

COMING UP

- January 3 Young at Heart 12 noon, Evans Hall
- January 4 New Wednesday Night Study begins 7:00 pm Room 203
- January 4 Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers Resume, 5:30 pm Evans Hall
- January 8 Miller Class Breakfast 9:00 am, Evans Hall
- January 21 Parent's Night Out Youth Fundraiser

January Basketball Game



Come support our church team! All games are held at Providence Baptist Church gym on Randolph Road.

1/9/12: 9:00 pm
 1/16/12: 9:00 pm
 1/24/12: 8:00 pm
 1/31/12: 7:00 pm

Hawthorne Happenings

VOLUME 2012 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 1, 2012

"This We Believe"

A new worship emphasis will begin Sunday, January 8 at Hawthorne Lane Church. "This We Believe" is a journey through the beliefs of the Christian Church with the Bible as our source and the Apostle's Creed as a guide. Each Sunday will focus on a portion of the Apostle's Creed and dig deeper into why our beliefs are so important to our daily life.

A "creed" is a generally accepted statement of belief. Creeds usually arise during times of persecution or opposition in order to affirm the true beliefs of a people of faith. During a time of challenge to the Christian faith, the Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to "fight the good fight for the true faith". The Apostle's Creed arose during a time of opposition to the church's teaching on the nature of Jesus Christ. The writers of the creed sought to emphasize the true humanity of Jesus Christ as well as the true divinity of Christ.

Our beliefs influence our behavior. A general lack of satisfaction with our faith, our congregation, our life will arise if the way we live is not consistent with what we say we believe. Also, right beliefs are important and should be passed along to future generations so others can be led into a deeper experience with God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Within Methodism, it has generally been accepted that *Holy Scripture* (the Bible) is our primary source of belief. John Wesley,

the founder of the Methodist movement, referred to himself as "*homo unius libri*" (a man of one book). The canon of scripture is central and authoritative to our belief.

We then look to the *tradition* of the church asking, "what are the beliefs handed down from earlier generations?" Our United Methodist tradition looks to the ancient creeds for guidance. Both the Apostle's Creed and

Nicene Creed state with authority the faith as revealed in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Additionally, the Articles of Religion and Confessions of Faith are standards of belief for United Methodists.

Finally, Methodists have looked to our *experience* and *reason* as a way of articulating our understanding of God. The revelation of God in Holy Scripture is truth, and once applied to our daily life this truth reveals God in and through our daily living. Additionally, the Christian faith makes sense and answers the deep questions of the human soul regarding meaning and purpose.

It is vital to note, our reason, experience, or tradition should never be our central source for belief. Reason vacillates. Experience wavers. Traditions fluctuate. God's word is eternal. As the prophet Isaiah noted, "the grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of God stands forever."

Come discover how belief can impact your daily living.

Come discover how belief can impact your daily living.



2012 Charlotte District Rally—Revitalizing the Local Church

Sunday, January 22, 2012
 2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Myers Park United Methodist Church
 1501 Queens Road
 Charlotte, NC 28207

A Charlotte District Rally focused on revitalizing the local church.

Program, Projects, & Pastoral Care

by Tommy Lawing, Jr.
Chair, HLUMC Church Council

"If you keep doing what you've been doing, you'll keep getting what you've been getting." Versions of this adage have been around for generations and we hear it again at the start of a new year about losing weight, saving for college, planning for retirement and leading our country, for example. I am as much a creature of habit as anyone but, in this season of new beginnings, is it also time to look into the mirror and seriously ask "Are we really getting what we want" at Hawthorne Lane Church?

We are blessed with a well-established, active, debt-free church which is the envy of hundreds of other congregations yet Hawthorne Lane Church remains a well-kept secret to many unchurched Charlotteans. Our beautiful sanctuary, renovated Education Building and classic gymnasium are situated in a safe, sought-after neighborhood enjoying an in-migration of young families yet participation at 15+ community-wide HLUMC events, Sunday school and worship services in 2011 was flat for both members and non-members. We have a membership of 600+ but less than 75 actively serve on committees and work areas. Are we really getting what we want at Hawthorne Lane Church?

If we keep doing what we have been doing, we will keep not getting what we have not been getting.

I do not want Hawthorne Lane Church just to be a 96 year old "gracious lady" serving a small but friendly and loyal congregation. I want to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ with the world! But, in my humble opinion, neither the world, Charlotte or even Elizabeth-Plaza-Midwood will know about us or our message if we keep doing things the way we've been doing them.

As various leadership positions change this month, your Church Council is also changing. For instance, the Church Council will meet 6 times this year instead of 12. Your church understands the other time commitments in your busy world and highly values the time you donate as a rare and precious resource to be used very prudently. We will meet at the end of the even-numbered months and reports about various programs and committee meetings will be distributed in advance so the Council can devote most of its time looking ahead at action-needed issues instead of looking behind. To use a rafting analogy, we

will be more concerned about the rapids around the bend than the water we just paddled through.

Because many of us cannot commit to a year of committee meetings but truly want to volunteer somewhere, there will be new emphasis on single-purpose task forces. For instance, the Mother's Day Banquet will be organized and run by a small but motivated task force and, when the banquet is over, its task force will end. Because the ministry teams of Nurture, Outreach and Witness need many more volunteers than are listed on their official rosters, you will be offered many new opportunities to volunteer on single-purpose task forces this year in a sincere effort to improve and expand our programs, projects and initiatives.

Every committee, work area, task force, staff member, leader and volunteer needs measurable goals but the urgency of the situation does not allow for a full-blown, formal strategic plan at this time. Instead, I suggest one simple goal for 2012 Do It Better Than We Did It Last Year.

It doesn't matter how many people were in the pews or babies were in the cribs, how many youth went on the summer trip, how successful our softball team was or how many folks attended the Miller Class Breakfasts, use 2011 as the baseline and let's just do it better in 2012.

Finally, Pastor Andrew and I have been working to better define the roles of staff and laity. In truth, it's as simple as a child's hand trick ... Here's the church / Here's the steeple / Open the doors / And see all the people. As the church, you and I are ultimately responsible for the image, effectiveness, successes and failures of our church except, thankfully, we also have the luxury to hire a few professionals to assist us with certain skills and education.

The Church Council will focus on programs and projects administered by committees and ministry teams. Our duties will include visioning, calendaring, funding & financial management, volunteer recruitment, communications, policies, conflict resolution, etc. Pastor Andrew and Pastor Bob will focus on pastoral care, counseling, supporting, encouraging, weddings, funerals, holy sacraments, worship planning, sermon preparations, etc. Everyone will be responsible for visitor recruitment and each of us will hold ourselves personally responsible for our own performances.

I am excited about 2012 and hope you are too! Truly, it's going to be a great year at Hawthorne Lane Church!


Gifts to the Church

Gifts were given in honor of: **Jim Busby, Allison Stanley, and Carolyn Horton** by the children of Marvin Henderson

Gifts were given in memory of :

Joyce Bales Forrester (Nanette Lawing's mother) by Nancy Brooks
Andrew Brown's uncle by Buddy & Sylvia.
Marvin Henderson by Betty Gilliam, Midge Barrett, Ruth Hester, Gary & Cindy LaBrosse, Margaret Cox, Nancy Brooks, Mrs. Eleanor McDonald and Family, Robert & Vonda Bean, Don Duncan, and Carl & Marcia Short, Jr.

Pot Sunday
January 15



Recipient:
Urban Ministries

Loaves & Fishes
Priority Needs for January
Canned Fruit
(no glass)
Pork & Beans

Collection bins are on the preschool hallway and at the 8th Street entrance to the 2nd floor.

Thank You!

Deep gratitude is felt for each of you that stuffed a stocking for the Salvation Army Christmas Center. Please feel the love that some child felt for you as they pulled your wonderful surprises from their stocking on Christmas morning. All members of the Auxiliary certainly appreciate your helping us make this surprise happen for them. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!

Have a glorious, happy New Year! May 2012 bring continued blessings to each of you!

**HAWTHORNE LANE
 MEMORIAL GARDEN**

*The Garden, a place of beauty,
 A place to go for quiet solitude,
 To meet, to talk, to listen for His word.*

It was Eleanor Garrett's dream, her mission during her final year of life, for Hawthorne Lane to have a memorial garden. Her husband's ashes were already buried beneath the azaleas and she wanted her ashes to be buried at her beloved church and for others to have that opportunity also. Though Eleanor was confined to home, she made calls gathering information and support and made the necessary financial contribution. The Administrative Council appointed a liaison to work with and help Eleanor, and report back to them. From the first draft to the final product, much fine tuning took place and rules and regulations were established to ensure the survival of this Garden. Eleanor lived to see her dream realized.

The Memorial Garden, located between the church building and the Sanctuary, at the foot of the Eighth Street entrance is a source of beauty and inspiration. It serves as the resting place for the cremains of many people who have called Hawthorne Lane their church home. Their names, in chronological order, are on nameplates attached to a plaque on the Education Building. Two new plaques have been installed recently and a name plate will be attached as soon as it arrives. The Garden is visited often by those who have loved ones interred there and by others who find it a perfect place to pray and commune with God.

Teresa Knox, Chair of the Garden Committee, has assumed most of the responsibility for the care of the Garden, keeping it a place of beauty all year long. The committee is directly accountable to the Church Council, though no funds are allocated. The Garden is supported financially by gifts, memorials, and to a small extent, by the purchase of the name plates. Anyone wanting to learn more about the rules and regulations pertaining to the Garden can pick up forms in the church office. To talk to someone about the Garden, call Margaret Aldridge, 704-442-0671.

New Study
Beginning January 4

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis has been called one of the finest apologetic works of the Christian faith. Each week's study will be structured with discussion questions to promote individual reflection as well as group discussion. 7-8 pm in Room 203. Led by Mary Ellen Jones. Limited copies of Mere Christianity will be available for purchase.

**Mark Your Calendars
 and Plan to Attend:**

Marriage Enrichment Seminar

February 4, 2012
 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
 JOY Outlook Room
Childcare provided

- January Birthdays**
- 1 - Jake Albert
 - 2 - Millie Watson
 - 3 - Lisa VanNote, Devin Pearson, Peter Lawing
 - 4 - Mike Porter, Lucas Albert
 - 5 - Kathy Smallridge
 - 6 - Matt Stading, Taylor Stading, Caden Jandebour
 - 7 - Jessica Fincher, Benjamin Spradlin
 - 9 - Dotty Black, Patsy Kilgo, Jane Theiling, Donna Marshall
 - 10 - Will Myers, Joshua Jordan
 - 11 - Amy Garlick
 - 13 - Olivia Weaver
 - 14 - Mary Hale, Mike Carr, Paige Aprill
 - 16 - Clark Hipp
 - 17 - Jack Aprill, Jimmy Soule
 - 18 - Al Kirby, Laura Fisher, Lynn Moore
 - 19 - Sidney Brendle, Kris Dell, Doug Fowler, Mark Hendrix, Kenny Vilagos
 - 21 - Bill Teague, Glenn Beasley, Chris Spradlin, TJ Johnson
 - 22 - Paul Brantley, Carole Holmes, Matthew Armstrong, Ashley Hunter
 - 26 - Olivia Dagenhart, Sam Dagenhart
 - 28 - Carolyn Ford, Reid Jones
 - 29 - Lauren Crowell
 - 31 - Bonnie Harris, Brandon Stanley

Serving Joyfully in January

Hawthorne Happenings

Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church

Volume 2012, Issue 1

January 1, 2012

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Dates	Acolytes	Nursery Volunteers	Counters	Mug Ministers
1/1	Aaron Love Jenna Love	Joe Rempson Rachel Rempson Kim Aprill Chris Aprill Kris Dell Beth Lawing Shelby Weaver Katrina Dell Mendy Godman*	Walker	Jerry Adams
1/8	Peter Lawing Olivia Weaver	Doug Johnson Sylvia Caldwell Kerri Mast Patrick Mast Robin Conrad Christian Conrad Tressa Rush Lainey Johnson Meg Johnson*	Jandebeur Weaver	Jen Clark
1/15	Aidan Williams Bennett Jones	Bryon Hinson Karen Hinson Nikki Jackson Shawn Jackson Rick Curti Jami Brown Avery Rempson Ashlyn VanNote Amanda Cipolletti*	Robertson	Jim & Mary Rush
1/22	Lexy Jandebeur Aileena Rush	Michelle Jandebeur Chris Jandebeur Becky Priest Lori Weaver Susan Jones Brad Jones Luke Brown Carl Godman*	Hester Barrett Kilgo	Bill & Sylvia Caldwell
1/29	Cole Rempson Peter Lawing	Mary & Jim Rush Shelly & Ryan Botzenmayer Ruth Stilwell Emily Beatty Hannah Kline Hailey Pearson Sylvia Caldwell*	Walker	David Dorsey

Ushers and Greeters: **Buddy Walker, Sylvia Walker, Gena Horton, Jenni Jackson, Jessica Jackson

*This person is on call for nursery duty

**This person is to monitor the 1st Floor as a Safe Sanctuary Floater

The Church Office is open

Monday - Friday 9 am - 3pm

Church Phone 704-332-8131

Church Fax 704-332-8129

Website www.hlumc.org

Hawthorne Lane
Church is a
Stephen Ministry
Congregation



The Church Office will be closed January 2nd for the New Year's Holiday

Financial Corner

	11/30/2011 YTD Actual	11/30/2011 YTD Budget	Difference
Congregational Giving	\$395,964	\$441,187	\$(45,223)
Ministry Expenses	\$412,654	\$441,187	\$(28,533)
Excess/(Deficit)	\$(16,690)		\$(16,690)

Mark your Calendars!

Summer Music Camp

July 9 - 13, 2012

Camp Tekoa

Summer Camps for kids
See www.camptekoa.org



The Hawthorne Happenings deadline is the 3rd Sunday of the month for the following month. The February Hawthorne Happenings deadline is Sunday, January 15. Please email your articles, lay ministry schedules, committee meeting dates, and pictures to bsoltys@hlumc.org.