

From Pastor Mike

Dear Beloved Congregation,

As I write this final newsletter article, my heart is full of memories and emotions. Five years ago, I joined you as your pastor, eager to serve, grow, and journey together in faith. Little did we know the challenges and triumphs that lay ahead. Together, we navigated the tumultuous waters of the pandemic, which tested our resilience, faith, and ability to adapt. We learned new ways to connect, worship, and support one another, proving that the Church is not just a building, but a community bound by love and faith.

One of our most significant moments was our year-long discernment process, culminating in the decision to remain a United Methodist Congregation. This decision reflected our collective commitment to our shared beliefs and values. It was a period marked by prayer, deep conversation, and an acknowledgment that this church was divided on the full inclusion of all people concerning human sexuality.

In the end, most chose to remain in the body of Christ at New Hope. Some decided they had to leave our fellowship. We wished them well, but we still love them and miss them. After everything, a renewed spirit has emerged. God is with us.

Throughout these years, we have laughed together in times of joy, served side by side in acts of compassion, and shed tears in moments of sorrow. Whether celebrating baptisms, weddings, or simply the everyday moments of life, we have embodied what it means to be the Body of Christ, standing tall in faith and love.

As I prepare to say goodbye, I am filled with gratitude for each of you. Your support, encouragement, and unwavering faith have been a constant source of strength for me. I am proud of all we have accomplished together and confident that New Hope United Methodist Church will continue to flourish under the leadership of your new pastor, Rev. HK Kim.

Transition can be bittersweet but is also a time of new beginnings. I am reminded of these words of blessing from the Book of Common Prayer:

“Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render no man evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.”

As I step into a new chapter, I take these words with me, knowing that God's grace and the lessons learned here will guide me forward.

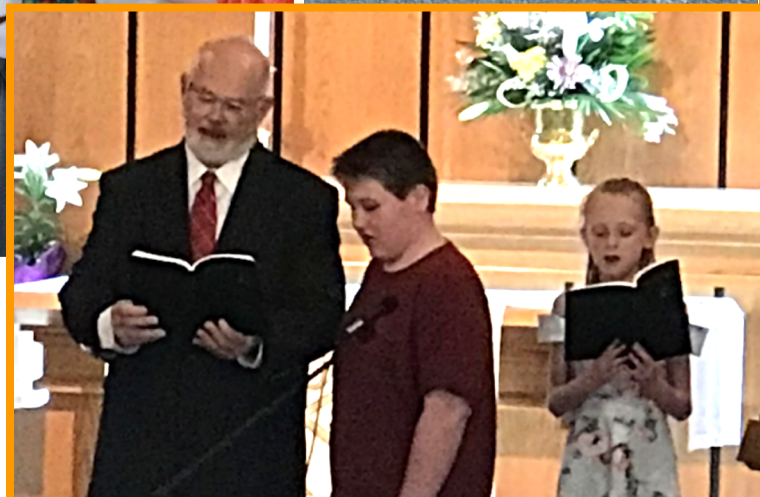
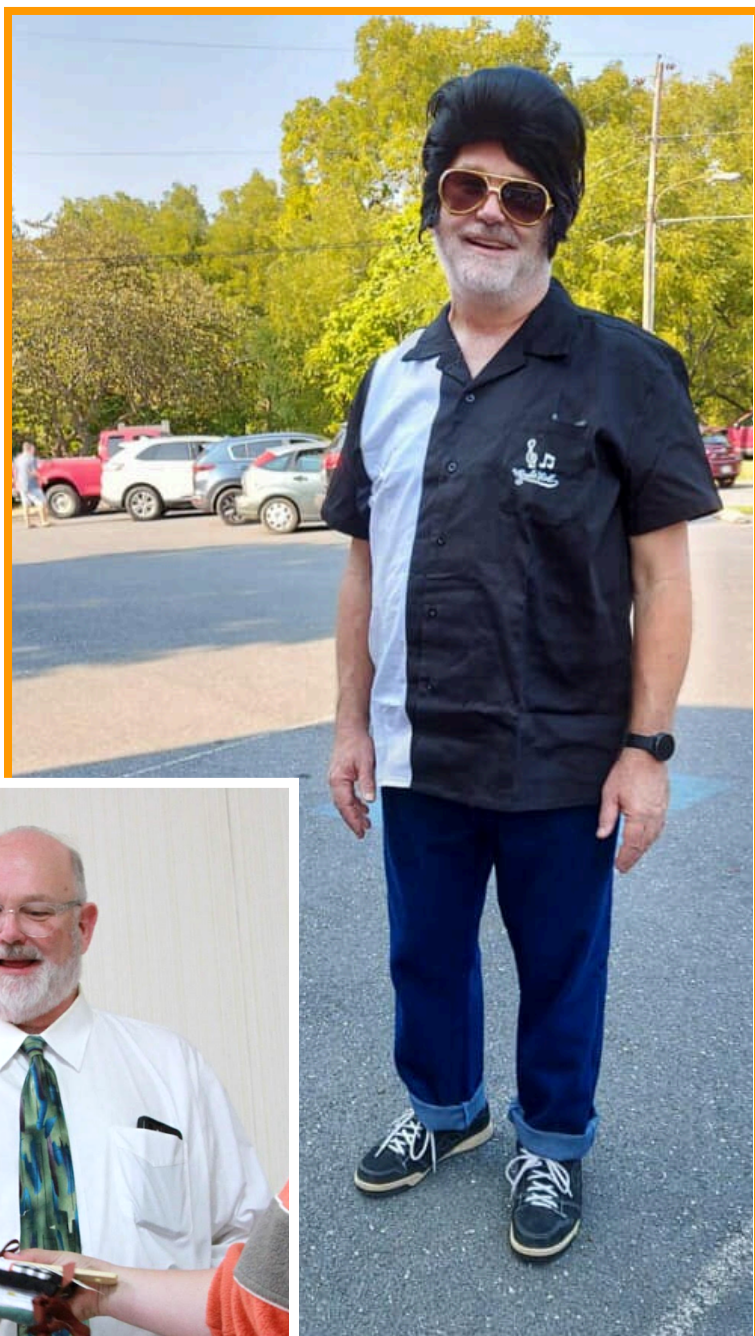
I leave you with a heart full of love and a prayer for your continued growth in faith. May you embrace Rev. HK Kim with the same warmth and openness you extended to me. May your journey together be rich with blessings, and may New Hope continue to be a beacon of light and love in this community.

Thank you, from the depths of my heart, for allowing me to be part of your lives and for the privilege of serving as your pastor. Though our paths may diverge, we remain united in Christ's love.

With deep affection and gratitude,

Pastor Mike

Thank You Pastor Mike - For Everything!

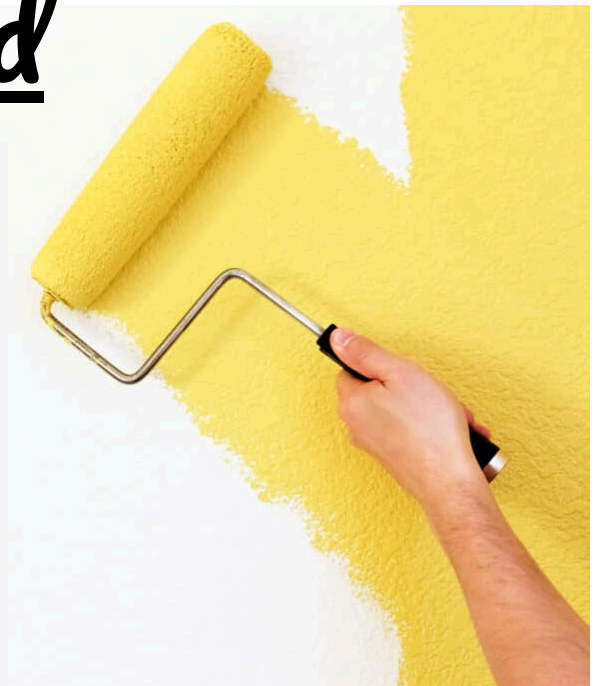




To honor Pastor Mike
we will have a picnic
following worship service on
Sunday June 23rd.

Hot dogs and hamburgers
along with all the fixings and
drinks and all paper products
will be furnished. Please
bring a vegetable, salad,
fruit or dessert to share.

Painters Needed



Painters needed June 19th - June 22nd to help paint the
interior of the parsonage before Pastor HK comes to town.
If you have any questions, please see Sandy Wyrick.



The following are the minutes from the **MAY** meeting of the Administrative Church Council.

The minutes are available to help the entire church family *stay in the know* about how this group is caring for New Hope UMC!

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes - May 23, 2024

Present: Becky Breeding, Alicia Copeland, Cindy Deavers, Wanda Harding, Beth Howdyshell, Linda Howdyshell, Laura Jenner, Corey Johnson, Bill Lalla, Susan Mehler, Pastor Mike, Cindy Sheets, Karen Whitmer and Sandy Wyrick.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Becky Breeding, and Linda read a devotion and prayed.

Sandy made a motion to accept the minutes to last month's meeting, Karen seconded it and it was passed.

Finance / Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- Since the last council meeting, Cindy D. has sent a check to Weekday Religious Education (WRE) in the amount of \$2500. The dividends received in the gift and memorial fund in the amount of \$1,803.31 and \$696.69 from the local missions fund were used as agreed. (balance sheet will need to be updated)
- The District apportionments have been paid in full. As previously discussed in the last meeting Cindy D. would like to proceed to make a payment for the clergy health (retired and active) in the amount of \$1,767. Cindy D. does not believe this is a problem at this time.
- We collected \$2,367 on the night of the Tenderloin Fundraiser and received additional contributions of \$65. The reimbursements that have been made total \$382.01. Net proceeds as of this date for the fundraiser is \$2,049.99. This money has been deposited in the money market account and are part of the non-designated funds in the gift and memorial fund.
- The proceeds from the Tenderloin Fundraiser will be used to pay the District Missions Asking and make the \$1,767 Retired and Active Clergy Health payment. Cindy D. made a motion to do this and Bill seconded it and it was passed.

- The monthly payroll has not been recorded as of this date. The amount to be disbursed will be approximately \$7,244 which includes the lawn service, accompanist, employer match on social security, medicare, church's contribution for the pastor health benefits, and the monthly salaries for staff.
- Insurance is coming due on July 1st.

Tenderloin Fundraiser: *(Beth Howdyshell reported)*

- The fundraiser was very successful, with very high praise for the food. We feel like we can do more in the future. Maybe BBQ Tenderloin sandwiches in the future.
- September 28th - 50's Drive-In coming up and hopefully we can bring in money from that.
- In discussions to possibly do some kind of Oyster Dinner this year in the Fall. Would probably have to sell tickets, maybe about 200 tickets or so. Tickets would be around \$25 each, we would serve the people, not help-yourself style. Would offer dine-in and take-out, as about 75% of the profits from the tenderloin dinner was from take-out. Looking to hold this Oyster Fundraiser on November 9th. This gives us a lot to think about and discuss.
- We will be getting a new stove for the kitchen from Cavalier Equipment.

Pastor Mike: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- We are in need of several positions including: Finance Chair, 2 Trustee positions needed, and several positions on the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Nominating Committees. Pastor Mike is trying to fill as many of these positions as possible, so that Pastor HK can come in with full committees ready to go.
- Pastor Mike encouraged all of us to be patient with each other and not to wear ourselves out.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: *(Sandy Wyrick reported)*

- The SPRC decided to eliminate the Choir Director position, in order to increase the piano accompanist's position salary, with the hopes of getting more people to apply for the position. They are having trouble finding people who want to play piano in a church. There was one prospect, but he hasn't gotten back with us yet.
- On June 12th at 7pm, we will have a special Charge Conference via Zoom. This is necessary everytime we get a new pastor. All members of the church council and anyone else who wishes are invited to attend. In part, we will be discussing and agreeing to Pastor HK Kim's salary of \$46,000 per year.

- We will have 4 days to paint the interior of the parsonage - July 19th-June 22nd. The porch and downstairs bathroom will be done by then. We are in need of anyone who wants to help us paint during that time.
- A new stove for the parsonage will not be needed at this time.
- We will need to move out and store some of the rugs and dining room furniture from the parsonage.
- Pastor HK has gotten quotes from moving companies that range from \$600-\$800.
- On June 26th, Pastor HK will be coming to clean the parsonage, and on June 29th around 3pm-4pm, they will be arriving to move in.
- We will be having a Going Away Picnic for Pastor Mike on Sunday, June 23rd after worship. And we will have a Welcome Reception, with light refreshments, on Sunday, June 30th after worship for Pastor HK and Sarah. Becky Breeding agreed to take the lead on these two events and get help with them. Beth Howdysshell will also help with the food. The United Methodist Men will cook the hot dogs for Pastor Mike's picnic and there will be a covered dish for other items that day.

Trustees: *(Corey Johnson reported)*

- The parsonage's porch will be getting cleaned and painted before Pastor HK moves in.
- Also on June 19th, June 20th, June 21st and June 22nd, the inside of the parsonage will be getting painted. Any and all help will be appreciated.
- They have moved the cemetery fund money from a CD at Dupont Community Credit Union to Middlebrook Finance Money Market, another type of investment fund at Dupont Community Credit Union, due to better returns.
- The last pew in the church will be removed, due to it being a trip hazard.

United Methodist Women: *(Wanda Harding reported)*

- No women's meetings in June and July.

Lay Leader: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

- We are averaging 43 people each Sunday for worship, which is a solid core of people to work from.
- Bill Lalla will be going to annual conference this year.

United Methodist Men: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

- UMM was asked by the ladies of the church to fund, or assist in funding a new stove to replace the existing gas stove. We will be glad to help with this project, but If we were to fund the stove by ourselves, it would leave us with very little in our treasury as we have several other projects on the horizon. We, however, are able to front the entire cost if that is necessary.
- The men have chosen the week of June 1st to have a Saturday morning spring outdoor clean up, I.e. picking up sticks, pruning shrubs, pulling weeds, replacing much, etc.
- The men have also agreed to help with the carry in picnic for Mike including hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, and soft drinks.
- May was our last official meeting until September.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer reported)*

- Of all the people who have left our church in the recent past, only one couple have rescinded their membership. Which bears the question: 'Are they finding what they are needing in the wilderness?'

Communications: *(Cindy Sheets reported)*

- Working on updating the church website.
- Making instructions for the a/v room

Programming:

- Cindy Sheets brought up the idea of continuing with Vacation Bible School this summer, possibly in July or later in the summer. There was some discussion, then Sandy made a motion not to have VBS this year with everything else going on (trying to move one minister in and one minister out, etc.), Karen seconded it and it was passed.
- Hosting The Dunns again this year was brought up, it was decided that we will bring that back up when Pastor HK is settled, as he may have some new ideas about musician groups, etc. coming into our church.

Unfinished Business:

- No unfinished business

New Business:

- The next meeting will be Thursday June 27th, starting at 6:30pm.

We gathered in a circle together and Becky thanked Alicia for all of her hard work in our music ministry over these past six years. Becky also noted that this was Pastor Mike's last church council with us here at New Hope UMC. She thanked Pastor Mike for everything he has done for us and for seeing us through some unprecedented times in our church's history. Pastor Mike thanked everyone for all they have done over these past years in helping keep the church going through it all.

Pastor Mike dismissed us with a prayer. The meeting went from 6:28pm-7:49pm

Respectfully submitted by:
Cynthia Sheets
Recording Secretary

The next council meeting will be Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 6:30pm



Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...

4 ~ Sabrina Belsky
7 ~ Jack & Joetta Walker ❤️
11 ~ Kenny & Carolyn Fretwell ❤️
12 ~ Abby Mize
12 ~ Broc Powell
14 ~ Laniece Humphries
14 ~ Kaylee McLaren


15 ~ Teresa Barr
15 ~ Ruth Wampler
17 ~ Rob & Judy Riner ❤️
19 ~ Addie Van Lear
21 ~ Fred & Julia Arndt ❤️
24 ~ Katie Harding Toole
28 ~ Lacey Miller



SPECIAL CALLED
CHURCH
CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, June 12th, 2024, at 7:00pm there will be a Special Called Charge Conference via Zoom to approve the salary of our new pastor, beginning July 1st. This Zoom should take no longer than 15 minutes.

All members of the church council are members of the charge conference. We will send the Zoom link to the charge conference members on June 11th. If you have any questions, please see Sandy Wyrick or Pastor Mike



*He who began a
good work in
you will
continue to
perfect it until
the day of
Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 1:6 BSB

Just a Weedin'

Thanks to everyone who came out to help weed and plant flowers around the church over the Memorial Day weekend. We appreciate you helping to make our church more beautiful! Be sure to ask these folks about the new song they wrote: ***"We Hate Weeds! We Love God!"***



Our current and future pastors' messages shared with the congregation on April 21st



Dear Friends in Christ,

I come before you with a heart full of gratitude and a message of transition. After nearly five years of serving as your pastor and many shared experiences here at New Hope UMC, the Bishop and the Cabinet have appointed me to Vision of Hope in Harrisonburg effective on Noon, Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

New pastoral leadership can bring fresh perspectives and new energy. While I deeply love this church and all of you, it is time for me to step into a new appointment and for New Hope to welcome a pastor with different abilities and ideas who can lead this church into its next chapter.

I am profoundly thankful for the time we have spent together, for your support, and for the love we have shared. As we prepare for this transition, I ask for your prayers for both our denomination, this body of Christ, and my family as we follow God's calling to new opportunities of service and ministry.

In the weeks ahead, I look forward to continuing our worship and work together, cherishing each moment as we prepare to embrace

the future with hope and faith. I will work hard to provide your new pastor with the information he will need to hit the ground running. And I will miss you more than you can know.

You have been so kind and affirming to me these five years. You have taught me a lot. You put up with me when I was losing my mind during the disaffiliation process.

May God bless each of you and New Hope UMC as we continue to serve in God's grace.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mike

Hello New Hope United Methodist Church!

I'm Pastor HK, and my wife Sarah and I are excited to be part of this amazing community starting in July. I want to express gratitude to Pastor Mike and his leadership who helped nurture this church and blessings for the new season that awaits him. I am excited to witness what God has in store for us as we enter into this new season as a body of Christ. I pray and hope that we will be the church that God has called us to be and worship the Lord in Spirit and truth. Looking forward to meeting everyone soon!

Blessings,
Rev. HK Kim



Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

June 2024

Saturday, June 1 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am
~ United Methodist Men Workday @ 9:00am

Sunday, June 2 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am
~ Sunday Morning Worship and Holy Communion @ 10:30am

Thursday, June 6 ~ Junior Choir Practice @ 6:00pm

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

Sunday, June 9 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, June 12 ~ Special Called Charge Conference (via Zoom) @ 7:00pm

Thursday, June 13 ~ Junior Choir Practice @ 6:00pm

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

Sunday, June 16 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am - Father's Day

Tuesday, June 18 ~ Virginia Primary Election - All Day

Wednesday, June 19 ~ Painting at the Parsonage
~ Annual Conference starts (through Saturday, June 2nd)

Thursday, June 20 ~ Painting at the Parsonage
~ Junior Choir Practice @ 6:00pm

Friday, June 21 ~ Painting at the Parsonage

Saturday, June 22 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am
~ Painting at the Parsonage

Sunday, June 23 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am - Pastor Mike's last day with us
~ Church Picnic to honor Pastor Mike - @ 12:00pm

Thursday, June 27 ~ Administrative Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

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

Sunday, June 30 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am - Pastor HK's first day with us
~ Welcome Reception to welcome Pastor HK and Sarah - after worship

): Goodbyes and Hello :)

by: Cynthia Sheets

goodbye... a word that can have a negative feel to it. Goodbye is a word that I have come all too familiar with these past three years. I hate the word now. I usually don't say it, I normally say "See you later." Mainly because goodbye can seem so permanent.

I've said way too many goodbyes lately, starting just a few years ago with my mom's passing. Then my church family started to quickly disperse, then my beloved old cat passed away, now a co-worker's May retirement, and more of my church family leaving. It's just been awful!

And now one more Awful Goodbye! Pastor Mike is leaving us this month for another appointment. 😞 More tears, more sorrow, more goodbyes.

But, I keep being reminded of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-10

*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away;
a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.*

Maybe all of this awfulness that has happened, was meant to be. Maybe it's just a moment in time to allow more growth for me personally, and more growth for our church as a whole. The flower with seeds that have been scattered in the wind, deadheaded by the rain, will lift its head to the light and will bloom once again brighter and stronger than before.

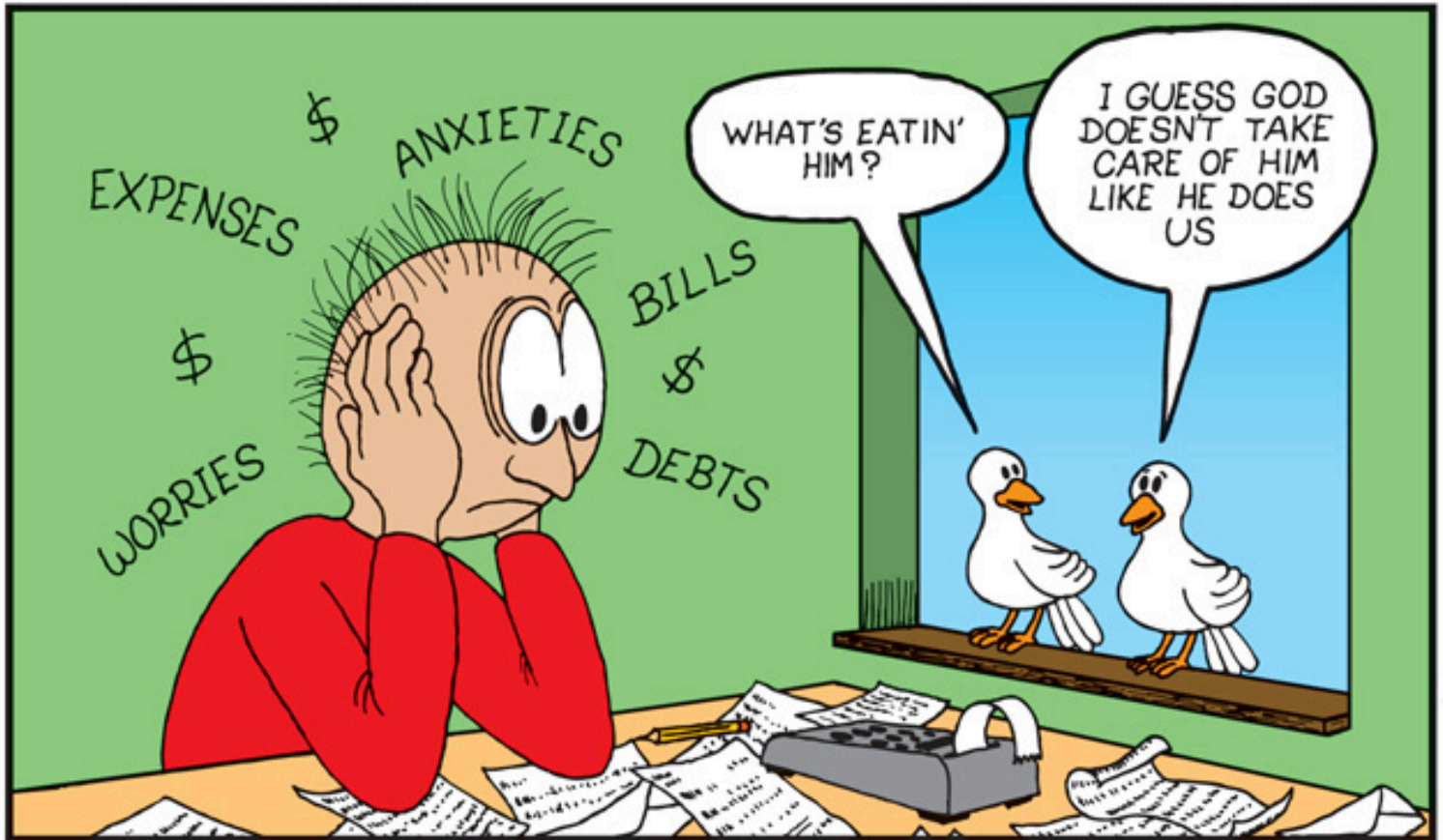
I am ready for new growth, for renewal, for the light, for new opportunities, for the spirit to fill me anew!

And so with that, I plan to say *goodbye* one last time. Goodbye to all the negativity, goodbye to all the darkness, goodbye to all the sadness, goodbye to all the tears, goodbye to all the worries, the fear and the anger that have been such a stronghold in my life for so many years now.

It's time for joy again, it's time for happiness again, it's time for positivity again, it's time for the light to shine again! So now to Pastor HK and Sarah; with a new hope, a renewed energy, renewed in spirit by the Lord and by my remaining church family... I welcome the future with a smile on my face and I say.... **HELLO!** 😊

DON'T WORRY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

– MATTHEW 6:26–27 NIV

***If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper,
please contact us! Call/Text: (540) 280-1860 or email***

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