

# Word of Hope

**MOUNT HOPE**  
United Methodist Church



## Pastor McGill Writes. . .

### *Believing and Saying*

One of my favorite texts is Mark 11:23. I have memorized this text from my King James Bible. It reads as follows:

*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Let's examine what Jesus said in the text: "...and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe [that is, believe with his heart] that those things which he saith shall come to pass..." Those things

that you say are your words—your confessions—and those words give you power over demons, disease and circumstances.

What is it Jesus says you shall have? What you believe for? No! Many people think if they believe strongly enough, it will come to pass. But at the same time, they are talking unbelief, so what they are asking for cannot come to pass.

Jesus did not say, "*He shall have whatsoever he BELIEVETH*";" He said, "*...he shall have whatsoever he SAITH*."

For you do receive what you say. If you're not satisfied with what you have in life, then check up on what you are saying—what you are confessing. All you have and all you are

today is a result of what you believed and said yesterday!

What have I learned from this text that has helped me receive from God answered prayers? That what I believe in my heart and speak out of my mouth must line up for it to happen! If my believing and my speaking are at odds with each other, what I have asked for in prayer will not happen.

Here is what helped me. Find a quiet place alone with God. Ask Him to show you where what you believe and what you are saying are at odds with each other. You will be astonished!

Pastor McGill

### *Chili Bowl/Soup Challenge*

Last year's winner of the Mount Hope Chili Bowl, Stephen Poor, will be facing some *heated* competition this year as he seeks to defend his title. So if you have a recipe or think you have what it takes to compete in the Chili Bowl, plan to attend this year's

event scheduled for Saturday, February 27th at 6pm.

Our 2010 contest will expand as we have learned that there are some mighty fine soup makers in our congregation who felt left out by limiting the competition only to chili. This year we will also be crowning a Mount Hope Sou-

per Champion.

So please come as a family and invite your friends to this evening of friendly competition. You do not have to bring an entry to attend, but you do have to bring your taste buds.

Pastor Phil

February 2010

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#### Special points of interest:

- ◆ *1st: Bloodmobile*
- ◆ *7th: Communion*
- ◆ *14th: Transfiguration Sunday, Boy Scout Sunday, Valentine's Day*
- ◆ *15th: Presidents' Day, office closed*
- ◆ *17th: Ash Wednesday: dinner and Communion service*
- ◆ *20th: Angel Food pickup*
- ◆ *21st: First Sunday of Lent*
- ◆ *27th: Chili Cook-Off*

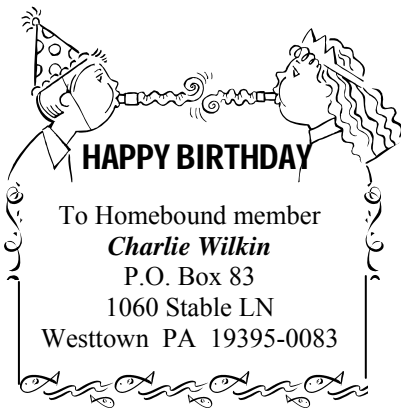


**BAPTISMS**

*Madeline Bisaccio*, daughter of Michael and Jenine Bisacco  
*Armann Vazurani*, son of Devendra and Ishita Vazirani

**TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

*Ellen and Emily Janis*, to Wallingford Presbyterian Church



**Mount Hope Church Staff**

- Dr. Thomas C. McGill, Senior Pastor
- Rev. George S. Rigby, Jr., Pastor of Visitation
- Pastor Philip G. Ealy, Family Life Ministry
- Cynthia Babiak, Youth Director
- Kristine Leary, Director, Children's Center
- Sharon Kope, Director of Music
- Donna Kelly, 9:30 Worship Coordinator
- Eileen McIntyre, Handbell Director
- Patrick Brzezicki, Cemetery Superintendent
- Lin Heintz, Secretary
- Joan Bear, Asst. Secretary
- Leo Volmer, Building Superintendent
- Larry Miles, Asst. Bldg. Superintendent

**Ash Wednesday**

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Come, worship and receive communion at

the service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Come first to the covered dish dinner at 5:45 in

Habbersett Hall. Bring your favorite dish to share; beverages will be provided.

**The Meaning of Lent**

The word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word that means "spring" or "spring-time." Taken literally, the word means that this is the time of the year when the days *lengthen*.

The season of Lent in the church year is perhaps one of the most important and significant to God's people. It is a time of preparation, reflection, growth, and change. Just as it is common practice for people to count the days of Advent in anticipation of the coming of Christ at Christmas, it is just as significant to mark the days of Lent to help us prepare for the most celebrated of festivals and joyful message of the resurrection at Easter.

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter when we remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is a time for serious, disciplined self-examination, a

time spent in intensive prayer and repentance before the cross of Calvary. Put simply, Lent is a time to examine ourselves carefully; an occasion to begin again, to reflect on what our life is about.

Some people often include fasting or restriction of some of their favorite foods or drinks; some people spend more time in prayer and meditation; while others give up habits they think are unnecessary. Still others search to discover how they can share God's love with others in the world in meaningful ways.

The season begins on Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection.

Purple is the color associated with the season of Lent and is used in churches that observe liturgical tradi-

tions. Purple is a solemn color, reminiscent of royalty and repentance. It reflects the serious and somber nature of this time in the life of the church.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 17. The worship service will be held at 7 p.m., preceded by our traditional covered dish dinner in Habbersett Hall.

As we look ahead, services for Palm Sunday will be on March 28; Maundy Thursday, April 1; Good Friday, April 2; and Easter, April 4.

The season before Easter can be seen as the springtime of the soul – a time of growth in faith and a time to nurture the faith that is already theirs. Make this Lenten season your commitment to "begin again."

Sharon Kope

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

We visited and gave out 40+ prayer shawls and scarves in 2009! God is moving in this ministry. Would you like to knit/crochet a scarf or shawl while praying for the recipi-

ent in 2010?? Do you know someone in need?? Contact Dawn Diggins 610-876-5011. Not everyone can come out to our monthly meeting, most of the work is

done at home on your time schedule. It's a relaxing and rewarding hobby, strengthening your own relationship with Father/Son/Holy Spirit.  
 Dawn Diggins

**New Opportunities to Serve**

Two new committees have been formed to expand the ministries of Mount Hope Church. The Mission Committee, chaired by Frank Burgess, will coordinate mission

team outreach and requests for support. The I-CARE Team, headed by Judy Talley, will provide membership contact and care.

Would you like to participate in either of these

ministries? Just give a call to Frank or Judy or to the church office. Other committees formed in recent months are Angel Food ministry and Disaster Response. Also, the Library welcomes volunteers.



## Boy Scouts of America: 100th Anniversary

### Mission

The Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

### History

As a youth, Robert Baden-Powell greatly enjoyed the outdoors, learning about nature and how to live in the wilderness. After returning as a military hero from service in Africa, Baden-Powell discovered that English boys were reading the manual on stalking and survival in the wilderness he had written for British soldiers. Gathering ideas from Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard and others, he rewrote the manual as a nonmilitary nature skills book and called it Scouting for Boys. To test his ideas, Baden-Powell brought together 22 boys to camp at Brownsea Island, off the coast of England. This historic campout was a success and resulted in the advent of Scouting. Thus, the imagination and

inspiration of Baden-Powell, later proclaimed Chief Scout of the World, brought Scouting to youth the world over.

In 1909, Chicago publisher William D. Boyce lost his way in a dense London fog. A boy came to his aid and, after guiding the man, refused a tip, explaining that as a Scout he would not take a tip for doing a Good Turn. This gesture by an unknown Scout inspired a meeting with Robert Baden-Powell. As a result, Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910, under the laws of the District of Columbia. On June 21, 1910, 34 national representatives of boys' work agencies met to establish the Boy Scouts of America.

### Today

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the Nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

For nearly a century, BSA has helped build the future

leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes — and, through nearly a century of experience, knows — that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

Only one in four boys in America will become a Scout, but it is interesting to know that of the leaders of this nation in business, religion, and politics, three out of four were Scouts. In addition, only about 5 percent of all boys who join Boy Scout troops earn the prestigious award of Eagle Scout. (Approximately 1.7 million Boy Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle since 1912.) The goals of Scouting — citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness — remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

### Sunday, February 14th

On Sunday, February 14th, at each of the morning worship services, we'll celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scouting.

## Prayers for Haiti

Please continue to lift up the people of Haiti in prayer. Contributions can still be made to the effort there, by mailing a donation to the church office or placing it in the offering plate, clearly marked for Haiti.

You may also assemble and donate Health Kits, which have a value of @ \$12 per kit. Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

All items included in kits must be NEW items. It is important that kits contain only the requested items—nothing more. Do NOT include any personal notes or money (except for the dollar for toothpaste).

Please bring them as soon as possible and leave them on the bench in the Narthex.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the families of Rev. Sam Dixon, Director of UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) and Rev. Clinton Rabb, Director of Volunteers in Mission, UMCOR, both of whom lost their lives in the Haiti earthquake.

## Be Anxious for Nothing, Nothing,...Nothing!

American culture is a cauldron of fear, stress and anxiety. Nervousness and worry plague our business lives, home lives, social lives—and even our church lives. We live with silent murmurs in our souls: *What if I lose my job? What if my child goes astray? What if...?*

Fear, depression and worry are common in the daily lives of most Christians— but, according to the Word of God, none are welcome in the soul of the Believer!

The Bible commands us to be anxious for *nothing*. The Bible commands us to *fear not*.

Survey the Bible and take note of the many times the Lord commands His people—indeed, even the great heroes of the faith—not to fear:

Genesis 15:1: "**Fear not**, Abram"; Numbers 21:34: "Moses, **fear him not**"; Joshua 8:1: "Joshua, **fear not**"; Daniel 10:12: "**Fear not**, Daniel"; Matthew 1:20: "Joseph, thou son of David, **fear not**"; Luke 1:13: "**Fear not**, Zacharias"; Luke 1:30: "**Fear not**, Mary"; Luke 5:10: "Simon, **fear not**"; Acts 27:24: "**Fear not**, Paul".

The Lord instructs all His people, the sheep of His

pasture, not to fear:

Isaiah 41:14: "**Fear not**...ye men of Israel"; Joel 2:21: "**Fear not**, O land"; Zephaniah 3:16: "Jerusalem, **fear thou not**"; Luke 12:32: "**Fear not**, little flock"; John 12:15: "**Fear not**, daughter of Zion"...

We needn't come under condemnation if fear and anxiety are engrafted into our souls, but we do need to find the cure that will eradicate these besetting sins—once and for all.

You will not find the cure for anxiety in a pill. ...You will not overcome fear through a self-help book. ..**The anti-**



Word of Hope

### God Bless the Busy Beavers

God bless the Busy Beavers of Mount Hope Church, who for over thirty five years have once a month paid a visit to our shut-ins, and the following week, delivered a full course meal to their homes. Additionally, twice a year, once in June for a picnic, and once in December,

they have all of the shut-ins, church staff and cemetery staff to Habbersett Hall for a delicious dinner with all the trimmings and a holiday program. There are still a few of the original women who started this service serving after thirty five years. May God richly bless and keep

them in His love for their dedication to this cause.

If you would like to serve the Lord in this way, the Busy Beavers will always welcome you as a member. Praise the Lord, Hallelujah!

*Walt Loughurst*



### Children's Center News

February's Bible Verse:  
"We love because He first loved us.." John 4:19

In this our 20th anniversary year, our school just seems to get better and better. I have one of the best jobs ever, busiest, too, the time flies by!

This month the children will learn about all types of love, especially

about our Lord's love for us. The older children will visit the Giant supermarket, enjoy a Valentine's party and card exchange in the middle of the month, and 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 25th and 26th at 9:30 a.m.

We began our 2010-2011 in-house registration in January; we are filling up quickly! February 1st will begin our regular registration. If you are interested in finding out about our program, please stop up to see us or call 610.558.0442.

*Kris Leary*  
Director



### Thank You!

Many thanks to Donna Kelly and Chris Tompkins from the New Seasons resi-

dents, for their participation there in worship services. The residents so appreciated the

music that Donna and Chris brought to them.

*Pete Green*

### What's New In the Library

How much do you know about Mount Hope's library?

1. Would you like to have your children watch Christian movies?

Do you know the library has a growing collection of children's DVDs, as well as more than 300 videos, including all the VeggieTales?

2. Are you looking for children's books that will teach a love of reading?

Do you know the library has literally hundreds of books for ages 2-8?

There are Bible stories, Berenstain Bears, Curious George, and many non-fiction picture books.

3. Would you like your pre-teens and teens to have access to books whose content you don't have to worry about?

4. Would you like a large selection of movies appropriate for teens and family viewing?

The library has it all!

5. Are you looking for adult titles that align with your Christian values?

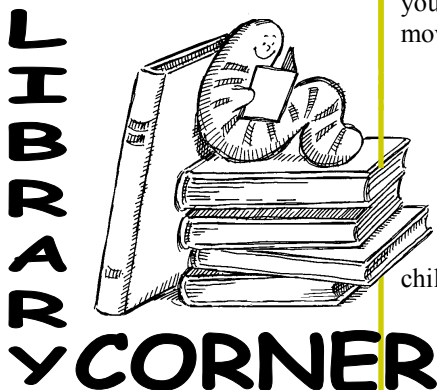
The library's fiction shelves are running over with mysteries, romance, travel, thrillers, and history.

6. Are you interested in a particular facet of Christian life, or help with a problem?

The library has a large non-fiction section including many well-known authors.

And, if you can't find what you're looking for, I'll be happy to order it for you!

*Lynn Ward*  
Library Coordinator





## Be Anxious for Nothing! (continued from page 3)

**dote for negative thoughts or emotions is simple: we must obey the Word of God. The only cure for fear and anxiety is abiding in the Word, the person of Christ Jesus.** Paul declares in Philippians 4:6-7:

“Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God. And God's peace (shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace) which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Amplified Bible)

Consider this passage in another translation, from *The Message Bible*:

“Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

The answer to stress and anxiety is not medication, but **the Master!** This is the pattern we need to learn: as we turn our inner focus, *our will*, to Christ and place our *affections* on Him, adjusting our *thoughts* to the Word, we will discover abiding peace. This is the Enoch walk of the overcomer! Christ's Presence *within us* is our assurance that we can live in peace, even in times of pressure and turmoil. The promise is much more

than just merely *getting through* the tough times; He promises us perfect peace and *constant contentment!*

How can this be true? It is true because the Kingdom of God is within us. The Prince of Peace abides within us! We have a blood-bought right to walk in uninterrupted *shalom*, free from all anxiety and fear, because of the living, breathing presence of Christ in our temple.

We must repent from *allowing* fear and anxiety to rule in our lives. We can and must *experience* the peace of God that surpasses all human understanding. In our union with His resurrection, we have been given open access to perfect peace. How do we abide in this peace as a daily, lived experience? By keeping our mind, will and emotions fixed on Christ.

Rev. Bobby Conner



**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.**

**See the calendar on page 7 for the order dates.**

## As I Sit Here (continued from the back page)

Bork chronicles the social decay that was, if not begun, accelerated by the sixties revolution and addresses it (the decay) in reference to the issues of crime, illegitimacy, abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, homosexuality and radical feminism, to name the most prominent. He explores the tragedies of race relations (why have race relations become more tense rather than less?), welfare (after the investment of trillions of dollars why are the poor now seemingly worse off than before President Johnson's Great Society programs?), education (can anyone argue that primary, secondary and college-level education—overall, nationwide—is producing better educated young people?) and religion (why, for instance, have our mainline churches lost millions of members over the last quarter century?).

Well, this is not meant

to be a book review, rather a springboard for a cry of pain of my own. We live in a time of cultural decline (moral, ethical, religious, artistic, intellectual and political), not to say decay. Even as I write this there is another sorry spectacle brewing in Washington, which at the very least, reminds us how far we've sunk as a nation—not that these vulgarities and abuses of power haven't happened in other times and places, but that now we elect persons to office in spite of them.

What's Christian to do? I ask you, what is a Christian to do in the face of growing racial animosity, radical individualism (what I want takes precedence over the social good), equality of outcomes (everybody should get the same regardless of capability or effort), the casual acceptance of immoral life-styles and ethics that shift according to

personal convenience?

I think we Christians might begin by examining our own lives against the traditions of our faith, the clear message and meaning of Holy Scripture and what the Church has taught throughout the millennia. Lord knows how morally causal we've become and accepting—even approving—of moral and ethical deviancy, if not in our own lives then in the lives of others, political leaders included.

Our nation needs a cultural revival, a revival of old fashioned, time-tested values and a commitment of all citizens to “one nation under God.” But if this is to happen it will happen only one citizen at a time. Maybe, brothers and sisters, it should start with us, God's people. Maybe if we would live our faith more truly we could be the ones to help put our country back on the road to greatness and goodness.



**Just for KIDS**

*Our first love*

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.

*... your heart and with all your soul ..."*

Answer: " ... fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

**\* A JAR OF \*  
Love and  
Appreciation**



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

**What you need:**

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons





**What you do:**

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

# Word of Hope February 2010 Calendar of Events <sup>1</sup> Page 7



This Update Printed: Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>1:30 PM Bloodmobile (HH) 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Groundhog Day</b> 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>1:30 PM Education (L) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) <b>7:00 PM Trustees (L)</b> 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Bible Study (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Confirmation Class (FH) 4:00 PM YF Mission Mtg (HH)</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Communion</b> Blood Pressure Screening (HH) 9:00 AM Angel Food orders (HH) 9:15 AM - 10:45 a.m. Library open 10:30 AM Angel Food orders (HH) 6:30 PM Mount Hope's Got Talent 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF SrHi (2,6)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Angel Food Order (HH) 4:00 PM WOH Dine (Ofe) 5:30 PM Angel Food orders (HH) <b>7:00 PM YF Advisors (6)</b> 7:00 PM Men's Felwshp (L)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open <b>7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH)</b> 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Sidy (6)</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Angel Food order (HH) 5:30 PM Angel Food orders (HH) 6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>11:00 AM Busy Beavrs (Kit) 1:00 PM Bible Study (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Lincoln's Birthday</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Confirmation Class (FH)</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> <b>Boy Scout Sunday</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> 9:00 AM Angel Food orders (HH) 9:15 AM - 10:45 a.m. Library open 10:30 AM Angel Food orders (HH)</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>President's Day</b> Office Closed 7:15 PM Ark BS (Owsley) 7:30 PM Selah Bible Study</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Kelli Girls BS (6) 7:00 PM SPR (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Communion</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 5:45 PM Covrd Dish Dnr (HH) 7:00 PM Lenten Service (S)</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Bible Study (L) 7:00 PM Transportation (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Angel Food pick-up (HH) 9:30 AM Confirmation Class (FH)</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Lent 1st Sunday</b> <b>Baptism</b> 9:15 AM - 10:45 a.m. Library open 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF SrHi (2,6)</p> 	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Washington's Birthday</b> 7:00 PM Men's Felwshp (L)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Library Open <b>7:00 PM Worship Com (L)</b> 7:30 PM Fuzzie Slippers Girls Bbl Sidy (6)</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:30 PM 930 Reh (S) <b>7:00 PM Hnance (L)</b> 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Bible Study (L) 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:00 AM EPaC Mission Team (HH, kit) 9:30 AM Confirmation Class (FH) <b>6:00 PM Chili CookOff (HH)</b></p> 
<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Lent 2nd Sunday</b> 9:15 AM - 10:45 a.m. Library open 6:30 PM KFC (FH) 6:30 PM YF SrHi (2,6)</p>	<p><b>Every Sunday:</b> 8:15 &amp; 11:00 a.m. - Traditional worship 9:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages</p>					<p><b>Community Events:</b> Sundays— 5:30 p.m. Cub Den 5 (103) 6:00 p.m. Cub Den 1 (101) Mondays—7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Trp 292 (FH) Tuesdays – 8:00 pm AA (FH) Thursdays – 6:00 pm AA (FH) Friday – 2nd and 4th, 7 pm: Wolf Den (FH) 3rd, 6:30 pm: Pack 77 (FH)</p>





## *As I Sit Here... by Pastor Rigby*

Having been asked to supply an article for this issue of the "Word," I submit the following which was my Pastor's Column for February, 1997, when I was minister in Stroudsburg. Re-reading it I was amazed at how relevant it is, twelve years later. Has anything changed for the better? Has our culture and government improved significantly or are we still in the words of Robert Bork, "*Slouching Toward Gomorrah*"? And isn't the moral and spiritual imperative still heavy upon God's church—and us, dear brothers and sisters! - to bear witness to the truth we have in Christ?

~ Pastor Rigby

### ***As I Sit Here***

As I sit here in the

parsonage on a bright and cold winter afternoon, I have just laid aside a book I've been reading. It came to me at Christmas and has turned out to be not only one of the best of my holiday presents but one of the best books I've read in a long while.

I write of "*Slouching Toward Gomorrah*" by Robert Bork, the failed candidate for the Supreme Court who was so savagely attacked in his Senate confirmation hearing a few years ago—and how sad that the objections to him should have taken the form they did (a viciousness to be seen again in the Clarence Thomas hearings). The book is a thoughtful exploration of contemporary American culture and a critique of

what our society has become since the cultural revolution of the 1960's.

I remember that "revolution" and, to a degree, I was part of it: the revolt against authority, the relativizing of moral and ethical issues, the childish and narcissistic nonsense of "do your own thing," and the inevitable legitimization of drugs, "free" sex, abortion and all the rest. It—the Sixties—seemed exciting at the time, with all of its throwing off the shackles of conformity, Puritanism and tired old rules; but what a sorry decade it seems now, now that we can see the havoc that followed in its wake.

*(continued on page 5)*

