



When the World Acts Like the World.

On Friday night, July 26, I was in the air returning home from the Dominican Republic with our youth mission team. I woke up to a flurry of texts and emails concerning the opening ceremonies of the Olympics the night before, and the mocking of God which took place on international television. I began researching and I can honestly say, I was offended, appalled and frustrated by what took place. I went to the Lord in prayer and asked how to respond to this incident. Below is what I feel God was encouraging me to say in response.

The actual scene that was being portrayed in the ceremony was titled, “La Cene Sur un Scene sur la Seine” - or translated to English - “The Last Supper on the stage on the river Seine.” It was done with drag queens depicting the disciples, and then placed the Greek god, Dionysus, in the center of the table as a play on the idea of the god of wine sitting where the cup of salvation would have been. It was done in such bad taste. But sometimes art is done in bad taste. This was not the first time the “Last Supper” picture was parodied. It has been done on the Simpsons TV show and by Star Wars. Why mock or satirize Jesus in a country that supposedly has “moved past” Christianity?

A friend, Matthew Loftus, shared this thought: “After hundreds of years of subverting Christianity, Christ is still an object of fascination and beauty. Trying to live without Him requires a constant, active rejection because not thinking about Him is impossible.” His fingerprints are all over creation, art, medicine, education, philosophy, religion, etc. His love is still inviting. His grace is Irresistible. His compassion is relentless. He is Jesus!

Why are we so surprised when the World looks and acts like the World?
Why are we surprised when non-Christians act like non-Christians?

What if rather than getting worked up and offended, we responded by leveraging this controversy as witness to the irresistible draw of Christ? What if we took a minute to repent of making an icon of Da Vinci’s art, and remember that “The Last Supper” is not sacred. The Lord’s Supper IS sacred, and those two are very different. What if we remembered that Jesus, at the very supper in question, ate with sinners - someone who would betray him, someone who would deny him, and 10 others whose sin would be forgiven after dinner, while he was on the cross, and they could not see it or understand it then? And we rush to be offended by those who don’t understand it or can’t see it now. What if we respond by inviting people to see Jesus, the one they are drawn to while actively trying to reject him?



Upcoming Events

- DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS BEGIN AUGUST 7TH!
- WOMEN'S MINISTRY BEGINS MONDAY, SEPT 9TH!

(MORE INFO ON BOTH THESE EVENTS ON PAGE 7)

Table of Contents

Page 1

Pastor's Letter

Page 2

Upcoming Events

Page 3

Children's Ministry

Youth Ministry

Page 4

Creative Beginnings

August Birthdays

Homebound Members

Page 5

Local Outreach

Bluegrass Bash

Page 6

Good News Club

Library News

Page 7

Discipleship Groups

Women's Ministry

CAN'T HEAR THE SERMON WELL?

WE HAVE UPDATED THE CHURCH'S HEARING AIDS FOR CLARITY. WE HAVE 24+ NEW DEVICES IN THE NARTHEX AVAILABLE FOR WORSHIP SERVICES. THEY ARE MULTILINGUAL!! ONE CHANNEL IS IN ENGLISH AND ONE CHANNEL IS IN SPANISH. ASK AN USHER FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THESE AIDS.



Youth News

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Turn to page 3 to read highlights from this group's recent outreach and adventure!

Update
deadline
Aug 19th

Children's Ministry News

STACY MCCLELLAND

Wacky Summer Fun Ends While Celebrating a Job Well Done

This summer has been filled with lots of wacky summer fun on Wednesdays this past June and July! Everything from pools, water balloons, a giant slip n slide, to a giant octopus sprinkler! Not to mention we have enjoyed wacky games, relays, as well as learning more about God's amazing love!

We have smiled, laughed, and jumped for joy as many children from HPC and Creative Beginnings Preschool have enjoyed these fun and games. Simply put, all of it could not have come together without the amazing support of our energetic and creative summer intern, Janet Burtnett (& our amazing team of volunteers). Thank you for all of your hard work and dedicated hugs and love on each of the children (and this gracious Children's Director!)

Join me in thanking Janet for a job well done as her internship comes to an end Sunday, August 4th. Thankfully, we will still see Janet's smiling face around the halls of HPC as she begins a new preschool year at CBCP in September! We love you Janet!



Youth Missions: Dominican Republic

STACY MCCLELLAND

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *IN SPITE OF A GLOBAL INTERNET GLITCH, THE GOSPEL WENT OUT TO THE CHILDREN AND PEOPLE OF CRUCERO IN THE D.R.*
- *3 DAYS OF AN ACTIVE SPORTS CAMP: SOCCER & VOLLEYBALL BRINGING YOUTH OF ALL AGES TOGETHER*
- *3 DAYS OF VBS SHARING GOD'S TRUE STORIES OF JESUS HEALING AND FORGIVING WITH CHILDREN AGES 2 THRU 16*
- *SMILES WERE EXCHANGED AND LOVE COMMUNICATED ACROSS LANGUAGE BARRIERS*
- *BREAD WAS MADE BY OUR YOUTH AND BAKED TO SHARE WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.*

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILED SHARING ABOUT THIS TRIP IN AN ALL-CHURCH EVENT HAPPENING SOON.

Creative Beginnings Preschool

KATRINA BOWEN



Our Art Camp was so much fun this year. I have included a few pictures to share, and we have posted our Art Stroll on Facebook. Take a peek at:

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CREATIVEBEGINNINGSCHRISTIANPRESCHOOL

Children from our community had the opportunity to learn about different types of art including pointillism, pop art, impressionism and sculpture.

Along with the beautiful art they learned how God has made them beautiful. Our verse this year was Ecclesiastes 3:11.

Now we are spending time getting classrooms and lessons ready for our first official day of the 2024-25 school year, Sept 3rd.

Our library renovations are looking fantastic and almost complete. I hope to have a library where parents can check out books as well. If you have any books on parenting topics you might like to donate, there will be a donation box outside of our library room 106. It is hard to believe the summer is winding down and Fall is gearing up. Please keep our teachers and families in your prayers as we begin to prepare for this transition.



Who has an August birthday?

Aug. 1 - Jan Demirgian, Ashley Reddy

Aug. 3 - Lynette Stark

Aug. 4 - Lesha Durham, Brandae Reed

Aug. 6 - Gretchen Tritt

Aug. 7 - Barbara Henderson

Aug. 11 - Richard Johnson, Metta Luttmann

Aug. 12 - Clay Brelsford

Aug. 13 - Peggy Richardson,
Laurel Wise

Aug. 16 - Tim Amnott, Lisa Burns

Aug. 24 - Al Reams

Aug. 26 - Carol Adams

Homebound Member of the Month

Both Dan and Janet Live at the Bridge at Lake Point Landing

Dan Dooley

334 Thompson St.

Apt. #133

Hendersonville, NC 28792

Janet Briner

334 Thompson St.

Apt. #236

Hendersonville, NC 28792

Local Missions

Back on Track Addiction Ministry

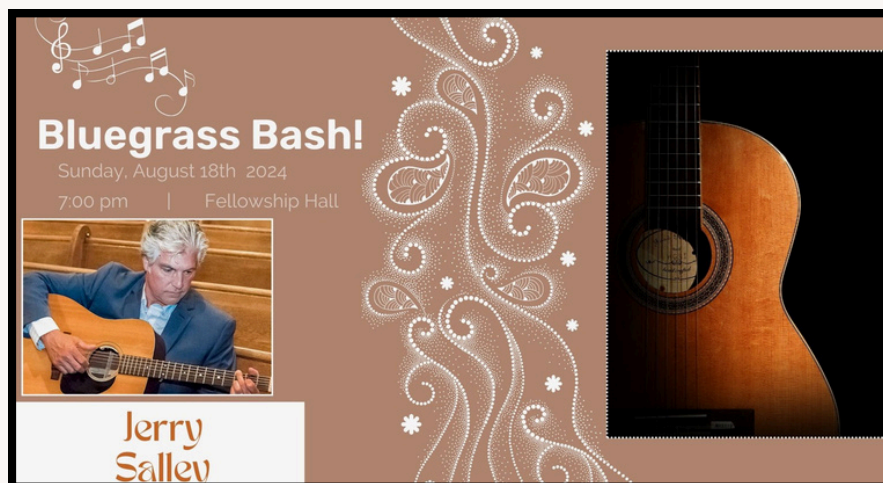
One of the ministries supported by HPC is Back on Track Addiction Ministry. They offer help for those struggling with addiction and their families, and help to navigate the road to recovery and healing. Their mission is to provide no cost service, education and guidance to facilitate recovery and aftercare. Inspired by the overdose death of their son, Michael, at age 36, Lynette and Larry Oliver founded the ministry in July of 2020 with the opening of their Resale Store to help fund this cause.

Back on Track Services include:

- No Cost Fees and Transportation to Detox and/or Rehab Programs,
 - Transitional Housing, Airport, Bus Terminals etc.
- OnTrack Insurance Assistance Program for uninsured clients who require mental and substance abuse help.
- Advocacy and coordination of services with attorneys, court, jail and issues within the legal system.
- Onsite classes, Recovery Support, Family Support Group, Teens on Track Support Class, Bible Study, Leadership Training, Spanish Speaking Class.
- Providing blankets, clothing, personal hygiene, daily food bags for our area's homeless population.

Free hot meals are served every Monday on site.

The unique Retail Store offers donated furniture, clothing, antiques, jewelry, electronics, and other items, and it provides funding to help this ministry. Our church can help with individual donations, old clothing, high protein items from Sam's Club or other retailers to fill food bags.



Sunday, August 18th at 7 pm
Fellowship Hall

Good News Clubs

JAN DEMIRGIAN

This has been an explosive year for Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) and our Good News Clubs (GNC). We ended the 2023-24 school year with 21 clubs. We are set to start the Fall of '24 with a total of 25 clubs! If you are impressed with stats, pay attention, because since January 2024, we have had 113 people volunteer and over 1000 children attend clubs with 163 receiving salvation and/or affirming their relationship with Jesus.

Our CEF volunteers have continued during the summer by presenting 5-Day Clubs at childcare centers, churches, and backyard settings. Here at HPC, our GNC team joined with church members to hold a 5-Day Club/VBS from June 3rd -7th. We drew children from 2 elementary schools, our own congregation, and the surrounding area. The Gospel was personally shared with many children, and one child received Jesus as Savior. What a productive week!

Are you wondering how you can be involved in this ministry?

Pray for our Henderson County Schools. Pray specifically for openings in the 5 remaining elementary schools that don't yet have a club.

Outside of club, volunteer to become part of our prayer network, provide weekly snacks, prepare take-home bags, or compile attendance and parent data documents.

If you wish to attend club, help to lead songs and/or games, teach a Bible story or verse, sit with children, or take attendance. We will provide training on

Saturday, August 17th , 9 am-5 pm.

Contact Jan Demirgian, jandemirgian@gmail.com.

Library News

By Carolyn Baker, Librarian

I would like to introduce another section of the nonfiction books in the library called "Relationships with Others." Popular and well known author Dietrich Bonhoeffer has a title in this section, "Life Together", about Christian community. Paul Tournier wrote "To Understand Each Other" which addresses understanding each other for marital happiness. Next, "Forgive, Forget, and Be Free", by Jeanette Lockerbie, talks about how we need to forgive and be forgiven, and the "liberating power of forgiveness". Finally another good author is Gary Chapman, who, with Jennifer Thomas, wrote "The Five Languages of Apology". Mr. Chapman also wrote "The Five Love Languages" which we have in the library as well. Please let the library be a resource for your study and reading pleasure.

THE LIBRARY NEEDS A PERSON TO BE AVAILABLE WHEN THE LIBRARIAN IS DOING OTHER DUTIES IN THE BALCONY, USUALLY DURING COFFEE TIME OR AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL. IF INTERESTED PLEASE STOP BY AND SEE THE LIBRARIANS! THANK YOU ALL FOR SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY!

Discipleship Groups & Women in Ministry

A poster for Discipleship Groups. It features a large green circle with the text "FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER. DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS" in white and pink. Below the circle, it says "Beginning Wednesday, August 7th, 6:30 - 8 p A 6 week study". At the bottom left, it says "Sign up online or in Fellowship Hall". At the bottom right, there is a QR code with an arrow pointing to it and the text "SCAN ME". The background shows a white chair and a potted plant.

FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER.
DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Beginning
Wednesday, August 7th,
6:30 - 8 p
A 6 week study

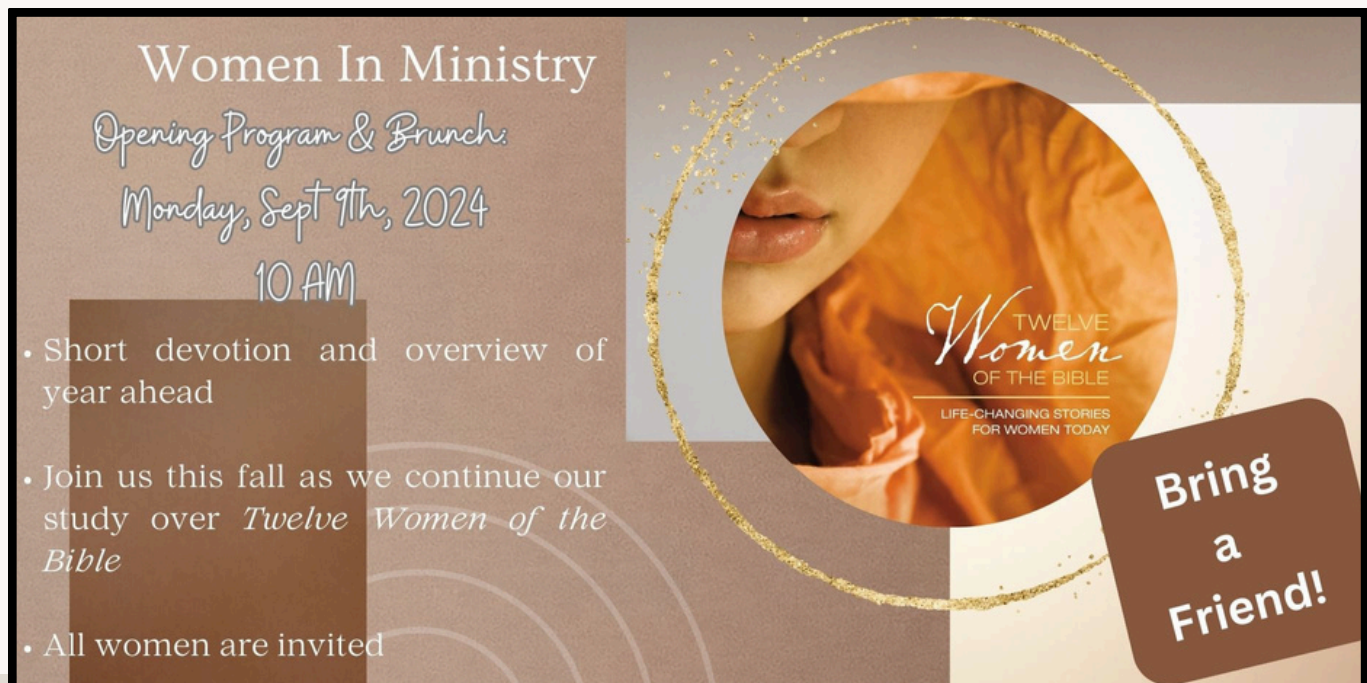
Sign up online or
in Fellowship Hall

SCAN ME

A poster for the Children's Program Nursery. It features a green circle with the text "CHILDREN'S PROGRAM NURSERY" in white. Below the circle, it says "Available". The background is pink.

CHILDREN'S
PROGRAM
NURSERY

Available

A poster for Women In Ministry. It features a brown background with a circular image of a woman's face. The text "Women In Ministry" is at the top, followed by "Opening Program & Brunch: Monday, Sept 9th, 2024 10 AM". Below this, there is a list of bullet points. On the right, there is a circular image of a woman's face with the text "Twelve Women OF THE BIBLE" and "LIFE-CHANGING STORIES FOR WOMEN TODAY". At the bottom right, there is a brown box with the text "Bring a Friend!".

Women In Ministry
Opening Program & Brunch:
Monday, Sept 9th, 2024
10 AM

- Short devotion and overview of year ahead
- Join us this fall as we continue our study over *Twelve Women of the Bible*
- All women are invited

Twelve Women OF THE BIBLE
LIFE-CHANGING STORIES FOR WOMEN TODAY

Bring a Friend!



Hendersonville Presbyterian Church
699 N Grove Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792-3729
Tel. 828-692-3211
Email: office@hendersonvillepc.org

Return Service Requested

OCC NEWS:

This month our focus is on school supplies like pencil sharpeners, crayons, erasers, small or medium note pads, or spiral notebooks. Remember no company/product or military-type logos please, and no liquids.

The money collected July 21 during Pennies for Shoeboxes is used to offset the \$10/box shipping cost and the Greatest Gift Gospel booklets, collection center and processing costs, training in local churches, and the Ministry Partner Guide.

Shoebox gifts are a Gospel opportunity. For example, in a remote region of southern Madagascar, parents are giving their children wooden rifles to play with and training them at a young age to perpetuate the hostility that has raged for generations.

Pastor Soja is a local Christian leader who is working with OCC ministry partners in the area to introduce the eternal hope of the Gospel. During one outreach event, many in the crowd—which included parents—raised their hands indicating that they wanted to receive Christ as their Savior. Pastor Soja is now helping to start new churches in several villages that were once hostile to the Gospel.

You may drop off any shoebox items you purchased in the bin outside of the church office. Thank you for your continued support. "For God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7.