

# ***New Hope United Methodist Church's Monthly Newsletter***

## **The Hilltopper**



**September 2022**

### ***From Pastor Mike***

*"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands – O prosper the work of our hands!" (Psalm 90:17 NRSV).*

Signs are all around that we are moving back to where things are starting to look familiar. On a recent Friday night, Susan and I went to eat at a restaurant in downtown Staunton. The restaurant was mostly full which three years ago would have been a given for this establishment.

A few weeks ago, we went to see a movie in a theater for the first time in nearly three years. We also traveled to Maryland to handle some family business and we met my brother-in-law and my niece for dinner at a popular local restaurant. Our niece, Jessica, is a senior at the University of Maryland and we have missed out on much of her life since she graduated from high school.

Many of you have shared your summer vacation pictures on social media. So many happy, smiling faces show how much we need to be with those we love.

Movies, restaurants, and travel – so many things to catch up on. Each experience feels like getting back on the bike after years of inactivity or neglect.

While COVID infections remain high in our area, hospitalizations are not pushing our health care system into a crisis. Please continue to pray for our healthcare workers and our hospitals.

The vaccines along with those previously infected have us in a better place than we were before. There are fewer disruptions to daily life. Most people seem ready to get back out there and relearn how to be in community with our family, neighbors, and friends.

After three years, New Hope UMC is bringing back the 50's Drive-In. There is a lot of excitement in the church just as there was for Vacation Bible School in July. Three years is a long time ago and our memories are not always reliable. Questions need asking. Memories need refreshing. Adjustments will be made.

My thanks to Cindy Sheets for grabbing the lead on this but Cindy has a lot of help and could use more. I hope you will take this opportunity to be involved in the 50's Drive-In. This is an important event that reaches out to the community and lets folks know who we are as a Body of Christ. It is also a time for fun. It is a time to show extravagant hospitality to our neighbors. Let's put on our best faces and renew those ties.

Sign up to purchase supplies. Volunteer to help set up, serve, or clean up. Ladies, get out your poodle skirts. Gentleman, grow out your 50's hairstyle (or buy an Elvis wig). Come have a blast, see all the cool classic cars, and enjoy your favorite drive-in foods with a friend or two as we travel back in time for a few hours.

Finally, pray for our Confirmation Class which begins on Sunday, September 18. The deadline for applications has been extended to Monday, September 5. Send me an email or call and let me know of your interest. Any youth aged 12 – 18 who has not been through confirmation can register.

So much happening at New Hope UMC heading into September! Let's take this journey together because we need each other. As the old saying goes, many hands make light work. We are at our best when we choose to work together.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Mike*

# 50's Night Drive-In Returns!

Saturday, September 17th

4pm-7pm



*Hey Daddy-O,  
Don't Be A  
Wet Rag!*



Plan now to  
join us for our  
50's Drive-In  
at New Hope UMC!



Burn rubber and  
make your way  
down here on  
Saturday,  
September 17th  
for some 1950's  
style eats and treats!



*You'll have it made in the shade!*

*And all profits will go towards youth mission projects!*



The following are the minutes from the **AUGUST** 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 - August 25, 2022**

Present: Andy Breeding, Alicia Copeland, Cindy Deavers, Pastor Mike, Cindy Sheets, Jennifer Strother, Dallas Van Lear, and Karen Whitmer.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Dallas Van Lear. And Cindy Deavers read devotions from "Jesus First" from John 13:15.

The minutes from the July meeting were accepted as distributed.

### **Finance Report:** *(report from Kevin Armstrong)*

- We can make our normal abbreviated apportionment payment for this month.
- The 2023 budget has been assembled with the exception of the apportionment section. If you have any late request please forward them to Kevin asap, they will need to be approved at the September Council meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report:** *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- All giving has been recorded as of this date.
- Payroll will still need to be done and there are sufficient funds to make the monthly apportionment payment.

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

- There will be a meeting on Tuesday, September 13th.

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

- Planning to have 2-4 students in Confirmation Classes this year. September 11th will be an orientation lunch after worship. Sunday, November 20th will be Confirmation Sunday.
- Thursday, September 29th will be the Nominations Committee Meeting
- Charge Conference will be Sunday, November 6th @ 3pm.

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

- All Saint's Day will be November 6th
- Veteran's Day will be November 13th, and The Dunns will also be here to perform on this day.
- Pastor Mike will be working to set up the Worship Committee again for next year.

### **United Methodist Men:** *(Dallas Van Lear reported)*

- The UMM served the VBS picnic.
- They will have their next meeting on September 15th
- There will also be a church-wide clean up day on September 10th.

### **United Methodist Women:** *(report from Wanda Harding)*

- The UMW met on Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. The members agreed to become an inactive unit with the new South River District UMW & Virginia Conference UMW. We will continue with our commitments for the remainder of fiscal year that ends on September 30, 2022. All contributions need to be sent to Pat Ewers by August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- New Hope UMW will sponsor special women's events and support local ministries and missions through our three circles. Our circles will continue to meet on a regular basis and make decisions regarding participation in local ministries and missions on individual circle discernment.

- Circle meetings scheduled for September. The meetings will be held in the Social Hall.  
     Circle of Hope ~ September 5th at 7:00pm  
     Sisters of Faith ~ September 6th at 1:30pm  
     Circle of Love ~ September 13th at 7:00pm
- The first special women's event open to All ladies will be a Women's Bible Study tentatively scheduled to begin Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 5 pm. More details and sign up information will be forthcoming.

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

- They met on August 9th and discussed salaries for 2023.
- During the church council meeting, staff members were excused and the final salaries were voted upon by remaining members.

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

- Jennifer has agreed to stay on as our lay leader for one more year, unless someone steps forward with interest in stepping into the role.

### **Communications:** *(Cindy Sheets reported)*

- Jeff Hite is looking into getting our TV Monitor in the Nursery working properly again.
- The copier in the office has had a small piece broken off of it and we need to call SVOE to have it looked at and fixed.
- Pastor Mike stated that he was able to print a test page on the black printer in the church office. He and Cindy S. will get together to see if a page can be printed successfully from the computer.
- Cindy Deavers stated that the printer used by the finance committee is not working properly. It seems not to be connected to the finance computer. We will look into this as well.
- 50's Drive-In is on track as well as it can be.

### **New Business:**

- Alicia requested that on Sunday, October 29th, that we use that day to restart our 5th Sunday Luncheons. Dallas and Mike suggested that we explore that possibility. Pastor Mike suggested that we move this to Sunday, November 13th when The Dunns will be here.

- Cindy Deavers raised the concern about leaders of the church. That maybe we should have some type of training event or retreat to help them understand what is expected of them. Jennifer suggested that maybe we have an anointing ceremony during church one Sunday, to acknowledge these people and bless these leaders.
- Cindy Sheets stated that she will once again make a list of officers and committee members for 2023, for anyone who wants to pick up a copy for their records.

Dallas Van Lear ended the meeting by thanking us for coming. Mike prayed and the meeting ended at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Cynthia Sheets  
Recording Secretary



On Saturday, September 10th, New Hope UMC will be hosting one of the rest stations for the 100+ bicyclists that are participating in the Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes fundraiser.

This is a charity bicycle ride to raise money for the Boulder Crest Retreat, a therapeutic and wellness center in Bluemont, VA that is dedicated to helping America's combat veterans and their families by enabling them to learn to deal with the stresses and trauma of their combat experiences.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the program, please stop by New Hope UMC on

September 10th from 8:00am-12:00pm. Or see Martha Fretwell or Cindy Sheets.

For more information on this organization; please contact: (540) 324-3310 or (540) 290 2275. [facebook.com/valleyveteransrideforheroes](https://facebook.com/valleyveteransrideforheroes)

## **Confirmation Class at New Hope UMC Coming September 2022**



### **Be Confirmed in your Faith**

Confirmation is a program for students in grades 6 -12 who wish to be confirmed in the United Methodist Church. The program is designed to study the beliefs of the United Methodist Church as well as to dive deep into what it means to be a Christian. Upon completion, students will have the opportunity to stand before the congregation and proclaim their faith and their commitment to New Hope UMC.

### **What does Confirmation look like?**

At New Hope UMC, confirmands will meet once a week from September through November for 8 weeks. We will meet on Sunday mornings during Sunday School. The class is taught by Pastor Mike to help the students understand and grasp the key elements of their faith as Christians, as well as basic United Methodist theology.

### **When is Confirmation?**

Confirmation will begin on Sunday, September 11, 2022, with a meeting of all confirmation students and their families after worship. Our first class will be held on Sunday, September 18th during the Sunday School hour. Confirmation Sunday will be November 20th, 2022.

### **What is Confirmation?**

Although confirmation is not a sacrament in The United Methodist Church, it is an important marker along our spiritual journeys. At baptism, we are initiated into the new covenant in Jesus Christ and membership in the Church, Christ's body in the world. For many, this happens when they are very young.

We recognize children are members of their families, but no one expects them to clean their rooms or empty the dishwasher until much later. In the same way, "baptized infants are members of the Church—the family of faith—but are not yet capable of sharing everything involved in membership."

Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith. "What God offers us must be accepted in repentance and faith...confirmation and reaffirmation are our responses of commitment, a profession of faith, and rededication."

### ***It's Not Too Late To Register!***

Parents should encourage their children to register for Confirmation Class. Registration forms will be available at the information table in the Narthex.



# OUTREACH

SHARE GOD'S LOVE

We wanted to take the opportunity to share about two of our church family's outreach ministries that they have created online.

For about a year now, Jennifer Strother has been posting daily devotionals on facebook. Her devotionals are informative and inspirational. You can find her page by clicking on the following link: [Where He Leads Me](#)

And Nathan Kutz has recently started a new youtube ministry. Anyone can find inspiration in the videos, even with his mission of bringing more men to God. You can find his page by clicking on the following click: [Blue Collar Bible Man](#)

If you have not already done so, please support our brother and sister in Christ, by going online and liking, subscribing and commenting on their pages. It is important that we are all working to reach out to others to share the good news of Christ, and supporting each other along the way.

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*The Dunns*

*Sunday, November 13th @ 10:30am*



# AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha

23



"Mom, I think Dad is taking the day of rest a little too far!"

**What's a miracle that can be done by a complainer?**

*Turning anything into whine.*

**Why did Adam and Eve do math every day?**

*They were told to be fruitful and multiply.*

**When someone needed a boat made, what did the people in town say?**

*"We Noah guy."*

# Just for Laughs

**What did Daniel tell his real estate agent?**

*"I'd prefer a house with no den."*

**Who in the Bible knew the most people?**

*Abraham knew a Lot.*

**What did Adam say to Eve when handing her something to wear?**

*"Take it or leaf it."*

**What did the lawyer ask when someone started talking about God's will?**

*"Was it notarized?"*

# CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



**"PLEASE REMAIN CALM, TRADITIONAL MUSIC WILL RESUME MOMENTARILY."**

## **Do You Love The Lord your God?**

“One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which command is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, teacher. You have correctly said that he is one, and there is no one else except him. And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared to question him any longer.” Mark 12:28-34 CSB

This thought has been on my heart for quite a while now. In my personal bible studies, the more that I read, learn and feed my soul, I have asked myself this question. How much do I really love the Lord? I have repented of my sins, I've been baptized, I have the Holy Spirit, based on what the word says about the fruits of the Spirit. But how do people know that I love the Lord my God? I have genuinely questioned myself on this. Am I serious about our God and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ? I've recently been reading more in the Old Testament and I have a couple study tools that show connecting verses between the old and New Testament. After reading about how much God wants his people to love him, I have felt convicted. In this newsletter, I will share that conviction with you.

I encourage you to read Deuteronomy chapter 6. Not only does the Lord want us to love him and keep his commandments, but he wants us to teach our children and grandchildren. Even wanting his people to recite his words when we go to bed and when we get up in the morning. Jesus tells us in John 14 that if we love him we will keep his commandments and later to keep his word. He says another place in John that his words are what will judge us on judgment day. There are way too many scripture references to put into this newsletter. The overall point that I want to give here is to encourage all who read this now and later to rekindle the love in your heart for our Lord. In reading the 10 Commandments and more I've read the love and care that God has for us. Those and the moral law that he gives us are for our good. They are for our personal prosperity. They are for our safety. For our rest and for our well-being. He wants so badly to take care of and provide for us.

But he is also God, he is not a sweet old grandpa who gets taken advantage of by a family who doesn't care about him. Everything about him is righteous therefore when there is evil in this world or in us it is his responsibility to take care of it. If not then he is not just, and in actuality if he wants to let us do whatever we want, he really doesn't love us. Jesus Christ did not come and die for us so that we can continue in our sins and do damage to our soul and body. The Old and New Testaments are nothing but a story of God's eternal love, and the means and ways that he provides to love us and for us to love him. Because there is no evil in him and because he is the Almighty righteous one and only God, he also works justice. Jesus Christ came so that we would have grace for our sins. To continue sinning so that grace continues is disgraceful.

God wants us to walk in his righteousness. As Jesus said in the passage above the greatest commandment is that we would love the Lord our God with all of our heart, with all of our soul, and with all of our strength. The next is that we would love our neighbor as ourselves. And that truly is the summary of what God wants for us. And when we continue to go against those two things the only thing that prospers is sin, pain, hate, everything that is evil. I've never seen a time in our society where there is so much division, adversity, hate, and so much mean behavior in people. All of that is an abomination to the Lord our God. It is not what he wants. I know that none of us are perfect, and we all do sin no matter how hard we try not to. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. But by walking in his righteousness we show that we are saved. We keep the law of Christ. May we uphold his word. As a personal idea, maybe we should wake up each day imagining that Jesus was just crucified yesterday and it was because of what we did that day.

The world is in desperate need of real believers and God. The world needs people who desperately love the Lord their God with everything that they have. Those who love their neighbors as themselves. I know it's impossible for everyone on this planet to do that. I do believe if those of us who claim to be Christians do it first, we could bring some positive change. God bless you all and may at the end of every day you be found in Christ.

*Thank you and we pray that all of you are blessed, Cheryl & Nathan ~ Real Life Heavenly Hands*

# Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

## September 2022

### *\*Wednesday Evening Activities*

Children's Choir Practice @ 5:00pm  
HandBell Practice @ 5:30pm  
Sanctuary Choir Practice @ 6:45pm

Saturday, September 3 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, September 4 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am  
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Monday, September 5 ~ Circle of Hope @ 7:00pm

Tuesday, September 6 ~ Sisters of Faith @ 1:30pm

Wednesday, September 7 ~ *\*Wednesday Evening Activities*

Thursday, September 8 ~ Board of Trustees Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, September 10 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am  
~ Church Clean-up @ 8:00am-?  
~ Valley Bikers for Heroes 9:00am-3:00pm

Sunday, September 11 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am  
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am  
~ Confirmation Class Meet and Greet Luncheon - after worship

Tuesday, September 13 ~ Circle of Love @ 7:00pm

Wednesday, September 14 ~ *\*Wednesday Evening Activities*

Thursday, September 15 ~ United Methodist Men Meeting @ 6:30pm

Friday, September 16 ~ 50's Drive-In Set-Up and Decorate Pizza Party from 5:00pm-7:00pm

Saturday, September 17 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am  
~ 50's Drive-In from 4:00pm-7:00pm

Sunday, September 18 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am  
~ First Confirmation Class Begins @ 9:30am  
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, September 21 ~ *\*Wednesday Evening Activities*

Thursday, September 22 ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, September 24 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am


Sunday, September 25 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am  
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, September 28 ~ *\*Wednesday Evening Activities*

Thursday, September 29 ~ Nominations Committee Meeting @ 6:30pm



**1** - Cheryl Bragg

-  Kevin & Gail Armstrong

-  Carl & Polly Caricofe

**2** - Hunter Joyner


**3** - Nadine Hinebaugh

**7** -  William & Arlene Crist

**9** - Beth Howdyshell


**10** - Chris Botkin

- Lester Herman

-  Dallas & Pam VanLear

**11** - Steve Carter

- Brandan Whitmer

-  Mike & Becky Breeding

**12** - Terri Carter

- Christy Aldhizer

-  Jeff & Becky Kraisser

**14** - Judy Critzer


**15** - Barry Powers

**16** - Josh Walker

**17** - Thomas Ewers

**18** - Robert Morrison

- Roger Aldhizer

-  Greg & Jolene Farrar

**19** - Mia McLaughlin

**20** - Susie Hong


- Billy Price

**21** - Jacob Botkin

**22** - Michael Morris, Jr

**24** - Dawn Miller

- Dylan Anthony

-  Darryl & Cindy Deavers

**25** - Brandon White

- Betty Stout

**26** - Jim Joyner

**27** - Beth Breeding

**28** - Donna Walker

**30** - Martha Fretwell



# Kids' Corner - Jonah and the Big Fish

By: Sharla Guenther

*(Parents please feel free to print this page for your kids to color while you read them the story.)*



One day God asked a man named Jonah to go to a place called Nineveh and tell the people living there to stop being bad. The only problem was that Jonah didn't want to help the people there. He knew they were bad and he wanted them to be punished for their mistakes.

So instead of listening to God, Jonah thought he would run away from Nineveh and not do what God asked him. He ran to the sea where he found a ship that was going to another city. He paid the captain, went in the lower part of the boat and went to sleep.

Shortly after the boat left the shore, a very bad storm came up and started tossing the boat around. All the men were very afraid so they started to throw all their packages and bags overboard in hopes that they wouldn't drown.

The captain soon went to find Jonah who was still sound asleep in the boat. He said to Jonah, "How can you sleep? Get up and pray to your god, maybe he can help us!" The captain didn't realize that Jonah didn't just believe in any God but the one true God and that He could help them.

Meanwhile, the other sailors decided that the storm was Jonah's fault. He must have done something wrong to make his god so angry. So they asked Jonah, "What have you done? What god do you believe in? What can we do to make this storm stop?"

Jonah told them, "I believe in the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land and I am running away from something God asked me to do. It is my fault this is happening. If you throw me into the sea the storm will stop."

The men didn't want to hurt Jonah by throwing him off the boat so they tried to row the best they could, but the storm just got worse. So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea. The storm immediately calmed and the sea became still. The men on the boat realized that Jonah believed in the one true God and prayed to Him.

Then the captain and the crew looked out to sea as a huge fish came and swallowed up Jonah. God actually sent the fish to keep Jonah from drowning. Jonah stayed in the fish for three days and three nights.

Just think for a second what it would be like to be inside a fish. There are no windows, and lots of strange things floating around that you can't see because it's so dark. Other than that I'm not sure what it would be like, but Jonah probably didn't know if he would ever see daylight again.

While Jonah was trapped inside the fish he did a lot of praying to God. He asked God to forgive him for running away. He also thanked God for not allowing him to drown.

After the third day God told the fish to spit Jonah out onto dry land. And the fish did just that. Jonah was happy to be out of the dark belly of the fish, but boy, did he need a shower. He was slimy and smelly.

Then the Lord told Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh and tell the people there to stop being bad. This time Jonah obeyed God and left for Nineveh right away.

When Jonah got there he told the people what had happened to him. He warned them that God said that they should stop doing bad things or in forty days the city and everything in it would be destroyed. To Jonah's surprise the people listened to him and they prayed to God and they said sorry for all the bad things they had done.

Soon the king of Nineveh heard what was going on and he ordered that everyone to listen to God and to stop doing bad things. And when God saw that they were trying to good instead of bad He felt love for them and did not destroy their city.

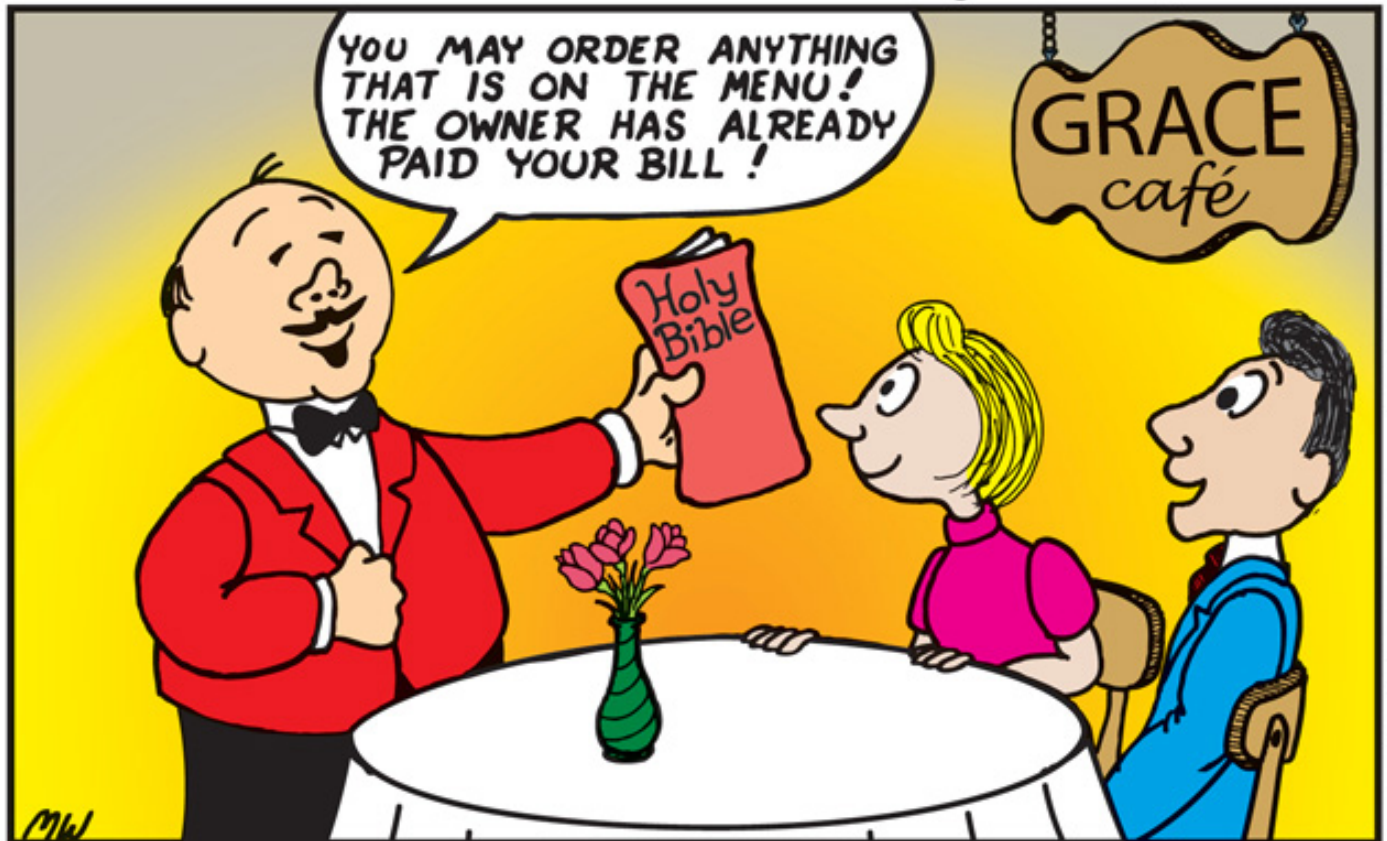
That could be the end of the story except Jonah left the city very angry. He was mad that God didn't punish the people. He knew that God was a loving God and didn't want to destroy anything if he doesn't have to.

So Jonah went on a hill and sulked. God saw Jonah and knew how he was feeling so he explained to Jonah that He loves everyone (after all He made us). He doesn't like to destroy people who are doing things bad, God would rather see us turn from our bad ways and do good again.



# GRACE CAFE'

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2007 Michael D. Waters

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 NIV

**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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