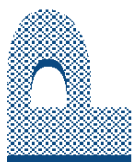




EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

**March 2023
VOLUME 38 NUMBER 03**



Our quote for March challenges me to look backwards and forwards at the same time!

Author, pastor, and coach, Jeff Henderson asks this question of the pastors he coaches, "What is your church doing to make our community better?" That is a question which causes us to look at our life as a Church in multiple ways.



First, you have to look at the root behind the question. The Christian faith lived out has been intricately mingled with the formation of Western society. Churches have been a major creator of schools and especially higher education throughout the world. In Western North Carolina, there are multiple Colleges and Universities who have their roots in the Church. Montreat University, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Excel College, Mars Hill University, Warren Wilson College, Fruitland Bible College, or even Brevard University...all of these institutions have a founding history from within the Church.

Christians have begun some of the largest social services organizations within Henderson County, including but not limited to: Hospice, IAM, the Storehouse, Safe-light, Hendersonville Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, The Hunger Coalition, Blue Ridge Prison Ministry, New Directions Counseling, and Back on Track Addiction Recovery just to name a few. The Christian Church has impacted architecture, art, and literacy in western society. And we continue to promote literacy through the translation of the Bible into unreached languages around the globe, with organizations like Wycliffe Bible Translators and the Seed Company.

Here in Hendersonville, this congregation has had a huge impact in the past within this community. Whether through the beginning of Four Season Hospice, assisting in the founding of IAM and Alcoholics Anonymous in Henderson County, our involvement with the Rescue Mission and other major outreaches throughout the years down 7th Avenue. HPC has been greatly involved in the foundation of Henderson County since the very beginning!

Today, we have volunteers working with many, if not all of the major social services organizations listed above. We have people who volunteer across denominational lines with ministries and outreaches led by other churches in our community. We have historically given financially to many different local mission partners, and we have helped develop the Creative Beginnings Christian Preschool, to reach young families in this community with quality Christian educational care. So, when looking back at the answer to this question, "What is your church doing to make our community better?" I can clearly say that we have done a great deal to help the formation of Henderson County over the last 170 years.

And when I look forward, toward all that God is calling us to, I can excitedly say, we will continue to partner with some local mission organizations to make a greater impact within this community in the years ahead. We will also be making a bigger and more focused effort to practice the main responsibility of the church—to evangelize Henderson County by learning to effectively share our faith with others, inviting them to come to church and introducing them to Jesus Christ! It will be an amazing opportunity to make a major impact for the Kingdom! The best is yet to come!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rob



Session Highlights - February 20, 2023

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

The session met with 9 of 12 elders present and Carolyn Baker from the Deacons. The session had previously received by email the Annual Statistical Report, Ministry minutes, written reports about the Presbytery meeting, and various information from our Boy Scout troop.

Deacon Carolyn Baker shared a touching story of a visit three of the deacons had recently with a very frail Carolina Village member. Following this there was a general sharing of various concerns for the sick in our congregation and a round table of prayer for them.

Discipleship Ministry received approval for the request from the Creative Beginnings Board, for an increase in tuition rates in the fall. The average increase represents about a \$50 monthly increase. This increase brings us from the very bottom of the list of the preschools in town pricewise to about the middle and is the first significant tuition increase in several years.

The Pastor reported on his attendance at three significant meetings during the month:

Mid-Sized Pastor's Conference explored the theological formation of Discipleship. Biblically, it is rooted in doing life together. It is teaching, coupled with sending people out to experience faith enacted, and then gathering to debrief. This is best accomplished intergenerationally. He posed the question: "How do we move from a Sunday school model which focuses on the transfer of information to a Discipleship model which focuses on life transformation?" If we are teaching good information, great. It is a part of discipleship, but discipleship requires more.

Presbytery of the Central Carolinas: Rev. McClelland was voted in as the Presbytery Church Health Coordinator. There was a great presentation on the role of Ruling Elder in the life of an EPC Church. A video of this presentation has been emailed to all the elders. The Moderator for the General Assembly was present and shared the fact that 33% of churches in the denomination give nothing to the denomination. Presbytery also reported that 42% of the churches in the presbytery give nothing to the presbytery; however, there is also the problem that 42% of the churches in the presbytery have fewer than 60 members.

Church Health Coordinator's Training encouraged the churches to do evaluations to "self-discover" what ministries need to be pruned because they have run their course or are distracting from the mission and vision of the church; and to "self-rediscover" who we are uniquely created and equipped to be. This is part of what we have been about for nearly two years now.

The Pastor further reported that Lisa Burns and Andy Morris have accepted the position of Interim Worship Leaders for the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

There was discussion of the Vision Statement idea from last month, "Love God, Love people, Nothing else matters." It was agreed that the final phrase was not what was needed, and a few other ideas were offered, but no eureka moment—still a work in progress.

The Pastor then led a discussion of the Life Cycle of the Church as an evaluation tool. This consisted of a white board graph with an upside from the church's founding and original vision, then a plateau, and finally a downside toward the death of the church. The upside consisted of the original vision and relationships, with ministry and structure organized along the upside. Elders were asked to put their names on a place on the graph where they would place our church. All of the names gathered either on the plateau or the top portion of the declining side of the graph. The Pastor said sometimes God sends "hiccups" along the way to change the course to recapture that upward direction, and perhaps COVID had been just such a hiccup for many churches.

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Jamieson, Clerk

Deacon's Meeting - Mar 13, 2:30 pm ___
Session Meeting - Sun, Mar 19, 1:00 pm with lunch

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 March 5
and April 2.

UPDATE DEADLINE

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

UPDATE

Volume 38 Number 03
March 2023

The Newsletter of
Hendersonville
Presbyterian Church

Pastor
Rev. Rob McClelland

Editor:
Brenda Bradshaw

Production:
Church Office

**Deadline for submissions is the
21st of each month.**

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MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR and HANDBELL/HANDCHIME CHOIRS

Wed. 3:00 Handbell Choir
rehearse 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.

WORSHIP WITH US!

**CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP**
Sunday, 9 am
Fellowship Hall

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
Sunday, 11 am
in the Sanctuary

or
JOIN US ONLINE

Website:
Hendersonvillepc.org

Facebook:
[#hendersonvillepc](https://www.facebook.com/hendersonvillepc)

*I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the LORD.*
—Psalms 122:1

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Joyce Schoch, Wayne Shaffer, Becky Thrower
- 3 Matt Perry
- 4 Carol Price
- 5 Bill Eadie
- 6 Frank Ahern, Dona Mennella
- 8 Kathy Haynes
- 10 Chuck Rouse III
- 11 Jane Waddell
- 12 Hannelore Bozeman
- 13 JoAnn Fain
- 14 Mel Hatch, Jr, Wendy Umberger
- 18 Carlin Compton, Hal Hunter
- 21 Ginger Houlton
- 22 Gib Campbell
- 25 Richard Thomas
- 26 Betsy Price
- 27 John Spencer
- 28 Caroline Pope
- 30 Kathy Gagnon



Hendersonville Presbyterian Church

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

We have a place for you!



Tell me again when we celebrate Easter?

Easter is on April 9 this year. It falls on the Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox.

WHAT?

The vernal (spring) equinox occurs on about March 20 or 21. It's a day when the number of hours of daylight and darkness are even. It happens again around September 20-22 and is then called the Autumnal Equinox. The opposite phenomena (solstices), when there is the greatest disparity in daylight and darkness, occur in June and December. In the Northern Hemisphere the longest day occurs around June 20-21 and the longest night occurs around December 21-22. The reverse is true in the Southern Hemisphere.

So, it's simple – just look for the first full moon after March 20 or 21. Got it?

Then, once the date for Easter is determined, all the other dates associated with it fall into place—beginning with Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

Lent? Say "W H A T" again!

Lent is the 40-day period beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending, according to some denominations, on the Thursday before Easter—others believe Lent ends at sundown on Holy Saturday.

But Ash Wednesday, they say, occurs exactly 46 days before Easter Sunday. It can fall anywhere from February 4 to March 10. The next time Ash Wednesday will be on February 4 is in 2285. Ash Wednesday will fall on February 14 in 2024.

But wait. Didn't we just say there are 40 days in Lent?

Well, true, but it's a little complicated. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, and the Lenten season ends on the Thursday before Easter, and that period actually does include 40 Lenten days PLUS 6 Sundays. For many, the days of Lent represent the 40 days of Christ's temptation and, as Sundays are days of rest, they are not counted as Lenten days. Others regard the 40 days as days of reflection on our sinfulness—even penance—and, since all Sundays are remembrances of the joy of the resurrection, they are not included as Lenten days.

Other special days associated with Easter include the Sunday before Easter (the beginning of Holy Week) called *Palm Sunday*, celebrating Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem; *Maundy Thursday*, remembrance of Christ's commands to "love one another" and also to keep the Lord's Supper; and *Good Friday*, the day of crucifixion.

But EASTER is the greatest, most important, most triumphant, most joyful, most extravagant expression of love in all of recorded time.

Christ, Son of the Living God, who was crucified for us, dead and buried, AROSE, conquering death forever!

Hallelujah!



The Legend of the Dogwood Tree

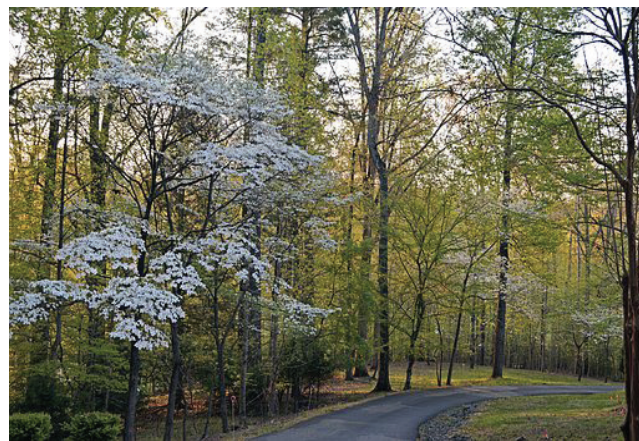
Poet: Unknown

When Christ was on earth, the dogwood grew
To a towering size with a lovely hue.
Its branches were strong and interwoven
And for Christ's cross its timbers were chosen

Being distressed at the use of the wood
Christ made a promise which still holds good:
"Not ever again shall the dogwood grow
To be large enough for a tree", and so

Slender and twisted it shall always be
With cross-shaped blossoms for all to see.
The petals shall have bloodstains marked brown
And in the blossom's center a thorny crown.

"All who see it will think of Me,
Nailed to a cross from a dogwood tree.
Protected and cherished this tree shall be
A reflection to all of My agony."



DEACON'S CORNER

Meet
Maureen
DiRienzo



MAUREEN DIRIENZO (Class of 2025) is a retired scientist and regulatory affairs professional who moved to Hendersonville with her husband, Doug, from the Chicago area in 2013. She joined the church in 2018 and soon became involved in several areas, including the Women in Ministry leadership team and doing gardening in the Memorial Garden. She also recently joined the hand bells and chimes choirs.

Maureen accepted the call to become a Deacon and has assumed responsibility for hospital visitation coordination; she is on the Card Ministry team and is the liaison to the Session Personnel Committee.

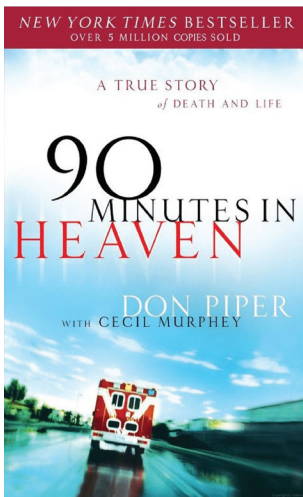
She is excited about the plans of Hendersonville Presbyterian Church to expand its reach in the community and is always seeking ways to help non-church going people see how their hearts have a God-shaped hole in them.



Our Stephen Ministers are looking forward to reenergizing our ministry with the beginning of our new classes. We are thankful for the exciting possibilities our ministry can provide with new growth, new faces and the knowledge that we will better serve our church community with our newly trained Stephen Ministers.

You are our community and you, our members, are who we want to serve and love. We can only do this if you, as a member of Hendersonville Presbyterian Church, will let us know when you are hurting, lonely, or feel out of touch with our church community or the world around you.

Please give Caryl Mobley a call 828-891-9709 if you would like more information or to request a Stephen Minister to walk with you through a difficult time you may be experiencing.



Don Piper Tells His Miraculous Story!

Child Evangelism Fellowship is sponsoring an awesome, free event featuring Don Piper. Pastor Piper will share how he was killed instantly in a head-on car accident, was a recipient of intercessory prayer, and experienced Heaven for 90 minutes. He will joyfully testify of how God and prayer enabled him to supernaturally survive the devastating collision. His miraculous story will encourage believers and challenge those who don't yet know Jesus to receive Him as Savior.

Join us with family and unsaved loved ones on Saturday, March 11, 2023, 6 pm or Sunday, March 12, 2023, 11 am at Skyland First Baptist Church, 2115 Hendersonville Road, Arden, In the Family Life Center.

For free tickets, contact Jan Demirgian (828) 551-9226 or jandemirgian@gmail.com. Check out the poster on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



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

Pantry focus for March: canned tuna and chicken, canned beans, canned vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, eggs (12/carton), sliced bread, rice (1-lb bags), and fresh produce.

Other foods and personal care items are always welcome. Needed now are diapers sizes 4,5,6 (no pull-ups), baby wipes, stick deodorant, shampoo, disposable razors and toothbrushes.

Another current need: manual can openers.

You can leave your donations at the church. Or, you may use the drive-thru at IAM to drop off your gifts

Troop 628

Part of a Winning Team



Everyone likes to be part of a winning team, and HPC sponsors a winner—Boy Scout Troop 628! Once more, Troop 628 was awarded Daniel Boone Council's 2022 Troop of the Year for the Looking Glass District. Our troop has held this honor 6 out of 7 years since the award began. Check out the plaque displayed on the wall near the library. In addition, Dan Demirgian, Troop Treasurer, was awarded the 'Heart for Kids,' recognizing his dedication to the Scouting program. Dan has participated in Scouting since 2005, when his boys joined Troop 628.

Our troop has 18 boys on roster, ranging from ages 11 to 18. Among our adult leadership, we boast 3 young men, all Eagle Scouts rising from our Troop, who are fully trained Assistant Scout Masters. They mentor and chaperone on monthly Scouting events.

The Troop meets Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. During the meetings the Scouts work on merit badges, elect troop leaders, plan work projects and outdoor events, practice scouting skills, and play games. Each month the Troop participates in either a campout, hike, or a local Scouting event.

In the last year the Scouts have gone canoeing in Florida's Okefenokee Swamp, camped at numerous sites in Dupont and Pisgah Forests, biked the Virginia Creeper Trail, and attended summer camp. The boys have assisted HPC by parking cars at Garden Jubilee and Apple Festival, packing and loading Christmas shoeboxes, as well as completing service projects on our church campus.

Yes, Troop 628 welcomes all scouting-aged boys, and adults willing to help youth learn life skills and develop Godly character. We strive to share the Gospel by modeling God's love and speaking truth and encouragement at every turn. Contact Dan Demirgian, dan.demirgian@gmail.com, for more information.



In March. . .

Join us Sunday mornings as we seek to more deeply understand all about forgiveness.

Everyone is in need of forgiveness and it requires each of us to decide that someone who has wronged us doesn't have to pay.

Also, we can trust God
NO matter what!

Sundays, 11-12 p in Room #112



- An overnight children's camp for rising 3rd - 6th graders

When & Where?

- Greenwood, South Carolina at Lander University!
- **June 15-18, 2023**
- Contact Stacy McClelland for more details or to register!

828-692-3211

dcm@hendersonvillepc.org

More details at: www.campkidjam.com/

Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.

— Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"



One of the most-loved hymns of the Lenten season is "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). It was published in 1707 in a collection called Hymns and Spiritual Songs. The music that is most often used with this hymn was composed by Lowell Mason.

This is a beautiful way to begin a personal Lenten devotional.

1 When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

—Psalter Hymnal, 1987

Creative Beginnings



Creative News . . .

Registration is now open for fall. We accept children ages 20 months-5 yrs. We also will be having our Summer Arts Program July 10-21st for children ages 2-6. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity to expose a child to the joys of art, please contact Katrina for a registration packet. We also have been blessed with Stacey's hard work improving our website. This means that the registration packets for both fall and summer art can be found online. THANK YOU Stacy!

Our next program special will be our Easter program on April 6th at 11am in the Sanctuary. Followed by an egg hunt on the playground. We would love for you to attend and listen to the sweet sound of children singing about the glory of Easter morning.

Look for our Angel giving tree in the lobby just in time for Easter. We would love for the whole church to participate. Members of our community are given the opportunity to buy new toys or supplies for the classrooms of the preschool or make a donation to our scholarship program for underprivileged children. Just take an angel ornament of your choice off the tree and place the toy under the tree for the preschool. Thank you for your prayers and support.



Creative Beginnings Recycle Ink Jet Cartridges For Cash

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.

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- <https://www.officedepot.com>

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 -

<https://www.ingles-markets.com/tools-for-schools-link>

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:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ie=UTF8&ein=82-1699901&ref=smi_ext_ch_82-1699901_cl

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Jean Austin
 Beverly Barstow
 Jeanie Beinert
 Nadine Dillon
 Reva Dixon
 Juhnell 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
 Dave and Carol Stewart
 Bette Lee Taylor
 Jo Tyler
 Heidi Weicker
 Paul and Anita Weinert



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 and Tim Stark's daughter Wendy,
 Lynnette's mother and sister Patty
 Dale and Linda Stephens' friend's
 toddler Hudson, son's best friend's
 mother Polly Hardesty, grandson Carson,
 daughter-in-law's cousin Jenna
 Jeremy Stephens friend Jason Salor
 Bette Lee Taylor's daughter Kristin
 Jane Waddell's neighbor Bill Meyers
 Robert & Jessica Wallace's friend's sister
 Sarah Owenby

Other family and friends:

Carolyn Baker's brother Bob
 Carol Broyles granddaughter Kristin
 Donna Dalton's grandson Ryan
 Jane Dooley's sister Madison Barton
 Annette Pfister's mother
 Michael Flake's daughter
 Marilyn Frenier's sister's friend Audrey Loyd
 Maureen Heaphy—prayer for a family at her
 prior church grieving the loss of their son
 Dick and Eva House's friends:
 Evelyn Douglas, Brent Holler, Charlene
 Harris, neighbors' grandson, Allan Howard,
 Meg Williams, Dave, and Kevin Kingsley

**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

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

Nadine Dillon
 Accordius Health
 200 Heritage Circle
 Hendersonville, NC 29891

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
 for prayer concerns



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

**Bear one another's
 burdens, and so fulfill
 the law of Christ.
 —Gal. 6:2**

Hospital Visitation Schedule

Mar 5	Darlene Davey	828-595-9105
Mar 12	Tanya Jones	828-692-8678
Mar 19	Jane Dooley	203-970-7890
Mar 26	Marilyn Frenier	828-891-9716

Thanks to all involved in hospital visitation



Bring
 a
 Friend
 to Church

LIBRARY NEWS



March into the library this month and see all the donated books we have received recently. There are well over 100! In fact, sorting through all of them is a daunting job! Many of the interesting young reader books are on display, and I am so thankful to all who have donated from their home libraries.

In fact, the library will not be accepting any more donations from home libraries in the near future. There are resources out in the community where used books can also be donated and I'm sure would love to receive the quality books as you congregants have donated here.

If you would like us to consider a special book donation, we can sit together and see where it could fit into the collection. We also appreciate suggestions of new books to purchase.

Lent began on February 22, and a beautiful variety of Easter books are available for children and adults.

Thank you to all who keep the library active and inviting and a gathering place on Sunday mornings. We appreciate all the joy the children bring to the library each week, and the adults who love to pick out new books when they come in!

Carolyn Baker, Librarian

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.
—Matthew 25:40



Young readers enjoying a comfortable spot in the library



Next meeting March 13

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

We will continue our Bible Study of Priscilla Shirer's The Armor of God, led by Pat Johnson. We will be doing Lesson 5 on the "Shield of Faith."

9:45 Fellowship & Refreshments

10:00 Welcome and Devotions

10:15 Bible Study Lesson 5, "Shield of Faith"

The Leadership Team will meet at 8:45.

After our Bible Study, we will be holding an auction fund raiser, which we are calling the "Purchase Regret" auction. We have all purchased things, like that purse you had to have or the scarf that you thought you would wear, that are just sitting on a shelf or in your closet. Please bring an item (or two) that we will auction off to the highest bidder. The money will go into the WIM treasury to support future programs and ministries. Please bring cash or a check made out to Presbyterian Women.

Even if you don't have an item to bring, we hope you will join us for this fun time of fellowship!





It's never too early for Operation Christmas Child!



OCC is a year-round activity. Our next event is a rummage sale on April 22. This is a fundraiser to help with the cost of shipping shoeboxes overseas. During your spring cleanup if you have household items that you no longer use and would like to donate them to this event, that would be appreciated. Things needed include clean and in good order kitchen items, decorations, furniture, handbags, shoes, tools, jewelry, plants just to name a few. Items not sold are donated to Habitat for Humanity. Because of this, items no longer accepted are clothing, books, cassettes and TVs that are not flat screen. Due to limited storage space, large items will be collected as the date for the bazaar approaches. If you are unable to retain the item until April 20, please contact Ragena White 828-458-8229 A sign-up sheet to volunteer at the sale will be posted in the fellowship hall.

Samaritan's Purse will distribute more than 400,000 more Child shoebox gifts throughout Ukraine this year. This year also, at least 120,000 Ukrainian children will participate in The Greatest Journey, the 12-lesson discipleship program for shoebox recipients.

Franklin Graham said that the ongoing relief efforts of Samaritan's Purse in the war-torn nation and the vibrant ministry through Operation Christmas Child are a testament to God's power at work through many faithful churches in Ukraine and surrounding countries.

"The need here is incredible. We're here to deliver these shoeboxes but also to meet with our church partners," Graham said. "The war has destroyed so much of this country, but the churches see this as an opportunity to reach out and to help their neighbors and do it in Jesus' Name. We have several thousand churches in Ukraine that we've been working with for 30 years. I can't control the politics, but I can control who I help, and we help whoever God puts in front of us. The only hope for this world is Jesus Christ."



The Legend of the Sand Dollar Author unknown

There's a lovely little legend that I would like to tell, of the birth and death of Jesus, found in this lowly shell.

If you examine closely, you'll see that you find here, four nail holes and a fifth one, made by a Roman's spear.

On one side the Easter lily, its center is the star, that appeared unto the shepherds and led them from afar.

The Christmas Poinsettia etched on the other side, reminds us of His birthday, our happy Christmastide.

Now break the center open, and here you will release, the five white doves awaiting, to spread Good Will and Peace.

This simple little symbol, Christ left for you and me, to help us spread His Gospel, through all Eternity.



Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

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."



MISSIONARY CARE COMMITTEE

REV. PAUL SYDNOR

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR REFUGEES

FRANCE

Glancing out our windows, we see blooming daffodils and budding trees. Our minds think ahead to spring and warm weather. But if you recall, during our recent Christmas holiday, frigid temperatures covered the Eastern coast from Maine to Florida. It is not surprise then that Paul Sydnor, missionary with International Association for Refugees (IAFR) serving in Lille, France, wrote in his latest newsletter that temperatures in his French city were below 20 F at night. Paul and his ministry partner, Joe Saperstein, delivered heating fuel (charcoal) to refugees living outside in flimsy shacks. He wrote of a woman who asked for help to repair a stove that had been broken when someone tried to steal it. Her food was also stolen, and she was ashamed to ask for more. Can you imagine living in such dire circumstances? Unfortunately, these are common stories that Paul hears from displaced people who seek help at the refugee centre he oversees.



The Refugee Centre offers language and computer classes, mobile phone repair, community meals, prayer and faith support, and assistance with completing asylum paperwork. Paul started a weekly fellowship group that meets each Wednesday for prayer, worship and discussion. This small group provides a safe place to ask questions and explore what life and faith in Jesus means. Paul hopes this fellowship will become a core ministry of the Centre.

Last summer Paul and Joe expanded ministry with some new outreach ideas. Working with mostly Muslim asylum seekers from Guinea, Africa, Joe and Paul built relationships through programs at the Centre – French classes and fellowship groups, and meals, then added excursions into



the surrounding area - museums tours, concerts, sightseeing, even attending a soccer match. This year a new wave of refugees is coming to France from Ukraine. Paul expects 2000 to arrive in Lille. He writes that God, who controls world events, uses migration to build His Kingdom – transplanting people into difficult environments where they are ripe for the gospel.

Paul asks for prayer for 2023 goals: to build support from local churches to help cover the Centre's expenses; for new teammates to arrive safely, find housing and settle in; to begin activities for women and children; to deepen the sharing groups as a community of faith for many.

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."

Isaiah 52:7

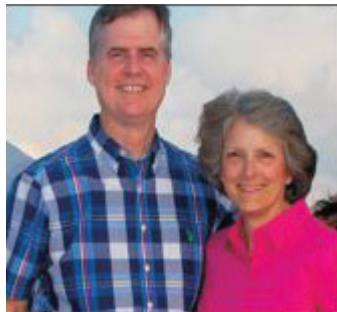


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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Have you ever wished . . .

that you could go on a real Mission Trip and take the Good News to people in another land?



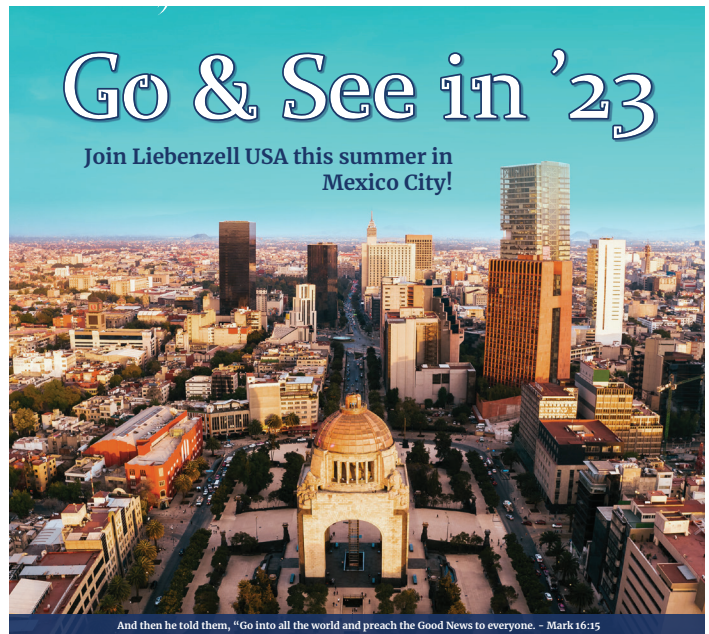
Drs. Chris and Beth Matthews

Well...your Mission Committee recently received a wonderful invitation for you to do just that. And to make it extra special, you'd be traveling with someone you know—our own missionary, Chris Matthews, who is the Executive Director of Liebenzell USA.

In a nutshell, Chris wrote:

Here is a flyer and information about the Liebenzell short term mission trip on July 1-8, 2023. The Lord willing, I will go with the group and our hosts will be 20+-year veterans Rod and Mayra Fry from Libenzell. (See more about the Frys at "Rod and Mayra Fry" - Liebenzell Mission USA webpage).

If you use the scan code on the flyer to the right you can sign up if the Lord leads you to do so. We would love that! —Chris



Join 10-20 people on this Exposure trip to Mexico City
 Serving & Learning Experience
 7 Nights / 8 Days
 \$550 + Airfare

Email or Scan to Apply
missionconnect@liebenzellusa.org



A U.S. passport valid through December, 2023 is required. Applications for the trip must be submitted to Liebenzell USA by March 31, 2023