

Word of Hope

MOUNT HOPE
United Methodist Church



Pastor Rigby Writes. . .

Remembering Fred

At the invitation of Pastor McGill, I offer the following as the lead article in this month's *Word of Hope*. It is a column I prepared some twenty years ago for a church newsletter and I think it is as suggestive of meaning today as it was when first written. Read it and let me know what you think.

Fred's gone! He got out of the cage and disappeared. Or he was stolen. I don't know which. Anyway, he's gone and I'm feeling rotten.

It happened a couple of weeks ago, just after I got back from vacation. I had put him out on the lawn in front of my apartment for an airing and stretch. He was in a chicken-wire enclosure and perfectly safe, I thought. I turned my back and the next time I checked...

That's the basic story. That's the essential truth. But the thing is it's not the whole truth.

What really happened was I put him out and forgot him. By the time I remembered it was much, much later and the cage was empty.

So I've been in the pits and for several reasons I guess: the loss of a friend; the blame I feel for my carelessness; and the suffering I may have caused the turtle (Oh,

yes. For you who don't know Fred, Fred's a box turtle who's been with me for 8 years and has appeared occasionally in church for Sunday morning children's sermons).

The hardest thing of all is the guilt I feel. I reproach myself for my carelessness and irresponsibility. And, what's more, there seems to be nothing I can do about it.

I've been thinking about that. What can I do about this mistake I've made? Is there any way for me to atone for it and in the meantime how can I find forgiveness and come to feel O.K. again?

You may find this silly and if you do I think I understand. But I honestly have felt very deeply about it and have wondered if it's not, in its own small way, something other people have experienced.

What do we, as Christians, do when we suffer a loss for which we are at least in part responsible? How do we get the forgiveness we crave and from where does that forgiveness come?

Naturally we think of God. It's to God we look for the assurance that He understands and is willing to go on accepting us in spite of it. And then we're supposed to feel a peace in our hearts that tells us we really are forgiven.

But what if we don't? I mean, what if we lay the truth out before God and say, "God, I'm sorry, sorrier than I can ever tell You," and we feel nothing: no peace, no easing of the guilt? What then? What should we conclude? Because we don't feel forgiven we're not?

I think I've come to see that forgiveness involves not just what God offers me but what I am willing to accept. Forgiveness—to feel forgiven—means I've got to forgive myself.

I think that's the crucial point with me and Fred. I know in my mind that God understands, but because I haven't forgiven myself I'm not able to feel it in my heart. I think when I am able to say to myself, you made a mistake, a very human mistake, but let it go and get on with the business of being as caring as you can of the other things you are responsible for—when I'm able to do that then I think I'll feel the forgiveness that I know God has already given me.

Isn't it funny how spiritual truths keep popping up in the unlikely places? Would to God we could always see them and, most of all, profit from them.

~ Pastor George

February 2009

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ *1st: Holy Communion*
- ◆ *2nd: Bloodmobile*
- ◆ *16th: Presidents' Day; office closed*
- ◆ *21st: Angelfood pickup; Chili Cookoff*
- ◆ *25th: Ash Wednesday, dinner and worship service*
- ◆ *March 1st: First Sunday of Lent*



BIRTH

Samuel James Barclift on December 11, 2008, son of Thomas and Cecilia Barclift

DEATH

Erma J. Russell on December 18, 2008

BAPTISMS

Derek Patrick Dermott on December 28, 2008; son of Jonathan and Susan Dermott

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Geoffrey and Alixandra Ward Gaither



UNKNOWN ADDRESSES

Can you help us? Please call the church office. The following members' addresses are unknown:

Zachary Albert, Sandra Campbell, Patrick Carney, Sean and Melissa Donovan, Ralph Fields, Betty Gottier, Kristie Hamre, Patricia and Stanley Heer, Deborah Highfield,

Stephen Janis, Susan Jirak, Ben and Julia King, Douglas and Karen King, John Kirk, Dawn and Shanna Marshall, Mamie Maxwell, John Michael, Heather Mozoni, Edward Murray,

Susan O'Neill, Jessie Oppenheim, Linda Pastor, Don and Brenda Porter, Amanda Reynolds, Nicole Stant, Sherry Voorhees, Connie Werner, Clementine Whetstone.

Red Cross Bloodmobile

Monday, February 2 from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Habbersett Hall. You can give the gift of life—a love gift

for Valentine's Day. Please call Jeanna at 610.497.0199, or come to Habbersett Hall that day. It will only take about

an hour, and the gift you give is priceless.

Chili Cookoff

Do you have what it takes to win the championship? The Mount Hope Chili Championship that is. On February 21st at 6 pm in Habbersett Hall, Mount Hope will host a contest to see who has the best chili recipe.

This is an evening of fellowship and friendly competition for the entire church family.

We will need:

Contestants: those entering a pot of Chili

Participants: those eating the chili

Judges: highly respected chili eaters

Gastrointestinal Specialists: antacid distributors

The winner will receive a trophy (The Chili Bowl). Runners up get a months supply of Tums. You may name your

recipe such as "Eagles Special" or "Philly Chili" but names of recipes may not be duplicated so get your name on the list soon. Pastor Phil's "Don't Go Crying to Your Mama" recipe has scored highly in two previous contests.

If you have a recipe that you think is up to the challenge, or are willing to be a judge, please contact Pastor Phil to sign up.

Ash Wednesday

This year for our Ash Wednesday service, Mount Hope Church will have the privilege of hosting local chalk artist James Snyder, his wife Tracy and son Adam. From Shillington, PA, the family travels together as *Snyder Chalk Talk Ministries*.

James brings gospel themes to light with his talented drawings while Tracy and Adam enhance the worship experience through Christian music. Here is an excerpt from their web site:

Snyder Chalk Talk illustrates a Biblical message before your eyes, utilizing God-given abilities to draw and sing. We use special chalk, elaborate lighting and Christian music to share the Gospel Truth in a unique and memorable way. The message through this medium captures the hearts of young and old alike.

As entertaining as Chalk Talk may be, we seek not to entertain people, but to entertain the Holy Spirit through the use of God-given

artistic talents, chalk, song, and the spoken word. Our desire is to evangelize and disciple those we present to and point them toward Jesus Christ, who gives life eternal. It is a MUST SEE event!

Please plan to share in this worship experience on Wednesday February 25th at 7 pm.

Our traditional Ash Wednesday covered dish supper will precede the worship service, at 5:45 in Habbersett Hall.

A Note from the Eppehimers

Recently the Eppehimers wrote to Pastor George Rigby, who wishes to share their correspondence with you:

Dear George:

...I will be 90 next month, so I don't look anything like the picture taken in 1997. HaHa!

Our C building is being completely renovated so we

were moved to the 5th floor of A building at the front of the Manor. We moved in August and will be here for at least 6 months. Our address is the same.

We are both well and we enjoy all the programs the Manor has for us. Every Wednesday we have mid-week services and our regular church service on Sunday

morning. Twice a week they take us shopping.

The Word of Hope is enjoyed by both of us and we appreciate getting it.

May God bless you with happiness and joy in the new year. . .

*In HIS Love,
Mabel and George*



Boy Scout Eagle Project

One of our Boy Scouts in Troop 292 will be building a storage closet for the Worship Committee to store our Sanctuary decorations. As of now, they are stored in various parts of the building and need a central and safe "home" for

storage.

Part of this Eagle project is to obtain donations to pay for the plan, which calls for a sixteen foot by 2 foot closet with four, three foot mahogany doors and posts, rods, and shelves custom made to accommodate our decorations. If you would

like to donate, please make your checks payable to Mount Hope Church, clearly marked: Worship Committee Closet. Also, if you have any 2x4's, drywall or 1x12 shelving to donate, that would be greatly appreciated too.

Beholding the Presence by Bill Johnson

"I will bless the Lord Who has given me counsel. My heart also instructs me in night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. You will show me the path of life. In Your presence is fullness of joy. At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Psalm 16:7-8, 11

"For David says concerning Him, 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face.'"

Acts 2:25

David is saying, "I set the Lord before me." How did David do this? He set the Lord before him by recognizing His presence. We can do the same as we learn to adjust our hearts until we realize, "He's here." The ongoing realization of the presence of the Lord—the awareness of God being in us, upon us, and with us—is one of the most vital elements to the Christian life.

David became the great leader over Israel by leading them into prosperity, blessing and their greatest military victories. They finally received all

the land that was promised to them, all those years from Joshua onward. David came and brought them into their inheritance. David was a great leader because he was the greatest of worshippers and the greatest of warriors. David wasn't even a Levite, but he was the ultimate priest. I believe he was so effective because of this principle. I have sought to pursue this principle every day in my own life. I set God before me by becoming aware of the presence of the Lord Who is with me.

Our confidence levels skyrocket when the presence of the Lord becomes manifested to us. The clearer the manifestation of His presence, the greater the dimension of faith. To live by the *theory* of His presence is wrong. To say, "Well, I know He's always with me" is not good enough. That truth must launch us into an experience, or we're violating the truth. Truth is given as an invitation for divine encounter so that we would know by experience that God is upon us and God is with us.

David's entire life as a warrior and a priest was focused on this one thing: to daily take time before Him until we can see Him. Since we can't imagine a place where He isn't, we might as

well imagine Him with us. The imagination is a tool that God uses to express Himself in and through us. The imagination is to be harnessed and yielded to the Lord so that in the process of yielding it becomes sanctified, and the sanctified imagination is positioned to perceive Him.

The Bible goes so far as to say, "Having our senses trained to discern good and evil." Through this process of training our senses, we become able to recognize the presence of the Lord. David gives us this key, the absolute heartbeat of his life, as if he is telling us, "This is how I made it. Every day I beheld Him with me."

I feel that David's experience is a summons to the same privilege and responsibility to turn our awareness towards His presence, and in doing so, we invite the increase of that manifestation. As a result, when we behold the Lord, we have far greater success and far greater joy by ministering not out of principles but out of His presence.

~ Bill Johnson, Pastor

Bethel Church, Redding CA
Author of "When Heaven Invades Earth" and other books. Read and hear more at www.ibethel.org and www.bjm.org.

You know you are getting old when you stoop to tie your shoes and wonder what else you can do while you're down there.

Angel Food Ministries

Don't forget to order your Angel Food! Log onto their web site or stop by the church for February's menu and to order your meals! The dates are on the calendar, page 7.

Word of Hope

Pursue Loyalty

Have you ever noticed that righteousness and loyalty go together? In other words, if we're not being loyal—to our family, friends, country, job—then we aren't going to experience God's best. Loyal people are honorable people. When you're loyal, you keep your word to people—even if you get a "better" offer. Loyal people are respectful of their

country and leaders. Loyal people honor their parents and defend their family. When you're loyal, you are a person of integrity. You build trust with others. Is this an area where you can rise higher? Can you be more loyal? Are you faithful in the things you're committed to?

Don't let the distractions of every day life keep you from

pursuing loyalty. Look for ways to show your loyalty to those around you. Is there something you can set aside for the sake of a loved one? Show that love by staying loyal.

"He who pursues righteousness and loyalty finds life." Proverbs 21:21

from the daily on-line devotional by Pastor Joel Osteen

Oops

A lady in California was having a terrible time with her gas bill. Every month after she mailed her check in, she received word that she had sent either too much

money or not enough. It began to seem as if she and the gas company would never agree on how much she owed.

Finally, a kind soul in the gas company's office sent her a

little handwritten note. It said, "Please pay the amount. You have been paying the date."



Children's Center News

Bible Verse for February:
"We loved because He first loved us" John 4: 19

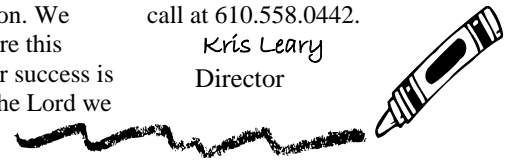
Our Bible verse says it all, this month the children will learn about all types of love, especially about our Lord's love for us. The children enjoy a Valentine's card exchange and party in the middle of the month, learn about the color red, the heart shape,

and the five senses. "Goodness" is our Fruit of the Spirit this month, Chapel will be on February 26th and 27th at 11:30 a.m.

We began our 2009-2010 in-house family registration in January, we are filling up quickly! February 1st will begin our regular registration. We have 168 children here this year! I know that our success is because the love of the Lord we

show our children, parents, and each other every day. We are blessed with a wonderful place to teach and an extraordinary staff (I thank God for them every day) to teach Jesus' love. If you are interested in finding out about our program, please stop up to see us or give me a call at 610.558.0442.

Kris Leary
 Director



What's New In the Library

Saturdays with Stella, by Allison Pittman, is a heartwarming and often hilarious collection of essays. It looks at life through the eyes of her dog, Stella, and uncovers lessons on faith, trust, and love. Phil Callaway, described as "Dave Barry with a message," takes a lighthearted look at the challenges of the middle years and encourages aging boomers to

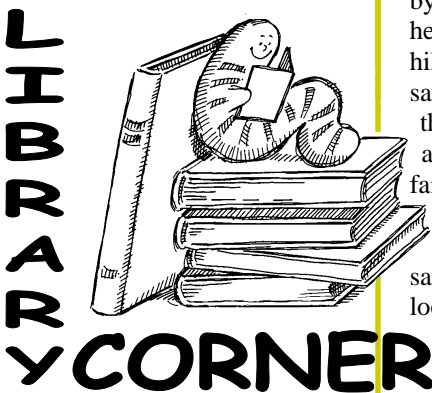
focus on what really matters most in *Family Squeeze*.

The Centurion's Wife, by Davis Bunn and Janette Oke, is a sweeping saga of the events surrounding the birth of Christianity and the story of Leah trapped in a vortex of competing political agendas and private trauma. Karen Kingsbury's latest, *This Side of Heaven*, focuses on Annie Warren, who always wanted the best for her son, Josh, but

has been repeatedly disappointed by his failures and bad choices. Things continue to worsen until another tragedy shows her who her son really is.

We also have four new Berenstain Bears books that have a Christian focus: *God Loves You!*; *Say Their Prayers*; *the Golden Rule*; and *Go To Sunday School*.

Lynn Ward, Librarian





Disaster Response Committee

A new committee, the Disaster Response Committee, has been created to help Mount Hope Church prepare for a disaster within its walls and within the community. The goal is to develop a local church plan that will include reviewing all church assets and educating and preparing the congregational family in disaster preparedness. A

system will be developed to notify personnel within our church family and how we can assist the elderly or those with disabilities.

Once we are prepared for a local or national disaster, we will have the ability to respond as the body of Christ to assist those in need within the community and the surrounding areas. The committee will then review the church's ability to

house teams who come into the community to help when a disaster strikes.

Every church within the Conference has been asked to start this process of personal and congregational preparedness. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, please contact Pastor Tom at 610.459.0248.



Disaster
Response
Committee

Only a Quarter

Several years ago a preacher moved to Houston TX. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, you better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it. Then he

thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company already gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

With a smile, the driver replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been

thinking lately about going to worship somewhere. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change."

When my friend stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on and said, "O Go, I almost sold your Son for a quarter!"

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read.

~ Author Unknown

A Child Shall Lead Them *(continued from the back page)*

As the story goes, it was the voice of a small child. Augustine was out working in his garden one day and heard a small voice telling him to "take up and read." Augustine never saw the face of the child, but for some reason he grabbed the nearest bible he could and opened it to Romans 13:13-14, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying; but put on the Lord

Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." It was after reading this that he gave his life to Christ.

Jesus told his disciples that unless they had faith like a child they could never enter the Kingdom. The wonderful thing about children is that they believe without question. They are not old enough to have developed the doubts and fears that adults have. Children have a simple faith that hears, believes and practices the truth of scripture. And when we

think about it, is not this the kind of faith that Jesus asks us to have?

We might never find out in this life the impact we have had on others. One can only imagine the joyful experience this young person had in heaven when Augustine told him thank you for your faith.

Let us take this nameless young person's example to heart. Our life has an impact on others every day. We often do not realize how great our actions influence others, no

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance...

Proverbs 15:12

Don't wait for opportunity to come; it's already here.



HEARTS in the morning

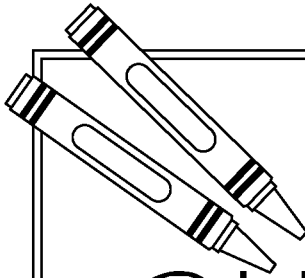
Start your morning with heart. Enjoy this special breakfast with someone you love!

What you need:

- Your favorite pancake recipe and syrup
- Pan or griddle
- Cooking spray
- Liquid measuring cup
- One 5-inch heart-shaped metal cookie cutter
- Wooden clothespin
- Spatula
- Adult help

What you do:

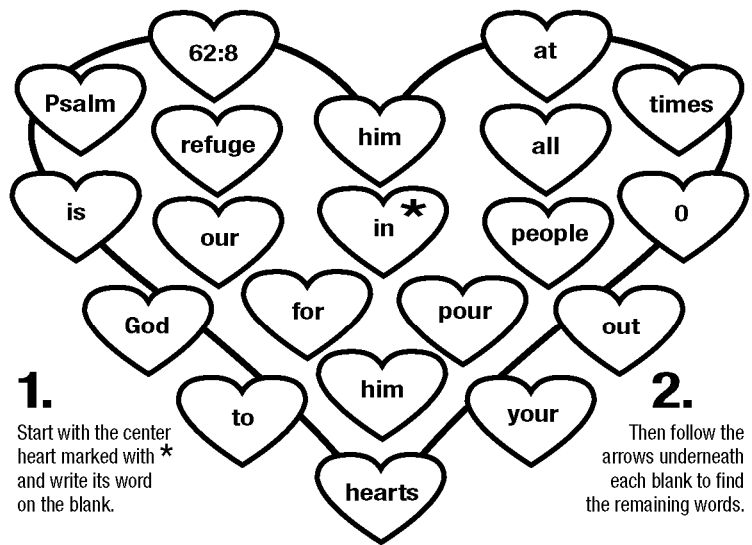
1. With an adult's help, follow your recipe to make your favorite pancakes.
2. Spray cooking spray onto your pan or griddle.
3. Pour pancake batter into a liquid measuring cup. (This helps with pouring individual pancakes.)
4. Place the cookie cutter on the pan or griddle. Then clip the wooden clothespin onto the cookie cutter to act as a handle.
5. Pour batter (about 3-4 Tablespoons) into the cookie cutter.
6. Cook until the top is bubbly and the pancake is dry around the edges.
7. When the heart is ready to flip, use the clothespin to lift and remove the cookie cutter.
8. Turn the pancake with the spatula and cook until golden on both sides. Enjoy with your favorite syrup or fruit.



Just for KIDS

OUR HEARTS

This special Bible verse from the NIV describes what God wants us to do with our hearts.



1.

Start with the center heart marked with * and write its word on the blank.

2.

Then follow the arrows underneath each blank to find the remaining words.




“Trust _____ ,
 * ↑ ↗ ↓ ↘
 _____ ; _____
 ↓ ← ↘ → ↙ ↘
 _____ , _____
 ↖ → ↖ ← ↖ →
 _____ ”
 ↑ ← →

Answer: “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:8

Word of Hope February 2009 Calendar of Events Page 7



This Update Printed: Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open 9:30 AM Confirmation Class (FH)</p> <p>Every Sunday: Worship at 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Baptism Sem (L) 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (home)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 1:30 PM Education (L) 6:30 PM Parent Seminar Series (HH) 6:30 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Trustees (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM & 10:30 Angel Food orders (HH) 9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open 9:30 AM Confirmation Class (FH) 4:00 PM WOH Dinner (Ofc) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF SrHi (2,6)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 9:30 AM Angel Food orders (HH) 7:00 PM Angel Food Order 7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 5:00 PM Ad Bd (HH) 7:30 PM Fuzzy Slippers Club 7:30 PM Bbl Study (6)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 1:00 PM Angel Food orders (HH) 6:30 PM Parent Seminar Series (HH) 6:30 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104) 7:15 PM J.O.Y. Singers (HH) 8:30 PM Muddy Boots BS (2)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Lincoln's Birthday 9:00 AM Library Open 11:00 AM Busy Beavers (Kit) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>15</p> <p>Baptism</p> <p>9:00 AM & 10:30 Angel Food orders (HH) 9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open 9:30 AM Confirmation Class (FH) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF SrHi (2,6)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>President's Day Office Closed 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Library Closed </div>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (home) 7:00 PM SPR (L)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 6:30 PM Parent Seminar Series (HH) 6:30 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 AM WOH Meeting (HH) 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 AM Angel Food pickup (HH) 6:00 PM Chili Cookoff (HH)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Transfiguration Sunday Washington's Birthday</p> <p>9:15 AM - 10:45 am. Library open 9:30 AM Confirmation Class (FH) 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF SrHi (2,6)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Men's Fellowship (L)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 6:30 PM 9:30 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Worship Com (L) 7:30 PM Fuzzy Slippers Club 7:30 PM Bbl Study (6)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Communion Ash Wednesday</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 9:15 AM MHCC Moms' Prayer group (213) 9:30 AM Staff Mtg (L) 5:45 PM Coverd Dish Dnr (HH) 7:00 PM Lenten Service (S) 8:30 PM Muddy Boots BS (2)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 AM EPaC Mission Team (HH, kit)</p> <p>Community Events: Sundays - 6:00 p.m. Cub Dens 1 & 5 Mondays - 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Trp 292 Tuesdays – 8:30 pm AA (FH) Wednesdays - 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den (101) Thursdays – 6:00 pm AA (FH) Fridays - Cub Den 2 (101) 1st Friday - Pack 77 Parents (FH) 3rd Friday - Cub Pack 77 (FH)</p>



Now faith is the substance of things hoped for... Hebrews 11:1

A Child Shall Lead Them

Saint Augustine wrote, "Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

Augustine has been considered one of the most profound of the early church fathers. Over the years his writings have influenced countless individuals and scholars. He taught that salvation is by the grace of God. He also lived a life of selfless service for the Lord. He gave away many of his earthly possessions and turned the only thing he had left, his home, into a school for the study of the scriptures. All of his accomplishments can be attributed to the grace of God, a praying mother and the voice of one nameless small child.

Augustine was born to a family with a Christian mother and a pagan father in modern day Algeria. His father died early on and seeing the need for more education, Augustine moved to North Africa. He soon developed the reputation as one of the world's great scholars. It was also while he was there that he began to live a pagan lifestyle. He soon began to follow a highly intellectual belief system that was greatly respected in the world, but nonetheless anti-Christian. Also he fulfilled his worldly lusts by living in a paramour relationship for over 12 years with a woman who he never names in his writings.

Year upon year, his mother urged him to turn his heart to the Lord. And year upon year, he resisted. She followed him to North Africa and continued to pray for him and urge him to turn his life over to God.

It was not until he was 34 years old that Augustine's life changed. One would think that perhaps he being an intellectual that a scholar should be the one to show him the way of salvation. Or perhaps we might guess that after so many years, the determination and persistence of his mother might have had something to do with his conversion, but it was not.

Continued on page



Mount Hope Youth

Winter Issue

February 2009

Jr. Sr. High Leaders

Cindy Babiak

Karl Babiak

Janice Crozjer

Elaine Faulkner

Dana Messick

Jim Powell

Lauren Plummer

Michele Thomas

Dan Vickers

Pastor Phil Ealy

KFC Leaders

Robin Powell

Chris Bergeman

Bill Faulkner

Dave Saville

Judy Brower

Sara Kiker

Sandra Crockett

Fuzzy/Muddy

Leaders

Lynne Bigas

Linda Schmitt

Karl Babiak

Dan Vickers

Missions and the Summer Trip

This year it has been decided that rather than plan all year to do ministry for a one week period, the youth will be involved in various ministry projects all Winter and Spring. The purpose of this decision is to focus our youth on the opportunities we have right here in the Delaware Valley. The youth will be reaching out each month to those who are in need in our community. Ministry opportunities will vary between once and twice a month. The web site will notify interested

participants of upcoming events.

(www.mthopeyouthgroup.org)

Last year the missions team had such a wonderful experience with the origination called Student Life® in Toccoa GA, that it was decided to return to a Student Life® event this summer. This year the focus of the trip will be on personal growth in Christ

Date: July 11—19th.

Place: Daytona Beach

Florida

The speaker for the week is **Louie Giglio** who will challenge our youth with his powerful message. The worship leader is **Chris Tomlin** who has written many of the songs we now sing at our 9:30 service.

The David Crowder Band will also be present to add to the worship experience.

For details and costs involved please contact Cindy Babiak, 610- 558-9345 or Pastor Phil 610-358-3980.

Hope to see you involved in ministry this year and in Florida this Summer!

Youth Bible Studies Continue

The “Fuzzy Slippers” girls Bible study continues their lessons in learning to be the teenage girl God wants you to be. They also had a wonderful experience ministering at a nursing home during the Christmas season. Please contact Lynne Bigas or Linda Schmitt for more information. (fuzzieleaders@comcast.net)

Our boys Bible study “Muddy Boots” have begun a new study from the Nooma© series. Please contact Karl Babiak for more information. (kbabiak@comcast.net)

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No YF or KFC	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 YF & KFC	9	10 Fuzzes	11 Muddy Boots	12	13	14
15 YF & KFC	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 YF & KFC	23	24 Fuzzes	25 Muddy Boots	26	27	28

Schedule of Events

February 1st - No Youth Fellowship or KFC as the youth cheer the **Steelers** on to victory (Yes, Pastor Phil made this newsletter)

February 10th, 24th
Fuzzy Slippers meet at 7:30

*Parents please note that the start time is 7:30 and not 7:00

February 11th, 25th
Muddy Boots meet at 8:30

*Parents please note again that the start time is 8:30

What's Happening in the future?

***Youth Pastor:** Mount Hope continues to pursue someone to help Youth Fellowship and KFC through a part-time Youth Pastor position. Please continue to pray that the Lord will lead the right person to us.

***Youth Missions:** Mount Hope Youth are involved in showing Christ's love to our community. On January 31st our youth were able to reach out to those of our community in need. Several other events are planned as we become salt and light to the world.

Sr. High Retreat: This year will be March 6-8, at Camp Innabah in Spring City, PA.

Jr. High Retreat: The Jr. High retreat will be March 27-29, at Camp Innabah in Spring City, PA