

Word of Hope

Mount Hope United Methodist Church

January 2012



Pastor McGill Writes:

The Sword of the Spirit

As we look back on Christmas and forward in the New Year we are reminded that the angels proclaimed, "Peace on earth, good will toward men." So if this is meant to be a season of peace and good will, why are we discussing a sword? The sword is a weapon of warfare, not peace ... or is it? The angels were making a proclamation. They were declaring God's position toward man. God sent Jesus to restore peace and goodwill between God and man. It was a proclamation that the war was over between God and man. God's Word is truth. Jesus came to die for our crimes against God. He came to redeem us out of the kingdom of darkness, breaking Satan's power over us and restoring us to the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

Christ Jesus who died, who was raised to life again, is at the right hand of God the Father and is interceding for us. All we must do is to believe, obey, and proclaim what the Spirit of the Living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has written. We must declare God's position over every situation in our lives. In other words, we must proclaim, which in Latin means to "shout forth." It is linked to another dynamic phrase or word ... "to confess." Confession means to say the same with our mouths

what God has already said in His Word.

Many believers quote Revelation 12:11, which says, "And they overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony..." But what word of our testimony is He talking about? The Word of God! That is the only testimony we have! We are to proclaim our victory over the flesh, the mind and the devil. God's power is released in the supernatural when we speak His Word over our lives. That which is released in the supernatural affects the physical, where we live. Jesus is the High Priest of our confession (proclamations). Whenever we say with our mouth, what the Bible says about us as believers in Jesus, then we have released His authority and blessings over us.

In order to proclaim the Word, you must know the Word. You must read the Bible and meditate upon it. Never forget the written Word of God supports everything else in your walk with God. Without the Word of God operational in your life (i.e. hidden in your heart) your battle is over before it ever begins! Hebrews 11:3 says, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God ..." God produced the

worlds through His Word! This world we live in is upheld by His Word! God says it and it is so. Isaiah 26:23 says, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee..." By reading the Word and meditating on it and proclaiming it over your life, then the peace of God will rule in your heart! Not the world's peace but God's peace. The world's peace is temporal and easily lost. God's peace is eternal and never shaken or lost. It is not performance based. It is a free gift to those who believe on Christ Jesus, just the same as salvation and grace. The world didn't give it to you and the world can't take it away.

Getting back to the sword, Jesus said He didn't come to bring peace but rather a sword (Matt. 10:34). The angels are proclaiming peace and goodwill at Jesus' birth and Jesus is saying He came to bring a sword ... not peace. What's going on here? Is God schizophrenic and aren't these mixed messages?

No! God is not schizophrenic. We simply are limited by our earthly mindset. Our minds have to be renewed with the Word of God. Now we aren't limited by our earthly mind. We have the mind of God and can see things from His perspective. *(continued on page 2)*

The Sword of the Spirit

(continued from page 1)

In Ephesians 6:17 Paul describes the “sword of the Spirit.” He says that God has given the church a weapon that is just brutal against our enemy! This weapon, called the “Sword of the Spirit,” has the potential to rip our foe to shreds! He says that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. The term “word” is taken from the Greek word “rhema.” Rhema described something that is spoken clearly, spoken vividly, spoken in undeniable language; or spoken in unmistakable, unquestionable, certain, and definite terms. These rhema words are powerful. When the Holy Spirit supernaturally quickens such a Word – Bible verse – to a believer’s heart and mind, that believer knows that he has heard from God. There’s no

doubt about it. With that Word comes super-natural peace to you.

The Rhema you desperately need will come right out of the Bible as the Holy Spirit supernaturally makes a verse leap right off the pages of the written Word and into your heart. As you respond in faith to that freshly spoken Rhema Word from the Holy Spirit, it will act like a mighty blade in your hand as you proclaim it over your life, releasing a mighty force of divine power that is capable of destroying the work of the devil in your life.

Jesus came to restore peace and good will between God and man and to give mankind a weapon – the Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) so He could enforce the victory Jesus won through His death and resurrection. Never forget that

God’s Word is the key to complete victory, success and peace in life. Read it, meditate on it and proclaim it over your life. God’s Word says that above all else He desires that you prosper and be in good health (3 John 1:2). It is the wages of sin that lead to death and destruction (Romans 6:23). Jesus came that you might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

This New Year Suzanne and I pray that you experience the height, the depth, the length and the breadth of God’s love. Also remember that “All good things come down from above from the Father of lights in whom there is no change or shadow of turning!”

Have a Happy New Year,

Pastor Tom and Suzanne
McGill

Welcome New Staff Members

The Staff Parish Relations Committee members are happy to announce that we have hired Loretta (Lorry) Cirillo in the position of part-time Church Secretary/ Financial Secretary. Lorry is a resident of Aston, and has worked in the secretarial field for many years for the rehabilitation department at Riddle Hospital. We are delighted that Lorry has joined the staff of Mount Hope Church.

The SPR Committee is also very happy to announce that Elaine Faulkner will be joining Mount Hope staff as part-time Youth Director beginning January 1st. Elaine has been a long-time member of Mount Hope and has 18 years experience in volunteer ministry including 8 years as a youth leader, 5 years as a missions team leader, 10 years teaching Sunday School, and 12 years working with vacation Bible school. We welcome Elaine

as a member of the Mount Hope church staff.

We are grateful to our Lord for bringing both of these very capable women to our church staff and pray continued blessings on them, their families, and their ministry.

Bev Goryl, Chair,
SPR Committee

Thank You!

Dear Mount Hope Church Family,
It is with heartfelt gratitude that we, the pastors of Mount Hope Church, thank you for your generous gifts at Christmas. Words fail to express how thankful we are for your ministry to us throughout

the year. Your cards, prayers and phone calls on special occasions and in times of need are deeply appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

May God’s blessings of peace, joy and victory be with you

and your families this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

Thank you again,
Pastors Tom, George and Phil

Mount Hope Bread of Life Ministry

A church reaching out to others with food and the Awesome Love of God

In September 2011 Angelfood officially went out of business. I had been left with the dilemma of how to continue a food ministry here at Mount Hope Church and how we would be able to help those in need in our surrounding area of Aston, Trainer, Brookhaven, Parkside and Marcus Hook, Pa. We had been helping 25-30 families a month with food and clothing and I didn't want to let them down. One of the best parts of this ministry was that we had the opportunity to come to know those in our community and show and tell them of the love of Jesus Christ. To hug people, to pray with them and encourage them, has been an opportunity to put God's awesome love into action.

I didn't realize how much this ministry had meant to me until it looked like it was going to be taken away. Looking back on the past 2 ½ years of having Angelfood, I was able to visualize how this ministry had grown. We started by having Angelfood available, so people from the community could order food at a discount price. There didn't seem to be enough food in those boxes, so we added an extra table with donations such as, eggs, fresh fruit and vegetables, and basic staples; people could pick up those extra items at no cost. Then we added a clothing closet, where those who were coming for food could also pick out gently used clothing. Word has gotten out that you could call Mount Hope and get help. And that was good.

Also, looking back on a personal level, I was able to see how the food ministry had impacted my personal and spiritual growth. People who came for food really tugged at my heart. They were from all walks of life: an aging former college professor, his dear wife and family; a police officer out of work; a mom who had been addicted to drugs and was trying to beat that addiction, finally getting custody of her children; a nursing assistant whose

husband had a heart condition and out of work - then she lost her job; a man who had had a double transplant and then his wife fell ill with a neurological disorder; a number of elderly people who were struggling to pay their living expenses and cost of medicines, doctor visit co-pays ... the list goes on. I realized from their stories, it was but by the grace of God that I was not in those situations. Life here on earth can be precarious, and at any given moment circumstances could change, and I too would find myself in that position, a person of need. And what a position to be in without the Lord!! It must be so scary and lonely. I can see it on their faces, the fear, heartache and despair.

Some of the people coming to the food ministry know the Lord and in spite of their circumstances, praise His name and give Him glory and thankfulness. There have been an inspiration to me, bolstering my faith by their love of God and their example. But then there were those who had that look of despair. Those who were beaten down by their circumstances and Satan's hold on their lives. I wanted to help them all; the Holy Spirit filled me with such love, His Awesome Love.

This ministry had a wonderful core group of volunteers and we worked together as a church family side by side. That was the other great part about this ministry. We came together as a church family and God's love multiplied by our strong numbers. Often there were 20 people or more who showed up to help. The number of volunteers grew as members of all ages and their friends and family came out to help. I grew to know and love members of my church family, people that I never knew before. Their love of God and wanting to reach out and help others shone through. My faith in God's love and goodness grew.

In the beginning, sharing my faith with others was hard to do; I couldn't just jump in and pray for

someone out loud, I wasn't that bold. I found each month as I reached out to others the Lord lead me in steps; those barriers of self broke down and His Awesome Love for those that came took hold. At first I could just hug and sometimes cry with others, but as time went on I could hold their hands or lay hands on them in prayer. I felt and saw the Holy Spirit working in their lives and my life too.

Now that Angelfood is gone, we are prayerfully seeking ways to continue and expand this ministry here at Mount Hope Church. The people coming to us need food, but the sadness and desperation upon their faces lead us to know that they not only need food, but desperately need the Lord, The Bread of Life! Thus our new name was inspired. But moving forward, we will need a different model for supporting this ministry and supplying food. We are considering making up our own boxes, similar idea to Angelfood, protein foods at a discounted price.

Finances are always the issue. There are only so many donations, canned good drives, coupons and bargains at the supermarket. We are in an area that is right next to the 2nd poorest city in the nation and where the oil refineries are soon to shut down and a lot of jobs will be lost. I am anticipating the need in this area will only grow. To meet that need we have to have more food coming in, freezers, refrigerators and shelving to store the food. God has given us that wonderful core group of volunteers and a beautiful huge old church building to welcome those with open arms and His Love, but to continue this ministry costs supplies and money. I would ask that you please keep Mount Hope Bread of Life Ministry in your prayers and if you would consider coming out to volunteer, your help would be lovingly appreciated.

Sue Keeley and the Team

New Year's Eve Family Game Night

December 31st from 6-9pm in Habbersett Hall, Mount Hope Church will be having a time of family fun, games and food.

Various group and individual activities are planned. The evening is free of charge, so come welcome in the New Year, have some pizza,

enjoy some laughs all in the name of Christian fellowship.

Pastor Phil

Education

Confirmation 2012

Confirmation 2012 will begin with a parents meeting on January 8th at 10am in Habbersett Hall. Classes will be held in the lounge on Saturdays from 10am

till noon. Graduation will be held on March 25th at the 11am service. Any young person 13 years of age or older who has not yet benefited from the training

and exploration of their own faith and would like attend; please notify Pastor Phil as soon as possible.

Mount Hope Children's Center

Our January Bible Verse:

"Jesus is the light of the world."

John 8:12

All of us at the Children's Center wish all of you a Happy and Christ-Centered New Year! Our families were very giving again this year; we collected many boxes and cans of non-perishable food for our Food Pantry here. This year we had a "Giving Tree" to also benefit our "MH Bread of Life" ministry. It is wonderful to see our families teach their children the true meaning of the Christmas Season.

January seems quiet after all of the excitement of the Christmas Holiday. It always takes the children a few days to readjust after the long Christmas break. We begin evaluating the children to make sure that they are all on track for their age-appropriate skill level. The children have reading challenges that conclude with ice cream parties at the end of the month. They study polar animals (penguins and polar bears, etc.), and the colors of the month are black and white. Our 3-year old class will be having their pajama party this month.

Our Fruit of the Spirit is "Kindness." Our 2-year old class will

host our chapel on Monday, January 30th and Tuesday the 31st at approximately 9:30 AM.

We will begin our in-house registration for the 2012-2013 (I cannot believe I am writing 2013!) school year; registration forms are available now. We really fill up early, so if you have an interest, please come and visit our program and our happy children! If you would like more information, please call 610-558-0442. We wish you and yours a blessed New Year!

Kris Leary

MHCC Director

Ladies' Bible Study

Ladies Bible study resumes in 2012 on Thursday January 12th at 1pm in the lounge. This

quarter we will be studying the book "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan. Please pick up a copy of

the book in Habbersett Hall starting January 1st.

Pulse: Youth Notes

Dare to Share

January 20 – 22nd. The Youth Group (known as Pulse) will be traveling to Washington D.C. to attend this area wide event. The purpose of Dare to Share conferences is to mobilize teenagers to relationally and

relentlessly reach their generation for Christ. The theme of this year's tour is *Game Day*. The focus will be to help students face the reality and urgency of the competition they are a part of everyday in the grand Kingdom conflict for the souls of their friends. Diving into 2 Timothy

4:1-8, they'll come away motivated and equipped to carry out the Apostle Paul's charge to GO, FIGHT, WIN.
January 1 and 22 – No Pulse
January 8, 15, 29 – Regular Pulse
February 12th – Youth Sunday

Mount Hope Youth Missions

Anyone going into 9th grade is welcome to come on youth missions. We are going to Gulfport, Hancock County, Mississippi, through "Nextstep Ministries." Visit their web site at nextstepministries.com if you

would like to check it out. We are going from June 29th to July 8th. The cost is \$600, but we will have fundraisers to try to offset the cost. We are having a parents' meeting on January 8th @ 4:30 in the Senior High

Room (6). Team members must also attend mandatory monthly meetings.

Any questions? Call Elaine Faulkner at 610.485.0498 or ebfaulkner86@comcast.net.

May We Have Your E-Mail Address?

We're continuing to reduce our office costs by e-mailing a link to the on-line *Word of Hope* each month. Sending you

a link saves the church on postage, paper and copier charges. If you don't mind reading the newsletter electronically,

please email us at office@mthope.org and each month we'll send you the link to our web site.

The Church Family

New Members:

Robin Bergeman, Erika Buscaglia, Kathy Carrow, Lillian "Cooki" Jackson, Caryl Kistner, Wayne and Eileen McIntyre, Jacqueline Nessuno, Leslie Sacks, Margaretta "Margo" Scott, James and Kimberly Smith, and Barry Steward

Baptisms:

*Jemma Grace Kearney, November 20, daughter of Jonathan and Tabitha Kearney
Mackenzie and Gabrielle Taylor, Dec. 11, daughters of John and Megan Taylor*

Deaths:

*Frank Laganosky, Jr.
August 1, 1955 – November 24, 2011
Joshua "Hap" Habbersett
February 9, 1921 - December 8, 2011*

We have no known addresses for the following members, nor any recent attendance or contributions. Therefore we will be withdrawing them from membership in 2012. If you are in contact with any of these members and know that they would want to retain their connection with Mount

Hope Church, please ask them to contact the church without delay.

Terri Westenberger, Connie Werner, Sherry Voorhees, Nicole Stant, Russell Replogle, Donald and Brenda Porter, Susan O'Neill, Daniel, Patricia and Kevin Mozzoni, Heather Mozzoni, John Michael, Carah McKenzie, Sean McAdams, Mamie

Maxwell, Dawn Marshall, Michael Mack, John Kirk, Ben and Julia King, Douglas and Karen King, Brentley and Karen Johnston, Susan Jirak, Donna Imre, Deborah Highfield, Patricia Heer, Betty Gottier, Patrick Carney, Jason Bucci, Holly Astheimer, Scott Ashton

January 2012 Calendar of Events

This Update Printed: Wednesday, December 21, 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> Blood Pressure Screening (HH) 7:45 AM Library open	2 <i>The Church will be locked all day today</i> Office Closed 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study MHCC Closed	3 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6) 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl (Digging) 7:30 PM 20's Bible Study (Halls)	4 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 11:30 PM Education (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Muddy Boots Bible Study (6) 7:00 PM Trustees (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (101)	5 7:00 PM Emmaus mtg (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7
8 7:45 AM Library open 8:45 AM HSTS Choir (105) 9:30 AM Confirmation Parent mtg (HH) 4:00 PM WOH Dine (Ofc) 4:30 PM Yth Mission Tm Parents Mtg (6) 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)	9 7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L) 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Stdy (6)	10 7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH)	11 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Muddy Boots Bible Study (6) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (101)	12 11:00 AM Busy Beavers (Kit) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	13	14 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L) 5:00 PM Co-Weds Party (HH)
15 <i>Human Relations Day</i> 7:45 AM Library open 8:45 AM HSTS Choir (105) 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)	16 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> Office Closed 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study	17 7:00 PM Circle of Friends Bbl Stdy (104) 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6) 7:00 PM SPR (L) 7:30 PM 20's Bible Study (Halls)	18 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Muddy Boots Bible Study (6) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (101)	19 8:30 AM WOH Mailing (HH) 7:00 PM Transportation (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	20	21 9:00 AM MH Bread of Life dist (HH) 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L) 5:00 PM Co-Weds Party (snow date) (HH)
22 7:45 AM Library open 8:45 AM HSTS Choir (105)	23 7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L) 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Stdy (6)	24 7:00 PM Worship Com (L)	25 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Muddy Boots Bible Study (6) 7:00 PM Finance (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (101)	26 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)	27	28 10:00 AM Confirmation Class (L)
29 7:45 AM Library open 8:45 AM HSTS Choir (105) 6:00 PM YF PULSE (HH, 6)	30 1:30 PM Bloodmobile (HH)	31 7:30 PM 20's Bible Study (Halls)	Every Sunday: Worship at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Traditional 9:30 a.m. Family, Praise Band 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages Community Events: Sundays—6 pm, Cub Den 4 (104) Mondays—7 p.m., Boy Scout Trp 292 (FH) Tuesdays—8 p.m. AA (FH) Thursdays—6 p.m., AA (FH) Fridays—7 p.m., Cub Den 2 (FH) 6 p.m., Pack 77 (FH)			