

Word of Hope

MOUNT HOPE
United Methodist Church



Pastor Rigby Writes. . .

The Father's Hand

A few years ago I kept having these words run through my head: "*You are lucky to be alive! You are lucky to be alive.*" The funny thing was, I really didn't feel lucky. Grateful, of course, but not lucky. Fortunate, perhaps, but even that word didn't describe exactly how I felt. Protected may be the word I wanted.

Coming back from the shore that summer I had totaled my car in an accident on the Garden State Parkway. It occurred so quickly—the other car pulling in front of me and across the lane I was in—that I didn't have time to think about what was happening. I guess that was merciful, my not having had time to ponder it, because I didn't have to reproach myself with questions such as, What could I have done differently? Was I in any way responsible? No, it had "simply" happened and astonishingly, I had been able to walk away from it.

I wonder about it now. Not how it occurred: the other vehicle had tried to occupy my space and a certain law of physics has

something to say about two objects trying to occupy the same space at the same time. No, what I wonder about even now is why I don't feel "lucky" or have an overwhelming sense of having been spared, or delivered.

Perhaps it's that I simply accept the fact of my being in the hand of God; that God knows me, loves me, and cares for me according to a divine plan I can't understand except in part, a plan that is being worked out in my life irrespective of my understanding.

I have long felt that my life was marked, that it was/is being held by God in a way I can only accept, not understand. I say this modestly, humbly, because although I've often felt protected I've never had a sense that I was any more important in God's Grand Plan than anyone else. I've just sensed a Presence directing and guiding me which has often given me quiet assurance and comfort, though I couldn't explain or describe it.

I have a hard time believing in what's been called "special providence,"

that is, that God singles people out for special care or particular blessing. Yet I have from time to time experienced what could almost be called special care, and I know others have, too.

I have never felt it was something to be boasted of or bragged about or even spoken of, for that matter, lest it appear that I believe God is looking after me because of some special virtue or importance I have. It has just been a sense I've had, deep within me, that I am held by God, and this I've simply accepted without fanfare.

I guess what this suggests to me (and now I offer to you) is that we don't have to be special or extraordinary people to be in the care of God. God would hold all of us, He would draw everyone into His great design if we would only let Him—and that sometimes He holds us even when we are forgetful of Him.

I think this is what Jesus tells us about God. That's why he called God, Father. It was to say that God is personal and can be personal to anyone who turns to Him. That's also why Jesus, in the Sermon on

June 2007

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ *1st, 2nd & 25th: Pictorial Directory photos continue*
- ◆ *3rd: Communion Sunday*
- ◆ *10th: Grad recognition*
- ◆ *16th: New Members class*
- ◆ *17th: Father's Day*
- ◆ *20th: Wed. Devotions begin*

(Continued on page 2)



BAPTISMS

Shane Donovan, son of Sean and Melissa Donovan

Natalie Horan, daughter of Edward and Danielle Horan

DEATHS

John Erle, April 23

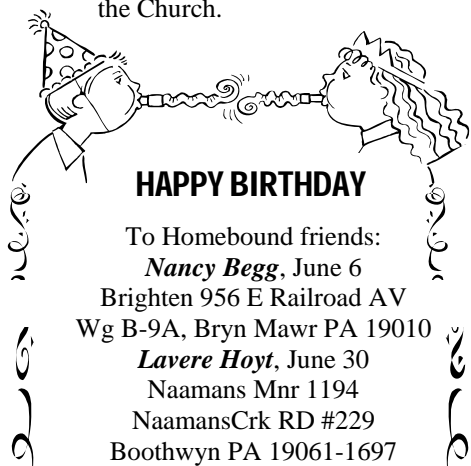
Lydia Devonshire, May 9

ADDRESS CHANGES

If you know addresses for the following members, please call the church office: Sandra Campbell; Heather Cinni; Ralph Fields; Betty Gottier; Kristie and David Hamre; Stan & Patricia Heer; Shanna Marshall; Daniel and Linda Hallermeier Pastor; Sherry Voorhees, Clementine Whetstone.

Scholarships

Two college scholarships, \$250 each, are available to two Mount Hope Church applicants. Stop by the church office to pick up an application. Submit them to Silva Small, chair of the scholarship committee. You may mail them to her at 356 Conchester RD, Glen Mills PA 19342-1501 or in care of the Church.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Homebound friends:

Nancy Begg, June 6
Brighten 956 E Railroad AV
Wg B-9A, Bryn Mawr PA 19010

Lavere Hoyt, June 30
Naamans Mnr 1194
NaamansCrk RD #229
Boothwyn PA 19061-1697

Current Events

Grad Recognition

During June 10th's Sunday worship service, we'll recognize our high school and college graduates. Please call the church office to give us the names of grads who you know. Then join us in worship on the 10th to bless them on their journey.

New Members Class

A class for prospective

members of Mount Hope Church will be held Saturday, June 16th 9—11:30 in the Lounge. Would you like to join? Or do you have family or friends who have been coming and never taken the step to become a member? Then give them a gently loving nudge to call the office to sign up (610. 459. 0248).

Wednesday Devotionals

Beginning June 20th, Wednesday devotionals return to Mount Hope. Pastor Phil and Dr. Bill Roe will begin a study of the book of Romans. So if you are hungry for good food and the word of God, please plan to attend. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Noteable Notes

The "Make a 'NOTE'able Difference" campaign has been revived. Last year this campaign was initiated to raise funds to restore our worship instruments. After the unfortunate fire, most of the expenses were covered by insurance.

When the new organ arrives, we will have three (3) manuals (keyboards) instead of two. The cost

of this manual is an ADDITIONAL \$60,000. We have already paid \$17,000 towards this from the money raised in the original "Make a 'NOTE'able Difference". This leaves approximately \$40,000 more to raise.

We need your help! One share is \$100. Dividing one share between friends makes the financial burden even less and spreads the joy of this project to a wider audience.

If you can't give a WHOLE NOTE (\$100) at this time, consider a HALF NOTE (\$50) or a QUARTER NOTE (\$25). Of course, you're more than welcome to give more than a whole note too!

Please consider your participation in this project prayerfully. If you have any questions, please speak to Dick Spitko (610.490-0521) or Sharon Kope

Vacation Bible School

Get ready to kick up your heels in an exciting celebration of Jesus' love! Join us as we head to Avalanche Ranch on a wild ride through God's world with *Wild Bible adventures, lively music at Sing & Play Stampede, creative crafts at Cowpoke Crafts & Missions, and yummy snacks at Chuck Wagon*

Chow! This year's VBS will be held the week of June 18 through June 22 from 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM.

There are plenty of volunteer opportunities available so get ready to rustle up some fun! You may register to volunteer by visiting our website at

www.groupvbs.com/myvbs/?churchid=999. Student regis-

tration will begin the week of June 3rd, or you may pre-register online by visiting the website. Questions may be directed to Kathy Simonds at 610-558-3253.

Volunteers will participate in a training session on Tuesday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the lounge.

The Father's Hand (continued from the first)

the Mount, said we shouldn't worry or be anxious: that God knows us so intimately that even the hairs on our heads are numbered. And if this is so then we should understand we are in God's

care, for this life and for the life to come.

I hope I can always feel this, and that is my hope for you too, especially in the dark times of your life—the sense that you are protected,

and that no matter what happens, you are known, loved and in the hand of God.

Sincerely,

Pastor George



The Beginning of Father's Day

One Sunday in 1909, a young woman named Sonora Smart Dodd sat in a pew listening to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. She began to wonder why there wasn't a day to honor fathers.

Sonora decided to arrange for a tribute to be paid to her father at a church in her hometown of Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910.

Many believe that this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another view is that Dr. Robert Webb, pastor of Central Church, in Fairmont, West Virginia, held a service giving tribute to fathers in 1908. Regardless of which story is the correct one, it is certain that President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to choose a special day to honor fathers. He proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day in 1924.

An Idea for Father's Day

Consider starting a Memory Book for him. Collect papers such as his birth and baptism certificates, photos of him as a child, a student, a graduate, a groom, a father, at his job and so on. If your mother has any special letters from your father she would be willing to share with the family, put them in the scrapbook.

Record his stories and keep them in the book. Then share them!



Family Night at the Blue Rocks

Come one! Come all! and enjoy a fun night on Friday, June 22nd at Wilmington's Frawley Stadium. Game time is 7:05 p.m. followed by fireworks!

You will hear the "Bells of Freedom" ring our National Anthem in front of home plate. Our own "Bells of Hope" along with several church handbell choirs will

ring "The Star Spangled Banner" using over 100 bells.

Tickets are available at the stadium box office.

Summer Sunday School

In order to give our dedicated Sunday school teachers some well deserved time off, a volunteer is needed to coordinate this year's sum-

mer Sunday school. This involves choosing the curriculum and recruiting teachers. Summer Sunday school begins the first Sun-

day in July and runs up until the Sunday before labor day. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Simonds at 610-558-3253.

Tax Notes for 2007: Charitable Giving

If you itemize deductions on your federal tax return a change in the law may affect you. Starting in 2007, charitable contributions of money now require that you have a bank record, such as a canceled check, or a written receipt from the charity showing the charity's name, date and amount of the gift. Previously, only gifts of \$250 or more required a receipt from the charity. Under the old rules, you could use your own writ-

ten records of cash gifts under \$250 such as a weekly cash amount put in the church collection plate. This is no longer adequate for tax purposes.

The rules concerning gifts of clothing and household items to charity also changed under the new law. Beginning August 17, 2006, items donated to charity must be in good condition or better to be considered deductible and the IRS can deny deductions for items of minimal

monetary value. Any single household item or article of clothing valued at more than \$500 requires a written qualified appraisal in order to be deductible.

All gifts to Mount Hope Church are acknowledged with a contribution statement. To be sure that all your contributions are recorded, please use your offering envelopes, especially if your offering is cash.



**GIVE,
AND
IT
WILL
BE
GIVEN
TO
YOU**

The Seven Deadly Sins:

Pride, envy, anger, greed, sloth, gluttony, and lust.

Word of Hope

Anger

Of the Seven Deadly Sins, anger is possibly the most fun. To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations

still to come, to savor to the last toothsome morsel both the pain you are given and the pain you are giving back—in many ways it is a feast fit for a king. The chief drawback is that what you are wolfing down is

yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you.

~ Frederick Buechner from *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*

The Shoe Shine (continued from the last page)

do not know what inspires you, but if you put God first, He will give you the desires of your heart. As we approach life, let us not measure it by how much money we make, but to re-

member to look to God for our satisfaction. If we look anywhere else we will be disappointed.

Almost every time my shoes get dirty I remember the shoe shine story and

how it reminds me to be satisfied with what I have from the Lord. What event (s) in your life remind you to be satisfied and delighted in the Lord?

Pastor Phil



Children's Center News

We have finished another great year at the Children's Center. We are proudly sending 61 of our students off to Kindergarten!

Vacation Bible School whirls through here from June 18th to June 23rd this year. Some of us will be here volunteering for the

week, and many of our children will be here learning about our Lord in a fun and exciting way.

We are getting ready for a repeat of our successful Summer Camp. The program will start on July 9th and end on August 24th. We will be cooking,

crafting, playing, learning, and running through the sprinkler, keeping Christ in our center. We always have room for more children, so if you are interested, please call 610-558-0442.

Kris Leary
Director



What's New In the Library

The library will be open during the months of June, July, and August on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 to noon, as well as the usual Sunday morning hours. During VBS week (June 18 - 22), we will open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 until noon.

We now have new books from many of our favorite authors.

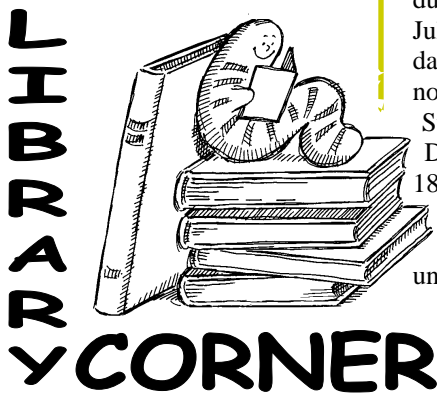
"Kingdom Come," by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, is the final book in the Left Behind series. How does it all end? Ted Dekker's newest is "Skin", a compelling suspense story of a serial killer returning to a town to exact his final revenge

On a lighter note, *The Potluck Club Takes the Cake*, by Linda Evans Shepherd and Eva Marie Everson, has this prayer group plan-

ning a wedding and handling assorted mysteries and crises. Sharon Hinck's "Renovating Becky Miller" follows Becky's never-ending quest to serve the Lord, take care of her family responsibilities, and maintain her sanity.

We have something for everyone!

*Lynn Ward
Librarian*





June 2007 Calendar of Events

This Update Printed: Thursday, May 24, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Every Sunday Morning: 8:15: Traditional worship 9:30: High energy family worship 11:00: Blended worship 9:30: Sunday School for all ages</p>		<p>Community Events: Sundays - 6:00 p.m. Cub Den 1 (101) Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m. Cadettes 3572 (FH) 8:30 pm AA (FH) First Wednesday - 7:00 p.m. Barix Support (FH) Thursdays - 6:45 pm Brownie 3312 (101) 6:00 pm AA (FH) 3rd Friday - 6:30 pm Pack 77 meetings (HH)</p>			<p>1 1:00 PM Pictorial Directory (HH)</p>	<p>2 8:00 AM Pictorial Directory (HH)</p>
<p>3 Communion Trinity Sunday Peace with Justice Sunday Library open after worship 9:15 AM & Noon - Blood Pressure Screening (HH) 6:30 PM KFC J's (FH) 6:30 PM YF (S, 2, 6, HH)</p>	<p>4 7:00 PM Bibl Sldy (Longhurst)</p>	<p>5 10:00 AM Library Open 6:00 PM VBS Training (L)</p>	<p>6 9:30 AM Sa ff Mtg (L) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Trustees (Cem) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p>7 6:30 PM Education (L) 7:30 PM Fuzzy Slippers Girls Bbl Sdy (6) 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>8 4:00 PM WOH Deadline (Ofc) 6:00 PM McKenzie/Krech Wed Reh (S)</p>	<p>9 5:00 PM McKenzie/Krech Wed (S)</p>
MHCC Closed						
<p>10 Grad Recognition Library open after worship 6:30 PM KFC J's (FH) 6:30 PM YF (S, 2, 6, HH)</p>	<p>11 7:00 PM Men's Felwshp (L)</p>	<p>12 10:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM Ad Bd (HH)</p>	<p>13 9:30 AM Sa ff Mtg (L) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104) 7:15 PM J.O.Y. Singers (HH)</p>	<p>14 11:00 AM Busy Beavrs (Kit) 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir (216)</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9:00 AM New Members class (L)</p>
Annual Conference (Philly)						
MHCC Closed						
<p>17 Father's Day Baptism Library open after worship 6:30 PM KFC J's (FH) 6:30 PM YF (S, 2, 6, HH)</p>	<p>18 7:00 PM Bibl Sldy (Longhurst)</p>	<p>19 9:00 AM Library Open 7:00 PM SPR (L)</p>	<p>20 8:30 AM WOH Mtg (106) 9:00 AM Library Open 9:30 AM Sa ff Mtg (L) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p>21 9:00 AM Library Open 7:30 PM Fuzzy Slippers Girls Bbl Sdy (6)</p>	<p>22 6:30 PM Talley/Pfleger Wed Reh (S) 7:00 PM Bells at Blue Rocks</p>	<p>23 1:00 PM Talley/Pfleger wed (S)</p>
9:00 AM Vacation Bible School						
MHCC Closed						
<p>24 Library open after worship 6:30 PM YF R.O.C.K.</p>	<p>25 1:00 PM Pictorial Directory (HH)</p>	<p>26 10:00 AM Library Open 6:30 PM Worship Com (L) 7:30 PM Praise Team (L)</p>	<p>27 9:30 AM Sa ff Mtg (L) 6:00 PM Devotional Supper (HH) 7:00 PM 930 Reh (S) 7:00 PM Finance (L) 7:00 PM Bells of Hope (104)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
MHCC Closed						



The Shoe Shine by Pastor Phil

As I look down at my shoes today I notice that they need to be shined. It reminds me of a story.

When I was 11 years old my family took a trip from our home north of Pittsburgh to New York City. It was the first time we had been in a big city and we stared at everything. I remember not being ashamed to “look up” at all of the tall buildings in amazement. We were able to tour Grand Central Station seeing the people going to and fro and the entire goings on in that busy place.

One thing in particular that struck me was the

shoe shine stands. There were rows and rows of fancy dressed businessmen and women sitting in high chairs having their shoes shined while waiting for their trains. The people who were shining the shoes hummed and sang to a rhythm of their rags buffing the shoes. All of this was quite entertaining. And then I remember the most amazing thing, the people paid \$1 or more for their shoe shine! In 1974 my father made \$5 an hour, which was not a bad wage at that time. The idea of getting a shoe shine for a dollar or more was just “too high falooten” for us.

The reason I remember how much my father made in 1974 was that at \$5 an hour that is an annual salary of approximately \$10,000 a year. Dad had always said that making that much money was his dream. Sadly enough, though, after making that much money, he found out that he still had financial needs. We learned through this and other events in my childhood to be satisfied with what God has given us, and not to wish our lives away.

Psalm 37:4 says, “Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of you heart.” I

(continued on page 4)

Tid Bits From Our Past continued. . .

1950 - the stone posts at the entrances to Mount Hope were removed, the entrances widened and a new parking lot was laid out on the west side of the church.

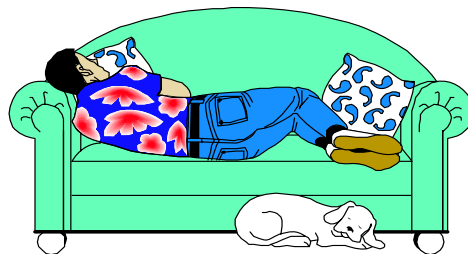
1950 - membership at Mount Hope reached 365 and continued growth was anticipated. The Sunday School was flourishing and all available space in the building was pressed into service.

November 2, 1952 - consecration service held for the new Isaac S. Habbersett Sunday School Building. It honored the man who had been superintendent for nearly 30 years. Habbersett was still at the helm when Mount Hope celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1957.

1957 - Sunday School enrollment was over 800. Membership of the church was 828, more than double what it had been in 1950. This dramatic membership increase necessitated the addition of a second morning service and a second Sunday School period. Youth Fellowship, Sunday evening worship, mid-week prayer, and Bible study supplemented the services. Still there was not sufficient room. An expansion committee with lay leader James Hoover as chairman was formed. The committee recommended building a new sanctuary, which was accepted unanimously by the Official Board. On March 17, 1957, the congregation approved the proposal.

1957 - A stewardship crusade was launched to raise the money for the construction. Goal of the campaign was \$100,000. The campaign raised over \$104,000. In addition the remaining \$10,500 due on the mortgage for Habbersett Hall was received in just three months.

September 22, 1957 - the mortgage on the education building was burned and the church was free of debt.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
TAKE TIME TO RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR DAY!!

200th Anniversary Past Pastors' Dinner Kings Mills May 6th, 2007



Reverend George and Mabel Eppheimer

Pastor Mel and Marilyn Sponsler

Photos courtesy of Jan Duryea



Dr. John and Phyllis Carter

As promised, our Anniversary dinner at Kings Mills on May 6th was a success and fun was had by all. We were blessed to have Mount Hope Senior Pastors and their wives as our guests; Reverend George Eppheimer and wife Mabel, Dr. John Carter and his wife Phyllis, and Pastor Mel Sponsler and his wife Marilyn. They all looked wonderful! A big thank you to all who attended and a **SPECIAL** thank you to Jan Duryea and her helpers for planning and executing a day we will long remember as part of Mount Hope's next 200 years!

REFLECTIONS

Interviews by Irma Taylor

Memories from Edith (Clayton) Lloyd Edith Joined Mount Hope on January 1, 1938

I remember when we all gathered outside of Sunday School to celebrate "Decoration Day" when the American Legion would fire the guns over the graves of the veterans. The nursery children, under the care of Isabel Fritz Smith were not invited outside, yet we could hear the little ones crying from the noise of the guns.

I remember when there were 2 little adorable girls, Alleyn and Joan Green, who would often sing duets in Church. Their mother, Connie Ashworth, sang so beautifully, "The Stranger of Galilee".

I remember when our (Mount Hope) brass ensemble would climb a ladder in the vestibule to the belfry tower on Christmas Eve to play carols. One night it was so cold that the valves of the trumpets froze. That was the last time we tried that.

I remember in 1955 my mother (Harriet Clayton) was named "Mother of The Year" by the Church. 24 members of our family were there and had a group picture taken on the steps with Rev. Worth.

I remember my daughter (Donna Davis) in 1945 sitting and sleeping on Mrs. Truax's lap at Sunday night service while Dick and I played the trumpet up front.

I remember my daughters being in a Tom Thumb Wedding in 1950. This was an annual event.

Memories from Paul and Marian Titter Marian Joined Mount Hope on July 2, 1950 Paul Joined Mount Hope on April 11, 1954

We remember Children's Day recitations.

It brings back memories to browse through our wedding album and see those unsightly asbestos wrapped pipes overhead in the basement during the reception.

You knew Sunday School was almost over when Isaac Habbersett raised the wooden doors to separate the Sunday School rooms from the Sanctuary.

Remember Mrs. Howard in the kitchen making her wonderful hot chocolate to warm us up.