

The Hinton Herald

Hinton Avenue United Methodist
Church
750 Hinton Avenue
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
(434) 293-7049
www.hintonavenueumc.org



July 2011

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Pastor's Letter

There are two contradictory thoughts that I try to hold at one time. They don't like to be in the same hand, however! The first is that I like formulas for things that are very complex – like grief. You all may know the five stages of grief established by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross: denial and isolation, anger, depression, bargaining, and acceptance. I found them helpful in “dealing with” my own and other's grief. I looked forward in both cases to getting to the “resolution.”

However... the second thought counters this thought of formulas. It is the complexity and uniqueness of human experiences. Sometimes the truth is that there is no neat way, no formula, no pattern, which can package some of human kind's unique experiences – most especially the experiences of death or loss.

It seems to me that individuals, families, churches, communities – don't just sail through grief from one stage to another. Grief in my experience is a process that doesn't really move to a resolution. Grief isn't just something we're to go to therapy for to get through; its part of our life's story where the threads unravel. We call that “going to pieces.”

Thomas Long is the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology at Emory

University. He is still one of the most popular preachers in America. I was blessed to participate in a week-long workshop at Candler that he and two other's led. From that experience, I always listen to what he has to say.

In the most recent issue of Christian Century I received, he wrote this about grief and spoke out against this five-stage formula as being bad theology.

The work of grief is to gather the fragments [our unraveled threads] and to rewrite the narrative this time minus a treasured presence. But we don't do this alone. In the wilderness of grief, God provides manna – just enough meaning to keep us walking – and sends the comforter, who knits together the raveled soul and refuses to leave us orphaned.

I find truth refreshing! Long concludes by writing: ... *we Christians don't seek closure so much as we pray that all our lost loves will be gathered into that great unending story fashioned by God's grace.*

I can't hold formulas and truth in the same hand. But it seems we can let go of such formulas when we come to trust or have the courage to hold “truth.” When in your life do you go from formulas to “truth” that seems to take you off a familiar path? Do you find it liberating to do so?



What's Happening in Worship?

July 3 (3rd Sunday after Pentecost) The Question: How can I thank God for anything when my life is in ruins?

The Message: *Rest. Eat. Dance.* (Matthew 11:16-19)

Children's Message: *Rebecca Makes a Choice* (Genesis 22:34-38, 42-49, 58-67)

July 10 (4th Sunday after Pentecost) The Question: Why work so hard to be a church when there seems to be no fruit for our labors?

(Dedication of Brazil Mission Team)

The Message: *Letting the Seed Fly* (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

Children's Message: *A Light for Our Path* (Psalm 119:105-112)

July 17 (5th Sunday after Pentecost)

(Guest Preacher: Rev. Bob Donnelly)

Lucy and Mary Miller, and Rev. Welch are in Recife, Brazil with the Charlottesville District United Methodist in Mission (UMVIM) Team and will be back Saturday evening, July 23.

July 24 (6th Sunday after Pentecost)

To Be Determined

July 31 (7th Sunday after Pentecost) The Question:

When we have to face those who would do us harm, find solutions to "impossible" situations, how do we do that?

The Message: *Face to Face* (Genesis 32:22-31; Matthew 14:13-21)

Children's Message: *Sad Times* (Genesis 32:22-31)

Summer Bible Study

"Spirituality and the Family"

July 12 – August 16

6:00pm – bring a sandwich and drink

Leaders: Vicki Bibb and Rosemary Welch

Sample Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 "You must all think of what is best for each other and for the community."; John 1:14-16 "And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace"; Matthew 1:19 "[Joseph] resolved to divorce her quietly"; Luke 2:48 "Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously"
Sample Authors: Henri J.M. Nouwen (Roman Catholic priest), Wendy M. Wright (faculty of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska), Willie S. Teague (editor of "Pockets" a magazine for children published by The Upper Room, ordained UM pastor; Anne L. Broyles & Larry J. Peacock (clergy couple in Malibu, California; Mary Lou Redding (managing editor of The Upper Room devotional guide).

Family meals and festive parties, the practice of hospitality, the presence of books and the reading of the scriptures, dinner conversations and parental prayer, moments of guidance and correction, family worship – all these and more shape the contours of tradition. To be conscious of ourselves in that great stream, and to help our children come to that consciousness, is perhaps the primary aspect of the parental vocation. It underscores the truth that we have nothing which was not given to us. – Delores Leckey



Vacation Bible School

Vicki Bibb and Lindsay Walton

Come join us for Rainbow of the Word VBS (vacation bible school).

VBS will start on **Sunday evening, July 24th at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** every night at those times **till Friday, July 29th.**

We'll be exploring who God is, who Jesus is, who the Holy Spirit is, and what the Bible is and why church.

We'll be sharing our adventures through song, crafts, snacks, plays, and basic fun.

Please come and join the fun! Bring a friend or two along on the journey.

Sign up pamphlets are available at church. (Parents it's important that we have contact information for you during your children's fun times here.)

In order to provide what's needed for your child, we need to know any medical conditions such as allergies.

Please sign up as soon as you can so we can get in gear for a fun time.

Hope to see you there!

Three from Hinton Avenue Going to Recife, Brazil with Charlottesville District

By Mary Miller

Lucy and Mary Miller, and Pastor, Rosemary Welch will be part of a 12 member Charlottesville District UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteer in Mission) team that is heading for Recife, Brazil out of National Airport on **Friday, July 15**. They will be returning the evening of **July 23**.

While there, they will be either helping to teach and care for children in the Shade and Fresh Water project of the Methodist church, assisting and/or teaching in medical clinics, or helping to do repairs on homes or church structures.

One of the things Lucy, Mary and Rosemary would like to do is to bring back some beautiful and affordable items from Brazil that could be sold prior to Christmas to be a fund-raiser and an event to allow children to purchase Christmas items for friends and family. Items of interest for adults to purchase will also be available.

The costs of their trips have been covered either personally or through church and district scholarships. However, if you would like to contribute to this "Christmas Market", you can make a check out to HAUMC and put "Brazil" on the item line. They will use this money to purchase Brazilian items to bring back to place in this "Christmas Market" to be held sometime in November.

Lucy, Mary and Rosemary will be dedicated in worship on **July 10**. A

prayer calendar and itinerary will be left in the lobby of the church for all who wish to see more details and keep the team members and our brothers and sisters in Brazil in prayer.

Farewell and Thanks

Dear Hinton Avenue Disciples,

I have enjoyed our time together in mission with Charlottesville and the World. Wonderful and exciting things have begun to happen, and it is my hope for you that the work of Hinton Avenue continues to grow through both mission works and spreading the Gospel.

It can sometimes feel as though things are hard, or to be afraid whilst facing the unknown future God is calling all of us towards. I encourage you to examine the blessings God has placed in your lives, including: an expanding ministry with the homeless and destitute in Charlottesville, missionaries traveling abroad to help those suffering around the earth, establishing stronger ties with community outreach programs, and growing personal and communal faith through Scripture study. Our shared calling as Christians is to make disciples, and to help all those in need. Towards these accomplishments Our Lord has given us the Holy Spirit, personal and communal talents, and in the case of Hinton Avenue, financial resources to do His work.

Hinton Avenue has numerous gifts, both creative and interpersonal. Both of these I have seen used to welcome new people, to create inspiring and beautiful worship services, and to accomplish new things in the name of Christ.

I'm blessed to have walked for a brief time with such wonderful

people. Keep up the good works we have started together, and see your house filled with God's People!

In Christ,

John McLain

Guess what was found?

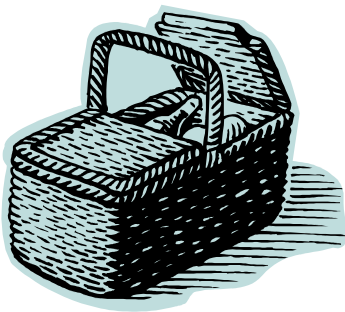
By Jake Hultberg

I've spent many happy years burrowing through archives; collecting facts, figures and other ephemera. Recently, I reclaimed a battered and torn lectern bible. As Barbara Shelton was leaving through it she found a brown, leather bookmark. It is embossed with the presidential seal and imprinted with the message, "I would rather have peace in the world than be President, Christmas greetings from the President and Mrs. Truman, 1948," in gold.



Naturally a find like this demanded some background research. I've learned that this bookmark was Harry S. Truman's Christmas present to his 740 member White House staff in 1948. What I haven't been able to discover is how this piece of Presidential memorabilia ended up in an old bible at Hinton Avenue and who put it there. Did any member of Hinton Avenue have a connection to Truman's White House?

I'd appreciate any answers or leads. Thanks.



United Methodist Men's Family Picnic

When: July 26, 2011

Where: Penn Park

Time: 6:30pm

Potluck picnic - all are welcome!

2011 Staff, Committees and Chairpersons

- Rosemary Welch – Pastor
- Bob Braden – Lay Leader
- Ed Denham – Chair, Church Council
- Sue Woodson – Chair, Trustees
- Jake Hultberg – Chair, Radical Hospitality Team
- Charles Talley – Chair, Passionate Worship Team
- Vicki Bibb – Chair, Intentional Faith Development Team
- Patricia Carter – Chair, Risk-Taking Mission & Service Team
- Lindsay Walton – Chair, Extravagant Generosity Team
- Pam Davis – Chair, Compassionate Nurture Team
- Frances Marshall – Secretary
- Mark Sherriff – Handbell Choir Director
- Gary Bibb – Chancel Choir Director
- Jennifer Sandy – Organist
- Tommy George -- Custodian



*Signing Class for youth
Time off for the Summer
will restart on September 11
in Sanctuary, Sundays, 5pm*



*Summer Schedule: 2nd & 4th
Thursdays @6:30 pm in the
Chapel ☺*

“Our Membership Vow: As members of this congregation, we will faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness”.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday, 10am – 2pm

Closed Monday, July 4th

Hinton Avenue United Methodist Church

750 Hinton Avenue at Church Street

Charlottesville, VA 22902

434-293-7049

church@hintonavenueumc.org

www.hintonavenueumc.org

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submissions are due by the **20th** of each month. Submit your articles/calendar events to: karenlapps@embarqmail.com, the church office, or call Frances Marshall during office hours at 293-7049