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## Happy Surprises

~ Glen Elliot ~

Unexpected events - a patch of ice on an otherwise clear roadway - a blown-out tire on the way to school- a budget-blowing expense on a broken-down household appliance - are so much a part of the ordinary fabric of life as to be regarded "common to man."

What to do about the unexpected is a frequent, but often tabled, conversation. We are trained to practice "defensive driving." We are told to "expect the unexpected." "Safety first" is the motto of the workplace because "what can happen will happen." Yet, in spite of our best efforts, we know that unexpected events inevitably come our way. So, we cover ourselves with insurance policies to handle nearly any eventuality. While these provide some measure of relief, they can never provide the peace required by the human heart.



But, there is a God who rises far above the temporal concerns of life - a God whose infinite power and resources reach far beyond "all that we ask or think" (*Eph. 3:20*). Solomon rightly prescribes trust in Him as the key to handling life successfully. He says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding" (*Prov. 3:5*). Similarly, the apostle Paul directs God's children to practice trustful prayer, saying, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (*Ph. 4:6-7*).

Beyond the ordinary circumstances of life, there are several events for which we should practice anticipatory preparation. Briefly stated, we should expect that we will #1. suffer in some way for the cause of Christ (*Jn. 15:18-20; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:1-5*); #2. experience the second coming of the Lord Jesus (*Acts 1:11; 1 Th. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10*); and #3. if the Lord should tarry in His return, face the portals of death (*Gen. 3:19; Rm. 5:12; Hb. 9:27*). With God as a trusted-partner, these events can become happy surprises (*Mt. 5:10-12; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; Rev. 14:13*).



**The United  
Methodist Women  
will host our annual  
Hearts Party  
on Sunday,  
February 9th from  
4:00pm-6:00pm.  
Please plan to join  
us for this heartfelt  
event with friends  
and fellowship!**

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**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT**

**Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00pm**



The following are the minutes from the **JANUARY** meeting of the Church Council. The minutes are available for you to help the entire church family Stay In The Know about how this group is caring for New Hope UMC!

## **Church Council Meeting Minutes - January 30, 2020**

Present: Pastor Mike, Samantha Brensinger, Robin Craun, Kevin Armstrong, Andy Breeding, Wanda Harding, Teresa Barr, Bruce Rogers, Jennifer Strother, and Dallas VanLear.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Dallas VanLear, chairman, who led devotions from Matthew 7: 24-27 and reading on "When the Storms Come"

Dallas distributed a signup sheet for devotions for 2020.

Minutes were reviewed with correction on page 3 under communications, Jeff Hite should be Jeff Hitt. Minutes were approved with correction noted as presented.

### **Finance & Treasurer Report:** *(Kevin Armstrong reported)*

~ Completed 2019 with \$173,684 budget from \$185,586 proposed (6.4% below budget)

~ Beginning 2020 received \$15,243 toward \$189,608 budgeted. Teresa asked what portion Bethany UMC was paying New Hope with regards to parsonage expense. Bethany is paying ½ fuel bill.

~ Kevin explained the application was submitted to Virginia Developmental Corporation with regards for loan to pay off line of credit at lower interest rate. VDC does not give small loans and referred to the Credit Union. Their rate for 13,900 currently owed with 4.75% for 24 months at payment of \$609 per month or 5.5% for 36 months with payment of \$420 per month. Currently the line of credit is 6% with an average interest of \$74. After discussion it was felt leaving line credit as is. Kevin made motion to pay \$500 toward line credit (to include whatever interest incurred) and seconded by Samantha. Discussion if designated donation was made would that be included in \$500 payment. Kevin amended motion to payment of \$500 be made monthly (including interest) and any designated donation be in addition (example \$500 payment plus received donation of \$25 making payment \$525 for that month). Motion seconded by Robin Craun. Motion passed.

## **Trustees:** *(Teresa Barr reported)*

~ Teresa reviewed highlights of projects completed by Trustees in 2019 including rail for grand piano to be moved easily in sanctuary, new lights in parking lot, electric outlets in multipurpose room (old library), flat roof, ceiling in stairwell, parsonage preparation for new pastor, counting room, gas line on roof, blocked drain pipe, history room cleaned, floors cleaned, door knobs replaced, etc. Contracts have been renewed for lawn care and snow removal.

~ Announced plans for the church clean up date on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30am. Volunteers needed to help cleaning and removing items no longer used. More details will be announced in the church bulletin and newsletter.

## **Worship:** *(Pastor Mike reported)*

~ Pastor Mike reported on obtaining chairperson. Worship Committee meeting scheduled for March 10th at 6:30pm to plan Easter Services.

## **Nurture/Spiritual Development:** *(Samantha Brensinger reported)*

~ Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday following worship with soup and sandwich lunch with donations to Verona Food Pantry (canned goods, cash).

~ Parents Night Out is Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm

~ Wednesday night meals will resume beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm (first and third Wednesdays for April and May)

## **Evangelism Ministry:** *(Vacant - Please see Pastor Mike if you are interested in taking on this ministry.)*

~ Pastor Mike person will initially focus on follow-up of visitors.

## **United Methodist Men:** *(Dallas VanLear reported)*

~ Met on January 21<sup>st</sup> (no power at church so met at home of Kenny Fretwell) with 5 present. Assumed will serve pancakes for Fat Tuesday on February 25th (5:30pm- 7:00pm) and Sunrise breakfast (April 12th at 7am). Next meeting February 18th to make plans for these meals.

## **United Methodist Women:** *(Wanda Harding reported)*

~ Hearts Party - Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6pm to include door prizes, light refreshments and lots of fun. Need card tables for the hearts game (bring to church morning of February 9<sup>th</sup>).

~ Circle meetings: Sisters of Faith - 2/4/2020 at 1:30pm  
Circle of Hope - 2/10/2020 at 7pm  
Circle of Love - 3/2/2020 at 7pm

## **Staff-Parish Relations Committee:** *(Andy Breeding reported)*

~ Met on 1/7/20 briefly due to the snow. Next meeting is 2/6/20. Completed pastor preference form and submitted it to the District Superintendent. Recommendation was Pastor should remain at NHUMC; noting our relationship with Pastor Reaves is new and with less than one year relationship, it is our desire to uphold and strengthen our pastor in his ministry, as well as create and maintain continuity of our new relationship". Focus of February meeting will be the Prevention of Child/Adult Abuse with dates for training.

## **Lay Leader:** *(Jennifer Strother reported)*

~ Announced Lay Servant Academy on March 28th from 9am to 5pm at Grottoes UMC. Opportunity for educational classes and encouraged others to consider attendance. Courses offered include Basic Understanding of the Discipline (UM Polity) and Spiritual Gifts.

## **Communications:** *(Bruce Rogers reported)*

~ Bruce reported that the wiring for the internet services is complete, and that we will need to publish the wifi password for guest users.

## **Pastor's Report:** *(Pastor Mike reported)*

~ Thankful for the completion of the set-up for his office.

~ New Church Directory – after discussion recommended moving forward with self-published directory (paper version and not electronic).

~ On behalf of Nominations the following were presented for approval and seconded by Dallas:

Youth Member for Church Council – Bianca Brensinger

Nurture/Spiritual Development – Samantha Brensinger

Trustee class of 2022 – Kevin McLaren

Approved by council.

Vacant Positions: Young Adult for Church Council, Worship, Evangelism, Nominations and Finance

~ Wednesday after school with 2 adult supervisors with good attendance (7+)

3:45pm-4:15pm	Homework
4:30pm	Hand-bell choir
5:30pm	Children's choir

## **New Business:**

~ Signature for Pastor Discretionary Fund. Dallas made motion to put Jennifer Strother as current lay leader as co-signature with Pastor Mike on Pastor Discretionary Fund to replace Dale Rankin, previous lay leader. Seconded by Samantha. Council approved.

~ Questions raised about supporting the softball team. Refer to a person inquiring and suggest interest meeting to determine if adequate interest is available.

~ Homecoming event was referred to by the Ministry Planning Team. Suggestion was for either October 11th or September 27th and refer to the Ministry Planning Team to assign a committee to begin plans. (Next Ministry Planning Team Meeting is scheduled for April 19th).

~ Announced Laity Reconnect with Bishop Lewis on February 8<sup>th</sup> (live stream viewing at Bridgewater UMC). 10am to 12:30pm to include free lunch. Need reservation by February 2<sup>nd</sup> to plan lunch.

~ Missionary from Tanzania is scheduled at Strasburg on February 18th.

~ District UMM Breakfast (free) at Shenandoah Charge on February 22nd from 10am-11:30am at Christ UMC

~ Robin Craun reported shoulder surgery on March 18<sup>th</sup>. She will need assistance for 6-8 weeks; also we'll need additional counters after worship on Sundays.

~ Meeting closed at 7:55 pm with prayer led by Pastor Mike

Respectfully submitted  
Wanda Harding, Acting Secretary

**The next Church Council Meeting will be on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30pm.**



***Tuesday, February 25th 5:30pm-7pm***



# God Wants Us To Laugh....

**Q: Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?**

**A: No, just an apple.**



**Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?**

*Because they're scent-imental creatures!*

**Why shouldn't you fall in love with a pastry chef?**

*He'll dessert you.*

**Did you hear about the bed bugs who fell in love?**

*They're getting married in the spring!*

## Who Should Make the Coffee?

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of the cooking around here so you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee." Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides it says in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replies, "I can't believe that! Show me."


So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says, "HEBREWS."





**BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

**1** - Loretta Dameron  
- Martha English  
- Jamie Stout

**2** - Kylie Armstrong  
-  Al & Lynn Tuten

**4** - Robert Shiflett

**5** - JoEtta Walker

**8** - Colin Hester


**9** - Nancy Pyle

**10** - Ian Gruber

**13** - Marguerite Howell  
- Owen Pence

**14** - Ernest Shaver  
- Becky Tate  
-  Dale & Sherry Rankin

**15** - Cooper Coffey  
- Rebecca McCaskey  
- Tonya Meier  
- Holly Morris  
- Joan Simmons

**17** - Pastor Shin  
- Seth Joyner  
- Zach Rickman  
-  Lewis & Karen Whitmer

**18** - Susie Shreckhise

**19** - Jo Layman  
- Robert Riner

**20** - Helen Shiflett

**21** - Al Tuten


**22** -  Colin & Teresa Hester

**23** - Mike Shreckhise

**24** - Jennifer Bottenmiller  
- Tabatha Herring

**25** - Marc Mehler

**26** - Dave Dively

**27** - Stephen Sundeen  
-  Richard & Natosha Ritchie



# Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

## February 2020

### *\*Wednesday Evening Activities*

HandBell Practice @ 4:30pm  
Children's Choir Practice @ 5:15pm  
Bible Study @ 6:00pm  
Sanctuary Choir Practice @ 6:45pm

Saturday, February 1 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, February 2 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

~ Souper Bowl of Caring - after worship

Tuesday, February 4 ~ Sisters of Faith Meeting @ 1:30pm

Wednesday, February 5 ~ *\*Wednesday Evening Activities*

Thursday, February 6 ~ Staff/Parish Relations Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, February 8 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

~ Local Expressions Crafting Ministry from 10am-12pm

Sunday, February 9 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

~ Hearts' Party from 4:00pm-6:00pm

Tuesday, February 10 ~ Circle of Hope Meeting @ 7:00pm

Wednesday, February 12 ~ *\*Wednesday Evening Activities*

Friday, February 14 ~ Parents' Night Out from 6:00pm-8:00pm

Saturday, February 15 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, February 16 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Tuesday, February 18 ~ United Methodist Men Meeting @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 19 ~ *\*Wednesday Evening Activities*

Saturday, February 22 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

~ Church-Wide Church Clean-Up starting at 9:30am

Sunday, February 23 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Tuesday, February 25 ~ Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30pm-7:00pm

Wednesday, February 26 ~ Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00pm

Thursday, February 27 ~ Singles With A Testimony (SWAT) Lunch at Ciro's Pizza in Verona @ 12:00pm

~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, February 29 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, March 1 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

# Kids' Corner - Jacob & Esau

by Sharla Guenther



Do you remember the story of Abraham and Sarah? One thing you should know about Abraham is that God made a covenant (or a promise) that he would have many children, that he would start many nations, and most importantly God would be with him and with all these nations. This promise would be passed down to every first born child for many years.

God did what he said and Abraham had a boy named Isaac. The neat thing is that this story is about Isaac, and he's all grown up and married to a lady named Rebekah.

Rebekah couldn't have children either but Isaac had learned from his dad that if he prayed to God, He might answer his prayer. Sure enough, God answered Isaac's prayer and his wife became pregnant, and not just with one baby but with twins!

Do you remember your mommy ever having a big tummy because there was a baby growing inside? A neat thing can happen while the baby is growing - it moves! Babies move all around while they're in the tummy and sometimes you can feel or see the baby moving around.

Rebekah had this same feeling as all moms do when they're going to have a baby. It's just that she felt her babies moving around so much that she asked God, "Why is this happening to me?"

She was worried about how they were moving inside her. God answered her saying, "Your children are very different from one another, one of your children will lead a group of people that is stronger than the other and the oldest child will serve the younger one."

This was strange because usually if you're the oldest child in the family the younger brothers or sister look up to them and want to do what the oldest is doing. But in this case the older brother would work for the younger brother.

When the twins were born the first and oldest boy to be born was named Esau. He is easy to remember because he was red and hairy all over. Right behind him came his younger brother Jacob.

As the boys got older they liked doing different things. Esau was good at hunting and loved doing things outside and Jacob liked to stick around home and did things on his own.

Because Jacob stayed at home a lot he learned to cook with his mom. One day he had made some of his delicious stew that everyone liked. Esau had been out early in the morning hunting and he was very hungry. So hungry that he could smell the stew from a far way off.

As soon as Esau got home he asked Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of your stew, I'm starving!" Jacob replied, "First give me your birthright."

Wait a minute! You're probably wondering what a birthright is? Jacob and Esau's family believed that the oldest child should receive double of all the things they would leave behind after they died (this was the birthright). Things like money and the farm with all the animals.

So when Jacob asked Esau for his birthright, Esau should've said, "No way! That's something special for me and I need to use it because every gift I receive is a gift from God."

Instead Esau could only think of how hungry he was and he said, "Yes already, you can have my birthright just give me some food before I starve to death."

By choosing food over his birthright Esau did a bad thing. He made a decision he couldn't change and he disappointed God by not seeing the importance of his special gift he would get later on and choosing a silly thing like a bowl of soup instead.

The story isn't over yet. The next part of the story is about Jacob and the bad choices he makes.

Isaac was getting old and he wasn't able to see anymore. He wanted to give his oldest and favorite son Esau his blessing before he died. This blessing was the special promise that God promised to his grandfather Abraham, and then to his father Isaac.

Isaac loved the food that Esau hunted. So he told Esau to go hunt and prepare a special meal for him and then he would give him the blessing.

Rebekah overheard Isaac talking to Esau and rushed to tell her favorite son Jacob. She said to Jacob, "Your father is about to give Esau his blessing and I want you to have it instead. You need to go get two of our goats and bring them to me, I will prepare them just the way Isaac likes it. Then you can take it to him and he will give you the blessing instead."

Jacob replied, "But mom, Esau is a hairy man. What if dad touches me and realizes that I'm tricking him?"

His mother said to him, "Don't worry you can wear Esau's clothes and we'll put the goat hair on your hands and neck so he'll never know."

So they did just that and Jacob went to see his father pretending to be Esau.

"Hello father," Jacob said.

"Hello, and who is this?" His father asked.

"It is me, Esau. I have brought you the food you wanted so that you can give me my blessing." Jacob lied.

"Come closer so I can touch you and know that you are really my oldest son Esau," said his father.

So Jacob went to Isaac and he felt his hands and said, "You sound just like Jacob but your hands are just like Esau. Are you really Esau?"

And Jacob chose to lie again, "I am."

So Isaac ate and when he was finished, he asked, "Come and kiss me." When Jacob went to kiss him, Isaac smelled the clothes he was wearing just to make sure it smelled like Esau. Since Jacob was wearing Esau's clothes his father believed that he was with Esau and he gave the blessing to Jacob.

Just as Jacob finished getting the blessing he thought he heard Esau coming so he quickly snuck out the back of the tent. Just as he was walking away Esau entered the tent with the food he had prepared for his father.

His father asked, "Who are you?"

"It's me, your son Esau. I'm here to get my blessing," said Esau confused.

"I just gave you your blessing." And Isaac started to realize he had been tricked just like he thought. Esau started crying and yelling, "Bless me too father!"

"There is no blessing left," said his father sadly.

Esau was very upset with his brother Jacob for what he had done, so Jacob had to run away so he would be safe.

\*

After Jacob ran away he was tricked, just like he tricked his father. He had to wait seven years before he could be with the woman he wanted to marry then he was tricked with the wrong woman!

What a story! Both brothers did things that they shouldn't have, and made bad choices that they couldn't change. Be careful with the choices that you make, you never know how they will change your life later on.



**Parents please enjoy a date night on Valentine's Day, as we babysit and entertain the kids for you while you enjoy an evening out.**

***Friday, February 14th from 6:00pm-8:00pm***



*(On this page you will find a report written for our annual charge conference.)*

## New Hope Charge Conference 2019 Administrative & Communications Report

During the past year, we have continued to work to move New Hope UMC forward, to expand our communications within our congregation and community.

### Visual & Audio Communications

We continue to create PowerPoint videos every week, to announce and remind the congregation of weekly and monthly upcoming events, activities and meetings. These videos are shown before Worship service each Sunday morning in the Sanctuary and they are also displayed in the Narthex. We have found new ways to utilize our sound system in our social hall and look forward to utilizing that feature further to enhance our upcoming events.

We make DVD copies of our past sermons and special worship services upon request. And we continue to move closer to getting our new church's website up and running; where we will post past sermons online for people to watch and share with others who are not able to get to our church on Sunday mornings.

### Church Bulletins and Newsletter

We have continued our weekly Sunday Morning Worship bulletins with the order of service, acknowledgment of servers and special event announcements. When necessary we produce a bulletin with the order of services for any special services or events that we host. We also continue to make available children's bulletins, so that our young people can be stimulated with the word of God through coloring pages, puzzles and word games.

Our monthly church newsletter, called The Hilltopper, continues to be produced every month. This newsletter highlights all of our upcoming events, reviews the past month's activities with pictures and stats, highlights church business, provides inspirational articles, Christian jokes, a kid's corner with a biblically-themed coloring page *and much more!* It is available to folks in both an online format and also in a printed version. We also mail them out to people upon request.

### Upcoming Events

At the beginning of each month, we produce and distribute an *Upcoming Events* flyer, to help our church family stay up-to-date on all of our church's activities, meetings and events that are coming up each month. Our church family members can attach this flyer to their refrigerators, so that they are never too far away from knowing what is going on at our church each day of the week.

### Social Media

During this past year, we have also stepped up our social media presence on facebook, (adding approximately 200 followers in the last year and a half), so that we can stay connected with people when we have special outreach events within our community. We also utilize facebook to help remind our congregation of upcoming meetings and activities happening at our church. Whenever we have a special event or special presentation, we post pictures and/or videos of these events on our facebook page, so that people can relive the experience. Or for those who aren't able to attend the event, they can see everything that is happening here at New Hope UMC.

Currently, we are in the very beginning stages of developing a strong presence on Instagram. We feel as though our outreach through Instagram may be a good way to stay connected with our youth and young adults, as they have tended to gravitate towards this particular social media forum.

### Website

I have worked over the past year to rebuild our new church website from scratch. Our goal is to go live with our new website by the early part of November 2019. Our new website will be a place for people to go, so that they can learn about New Hope UMC at-a-glance. They can learn about who we are, our history, what we do, and they can get a good sense of how mission-oriented we are here at New Hope UMC.

### Equipping Vital Congregations

This year, I continue to input the requested information about our weekly attendance, bible study attendance, Sunday school attendance, weekly tithing and other information into the EVC database, so that we can have a more accurate account of our church's vitality and growth.

### Church Directory

In 2020, we will focus our attention on updating our church directory with new pictures and updated contact information. In the past few years, we have had a good number of new people come into our congregation, so the need for an updated church directory is becoming more and more necessary.

### Into the Future

New Hope UMC continues to work to improve our administrative, communications, outreach and ministerial efforts, to reach out to the people within our congregation and within our local communities; so that we can continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sheets  
New Hope United Methodist Church  
Administrator & Communications Committee Chairperson

+++++



On Saturday, February 22nd from 9:30am-12:00pm we will have a Church-Wide Clean-Up

Everyone is invited to attend to help us. Please remember.....

***Many Hands Make Light Work!***



# From Pastor Mike's Desk

February 2020



I just can't get that image out of my mind.

A few weeks ago, I was standing in the checkout line at Wal-Mart. Things were moving slowly, and I was getting somewhat impatient. Then I noticed a child in the seat of the shopping cart in front of me.

He was a cute little boy and looked to be about 18 months old. Like many toddlers his age who are dragged along on shopping trips with their parents, he was restless and wanted out

of his seat. So, he squirmed a little bit and expressed his displeasure to his mother.

He didn't give out a loud scream. It was more a cry of frustration from a child who was bored, hungry, or tired. I empathized with his mom and remembered similar times with my own children. I would try to distract Michelle or Rachel with a box of animal crackers. Sometimes I brought along a small toy for them to hold during situations just like these.

The child's frustration was growing. His mom mostly ignored him until she'd had enough and said to the child, "You've done it now. I'm going to get the belt."

The child was not old enough to talk but he obviously knew what those words meant, and his anxiety grew. Threatened with a spanking, his behavior worsened. And as things escalated, his mom kept repeating, "I'm going to get the belt."

I could understand the mother's frustration, but the child was just being a normal toddler who could not tell his mom exactly what he wanted or how he was feeling. How could she possibly hope to calm down this child by threatening him with a belt.

Another woman with the child and mother happened to his Grandma. At one point the mom said to the child, "Grandma's going out to the car to get the belt." I hoped that Grandma would step in and be the voice of reason and reassure the child but instead Grandma chimed in, "That's right. I'm going to get the belt."

And on and on this went until they left the store. As they rolled their cart out into the parking lot, I wondered if a beating with a belt was in that boy's immediate future. I'd like to believe that the "belt" that awaited the child was nothing more than hollow words spoken by a frustrated and overburdened mother. I will never know for certain.

When a child becomes accustomed to hearing harsh words rather than feeling love, when threats become a substitute for human care and concern, that child grows up missing something important in his or her life. What's missing is the stability of a life grounded in love.

There are times when a parent must be firm with a child and occasions when discipline must be handed out. Parenting is a tough job, but threats disguised as discipline only serve to frighten a child when loving reassurance is needed.

I believe that is the way God chooses to be in relationship with us. My relationship with Jesus Christ is a "Blessed Assurance." I hope that young boy will grow to experience that assurance in his life as well.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Mike*



***If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper, please contact us!***

**Call/Text: (540) 280-1860 or [NewHopeUMC.Virginia@gmail.com](mailto:NewHopeUMC.Virginia@gmail.com)**

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