

September 2019

Consider the Nougat

Peanuts, caramel, nougat, and milk chocolate - words I have seen many times above the label of my favorite candy bar. Inside the wrapper, I see the delicious milk chocolate, poured over the top in such a way as to leave



behind that distinctive, tantalizing ripple-effect that draws me in for a quick bite. Upon closer examination, I can see the peanuts—no problem there, not allergic. I can also see the caramel—who doesn't like that? But, for years, the nougat has escaped my attention. What is a nougat? While I am not a confectioner, I did some research and discovered that a nougat is a candy made from sugar or honey, nuts, and egg white. The nougat is harder to find; but, here's a hint: everything that is not peanut, caramel, or chocolate is nougat. Don't take my word for it—do the research yourself. I highly recommend it. The nougat is the foundation for everything else—the caramel, the peanuts, and the milk chocolate. While the nougat is hardly noticed, it brings all the flavors of the candy bar together in a powerful way.

Similarly, the positive impact of the church on the world is multiplied when all the flavors are brought together in a harmonious fashion. Our place in the church has been designated by God Himself. "He placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired" (1 Cor. 12:18). We are not in competition with one another; we are members of the same body—the body of Christ (Rm. 12:4-5). Therefore, we should "pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another" (Rm. 14:19). Like a sweet nougat, we should be willing to lose ourselves in bringing others together for the greater good of the body.

While peanuts, caramel, and milk chocolate are wonderful ingredients in and of themselves; their impact is incomplete until all the flavors are blended together on a proper foundation—the foundation of selfless love (1 Cor. 12:31-14:1).

50's Drive-In

Saturday, September 7, 2019

4:00pm-6:00pm



Come join us for our 50's Drive-In on Saturday, September 7th from 4:00pm-6:00pm. You'll enjoy: hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, milkshakes, banana splits, poodle skirts, 50's music, and classic cars! It's a great chance to go back to the 1950's - *New Hope UMC Style!*

Congratulations Pastor Shin and Hailey! They are now officially U.S. citizens!! They have made it to South Korea. They wished to express their thanks for your support and prayers during their stay at New Hope and in their application process for citizenship.



Lectionary Readings for September

September 1

Jeremiah 2: 4-13
Psalm 8:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1:1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 15

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 22

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 29

Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke: 16:19-31

**STAY IN
THE KNOW**

The following are the minutes from the **AUGUST** meeting of the Church Council. They are available for you to help the entire church congregation Stay In The Know about what and how this group are caring for the people and the church building of New Hope UMC - in the past, the present *and into the future!*

August 29, 2019 - Church Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Mike, Sam Arnold, Debbie Arnold, Robin Craun, Cindy Deavers, JoEtta Walker, Dallas Vanlear, Cindy Sheets, Alicia Copeland, Andy Breeding and Karen Whitmer.

The meeting was called to order by Sam Arnold, Chairperson. Devotions were shared by Debbie Arnold followed by prayer. The minutes from the July 2019 meeting were accepted as distributed.

Finance Committee: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

~ The Church Council met behind closed doors to discuss and approve primary salary recommendations for the church staff.

~ It was noted that a Stewardship Sunday will be announced either in November or at the beginning of next year. And that we probably will not hand out pledge cards this year.

~ We're continuing to look into getting a loan from the United Methodist Foundation for our HVAC project.

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported. Please see the finance report that can be found in the Narthex or please see Cindy Deavers.)*

~ (As of Aug. 29th) There's been no payment made on the line of credit principal yet for the month of August. There was a \$125.31 interest payment made for August.

~ We are still withholding \$5,000 from the roofing company until they fix all the problems that they caused. They have come back and fixed some of the problems, but there are still some problems that need to be finalized before we give them the remaining \$5,000.

~ Karen Whitmer made a motion to transfer \$2,000 from the Building Fund to the line of credit. Andy Breeding seconded it and it was agreed to by all.

Trustees: *(no report given)*

Worship Committee: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- ~ The Worship Committee has made plans through the end of the year.
- ~ Becky Tate is talking to some people about taking over the Flower Ministry, as she will step down at the end of the year.
- ~ Susan Coffman is also stepping down as Worship Committee Chairperson at the end of this year. She and Helen Morse are willing to help the new person that takes over this position in any way that they can.

Nurture-Spiritual Development Committee: *(JoEtta Walker reported)*

- ~ We started a new Sunday School Class, called G.I.F.T. - *Growing In Faith Together* on Sunday, September 1st. The class is studying *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan, and is open to everyone.
- ~ We will be starting a new Wednesday Night Bible Study on the Book of Jonah. The first class will be on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:00pm. This study is being led by George Taylor. On September 11th, the class time will be changed to 5:00pm.
- ~ On Wednesday, September 11th Wednesday Night Dinners will resume at 6:00pm.
- ~ We will have our annual Church-wide Picnic on Sunday, September 29th starting at 5:00pm. At the picnic we will also be celebrating Henry & Margaret Breeding's 65th Wedding Anniversary with an Ice Cream Sundae Bar.

Evangelism Ministry: *(No Report - VACANT Position - If anyone would be interested in taking over this position please see Pastor Mike.)*

Mission/Outreach Ministry:

- ~ There will be a mission trip to Tangier Island from September 30th - October 5th. Please see Kim Maugans for additional information and details.

United Methodist Men: *(Dallas Vanlear reported)*

- ~ On August 20th, the United Methodist Men had a Work Night where they worked in the flower beds, cut the shrubs, trimmed the trees around the cemetery, hauled off brush and tree limbs, and straightened up some of the older cemetery tombstones.
- ~ On September 17th at 6:30pm, the UMM will have their next regular meeting, and a representative from SACRA (Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association) will speak.
- ~ At their October meeting, they will have a representative from the Valley Mission come and speak.
- ~ H.O.T.S. (Ham, Oyster, Turkey Supper) is Saturday, November 9th.

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

~ The Staff/Parish Committee continues to work with Pastor Mike to make his transition easier for him to do his job.

~ They will finalize and approve church staff salaries for 2020.

~ They will continue to work to impeditment the Child & Adult Abuse Program in our church for the safety of everyone.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer reported)*

~ Karen Whitmer noted that the membership information that we have needs to be reorganized and put in a centralized location. And she will need help gathering and organizing membership information on the computer.

Lay Leader: *(no report given)*

Communications:

Reported by Pastor Mike....

~ It was noted that only half of the new mobile phones are working in the church due to the fact that the base is in the church office and the satellite phones will only receive the signal from the base from a certain distance. Therefore, we currently have 2 working mobile phones in the church office and in the a/v room. We also have a landline phone in the old library (multi-purpose room) that is also working properly.

~ The phone in the parsonage is also working properly and you can call Pastor Mike on that phone at: 540-363-5612.

Reported Written By Bruce Rogers and Presented By Cindy Sheets....

On August 15, Cindy Sheets, Pastor Mike, Jennifer Strothers and I met in the church office with John of John's Computer Service. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current wifi system, a replacement computer for the Church Treasurer and Finance Secretary, and to have a general discussion about the computer needs for the church. John has been recommended by several members of the church.

- 1) John determined the original (New Hope Telephone) wifi set-up in the church office was not functioning and removed the routers and wiring to clean up the space. The removed items were placed in a bin for possible future use.
- 2) The current wifi (Comcast) comes into the AV room and is not hooked up to the church office. John recommends we stay with Comcast for our wifi network.

- 3) In order to have a wifi capability throughout the church, John recommends we do the following:
 - a) Wifi wires were initially installed from the church office to other parts of the building to provide wifi capability in certain areas of the buildings. He recommends we pull these wires from the church office into the AV room to be part of the new wifi system.
 - b) Additionally, we need to pull two new wires from the AV room to the lower basement and one new wire to the new Pastor's Study (the old nursery storage room).
 - c) We will need a new wireless card (\$60-\$70) for our current church computer.
 - d) There is considerable cost savings by buying the wire and pulling the wire ourselves. Cost for John's crew of two people is \$140/hour. We have the capability to do this work ourselves. John's crew would then hook up all the necessary devices needed to set up the wifi system in the AV room. Estimated costs would be \$1,000. We could set up a Guest Network for those needing/wanting to use the new wifi system.

Beginning January 1, 2020, the current Treasurer's computer using the Windows 7 church software program will no longer be supported. On that date, we need to have Windows 10 to operate the software. The current computer is over 10 years old and due to technology changes should be replaced. John has recommended a Dell computer for us to purchase. Details are available from Cindy Sheets. The new computer will have a Windows 10 operating system and will be compatible for the needs of the Treasurer and the Finance Secretary. Cost is about \$700. Other costs as necessary: Data transfer \$70/hr; Support \$ 70/hr; 6 months maintenance agreement \$40/yr./computer.

SUMMARY: For years we have depended on Al Tuten and others to get by with our computer needs. These people have been great with their efforts and generous with their time. To the extent possible, we will want to utilize these resources when they are available. However, our day to day needs have increased to the point we need a reliable source for IT support. John's Computer Service is reputable, comes highly recommended and can provide the services we need. The items noted above will cost about \$2,500. I recommend the Council approve this project. We can determine what monies are available in the current 2019 budget and add any additional funding needed in the 2020 budget.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Rogers

~ After Bruce's information was noted, additional information was given by Cindy Sheets and then much discussion was had about our church's IT issues, and about finding avenues where we could secure the money for these upgrades.

~ After this discussion was had, Dallas VanLear made a motion to allow \$1,800 that is marked as undesignated in the Memorial Gift Fund, and to put this money into the Technology Fund to begin our new IT upgrades. After some further discussion and finding another \$200 in our funding, Dallas made another motion to have \$2,000 go towards the IT upgrades, Cindy Sheets seconded it and it was passed and approved by all.

~ Discussion was also had about obtaining a new computer with Windows 10 solely for the Finance Team. We had received an estimate from John's Computer for approximately \$700 for a new computer. After researching online, Pastor Mike discovered that we could get a similar computer with more memory from the United Methodist Conference with a discount for under \$600. It was voted on and agreed to purchase a new computer for the Finance Team and an anonymous donor will take care of the cost of the new Finance Team computer.

Pastor Report: *(Pastor Mike)*

- ~ A new credit card has been issued through the United Methodist Credit Union for Pastor Mike.
- ~ Pastor Shin and former Lay Leader Kim Maugans' names have been removed from our account at DuPont Community Credit Union. Their names have been replaced with Pastor Mike and Dale Rankin's names.
- ~ On September 12th at 6:30pm, there will be a Nominations Committee Meeting
- ~ On September 11th at 6:00pm, our Wednesday Night Dinners resume.
- ~ New Hope UMC received a certificate for achieving 100% apportionments.

Upcoming Charge Conference 2019

~ This year's Charge Conference is on Saturday, November 2nd at Verona UMC. Everyone is welcome to attend this event. New Hope UMC, Verona UMC, Weyers Cave UMC and Parnassus UMC will all meet at the same time.

~ At noon there will be a covered-dish lunch. Then from 1:00pm-3:00pm we will have our conference business, which includes: 30 minutes of charge conference, 60 minutes of training, 30 minutes of mission project - and then we will all come together to have 30 minutes of worship together.

Unfinished Business:

It was determined that there are no additional fees if we get another credit card from the United Methodist Credit Union. So it was decided that we get a fourth and final credit card for Alicia Copeland for her Music Ministry expenses. Karen Whitmer made that motion and Andy Breeding seconded it, it was passed by all.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Mike.

Next Church Council Meeting will be Thursday, September 26th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Cindy Sheets

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## **Mission Opportunity**

*Tangier Island  
Sept. 30th-Oct. 5th*

*Please see Kim Maugans  
for more info.*



# Operation: Fill The BackPacks 2019



**Our congregation donated enough school supplies to create 20 packs of supplies for children in need and 20 school kits for UMCOR. We also had enough supplies to donate to our school teachers.**


**The children of our church helped to put these school packs together for other kids in need. And Pastor Mike blessed all the students, teachers and staff with a Back-To-School Blessing. *Thank You To Everyone Who Made This Possible!***





**BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

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

13 - Dr. Esther Mabry

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

-  Henry & Margaret Breeding

26 - Glenna Powers

- Jim Joyner

27 - Beth Breeding

28 - Donna Walker

30 - Martha Fretwell

# Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

## September 2019

**Sunday, September 1** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am  
~ Sunday Morning Worship & Holy Communion @ 10:30am

**Tuesday, September 3** ~ Circle of Love Meeting at Church @ 7:00pm  
~ Circle of Hope Meeting at Church with Tonya Meier @ 7:00pm

**Wednesday, September 4** ~ New Bible Study - The Book of Jonah @ 6:00pm  
~ Sanctuary Choir Practice @ 6:45pm

**Friday, September 6** ~ 50's Drive-In Decorating Party @ 5pm-?

**Saturday, September 7** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00pm  
~ District UMW Prayer Breakfast at St. James UMC from 9am-11am  
~ Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes in New Hope from 9am-2pm  
~ 50's Drive-In Volunteers Arrive by 3:30pm  
~ 50's Drive-In from 4:00pm-6:00pm

**Sunday, September 8** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am  
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

**Wednesday, September 11** ~ Book of Jonah Bible Study @ 5:00pm  
~ Wednesday Night Dinner @ 6:00pm  
~ September 11th Memorial Prayer Service (*Following Dinner*)

**Thursday, September 12** ~ Nominations Committee Meeting @ 6:30pm

**Saturday, September 14** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00pm

**Sunday, September 15** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am  
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

**Tuesday, September 17** ~ United Methodist Men's meeting with dinner served by the Sisters of Faith @ 6:30pm

**Wednesday, September 18** ~ Book of Jonah Bible Study @ 5:00pm  
~ Wednesday Night Dinner @ 6:00pm  
~ Sanctuary Choir Practice @ 6:45pm

**Thursday, September 19** ~ Singles With A Testimony (SWAT) Lunch at Ciro's Pizza in Verona @ 12:00pm

**Friday, September 20** ~ Kid's Music Retreat from 8:00am-4:00pm

**Saturday, September 21** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00pm  
~ Kid's Music Retreat from 10am-12pm

**Sunday, September 22** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am  
~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

**Wednesday, September 25** ~ Book of Jonah Bible Study @ 5:00pm  
~ Wednesday Night Dinner @ 6:00pm  
~ Sanctuary Choir Practice @ 6:45pm

**Thursday, September 26** ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

**Saturday, September 28** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00pm

**Sunday, September 29** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am  
~ Rural Life Sunday Celebration & Bring-A-Friend Sunday @ 10:30am  
~ Church-Wide Family Picnic @ 5:00pm ~ And the celebration of Henry and Margaret Breeding's 65th Wedding Anniversary with an Ice Cream Sundae Bar at the church picnic.



## United Methodist Women



On August 19th, 16 people met in the church Social Hall. A program was presented by Artie Frederick, the Coordinator for the District Mission Central.

In October 2018, Mission Central moved into their present location on the grounds of Cedar Grove, which now houses the clothes closet and medical supply, which is coordinated by Delores Reid. This clothes closet began in 1994 at McGaheysville UMC and they outgrew the space, thus requiring them to move to Cedar Grove UMC in 2015.

Last month 500 families with 1,000 children were served by the clothes closet. This includes the distribution of 2,500 diapers in one month. They are working on building a connecting storage unit for housing baby supplies; such as cribs, strollers, etc. Dennis Rawley of Bridgewater and some of the district youth are willing to construct this building. The estimated cost is \$1,800.00, and a \$300 grant was received by them from the conference. Our local UMW unit donated \$500 for this project. The UMW also donated \$200 toward the Tangier Island mission trip beginning on September 30th.

***Our next UMW meeting is Monday, October 21st at 7:00pm.***



In August, 11 people gathered at the For the Love of Jesus Thrift Store in Waynesboro to help Jennifer Strother with some small projects in the store after closing time. It was a time of fellowship and work for about an hour and a half (including a light supper). Thanks to those helpers and look for more opportunities in the near future, as this is an ongoing mission.





## United Methodist Men



The UMM held work nights throughout the summer. The shrubs were trimmed, weeds pulled, mulch put down, as well as painting of the parsonage porch was completed, trimming of trees around the cemetery and tombstones were straightened.

*Thanks UMM, our grounds around the church are looking great!*

The next regular men's meeting will resume on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.







# World Heart Health Month

At one time, the number of cases of heart failure worldwide has been estimated at 26 million. Add in the estimated number of undiagnosed cases and the figure rises to 37.7 million, with increasing numbers reported every year. Despite the fact that many cardiovascular diseases end in heart failure, the condition too often fails to attract the awareness and emphasis it deserves. One in every 5 people will develop heart failure in their lifetimes. Heart failure is a severe failure of the heart to pump enough blood around your body. It can be either acute and come on suddenly, or progressive, long term condition. The symptoms include:

- Shortness of breath that gets worse over time
- Coughing or wheezing
- Tiredness and fatigue
- Fluid retention with swelling of the legs and/or abdomen
- Being less able to do physically demanding tasks or exercise
- Being less able to do physically demanding tasks or exercise

## Causes of Heart Failure:

- Heart attack
- Neglected and rare diseases, such as Chagas, rheumatic heart disease, Kawasaki disease and cardiac amyloidosis;
- Cardiac conditions, such as heart muscle disease, coronary heart disease, valve disease, congenital heart disease, pericardial disease and rhythm disorders
- Chronic lung disease
- Poor lifestyle choices, such as a high salt diet, smoking tobacco, alcohol or drug misuse
- Failure to take preventative medications

## The Magnitude of the Problem:

Heart failure is the world's leading cause of hospitalization. It results in a burden that is felt at every level of healthcare:

- For systems and healthcare workers assisting with greater numbers of very ill patients
- For health economies with increasing costs, particularly in a disease area where rehospitalizations are so high: 50% are readmitted within six months of discharge
- For patients who are diagnosed with a progressive disease without a cure, and their carers.

The prognosis for those diagnosed with heart failure is poor:

- 17-45% of patient deaths occur within one year of hospital admission
- 45-60% of deaths occur within five years of admission

## How One Patient Overcame Heart Failure:

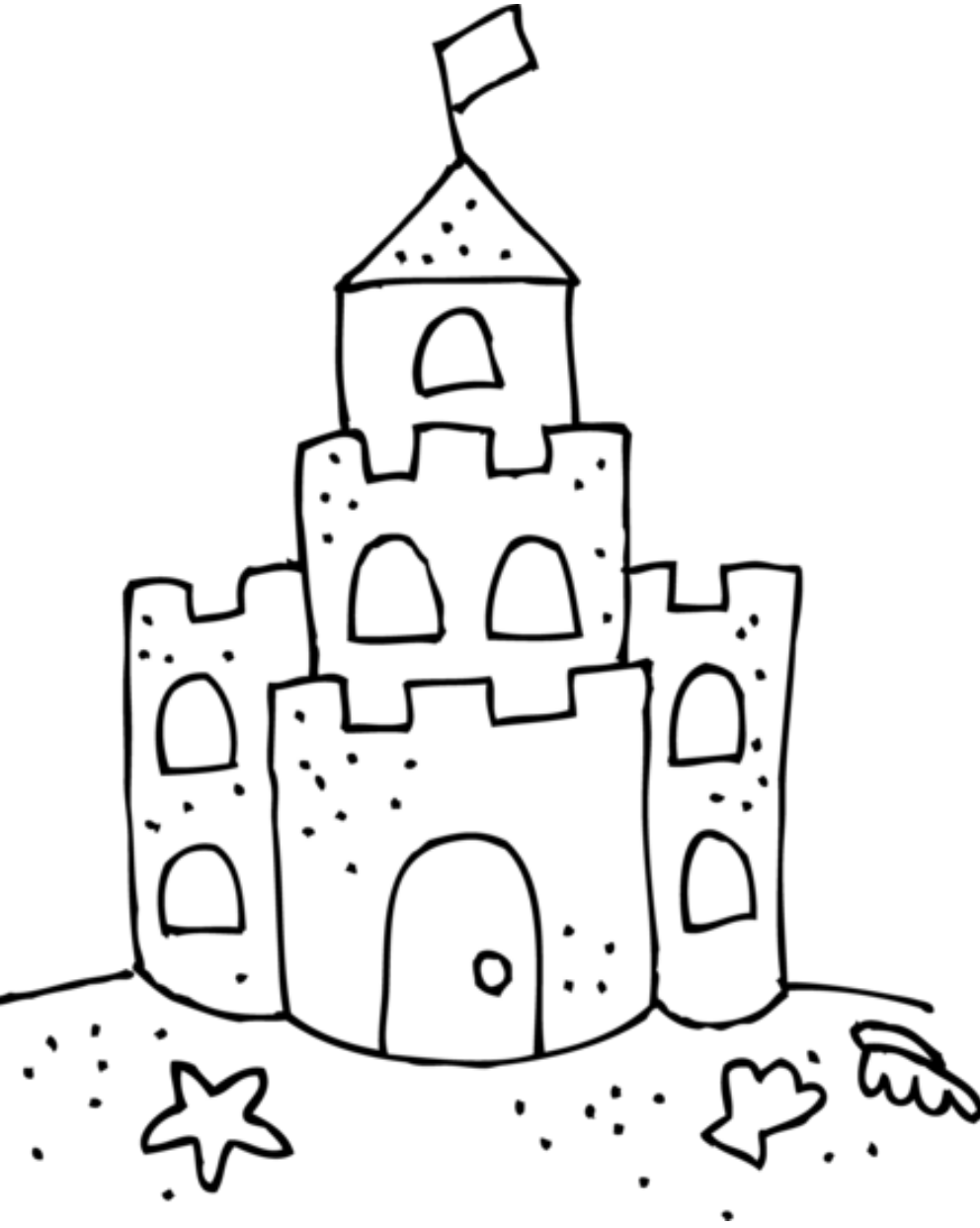
In my 20s and 30s I never thought about my heart health. I stopped exercising when I left school, my diet was pretty bad and I was a smoker. By my late 30s I had gained quite a bit of weight, I couldn't climb the stairs without getting out of breath and my legs were swollen. I didn't realize this meant I was retaining fluid which is a classic symptom of heart failure.

A few years later, my breathlessness was getting worse and my legs were an unusually pale colour. But I still didn't go to my doctor ... I think I was scared of what he'd say. By the next year I was coughing a lot and I felt like I couldn't breathe when I was lying in bed. I finally went to see the doctor who diagnosed me with high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease. Shortly after this I was diagnosed with progressive heart failure and my heart was working at only 30% of its function. That dropped to 20% within a couple of months.

In hospital, a cardiologist told me that I was in serious trouble, so as well as taking my medications I stopped smoking and drinking, and started eating healthily. Within a few months I was able to go for short walks and that progressed quite quickly to longer exercise sessions. My family had a history of heart disease but I was determined not to let this condition get the better of me. Now I no longer need the prescription medicines and heart health has become a way of life for me.

# Kid's Corner ~ The Two Builders

by Sharla Guenther



Today's story is about sand, rock and two builders. Jesus was telling a story to explain what it means to obey Him.

He explained that when we hear His words and do what they say we are like a wise man who builds his house on the rock.

An example of hearing God's words and doing what they say is like hearing in Sunday School that we need to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Then the next day you notice that one of the kids at school is crying and upset on the playground and kids are laughing and making fun of them. Instead of joining in, you go over and comfort them and play with them. You do what you learned.

When you obey what you learn in the Bible God calls you wise! To be wise or have wisdom is not how smart we are but more what we do that's important. When we obey God and listen to him that makes us wise. Of course, being wise is a gift from God and we can ask for it when we pray.

Getting back to the story. Jesus said that the wise man built his house on the rock. When the rain came down and the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house; it didn't fall down because it had a strong thing to stand on (the rock).

The people that hear God's words and doesn't practice them are like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

So, if you learned to love your neighbor as yourself and you didn't do anything to help the kid that was being made fun of on the playground, God calls you foolish.

What do you think happened to the house that was built on the sand? Think about what happens when you build a sand castle. Is the sand castle strong? What would happen if it rained and a big wind came?

Just like a sand castle, a house can't be built on sand and it comes crashing down.

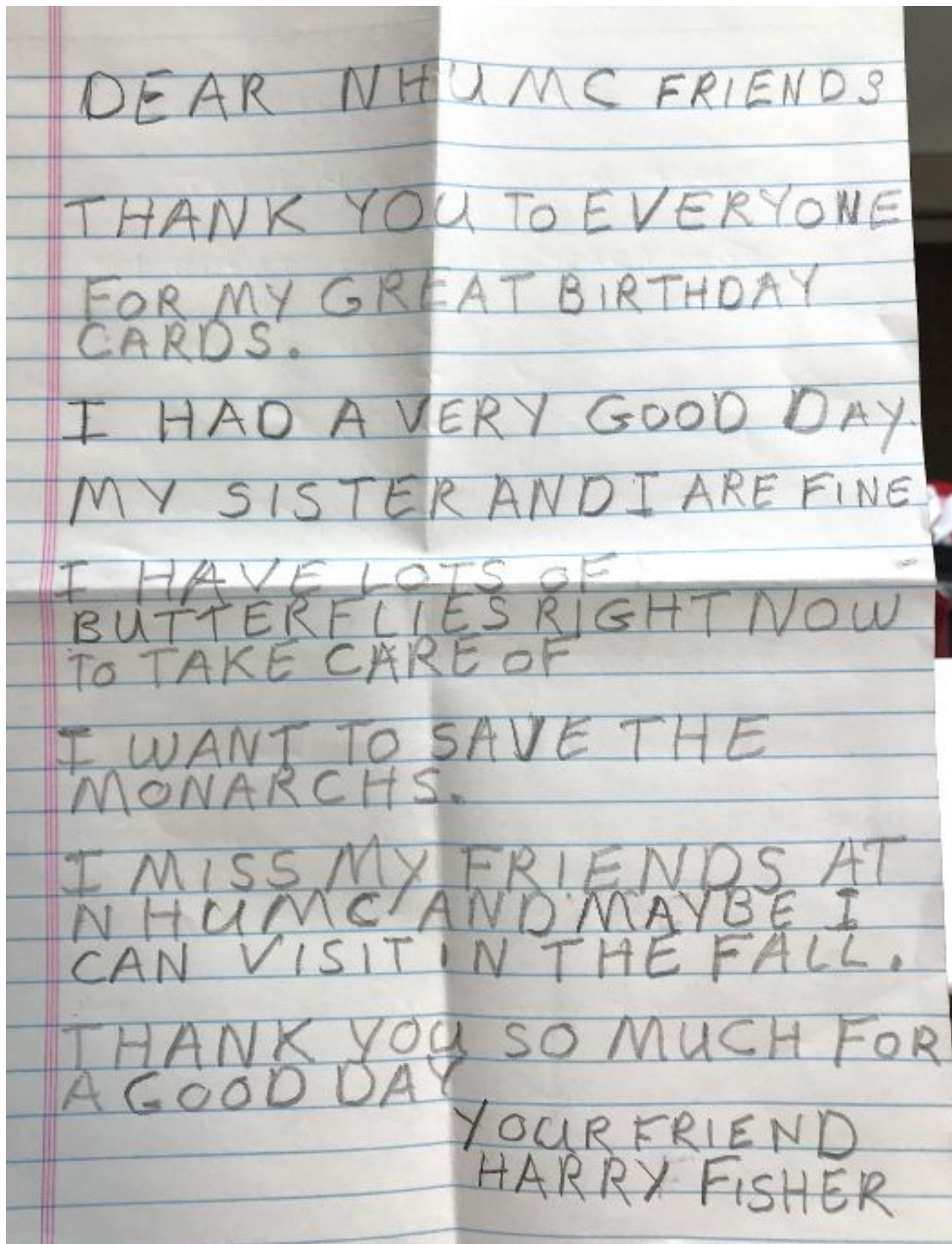
We know that God is the maker of everything, He made us and knows what's best for us. So if he gives us good choices to follow in the Bible and gives us these "rules" they are meant to help us, not to hurt us.

God doesn't want to boss us around, He loves us and wants the best for us. He wants us to listen to what he says in the Bible and obey.

Would you rather be foolish or wise? If you build your life on obeying God that's like building your life on the rock. We will be strong when situations around us are hard to handle.

## A Thank You Letter From Harry Fisher

For those of you who don't know...Whenever Harry wants to write a note to someone, he first tells his sister what he wants to say in the letter and she writes it down on a piece of paper. Then Harry copies what his sister has written in his own hand. Knowing the extra effort that Harry has to put in to send someone a thank you note makes this letter from Harry all the more meaningful, and you can see how thankful he truly was for all of your birthday wishes.



DEAR NHUMC FRIENDS  
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
FOR MY GREAT BIRTHDAY  
CARDS.  
I HAD A VERY GOOD DAY.  
MY SISTER AND I ARE FINE  
I HAVE LOTS OF  
BUTTERFLIES RIGHT NOW  
TO TAKE CARE OF  
I WANT TO SAVE THE  
MONARCHS.  
I MISS MY FRIENDS AT  
NHUMC AND MAYBE I  
CAN VISIT IN THE FALL.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR  
A GOOD DAY  
YOUR FRIEND  
HARRY FISHER

# From Pastor Mike's Desk

September 2019



Someone asked me recently, "Do you visit people?" So, we had a brief conversation about pastoral visitation. That question has been on my mind since that day.

Thom Rainer, who is a well-known church health and leadership consultant, makes the case against pastoral visitation as a major part of the pastor's vocation in his article "Fifteen Reasons Why Your Pastor Should Not Visit Much." He argues that a church which expects its pastor to be the chief visitor is a church in decline. You can read the article online at:

<https://thomrainer.com/2016/08/fifteen-reasons-pastor-not-visit-much/> if you are interested.

After Rainer published the article, he received a lot of pushback from pastors and laity. While I think his main point is a sound one – a healthy church trains and encourages the laity to be in ministry and visitation is a ministry – visitation is a necessary and important part of a pastor's work.

There are many types of pastoral visits: hospital; homebound; nursing home; tragedy; prospective member; funeral home; member visits; and others. It is impossible for a pastor to visit as much as he or she wants or as much as some church members desire. So, a smart pastor must prioritize the ministry of visitation.

Hospitalization, emergencies, bereavement, and other crises require a prompt pastoral response. However, the pastor needs your help. If you or a family member has a surgery scheduled or anything which requires a hospital stay, please let me know. Have someone contact me. Do not assume someone else will let me know. Please call, text, or send an email.

Visits to those who are homebound or in care facilities and no longer able to come to church are important also. Our Communion and Outreach team members are doing much of this ministry with their monthly visits. My goal is to have contact with each person or couple monthly. That may be a phone call, but I hope to have a personal visit at least quarterly.

Social visits are challenging because there is not enough time to visit every household every year. Also, some people do not want a visit unless there is a need. I respect that. If I plan to make a social visit, I will always call first. You can say "Yes" or "No" to my request. So, make sure your contact information is up to date. If you want a social visit, then let me know and I will do my best to accept your invitation. If you would prefer to meet for lunch or a cup of coffee, then we will that work out.

I try to get to know each of you when we are together on Sunday mornings or at other times during the week. It is one of the great privileges of ministry to learn your story and walk with you in good times and bad. Be patient with me and leave room for grace as we get to know each other better

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Mike*





**The Ham, Oyster, Turkey Supper is drawing near again.**

**Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 9th!**

**The United Methodist Men are asking for  
your support, prayers and assistance  
to help carry out this continued ministry!**

**If you have any questions, please contact Sam Arnold.**

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*If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper, please contact  
The Hilltopper editor, Cindy Sheets at [cds3501@gmail.com](mailto:cds3501@gmail.com) or call/text at (540) 280-1860*

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*New Website Coming In August!*  
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