

the Messenger

of Hilton Presbyterian Church (USA)

August 6, 2008

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Sunday Schedule

10:30 am Worship

The Messenger is published every other Wednesday unless noted. The deadline for the next issue is noon on **Monday, Aug. 18**. To submit news, leave items in the office mailbox marked *office manager*, call Sarah in the office at 595-1313 or email her at SMcGinnis@HiltonPres.org

You can receive *The Messenger* the same day of publication and in color, emailed straight to your computer. Contact Sarah now!

On most Tuesday mornings at 8am, you will find me with a cup of coffee in hand in a lectionary group at Hilton's First United Methodist Church. FUMC's John LeGault graciously hosts the ecumenical gathering of clergy and rabbi. It is one of those entries on my weekly calendar I try not to miss. A bit selfish, that gathering puts something back into me—energy, passion, vision about my calling, and a reminder of collegial support and accountability.

We follow the *Revised Common Lectionary* that most Protestant Churches follow—the grouping of pericopes you will find if you hit the “Devotions and Readings” link on the PCSUA website's home page, then hit the “Lectionary Readings” link on the following page. (It is probably a link we should include on our own website under the “Worship” section for those who want to easily use the readings from their office or home computer.)

For the past two months, the Jewish scripture of the lectionary readings has focused on the Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob sagas, with this coming Sunday's “issue” picking up the Joseph story. John Buchanan, in his editorial column of the most recent issue of *The Christian Century*, reminds readers that this wealth of Old Testament literature comes around only once every three years... and that ministers who are away from their pulpits during these weeks miss out on some of the richest texts for preaching. Richest, I would say, because they contain reflections of our spiritual past and reminders of our humanity.

Actually, last week's readings included my favorite passage in all of scripture. Falling on our Montreat Youth Sunday, which was a most energizing experience of worship, this passage was not used. Last Sunday, the twenty-four youth who recently attended Montreat led worship. At Monday night's Session, one elder commented on how powerful the procession was for her, especially seeing the large pulpit Bible being brought reverently and ceremonially into our place of worship. For me, it was seeing water dramatically poured into the baptismal font and its reminder of the power of God's spirit and the covenant we have with God and each other. “I wish we would begin the service each week that way,” I heard someone say.

Last week's Old Testament pericope carried the closing story of Jacob wrestling with the stranger in the night before crossing the Jabbok River the following morning. On the other side of the river, his estranged brother, Esau, was to be waiting—the twin Jacob had swindled out of a birthright. If you get too bogged down in the literalism of details you will miss the richness of the deeper truth in scripture. During the symbolic wrestling with God about the meaning of his life, Jacob did what he had done most of his life—demand that he get what he wanted despite the current circumstances. “I will not let you go until you bless me,” Jacob told the stranger. “What is your name?” the stranger asked. “Jacob.” The name literally means “deceiver, manipulator, cheat.” At that moment of true confession about who he was, the miracle took place. As the late German theologian, Gerhard von Rad, noted, once Jacob became honest about who he really was, his interest moved from “getting” and “being blessed” to discovering the name—the richness of the One—with whom he struggled.

That is the nature of life—struggling with our imperfections—and the powerful importance of spirituality. This Sunday, the saga continues with Joseph, “the dreamer”....



Rev. Dr. Gary Bagley

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

upcoming events

Ice Cream Social

August 24, 6:30 pm



All are welcome to an Ice Cream Social Sunday August 24 in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to bring some homemade ice cream; if you can't that's ok, come anyway! Toppings and ice cream provided. See y'all

there! Any questions, contact Debbie Barber at (757) 930-0431.

announcements

THE CHIAPAS MISSION TEAM is in Mexico once again to help Tom and Nancy Rach with their Christian ministry in one of the poorest and most rural areas of the country. They are helping Tom build water tanks and assisting Nancy in Bible study groups or kids clubs. Please pray for a safe and productive trip.

BROADSTREET MINISTRIES MISSION TEAM will leave Sunday for Philadelphia. Daily activities will include planting or harvesting at an urban farm, sorting donations at a local thrift shop, city park cleanup, helping at a grass roots residential drug and alcohol residence or day camp for urban children. Please keep them in your prayers.

FRESH VEGETABLES NEEDED for St. Vincent's Soup Kitchen. Please drop them off in the designated basket in the Narthex.

SUPPLIES NEEDED HPC will be collecting cleaning supplies for recently-placed LINK families on August 10 and canned/boxed food on August 17. A basket will be located in the narthex.

ALSO...old/used eyeglasses and old or used book bags to be used by adults and rolling suitcases of any size as well. If you can donate any of those items, either drop them off at the LINK office or bring them to church and the Missions and Outreach Committee will see that they are delivered to LINK.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE & TEA on sale outside the Fellowship Hall. Many flavors to choose from and you'll be supporting a great mission of HPC.

ATTENTION PORT VOLUNTEERS If you volunteered for P.O.R.T. this year, your presence is requested at the *LINK of Hampton Roads Appreciation Dinner: A Celebration of the P.O.R.T. Volunteers* on Saturday, September 6, 6 p.m. at Peninsula Korean Baptist Church. If you will be attending, please call Patti Caccavale at (757) 886-9220 before August 14.

MAINTAIN YOUR BRAIN The Chesapeake is sponsoring three workshops on brain-healthy living. *Maintain Your Brain*, *Brain Aerobics*, and *Sharpen Your Brain*, presented by the Alzheimer's Association, will be held August 19, September 2, and September 16 respectively at 10 a.m. For more information or to register, contact Meredith Macaluso at (757) 223-1629.

SPECIAL thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your acts of kindness following my shoulder surgery. The flowers brought over by Martha Hunt were enjoyed for a long while. Your cards, calls and visits were very cheering. I especially appreciated your prayers on my behalf.

*With gratitude and love,
Wanda Fletcher*

Thank you for allowing me to place a collection box in your church. The donations I received for the Meals on Wheels and We All Love Our Pets programs were a big help. Your help with my community service project was greatly appreciated and will be used to support elderly and disabled citizens with their pet food needs. Thank you very much for your support!

*Megan Pruitt
Senior Girl Scout Troop 1207*

Teachers and Leaders Needed

In a very moving service last Sunday, the Montreat Youth shared with us the theme of their week about "throwing open the doors" to opportunities to serve and get to know others. Now the Christian Education committee is asking for your help in continuing our strong programs for youth and children that helped lead these 25 youth to Montreat. We would like you to open the doors to the possibility of teaching Sunday school or leading programs at Wednesday Night *Live!* Please prayerfully consider serving our children and youth - the future of the church.

- During Sunday school, help is needed in these classes: nursery - 4 year olds, K- 2nd grade, 3rd - 5th grades, and middle school.
- For Wednesday Night *Live!* help is needed for the 1st - 5th grade program, and in high school.

Contact Karen Velkey, Diane Davis, Judy Knight, or Kathryn Dabbs if you are willing to help.

remember in your prayers

Family, Friends and those Recovering will be kept on our pastoral care list for one month unless an extension of time is requested. Please notify the church office of any changes.

Bayside Convalescent Center: Mildred Mathis

The Chesapeake: Anna Moyer, Gertrude Kinney

Colonial Harbor: Lauren and Virginia Bursch

The Hidenwood: Pearl Hawk, Dorothy Hogue, Alice Wertheimer

Mennowood: Allene Kidd, Arno Pauley, Charles Meissner

Morningside: Ellie Argo

NN Nursing and Rehabilitation: Angie Hodge

St. Mary's Children's Home: Katie Jones

At Home/Recovering/In Treatment: Keenan Clear, Beth Jackson, Gary Bagley, Wanda Fletcher, Ann Sharp, Terry Rankin

Family: Jane Woodworth (extended family of Francie Pearce), George Barber Jr. (George Barber's father), James Macklin (Margaret Lassiter's extended family), Christine Taylor (Carole & Jay Taylor's daughter-in-law), John Davis (Tim Davis's father)

Friends: Misty Sauer (friend of Linda Rankin)

Military: Robbie Casper* (Chris Cann), Joey Doherty, Mike Roane* (Lynne Peterson), Jason Wood

*Deployed

Our Christian Education & Youth Ministry Search Committee/APNC: Debbie Barber, Sam Heatwole, Jack Jackson, Lee Anne Sulzberger - Co-Chair, Drew Velkey - Chair, Hannah Weeks

Chiapas Mission Team: Eamonn & Emily Bourke, Johnny Hayes, Annie Pearce, Ray Salyer, Jay Stockard, Audrey, Graham, Josh, Max, Glen & Lisa Schlickemeyer

Broadstreet Ministries Mission Team: Kasey Blowe, Kathryn Dabbs, Jarrad Farris, Chelsea Gray, Judy Knight, Sarah Leser, Margaret Minium, Kori Young

Our Missionaries: Tom & Nancy Rach in Mexico
Scott & Melanie Smith in India

Stewardship Statistics

2008 Annual Budget	\$330,286
Year-to-Date Requirements	\$196,901
Year-to-Date Receipts	\$221,081
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$198,486
Net Income	\$22,595
August 3, 2008 Receipts	\$9,802

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Looking for a way to share God's love with others? Look to the new VOLUNTEER CORNER in each newsletter to find out one of the many ways that HPC members minister to the local community. Did you know that several of our members are involved with St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church's SOUP KITCHEN every Monday and Friday morning? You'll find them enjoying each other's company as they prepare and serve lunch to the needy from 9:00 to 11:30 at St. Vincent's which is located at 230 33rd St. in Newport News. For more information, call Doris Slagle at (757) 595-9136.



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Laity Assistant Schedule

	Week of August 10	Week of August 17
Building Security	Chip Shefelton	Chip Shefelton
Greeters	Dot Turner, Barbara Matthews	Bill & Barbara Blowe
Ushers	Diane Davis, Fred Caccavale, Francie Pearce, Doug Chapman, Aderon Gibbs, Randy Herrmann, Bill Sharp	Diane Davis, Fred Caccavale, Francie Pearce, Doug Chapman, Aderon Gibbs, Randy Herrmann, Bill Sharp
Counters	Blythe Raines, Terry Rankin, Renee DiPasquale	Joe & Sue Hogue, Pax/Lucy Goodson
Nursery	Alice Minium, Blythe Raines	Judy Knight, Julie Richter
Moments for Children	Karen Velkey	Kathy James-Webb
Multimedia	Francie Pearce	Francie Pearce
Liturgist	Debby Heatwole	Doug Baker
Flower Delivery	Judy Knight, Al Riutort, Joe Hogue	Judy Knight, Al Riutort, Joe Hogue
Giving Flowers	Janette Cook	Bill & Clara Banks