONARY CARE COMMITTEE

Designated Fund for Missionary Care and Local Missions

In September of 2013 the Endowment for Mission Support was created to replace the no longer available Lovett Fund. Each year a small portion of the proceeds of this fund is reinvested to continue growing the fund. The majority of the proceeds are evenly divided between the Missionary Care Designated Fund and the Local Church Missions Fund. The only source of monies now for missionary transportation costs, 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," or "For the Mission Endowment."

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."



JOHN HANNA **InterVarsity Christian Fellowship THE CAROLINAS, UNITED STATES**

January is a time of reflection and planning. In his most recent update, John Hanna, Director of InterVarsity's Carolina Region is thankful for the Lord's blessing and provision to see students and faculty transformed by the Gospel in 2022.



Students at Urbana 22

John highlights the 4-day student mission conference known as Urbana, held Dec. 28-31, 2022. There were 62 students from the universities of the Carolinas Region that attended the conference. Students enjoyed Bible teaching and testimonies with speakers from around the world, participated in multiethnic praise and worship, and gathered in student-led Bible study to explore the book of Acts. They could also choose to attend seminars from among 150 topics, investigate displays of mission organizations, spend time in prayer, and seek ministry coaching.

The event ended by celebrating a fresh sense of calling for 2023. What a life changing event! Please pray for the attendees to have clarity and courage to follow the Holy Spirit's vision for their lives.

John shared some of InterVarsity's regional plans for 2023. His team will work to rebuild ministry in chapters that are still struggling post-pandemic. Goals also include filling some Campus Staff positions that need to be filled, specifically at East Carolina University, NC State, UNC-Charlotte, and UNC-Asheville. Ask God to raise up the right people to fill these roles. Pray that the chapter members would have wisdom and insight to reach out to those struggling and invite them into a community that models Jesus' love and redemption.

On a more personal note, John's wife, Shelly, continues to have nerve pain that radiates down to her left foot. She has a consultation scheduled with a neurosurgeon at Duke University Hospital in late January to discuss a spinal stimulation procedure. Please be praying for Shelly's healing.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns."

PLEASEKEEPINPRAYER

Jean Austin **Beverly Barstow** Jeanie Beinert Nadine Dillon Reva Dixon Jauhnell Durham Len and Ruth Dykstra Ed and Marilyn Frenier Hannah, Becky and Clay Haskins **Bob Hollis** Charlie Horne **Ginger Houlton** Ian MacGregor Rosie Pardue Nancy Payne Joanne Radman and Don Joyce and Fred Schoch Ed Smith Geri Sorrell Georgia Spencer Dave Stephens Dave and Carol Stewart Bette Lee Taylor Jo Tyler Heidi Weicker Paul and Anita Weinert

Other family and friends: Brenda Bradshaw's brother-in-law William Carol Broyles granddaughter Kristin Donna Dalton's grandson Ryan Michael Flake's daughter Marilyn Frenier's sister's friend Audrey Loyd Dick and Eva House's friends: Evelyn Douglas, Charlene Harris,

Brent Holler, Charlene Harris, neighbors' grandson, Allan Howard, Meg Williams, Eva's cousin Maria, and their friend Dave Jan. one of the OCC donors Don and Pat Johnson's grandson Devin and son Ben Rená Johnson's friend Larry and Tanya Jones' friends Bobby Gardner, Anita Rozell, and son Brian Lauren MacGregor's nephew Jeffrey Moore Cheri Matthews' stepdad and mom Dwight and Linda Sledge Betty Muller's granddaughter Chelsey Mossberg Bill and Pat Neuenschwander's daughter-in-law. Patti Nancy Payne's son Chris Margaret Regeness' daughter-in-law Francine and son Tom Glenn Richardson's friends Jeff and Renee Wuff. Bill O'Connel and Brian James Peggy Richardson's friends Debbie O'Hare and Roger and Brenda Peters Joyce and Fred Schoch's daughter Kathy Ziprik Lynnette Stark's mother Lynnette and Tim Stark's daughter Wendy Dale and Linda Stephens' friend's toddler Hudson, son's best friend's mother Polly Hardesty, grandson Carson, daughter-in-law's cousin Jenna Bette Lee Taylor's daughter Kristin

Pray for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and for a return to being a Godly nation.



And All Those in Military Service

The Bashores' grandson George in the UK Chris and Beth Matthews' son Nick and wife Alaura in SC, their son Pete and wife Laura in AZ, and son Sam in VA

Hospital Visitation Schedule

Feb 5	Richard Thomas	520-841-0978
Feb 12	Ragena White	828-458-8229
Feb 19	Priscilla Haynes	772-929-2624
Feb 26	Priscilla Rouse	828-697-7234

Thanks to all involved in hospital visitation

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

Nadine Dillon Accordius Health 200 Heritage Circle Hendersonville, NC 29891

William R. (Bill) Eadie 31 Woodlee Road WSV Apt 11 Staunton, VA 24401

Dona Mennella The Bridge at Lake Pointe Landing 334 Thompson Street Hendersonville, NC 28792

Rosie Pardue Wesley Court Assisted Living

916 Wesley Court Boiling Springs, SC 29316

Marilyn Stark

The Laurels of Hendersonville 290 Clear Creek Road Hendersonville, NC 28792

Jo Tyler The Bridge at Lake Pointe Landing 334 Thompson Street Hendersonville, NC 28792

Contact Judy Van Wagoner

at judyvanwag@gmail.com, or 713-582-5114, or call the church office at 692-3211. * HPC Prays* is the new prayer chain.

THANK YOU NOTE

for prayer concerns

Thank you to the members of our church family for their prayers, cards, messages and hugs given to Dick and me after the death of my son, John.

Dick and Eva House



Visit our Website: www.HendersonvillePC.org

H 66 H T F e

Hendersonville Presbyterian Church 699 North Grove Street Hendersonville, NC 28792-3729 Tel: 828 692-3211 Fax: 828 692-6872 e-mail: office@hendersonvillepc.org RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

What the Bible teaches about Love

1 If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

2 If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

12

Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

8-10 Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

11 When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

12 We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

13 But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

—I Corinthians 13 (The Message)