

the Forerunner

"Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."

March 2010

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

At the Congregational Business Meeting, Part II, members were invited to participate in the next step of Hunting Ridge's mission study. As you will recall, in the late spring and early summer of 2009, the congregation gathered in small conversation groups to lift up those characteristics and activities which have held the greatest meaning for each participant over the years. These comments were noted and collated for a presentation that was part of a Called Congregational Meeting on August 2, 2009.

From a list of 73 items representative of the total comments heard in the small groups, Session members and Deacons selected the five that were the most important to each one, whittling the original list to 34 items. This list was the basis for the Feb. 21 exercise.

Upon reviewing the items that received the most attention, a few significant categories seemed to emerge: spiritual growth (items mentioned 58 times); fellowship (items mentioned 36 times); diversity (items mentioned 34 times); and community service (items mentioned 27 times). Under each of these categories, a couple of items stood out in particular:

Spiritual Growth

- 14 HRPC offers stimulating, meaningful preaching in worship.
- 13 HRPC has a deep, broad understanding of God's presence and guidance.
- 12 HRPC members value music.

Fellowship

- 15 HRPC members are friendly and welcoming to newcomers.
- 7 HRPC members respond to each other's needs.
- 6 HRPC focuses on children. (and youth – 1)

Diversity

- 18 HRPC is a broadly diverse congregation.
- 11 HRPC is tolerant of differing opinions.

Community Service

- 5 HRPC keeps its building open.
- 5 HRPC participates in community service.
- 4 HRPC members are socially and politically aware.
- 4 HRPC provides meeting space for a variety of community groups.

(concluded on page 3)

Senior Camradery

The March gathering of Senior Camradery at Hunting Ridge Church has been cancelled. We will meet next on Thursday, April 1, 2010.

The book club meets again on Sunday, March 28 at Charlestown Retirement Community, Charlestown Square at 7:00 p.m.



The book is **The Plague of Doves** by Louise Erdrich. It is a mystery involving two cultures --a small white town of Pluto, North Dakota, and the Ojibwe living on a nearby reservation.

Come join the Hunting Ridge Youth for an evening of fun and worship!

The Baltimore Blast hosts Christian Youth Night

Friday March 12 at 7:35pm

After the game there is a concert performed by Hawk Nelson.

Tickets cost \$16

If you would like to attend the game please contact Megan Veltman by Wednesday March 11 to purchase tickets.

We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:30 so we can leave as a group.



Celebrate Spring!

Please join us on **Saturday, March 20**, at Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church for an evening of music and camaraderie. Festivities will begin at **7:00 pm.** in the sanctuary with a mini-concert embracing a wide range of musical styles. About 7:45 we will repair to the fellowship hall, ramp up the volume a bit and, spurred on by *Geriatrica* and its guests, while away an hour or so eating desserts, dancing, or simply enjoying each other's company.

There are no tickets for this event. We ask only that you make a donation that night to the fund established by the deacons of Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church to help the children of Toni Smith.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.



HRPC Men's Breakfast

The men of the church are cordially invited to join for breakfast, reflection, and spiritual unity.

We gather next on Saturday, March 20 at 8:30 a.m.

Session Highlights

Session met in February, joyfully receiving Liz Kradz as an active member by reaffirmation of faith. (Liz was welcomed by the congregation on February 28 in worship.)

Along with the usual round of necessary business involved in running a large volunteer organization, Session took a significant amount of time to discuss the results of leadership and congregational voting with regard to the values that all of you mentioned in our small group conversations last summer. More information on the outcome of your answers is in the pastor's letter on page one. Next month, Session members will return with ideas for how to convey these more focused values in a succinct mission statement for the future.

The Session of Hunting Ridge Church voted to utilize all memorial contributions made in celebration of Toni Smith to create a fund to support the future needs of her children. If you would like to make a donation to this fund please mark it accordingly. Contributions may be made with your regular Sunday offering, or mailed to the church.

This month, our financial status is as follows:

| | <u>January</u> | <u>Year-to-date</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Income | 15358 | 15358 |
| Expenses | 14864 | 14864 |
| Balance | 495 | 495 |

(Pastor's letter, continued from page 1)

For their March meeting, Session members have been asked to take this list home, reflect and pray over it, and bring back an idea to contribute to what will hopefully become the church's mission statement for ministry in a new century. It will be this statement that will become the driving force and resource for specific goals the congregation hopes to accomplish in God's name, and with the leadership whom God is calling.

As you consider the above information, what ideas come to you? Please share your thoughts with Pastor Jan, Bill Webster, or any member of the Session. We want to hear from you as together, the congregation moves into the last stage of its mission study process and looks forward to electing a Pastor Nominating Committee for the purpose of discerning the next pastor of Hunting Ridge.

Blessings,

Jan

March Worship

- † *Sunday, March 7, 11 a.m. – 3rd Sunday of Lent*
 Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 Dedication of the Betty Lambert Memorial Garden marker
Isaiah. 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

- † *Sunday, March 14, 11 a.m. – 4th Sunday of Lent*
 Worship with Bill Webster preaching
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

- † *Sunday, March 21, 11 a.m. – 5th Sunday of Lent*
 Worship
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

- † *Sunday, March 28, 11 a.m. – 6th Sunday of Lent – Palm Sunday*
 Worship
 Gospel Choir Sunday
 Potluck Fellowship Brunch immediately following worship
*Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2,19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;
 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49*

Easter Worship

Our celebration of Holy Week will be slightly different this year than last. On Palm Sunday, as you can see in the worship schedule, you are invited to remain after worship for a time of fellowship over lunch coordinated by the Deacons. The food will be provided pot-luck; as you are able, we invite you to bring a dish to share.

On Maundy Thursday, April 1, we will gather for worship at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary to share the Lord's Supper and to read the passion narrative from Luke's gospel. Please make every effort to attend this meaningful service which allows us to experience even more fully the joy of Easter morning.



On Easter, in order to allow those who have often expended great time and energy throughout the morning to worship more fully themselves, we are not planning an early service on the lawn or the breakfast following. Children will gather for their activities at 9:30 a.m., and the entire faith community will gather at 11 a.m. for a Celebration of the Resurrection. If any of you would especially like the opportunity to gather early that morning for prayer and praise, you are invited to join with members of Hope Presbyterian Church at the home of the Baldwin family, 324 Gun Road (off of Rolling Road), at 7 a.m. for a service and potluck breakfast.

Congregational Brunch

The Deacons of Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church invite you to join the congregation for a potluck brunch following worship service on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010.

Attendees are asked to contribute a breakfast or lunch dish, a sign-up sheet is posted in the library—please let us know what you'll be contributing!

Suggested contributions: quiche, strata, fruit, salads, soups, breads, bacon and/or sausage, and fruit juices.

If you have any questions please contact Lydia Fryer at 410.233-3317 (h), 410.455.3698 (w), or 410.952.9560 (c).

The Veltman's are hosting
Supper Club this month.

Friday March 19th at 6:30

Homemade pizza night

We will provide the pizza.

Please bring soda, chips, or
desserts.

We hope to see you there!

Congregational Meeting, Part II

On Sunday, February 21, we held our brief rescheduled Congregational Meeting, Part II. Elected to the 2010 Nominating Committee were: Annette Snyder, Session representative; Peter Van Allen, Deacon representative; and Virginia Callahan, Joseph Banks, and Johnnie Summers, members-at-large. An additional Session representative (Colette Curtis-Edell) and member-at-large (Liz Kradz was nominated and accepted, once she is received into membership) will be elected at a called congregational meeting, yet to be scheduled. The Annual Report was received and additional copies are in the church office for anyone who was not present and would like to have one.

Congregation members present were encouraged to select five values from among the list made available at the meeting as well as in worship the previous week. These values were to be tallied and used by Session to work toward a mission statement. (Additional information is in the pastor's letter on page one of this newsletter.)

Thanks from THOR

On behalf of the THOR program, we would like to thank you for your partnership and generosity for our 2nd Annual Feeding the Homeless Thanksgiving Drive. With God's grace, this year's Thanksgiving Drive at Code Blue Homeless Shelter in downtown Baltimore was a wonderful blessing to the 125 brothers and sisters we served. We humbly appreciate your support and look forward to many more opportunities to work with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Thank you again and may God bless you.

Calendar: March 2010

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday | March 1 | 7:00 pm | HRCA Board Meeting | Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday | March 3 | 6:00 pm | Imani Ringers rehearsal | Choir Loft |
| | | 7:00 pm | Gospel Choir rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Thursday | March 4 | 7:00 pm | GMB & Chancel Choir rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| | | 8:00 pm | Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting | Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | March 7 | 9:15 am | Sunday School: Faith Place | Education Wing |
| | | 9:30 am | Sunday School for Adults | Library |
| | | 11:00am | Worship Service: Lay Reader: Johnny Rice, Sr. | Sanctuary |
| | | 12:30 pm | Deacons Meeting | |
| Wednesday | March 10 | 6:00 pm | Imani Ringers rehearsal | Choir Loft |
| | | 7:00 pm | Gospel Choir rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Thursday | March 11 | 7:00 pm | GMB & Chancel Choir rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| | | 8:00 pm | Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting | Fellowship Hall |
| Friday | March 12 | 6:30 pm | Youth Night: Baltimore Blast | Meet @ HRPC |
| Sunday | March 14 | 9:15 am | Sunday School: Faith Place | Education Wing |
| | | 9:30 am | Sunday School for Adults | Library |
| | | 11:00am | Worship Service: Lay Reader: Carol Bailey | Sanctuary |
| Thursday | March 18 | 7:00 pm | GMB & Chancel Choir rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| | | 8:00 pm | Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting | Fellowship Hall |
| Friday | March 19 | 6:30 pm | Fellowship Dinner: Pizza Party | The Veltman's |
| Saturday | March 20 | 8:30 am | HRPC Men's Breakfast | Fellowship Hall |
| | | 7:00 pm | Spring Fling: Music & Dessert | Sanctuary & FH |
| Sunday | March 21 | 9:15 am | Sunday School: Faith Place | Education Wing |
| | | 9:30 am | Sunday School for Adults | Library |
| | | 11:00am | Worship Service Lay Reader: Peter Van Allen | Sanctuary |
| Monday | March 22 | 7:30 pm | Session Meeting | |
| Wednesday | March 24 | 6:00 pm | Imani Ringers rehearsal | Choir Loft |
| | | 7:00 pm | Gospel Choir rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Thursday | March 25 | 7:00 pm | GMB & Chancel Choir rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| | | 8:00 pm | Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting | Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | March 28 | 9:15 am | Sunday School: Faith Place | Education Wing |
| | | 9:30 am | Sunday School for Adults | Library |
| | | 11:00am | Worship Service: Palm Sunday Lay Reader: Jesse Edell | Sanctuary |
| | | 12:30 pm | Congregational Potluck Brunch | Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday | March 31 | 7:00 pm | Book Club | Charlestown |
| | | 6:00 pm | Imani Ringers rehearsal | Choir Loft |
| | | 7:00 pm | Gospel Choir rehearsal | Sanctuary |