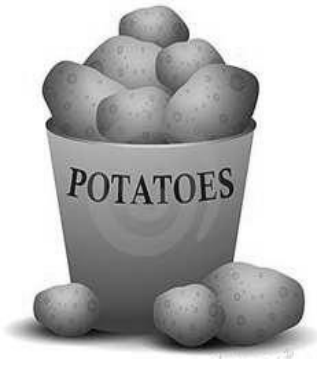


The Hill's Chapel House Call September 2011



A Heavy Load to Carry



One of my Sunday School teachers had each of us bring a clear plastic bag and a sack of potatoes.

For every person we'd refuse to forgive in our life experience, we were told to choose a potato, write the person's name and date on it, and put it in the plastic bag.

Some of our bags, as you can imagine, were quite heavy.

We were told to carry this bag with us EVERYWHERE for the next week, putting it beside our bed at night, on the car seat when driving and next to our desk at work.

The hassle of lugging these potatoes around clearly showed what a heavy spiritual weight each of us carries.

It was a continual reminder of how much attention we have to pay to the weight at all times . . . especially when we'd leave it in embarrassing places.

Naturally, the condition of our potatoes deteriorated quickly to a nasty slime.

This is a great metaphor for the price we pay for holding on to pain and heavy negativity! Too often we think of forgiveness as a gift to others, yet this example clearly shows the gift is to each of us as well!

So, the next time you decide you can't forgive someone, ask yourself . . . "Isn't my bag heavy enough already?"

Our call as Christians is to forgive just as we have been forgiven.

Thought for Today

"Pursue forgiveness, not innocence." - Max Lucado

Cub Scout Pack 83

Hill's Chapel's Cub Scout Pack 83 is growing and we want you to join us. Cub Scouting is a program for boys in grades 1-5. It gives them an opportunity in weekly programs to learn citizenship, personal fitness, teamwork, community service, positive moral values, and learning to get along with others, while having fun and developing friendships. Cub Scouting is a family oriented program stressing parental participation in many of its programs and activities.

Pack 83 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Family Life Center, with our first meeting on Sep 13; Dens meet more frequently. For more information or to join the pack, please contact Cub Master Greg Kitsinian at nccubscoutpack83@gmail.com or 704-820-6385 or visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/denverncpack83/Home>

2nd Tues of Month	7 - 8 pm	Family Life Ctr	Pack Meeting
Last Mon of Month	7 - 8 pm	Nelson	Leader meeting
Thursday Nights	6 - 7:30pm	Nelson	Den Meetings
Monday Nights	6 - 8 pm	Nelson	Den Meetings
24 - 25 Sep 2011	noon - noon	Church field	Family Camp Out
4-Feb-2011	8am - noon	Family Life Ctr	Pinewood Derby Rehearsal
24-Feb-2011	5pm - 11pm	Family Life Ctr	Pinewood Derby Setup
25-Feb-2011	8am - 4pm	Family Life Ctr	Pinewood Derby
19-May-2011	2pm - 11pm	Family Life Ctr	Blue and Gold Banquet

Youth at Work

Just a reminder that your Hill's Chapel youth group is available to help with projects around your house. If there are things that you need done (yard work, painting, etc), please contact one of the youth leaders!

Beth Dwyer, Robert & Sonya Gales, John & Lori Gaston

Care Packages

We are gearing up for a new collegiate year.

Please fill out a form for current college students and church members serving in the military so that we will be able to send them care packages.

For more information contact:
Anne Graham (704-827-2162) or
Margaret Wilkes (704-748-2216)

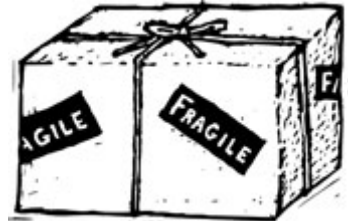
Name: _____

Address: _____

College: _____

Year in College: _____

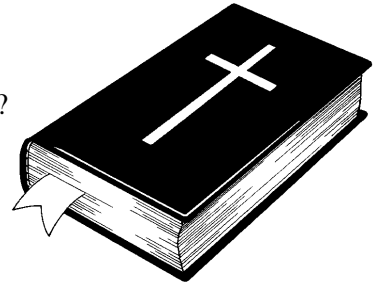
Major: _____



Bible Study

WHY?

- Why does God allow pain and suffering?
- Why do my prayers go unanswered?
- Why can't I see God's will for my life?
- Why should I trust God when nothing makes sense?



WHY? MAKING SENSE OF GOD'S WILL

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 6

Come join Val at 10 a.m. in the conference room in the church house on Tuesdays. We'll explore these age-old questions using the video and book by Adam Hamilton. This study only lasts four weeks—each week we'll take up a different question allowing us to learn more about the role of God in our lives. Books are available now! Please call the office or sign up in the FLC to register for this exciting new class.

Bloodmobile



Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross bloodmobile at Unity Presbyterian Church on Monday, September 12th from 2:30 pm until 7:00 pm. If anyone is able to donate this would be a great way to give back to the community.

Financial Snapshot

As of July 31, 2010

Lori Gaston, Treasurer

General Fund:

Contributions received		130,020.97
Expenses paid out:		
Conference Apportionment	(17,110.20)	
Missions/Ministry	(14,450.11)	
Operations/Maintenance	(41,148.16)	
Personnel	(78,309.88)	
	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>(151,018.35)</u>
	2010 general fund surplus/(deficit)	<u><u>(20,997.38)</u></u>

Capital Funds:

Sanctuary fund	86,897.40
Building fund	<u>26,927.80</u>
Total	<u><u>113,825.20</u></u>

Are you listening to God's call and direction?

As the summer months have passed, our deficit has grown significantly as our weekly offering to the general fund has decreased. Summer vacations, ball tournaments, and camp meeting, just to name a few, keep many away from Sunday worship during the summer months..... *which also means it keeps the offering away*. I hope that each of you will be in prayer about your contribution to the operations and missions of Hill's Chapel. It takes **EACH AND EVERY ONE** of you to make Hill's Chapel a church, so please be faithful and listen to God's direction as you give to support His work!!!

Expense Cuts and Spending Freeze

From the Finance Committee and Church Council

The Finance Committee presented to Church Council on Thursday, August 18, 2011 and the Church Council approved the following recommendations:

The financial report for July shows a deficit of \$20,997. Discussion followed about the size of our church, the size of our budget, and the fact that we need to adjust our budget to the level of the folks that are attending – not continue with our current spending patterns and ‘hope’ that something big will come in at the end of the year. We talked about those attending church, those not attending, commitment, leadership, services, good things we are doing, etc. but the consensus conclusion was that now was the time to do something about the finances so we don’t have to continue worrying about it and discussing the same issues each month. With that in mind, the Finance Committee brainstormed and came up with the following recommendations:

1. No more apportionments will be paid in 2011 unless we have the money to pay them. July will be the last payment until we see how funds come in for the remainder of the year.
2. We will implement a spending freeze effective immediately. Any expenditure other than the necessities will have to be approved prior to payment. The finance committee will make those decisions as a group, probably via email.
3. Advertising at News@Norman will be stopped.
4. Leasing of postage machine should be stopped.
5. Cutting of softball field will be stopped after the month of August
6. Cleaning of facilities will be cut from twice per week to once per week and the pay will be reduced at a prorated amount.
7. After much discussion regarding our church size, the size of our staff payroll, and the budget issues that are before us, the committee recommends that all staff salaries be reduced by 10%.

Other items discussed, that require additional research/questions:

- Is there any way to reduce the current AT&T bill? Lori will call for more information
- Could we save any by not having a color copier? Lori will ask LeaAnne to call for information
- Mark will inquire about the cost reduction if we change garbage pickup from weekly to bi-weekly.
- Children’s church preparation of ‘craft’ items probably should be eliminated. Comments from several helpers about the children being too small to do the crafts. Given their ages, back to the basics of storytime and perhaps coloring pages would be more appropriate and save money.
- Question regarding Minister’s travel allowance

Mark has the AC units in the FLC programmed so they will reset to 75 degrees after 2 hours. Hopefully this will help with electricity, especially since he just received noticed at work that all electricity bills will be increasing a minimum of 5%. Debbie Edwards has asked for, and received, donations from the aerobics group to help cover the cost of electricity.

The committee emphasized that it is not implying, in any situation listed above, that the expenses are not valid and useful to the church. However, given the current budget situation, we feel these are items that can be reduced or eliminated and we can still continue our mission of serving others for God.

East Lincoln Christian Ministry

East Lincoln Christian Ministry needs your plastic grocery bags. Janet Howie will be more than happy to take these to The Ministry for you.

Memorials

In Memory Of	Donor's Name	Designated
Bob Dellinger	Ruth H. Dellinger	Budget
Mitchell Dellinger	Ruth H. Dellinger	Budget
Jason Dellinger	Ruth H. Dellinger	Budget
Kevin Woolwine	Ruth H. Dellinger	Budget



Thank You!

All Youth Leaders, Thank you so much. Thank you for everything this summer! CCC and the beach trip were amazing! I love all of you. Thanks again! With love, Logan Kendrick

Val and Hill's Chapel UMC, My entire family thanks you for the sympathy and the tremendous showing of thoughtfulness. My grandmother was a wonderful Christian and person whom valued her church family. She, and the rest of our family, will remember your donation to the new sanctuary with joy. She would have smiled at the notion. Love, Jodi and Family



WALKING WITH JESUS

ON THE NARROW PATH

Understanding...your enemy ...your self ...your GOD

This life-changing seminar is presented by Scott Schuler

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011

3:00pm-8:00pm

HILL'S CHAPEL UMC

988 South Highway 16, Stanley, NC

- . What is the narrow path? How do we walk it?
- . How can we grow in our faith and passion for Jesus Christ?
- . How can we make an impact on our world for Christ?

For more information, e-mail Hillschapel@bellsouth.net or call 704-827-9511

REGISTRATION REQUESTED BUT NOT REQUIRED! Registration fee includes dinner.

Cost: \$5.00 per person before October 2 and \$7.00 at the door

WALKING WITH JESUS ON THE NARROW PATH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011

3:00pm-8:00pm

HILL'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you need child care? Yes/No Ages of children: _____

A Letter From Lilly JONES



Last week at a Denominational Leadership Conference, I was reminded that change is situational; transitions are psychological. As part of my reflective assignment for this year, I am rereading *Managing Transitions* by William Bridges and reading the book: *Renovate or Die* by Bob Farr. As I continued to research transitions, this is what I found from Rev. Rick Veal:

- The word transition means the passing from condition, place, or activity to another
- From the lukewarm to the hot; from death to life
- From the passive to the active
- From the talk to the walk; from lack to abundance
- From mediocrity to action; from meetings to ministry
- From the mechanical to the Spirit moving

Though there will be change and there will be transitioning of districts, the churches _ locations will remain the same. The churches will simply be part of a larger geographical area. What a wonderful time for us to rally around our being vibrant churches and let our concentration be on God's mission. The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. One way of setting goals in accomplishing the mission is the —Power of Three along with Congregational Vitality Scorecard for accountability. An interpretation of the Scorecard can be found on the website under congregational development. Additionally, our scorecard reflects the findings from a Methodist Study that defines four marks of church vitality. Those factors are small groups and programs; worship services that mix traditional and contemporary styles with an emphasis on relevant sermons; pastors who work hard on mentorship and cultivation of the laity; and an emphasis on effective lay leadership . These four factors —are consistent regardless of church size, predominant ethnicity, and jurisdiction, the study concluded.

No matter what awaits us, Christ is always with us. I close with one of my favorite meditations by St. Patrick:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ too comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me,
Christ above me, Christ in quiet,
Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

From an adaptation of a section of "St. Patrick's Breastplate" by Cecil Alexander and Charles Stanford. Original prayer attributed to St. Patrick, early fifth century.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

02 – Eric and Becky Browning
06 – Kevin and Donna Dellinger
06 – Marty and Mindy Dellinger
11 – Andy and Amy Page
15 – Neal and Emily Reid

23 – Marvin and Janet Hinson
24 – Jodi and Jennifer Meier
28 – Joe and Stacy Zenoski
30 – John and Lori Gaston

01 – Larry Dellinger
01 – Pete Wilkinson
03 – Amber Tuttle
03 – Justin Wilkes
05 – Stacy Houser
06 – Jennifer Ferrell
07 – Barry Butner
08 – Cecil Dellinger
09 – Elaine Stillwell
10 – Rhona Houser
11 – Molly Farrow
12 – Iris Walker
14 – Gay Murphy
14 – Debbie Morrison
15 – Wayne Rogers
16 – Andrea Harris
16 – Kristen Edwards
18 – Hubert Clinard
18 – Doug Core

18 – Pat Johnson
19 – Tammy Butner
19 – Jeana Young
20 – Drew Hilty
20 – Joe Iddings
20 – Lacy McCullen
21 – Scott Kendrick
22 – Gray Dellinger
23 – Lindy Clawson
23 – Jennifer Gales
23 – Brayden Miller
23 – Russell Dickson
24 – Steven Gales
25 – Christy Luckey
26 – John Edwards
28 – Melissa Grice
29 – Leela Church
29 – Dare Giles
29 – Stephen Wilkes

Willing Workers

9:00am Nursery

04 – Pam Fisher
11 – Barbara & Molly Farrow
18 – Tim & Christy Love
25 – Patty & Maddie Crow

9:00am Children's Message

04 – John Gaston
11 – Amber Tuttle
18 – Anne Graham
25 – Pastor Val

9:00am Greeters

04 – TBD
11 – Christy Hegler
18 – TBD
25 – TBD

9:00am Children's Church

04 – Beth Dwyer
11 – Amber Tuttle & Spencer Gaston
18 – Bailey Wilkes
25 – Angela Dellinger

11:00am Nursery

04 – Janet & Alix Howard
11 – Janet & Alix Howard
18 – Janet & Alix Howard
25 – Janet & Alix Howard

9:00am Snacks

04 – TBD
11 – TBD
18 – Homecoming
25 – TBD

9:00am Worship Set-Up

04 – TBD
11 – TBD
18 – Homecoming
25 – TBD

*Please note volunteers are still needed.



HOMECOMING SEPTEMBER 18th!

COME ONE, COME ALL!

GUEST PREACHER: Rev. DAVID BAXTER

9:30: COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:
The NELSON CENTER STORY
led by David Baxter and some of
the people instrumental in the construction

LOCATION: THE NELSON CENTER

11:00 WORSHIP in the SHELTER

12:00 HOMECOMING MEAL in the
FAMILY LIFE CENTER



October 1, 2011

Lake Norman District

Community Impact Day

All churches in the District will have a project to help the area.

Our Project: Free Lunch!

Between 11:00am-1:00pm

We will serve a simple hotdog lunch to anyone in the community.

We need volunteers to help set up and serve!

Come on out and meet and greet our neighbors.

Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

September is upon us now—with its tradition of newness: new beginnings of the school year, new season, new friends, new projects. New energy! And with that energy, new hope and vision and imagination. We at Hill's Chapel stand poised at that place, like hikers on a mountain. We pause for a moment to collect ourselves, and prepare to move forward, onward, upward.

Over the past three months we have gathered to reflect on where God has abundantly blessed us, and there are so many places! We have a rich tradition of generosity reflected within and around our church. God has given us a prime location in the community, and we have built upon it while sharing with the community. God has given us people with talents in multiple areas, and the willingness to share those talents for the good of the whole. And God continues to give us a vision for the future—a future with hope, building on the blessings we already have.

The church has discerned four areas where we want to cultivate our gifts and blessings and thereby enable us to share God's promises and faithfulness more fully. The question becomes "How?":

- *How do we attract and support young families with children?
- *How do we support our more senior members?
- *How do we support and expand our mission outreach?
- *How do we build our generosity in service and finance?

Phrased this way, the path becomes clearer. We can climb on! In the next few weeks we will convene three groups to flesh out the plans and possibilities more clearly—groups that will focus on Families and Children, Senior Ministry, and Mission Outreach. These groups will be charged to explore ways that these areas can be strengthened—not just for a short period, but for the long haul. The fourth area—Finance—will be taken up within the Finance Committee itself, along with any others who would like to join in with that process.

It's time to stop for a moment and pray. Ask where God is leading you, yourself, in excitement and imagination and possibility. This is the committee YOU BELONG on. Please let me know if you want to be a part of one of these sub-groups. The mountaintop awaits!

Blessings,
Val



Hill's Chapel United Methodist Church
988 South Highway 16
Stanley, NC 28164