

The Hinton Herald

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

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Pastor's Letter

*Rejoice in the Lord
always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to
everyone. The Lord is near. Do not
worry about anything, but in
everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let
your requests be made known to
God. And the peace of God, which
surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.*

– Philippians 4:4-7

The United Methodist Church has many things about it that I love. One of those is its tradition and practices that I have found through my own experiences are for the good of the greater Church. And some of those most specifically, are those practices during pastors' transitions. This is one of those trusted and blessed times for me with you as I prepare to retire at this upcoming Annual Conference in Roanoke.

First, however, I must express my gratitude – for all your expressions of Christian discipleship and pastor support and all I've learned about myself: meeting me and my granddaughter, Gwen, at the parsonage when I moved in; coming over on July 4 to watch fireworks; nailing up mirror and pictures; introducing me to your families, repairing bathrooms, mowers, and a mailbox; bringing over yard hoses; gifting me with homemade jellies,

flowers and plants for the parsonage yard; telling me “no problem” when I asked for something; painting the pastor's office; learning new music; supplying a wireless microphone; inviting me into your homes; introducing me to your extended families, playing my favorite fiddle tune... and on and on.

My love of ministry remains steadfast. I thank you for opportunities to feed homeless people at Lee Park with the youth; meeting with persons as they come into the office to pick up food bags; visiting and coordinating space with the many dedicated persons in AA, NA and AlAnon; visiting with you as you mourn the loss of a loved one; praying with you when you were ill or there was trouble in your family; creating worship; teaching and learning with you in Confirmation and other seasonal studies; pondering with you how Hinton Avenue is to be church; dreaming with you about a school for troubled girls; accompanying you to Brazil; joining with you in new ministries like the signing class; serving you Holy Communion with Christ as our host; exploring and going together into bold new places of ministry like stewardship of Hinton Avenue's space and joyfully and reliably communicating our ministries to the larger community; and just talking with you about our shared faith and traditions. I have been blessed.

I look forward to continuing in my love of mission and just being a creative and supportive participant in a church. That will include going to mission sites in the US and perhaps even a trip back to Brazil. I have one granddaughter who keeps reminding me I need to take her on a mission trip just as I took her sister to Cuba several years back. I also very much look forward to reconnecting with the church that

encouraged me as a candidate for ministry in Northern Virginia. Most of all, I will breathe deeply into a time of reconnecting with my family and close friends in Northern Virginia, Alaska and Texas, including a time of being with my sister, Joycelynn, as we explore retirement together.

I rest my ministry at Hinton Avenue with God.

~ Rosemary Welch, Pastor

PASTORAL TRANSITION

Wednesday, February 15 will be my last day as pastor at Hinton Avenue. Retired pastor Rev. Harry Kennon will begin his ministry at the Church Council meeting that evening. Though I will be the “pastor of record” through the end of June, Rev. Kennon will be the part-time interim pastor, and the one who will be responsible for leading the ministry of the church and the care of you, the congregation until a new pastor is appointed the beginning of July.

United Methodist policy states that pastors do not return for pastoral duties once they leave as the church’s pastor. Doing so inhibits the acceptance of and bonding of the congregation with its new pastor as their spiritual leader can disrupt the unity of the Body of Christ. Only the new pastor can stipulate when there would be an exception. I greatly respect that policy.

Rev. Kennon is a gifted pastor in the United Methodist tradition. He and I have been meeting in preparation for this transition. He’s asked good questions and comes with the skills I know will serve the body of Christ in the Belmont neighborhood. I have no doubt you will support him and, importantly, also assist in his administrative needs during his part time ministry.

Rosemary Welch

INTERIM PASTOR NAMED

Starting February 15, the Rev. Dr. Harry Kennon will begin serving as Part-Time Interim Pastor of Hinton Ave UMC. Rev. Kennon, who retired after serving for six years at First UMC, now lives in North Garden with his wife Gale. Natives of the Charlottesville area, the Kennons have two children and four grandchildren. Rev. Kennon will serve until a new pastor is appointed in July. After Feb 15, Rev. Kennon can be reached at the church office, or his cell at 434 409-8824, or by e-mail at revharry@aol.com.

Harry Kennon

Passionate Worship

February 5, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Question: How do we balance busyness with rest and worship? What did Jesus do?

The Message: “Sustaining Ministry” (Mark 2:29-39)

Children’s Time: “Power Source” (Isaiah 40:21-31)

February 12, Scout Sunday

The Question: How are we – people of the church – signs of anger or God’s compassion in the community?

The Message: “Healing Presence” (Mark 1:40-45)

Children’s Time: “Living Love” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

February 19, Transfiguration Sunday

The Question: Peter, James, and John experienced Jesus differently at his Transfiguration. How might we see Jesus, and ourselves, differently as we move forward?

The Message: “A Moving Target” (Mark 9:2-9)

Children’s Time: TBD

February 22, Ash Wednesday (7:00pm)

The Question: How might we confront our own mortality and accept God’s mercy?

The Message: “Depth of Mercy” (Joel 2:1-2, 12-17)

February 26, 1st Sunday in Lent

The Question: xxxx

The Message: “Seize the Moment” (Mark 1:9-15)

Children’s Time: TBD

March 4, 2nd Sunday in Lent

The Question: How do we reach out with boldness and love to the Belmont community and beyond?

The Message: “The Foolishness of the Cross” (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Children’s Time: TBD

March 11, 3rd Sunday in Lent

The Question: What risks are we willing to take to embrace our faith and expand our ministry?

The Message: “Extreme Christianity” (Mark 8:31-38)

Children’s Time: TBD

March 18, 4th Sunday in Lent

The Question: Is “new life in Christ” real, or are we on our own as we strive to be faithful?

The Message: “A Way of Life” (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Children’s Time: TBD

March 25, 5th Sunday in Lent

The Question: Does God still speak to people? How?

The Message: “Something Deep Inside” (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Children’s Time: TBD

April 1, Passion/Palm Sunday

The Question: Why would Jesus ride into Jerusalem when he knew he would be crucified there?

The Message: “An Obedient King” (Mark 1:1-11)

Children’s Time: TBD



A Note of Thanks

The New Attitudes Group of NA wishes to thank you, the Board of Trustees and the church for allowing us to hold our New Year's Eve party here.

There were more than 40 people in attendance; the room was decorated with a variety of lights, magnolia and candles; the fire pit was great and in full compliance with Fire Department regulations. We had punch, coffee (decaf and caffeinated) and hot chocolate, a variety of finger foods and snacks. There was conversation and laughing, a game table was in full use.

We were glad that AA was celebrating in the Fellowship Hall. Most of our members knew people there; some even were related to people dancing downstairs. We mixed freely and we all enjoyed it.

At midnight there was a Ball Drop, just like Times Square. We had a technical difficulty but it was fun nevertheless. Someone started a 10-9-8-countdown and when the ball was fully lowered we broke into Auld Lang Syne. A spontaneous outpouring.

It was a lovely night for us all. I hope we will be back at the end of this year to welcome 2013.

We are grateful for the church's willingness to be such a good neighbor here in Belmont. We all wish you the very best in 2012.

Lawrence E.



Bellringing News

by Irene Dorrier

Some of you may be aware that I grew up in Scottsville. The boys my age were mostly Methodist but my girlfriends were Episcopalian.

After sleep-overs I'd frequently go to St John's with the girls and occasionally sang in the Episcopal choir where I learned to genuflect before the cross.

For several years the Episcopal priest was one Cannon Echols who arrived with a set of handbells which was so intriguing to all in the parish. Adults, kids, men, women—all wanted to play the bells. The men took the largest ones, of course.

These were the days before copying machines or mimeographing and each song that was played by the bells had to be painstakingly copied on a large piece of poster board which was then put on a large easel before the bell choir. Most songs took lots of these posters and the director would hold his stick and point to each note as it was rung and change the posters as each one was finished. It was awkward but the sounds from the bells were wonderful and magical. And even though I could sing in the choir, and I could pretend I knew what I was supposed to do with the prayer book, I was never allowed to play the handbells. I watched many times. I was fascinated that so many people could perform as one

instrument. I learned the techniques of holding and ringing by watching. But I wanted to be a bell ringer myself.

Fast forward to Hinton Avenue and the bell choir which Babs started and is now directed by Mark Sherriff. I'm finally a bell ringer and I love it! I'd play every Sunday and twice during Christmas Sundays if possible.

Originally, if you remember, our choir included five of the youth. They're now gone as well as several families who were serious bell ringers but are no longer even in Charlottesville which now leaves us with many fewer ringers and a serious concert on **April 14th** at Aldersgate with ALL the handbell choirs in the area.

If you've ever wondered what bell ringing is like, if you've harbored a secret desire to join the choir but never told anyone, if you just want to fill another evening of your time with a one hour commitment to the bell choir, **I urge you to join us.**

Most of us aren't great musicians but Mark's a great director and we have lots of fun. Members of Gary's choir are welcome and so is anyone else.

As Mark says, "If you can count to 4; if you know your right hand from your left one; you can ring handbells."

We don't want our handbells to deteriorate from disuse, and ringing with all the handbell choirs in Charlottesville will be a great experience! Come and see!

Clothes Closet



By Patricia Carter

Blankets accepted throughout the winter for the homeless.

Other needs for clothes closet – children’s clothing, men’s shoes, paper towels, toilet paper, toothpaste, etc.

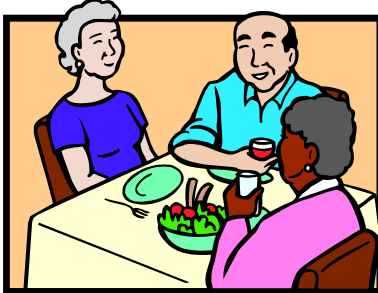


Table Fellowship Returns

By Fred Schneider

Several years ago, small groups of Hinton Avenue folks could be seen getting together at each other’s homes once a month for a rotating and ever-changing meal and evening of fellowship.

The program's instigator was longtime member, Dot Haggerty, who had seen a similar thing at daughter Julie Gravitt's church in Ashland. With coordination from Janet Hopkins, the program ran for a year or more.

In an effort to provide more fellowship opportunities for the congregation, the Radical Hospitality / Evangelism team wants to revive the Table Fellowship program—with a slight difference. As before, those

interested in participating would sign up, and coordinators (the RH team) would shuffle folks into groups of 6-8 persons to meet at different host families' homes each month. Unlike before, 6 of the participants would be responsible for the meal (entree, side dish and/or salad, dessert) and 2 places at the table would be for guests—either persons inside or outside the church of the host’s choosing or church visitors that have expressed an interest in knowing more about Hinton Avenue. It is hoped that this will not only strengthen ties within the congregation, but will also help us introduce other folks to the Hinton Avenue family.

If you're interested in being part of Table Fellowship II, please let Fred Schneider (293-2065 / redbox@charlottesville.net) or Sandra McLaughlin know. Sign-up sheets also will be circulated in Sunday worship during February, with Table Fellowship groups ready to meet in March. Children can be signed up if they will participate on a regular basis, but are always welcome as part of the host family or by prior arrangement with the host family. Transportation can be arranged for those who wish, so don't let that be a concern. We look forward to many good meals and fellowship together in the coming year!

Notes from the Christian Believer Class

By Vicky Bibb

The Christian Believer class is having a most blessed study time on Monday nights at 7:00pm in the Ballard room.

In our last evening together our chapter entitled, *Jesus Christ is Lord*, had some interesting questions to learn about, ponder, and discuss. We as a class thought

we'd share one of those questions with you, and the answers we perceived from our study readings, video, and our personal experiences.

The question was: What does faith have to do with confessing “Jesus is Lord”? It has everything to do with that confession. The knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord only comes through faith. It is not open to reason or human capability. Faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit and true confession comes from that gift. If you are having trouble confessing Jesus Christ is Lord; you need to ask and pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit which is faith. Faith reveals to us the full divinity of Christ.

“If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”
-Romans 10:9

Jesus is Lord of all things, we as Christians* must find the ways this is so through the gift of faith.

*as individuals, as a class, as a church, as a community, as the world

New Youth Coordinator Named

By Mark Sherriff

We welcome Erica Ridgell as the new youth coordinator at Hinton Avenue!

She's a second year math major at UVA; originally from Winchester, VA.

She grew up in the Methodist church and had an amazing seven years in her youth group at home and is currently active in the Wesley Foundation in Charlottesville.

Erica came to use because the idea of helping to create powerful experiences for the next generation

of youth like she had in her youth group is extremely exciting to her. She is excited to take our youth on meaningful retreats, incredible mission trips and to see their favorite Christian bands and speakers.

She believes that one of the most important aspects of a youth group is its relationship with the entire congregation, and she wants to make sure to maintain and strengthen the existing ties.

Included in her plans are: community outreach, a video-based bible study, and continued involvement with the congregation. She is especially looking forward to planning retreats and mission trips with the youth.

In the upcoming weeks, she will be looking for parents and members of the congregation to help out by cooking dinner for the youth on Sunday evenings.

If you know you would be interested in helping with this or any other projects the youth will be involved in, she asks you to please not hesitate to send her an email at erica@hintonavenueumc.org. It's going to be a great experience for all involved, and she can't wait to get started!



FAITH (Youth) News

By Erica Ridgell

We are planning an exciting semester and are looking forward to everything the Lord has in store for us.

Our new group name, FAITH, stands for Finding Awesome Inspiration Through Him and they are currently working on a logo for the group as well as a redecoration of the current youth room.

In the coming months, we will be attending the district youth retreat, participating in the 30 Hour Famine, supporting Teens Opposing Poverty, and looking for new ways to get involved in the Charlottesville community as well as worldwide outreach.

They are excited about the possibility of weekend rallies such as Acquire the Fire and Kingsfest, weekend lock-ins and Saturday mission work.

I'm extremely pleased with the youths' enthusiasm and willingness to go outside their comfort zones, and can't wait to see what the next few months will bring about.

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

January

Avg. church attendance	69
Avg. Sunday School	30
Visitors	4
Offerings	\$13,767.12