

**From the Pastor** (excerpts from this week's emails)

Last Sunday was a long day, but it sure was a good one.

My day started with final sermon preparations and then off to the 8 AM Summer Campground Worship Service. Back to New Hope for the 10 AM Traditional Worship Service. Lunch with Carla, and then we visited at Elizabeth City Health And Rehab. Ended the day with the Youth Group, back at Strick's Family Campground.

At our 10 AM Worship we added another Sunday to my run of seeing new faces. There has been at least ONE NEW (to me) FACE at 10 AM Worship EVERY Sunday since I have been here. At least one person has either returned for a visit, or tried us for a first time every Sunday for the past 6 1/2 months. I am not sure who will be the "new to me" face this coming Sunday, but, if you haven't been this year (actually even if you have), if you feel the calling, an urge, the Holy Spirit speaking to you, GET UP, and come to church. Sunday School starts at 9 AM, and Worship at 10 AM. Someone will be there to greet you with a bulletin, a smile, and a friendly welcome/good morning. If you prefer a more relaxed (we are pretty relaxed at 10 AM) service, come give us a try at the 8 AM Summer Campground Service (Strick's Family Campground, 168 Hertford Beach Road, Hertford).

At our first **Combined Youth Group Meeting** we had a lot of fun. I have to give a shout out to Bob Strickland at Strick's Family Campground. He spoiled us, supplying a place to meet, to swim, to set up games, and also he provided, cooked, and served a wonderful meal (Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Cheeseburgers, and BBQ Sandwiches), with all the fixings. Sweat Tea and Lemon Aid. All we had to do was show up and eat. And he has invited us back. After the meeting, being led by Jeremiah the Puppet, the kids could play miniature golf or corn hole supplied by Pastor Sam Swinney, or go swimming in the river. After the meal, Chris Garrett (Garrett Electric) brought out a Jet Ski, raft, and life jackets. The kids took turns being towed on the raft, or riding the Jet Ski. Chris and his wife are a part of the Summer Worship Service each and every week. We had more adults than kids this first meeting, but I think, after hearing of all that went on, the kids will be out in force next time.

We met last Wednesday evening to begin planning our upcoming **Vacation Bible School**. Thanks to all who volunteered, and to all who were able to come out. VBS is still planned to be held as a one-day event, Saturday, August 11th, from 10 AM-4 PM. We are meeting again next Wednesday (July 25th) at 6 PM to further discuss and plan. Jenneal has a program that we are going to work from, adding our own

ideas, and we are looking forward to a wonderful day with kids AND adults. If you want to help, but can't come Wednesday, please contact either me, or Jenneal Harrell (252-264-3810 jennealbigmama@yahoo.com ) and let us know.

The **8 AM Summer Campground Worship** continues thru the end of September. I am praying on possibly beginning a similar 8 AM service in the Fellowship Hall at NHUMC the Sunday **after** we end for the season at the Campground. We are usually about finished by 8:45, so this should not cause any other changes to our current Sunday Morning events.

I received an email from Miss **Mary Ruckle** yesterday with her new email address, asking to be added to the church emails, and I asked Herb to add her to the Email Prayer Chain (these are two different lists, just being on one, does not automatically put you on the other.) Miss Mary's new email is marysruckle@cox.net I am sure she would welcome email correspondence.

A couple of weeks ago I spoke during worship about some **medical "stuff"** I have going on. In 2013 I found out I had Prostate Cancer. Jan 2014 I had surgery to remove the Prostate. We have been monitoring my PSA levels every three months ever since. Without a prostate there should be no PSA (0.0) unless there is cancer. My PSA was at 0.0 for a little over a year, and then we started getting 0.1. Then it went to 0.2, so my doctor recommended we do something about it, as this could conceivably become a concern in 15 or so years. The end of June I had a Pet Scan (Acumen) Scan done. They found what could be some cancer cells just outside of the prostate bed. The end of June we also began Hormone treatments and expect them to continue for approx.. 6 months. Sometime in September I will start doing a radiation treatment on the pelvic area. This will be 38 treatments done 5 days a week for about 8 weeks, or so I understand. They will be in Elizabeth City. There should be no side effects from the radiation except I have to be there for however long it takes to do it each day. The hormone treatments do cause some discomfort, and as I have found out, trouble sleeping. But I am just starting and my body has to adapt. My doctor advised me, it could make me sore, and feel tired and want to lay around, but that would be the worst thing I could do. The more I lay around the more I will want to lay around. He advised a better diet, and more exercise. So don't look for me to stop doing what I do. **Prayers are appreciated.**

And with that said,

A lot of you have expressed concern of the amount of time I am putting into the church activities. I know I am a "**Part-Time Pastor**". BUT, I have been so blest beyond belief with my church family. From all of the church's I have been involved with over the years, to all of you at NHUMC. I promise, as I learn more about who is willing/able to help, I try to "hand over" parts of my job. I want people to be more involved. Here and now, the Holy Spirit has planted in me the desire, AND gifted me with the energy, the excitement to do HIS ministry. No one knows what tomorrow will bring.

I want to remind everyone we do have **Sermon Recordings** each week. Feel free to take a CD, also, the audio can very easily be emailed. If you miss a week, or want a specific week, let me know.

### **Finance Committee Meeting**

I am writing this because I believe communication is critical to our continued and future success. Plus I have found I don't always think so good on the spirit of the moment, but if I take my time, pray on a matter, and write it out, things seem to go better. Everyone needs to know what is going on, and where the Pastor stands.

We had a good **Finance Meeting** last night. Compromise was the word of the night. We came together on the beginnings of a budget for next year. Katrina and I need to sit down and work out the numbers. So we can be ready to present at the next Finance Meeting for their approval, and then hopefully to the next Admin Board Meeting for the churches approval.

Some of my thoughts from that meeting

1. NHUMC has had a lot of adversity thrown its way in the past ten years.

2. Especially in the past year, we have gone from being financially dependent on the "Conference" to being able to pay our bills, and begin to establish a "rainy day cushion" of sorts.

3. There is no one person responsible for the past "troubles" and there is no one person responsible for bringing us to where we are now. When love reigns supreme, all things are possible. We are a church family, and as long as we stick together as such even "the gates of hell shall not prevail" against us.

4. We are a growing church. We are growing spiritually. We are growing in our love for our neighbor. We are growing financially. And we are growing in number.

5. There will never be a time when catastrophe couldn't strike, and there will never be "enough" money in the bank to cover all the possible

things that could go wrong.

6. We are called to be good stewards of all the blessings God has bestowed upon us. We are also called to have Faith that God will provide and we must learn to lean not on what is possible for us, but step out with what is possible for God. (I hear a sermon coming from this.)

7. I was so very pleased at the way we could talk out our differences on the spending last night. A lot of love and grace was given and received. Smiles and laughter were abundant, and we were still able to come to an agreement for next year.

The only thing we didn't really address were our apportionments. As I have said before, we are United Methodist. As long as it says that on the sign, we owe it to the other 800 plus churches (that along with us make up the "Conference") to pay our fair share. I agree and acknowledge the numbers are skewed against us this year, but are we really doing our best??

I know for some among us there is a certain amount of resentment towards the "Conference", but we are the Conference. This is our way of supporting mission and outreach around the world.

The conference did help to pay some of the bills of this church in recent years, and certainly you got to love them because.....

**THEY SENT ME!!** (just a little bit of sarcasm there.)

Our way forward is not always going to be easy. We have a beautiful 200 plus year old church building and a huge graveyard that need to be maintained and improved upon. And we must be aware of the need for preparations against the unexpected. But God is not the one that plants in us a feeling of insecurity, of fear, or of lacking.

We have to believe that what we are doing is exciting ministry. We have to believe that as long as we place our faith in Christ, that God's unbelievable blessings will continue to reign down on us. This church has come a long ways in a short time, but "I believe and declare" (heard Joel Osteen say that) God's blessings are just at a trickle, and we will continue see more and more and more.....

This is NOT a plea for money. This IS a plea for us to trust that our needs will continue to be taken care of.

Are all preachers as wordy as I am???????

Pastor Carroll

**Love God. Love Your Neighbor.**