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Purpose in Light of the Good News...

How would you describe your purpose in life? Is it to have as much fun as you can, as often as you can, for as long as you can? Is it to promote random acts of kindness, to help people who are need? This question may seem somewhat arbitrary and simple.

Now, think about all of the ways in which you express yourself and try to imagine how others would describe your life's purpose. Can others tell by your words, your gestures and your attitude that your purpose is to please Christ? Do your actions demonstrate an abiding faith in the God of all creations?

Without prayerful and careful attention to Jesus' teachings, much of our time is wasted. We become consumed with thoughts about where we should live, what we should wear, the car we should drive or what others think about us. Running here and there, searching for meaning in barren places leave us emotionally, physically and spiritually dissatisfied.

According to the Bishop of Hippo in his book, *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, "Our hearts will remain restless until they find their rest in [Jesus]". Resurrection is a season in which the Holy Spirit reminds us of our true purpose. What matters most is to live your life in the light of the Good News- Christ died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!

*Shalom,
Bruce*

WBPC Couples' Enrichment Retreat

Saturday, April 27, 9AM-1PM



Are you wishing to strengthen your relationship in an informal, non-threatening atmosphere amongst friends? WBPC has invited Dr. Robert Cooke to lead a half-day retreat

for couples on April 27th in the church fellowship hall. Robert is a certified pastoral counselor serving on the staff of *Triangle Pastoral Counseling Center*. He is also a pastor and former Hospice Chaplain and has a satellite office at White Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The purpose of this enrichment retreat is to strengthen relationships by encouraging couples:

- to begin to conceptualize a Theology of Relationship
- to allow for the heightened expectations and situational stress in which they live
- to know and appreciate each other more using the Keirsey Temperament Sorter (a non-copyright MBTI)
- to understand influences from family of origin and prior marriages/relationships
- to learn and practice skills for listening and intimacy
- to value conflict as a path to intimacy
- to create rituals and traditions that foster time together

It is highly recommended that couples attend the retreat together since activities will be couple-oriented and done in pairs. However, you are welcome to bring a friend to participate with you if necessary.

Please contact the church office to register for the retreat **by April 21:**

919-851-4713, santi@wbpresbyterian.org

If you should have questions, contact Betty Connette: 919-851-4713, betty@wbpresbyterian.org

Grub Club

(formerly known as Dinner for 8)

Want to grab lunch? How about a cup of Java? Prefer a fancier dinner? Here's an opportunity to meet some new people in the church however you prefer a meal. Sign up by April 21. Email Jane Whitehurst at jsuther2000@yahoo.com or call the church office: 919-851-4713. Our kick-off meal will be on April 28 at noon at the Gourmet Factory located at 3933 Western Blvd, just a mile away from the church. Kids welcome.



Friday, April 19, 10:00AM!

Our April meeting will be on our regular day, Friday, April 19, but everything else will be different. We will leave the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. to travel to Fearington where we will tour the grounds and the shops, have lunch, and return to Raleigh mid-afternoon.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The PC(USA) offering is divided among three of our relief programs:

[Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) receives 36%

[Self-Development of People](#) receives 32%

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) receives 32%

30,000 people die daily from lack of adequate food or water. May we share with a theology of abundance as we participate in this offering.

Join Us @The Table



Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Grab a cup of Java and feast with us in this coffee-house style worship.

Breakfast Served on Sunday, April 14!



The Men of the Church will serve breakfast once every month, on the second Sunday of the month. Breakfast begins at 8:45 a.m.! Join in the fun on Sunday, April 14, and share the most important meal of the day! Thank you Men of the Church!

WBPC Financial Report

	FEBRUARY 2013	Year to Date
Pledges	\$ 19,597.00	51,866.50
Open	2,137.29	3,634.06
Church School	62.50	142.50
Total Offering	21,796.79	55,643.06
Prior Receipts		10,221.52
Expenses	<u>34,847.75</u>	<u>62,458.77</u>
Net Total	\$ (13,050.96)	3,405.81

March Madness Continues!

Our annual March Madness Food Bag Drive for Raleigh Urban Ministries continues until **April 15!** Let's all rally behind our favorite basketball team and help Raleigh Urban Ministries help those who are hungry to be the ultimate winners. Each complete food bag with your team colors on the bag (red, blue, or orange) counts as a point towards your favorite team!

—Wednesday Morning Prayer Circle

Urban Ministries

Food Bags

- 2 cans beans (any kind)
- 1 can carrots
- 1 can tomatoes
- 16 oz. jar applesauce *or* canned fruit
- 1 lb. grits (small bag)
- 1 lb. rice (small bag)
- 1 lb. dried beans (small bag)
- 2 boxes macaroni & cheese
- 2 envelopes powdered milk
- tuna (or other canned meat)
- peanut butter

Food Bag Challenge Items of the Week

(Can't bring a whole bag? Bring just one item each week in April!)

- April 7 — peanut butter
- April 14 — applesauce
- April 21 — rice
- April 28 — canned beans



Hunger is not just a third world problem. One in six people in the US (one in four children) live in food insecure households.

Yahve Jire Children's Foundation Grant

Last fall Kathy Johnson submitted a grant request totaling \$9,982 for food, a goat, chickens, corn grinder, and trees, through the New Hope Presbytery's Pennies for Hunger Grant. We have been blessed to get this international hunger grant two other times in 2009 and 2010. So *thank you* for your contributions made every month toward the Cents-Ability program. As we see the children of WBPC carry the basket of change to the offering table every first Sunday of the month, we know first hand that this small step in the battle against hunger and poverty can make a monumental impact on others. "Praise God from whom all blessing flow!"

North Carolina Council of Churches

2013 Legislative Seminar

Thursday, April 11, 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

St. Mark's UMC, 4801 Six Forks Rd.

This seminar will provide information on critical issues facing the General Assembly and equip grassroots activists for social justice. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Haiti Mission Trip

Once again we are blessed to have a team of 16 wonderful disciples going to Haiti on a mission trip. They will be traveling to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, June 29 – July 7 to work on the Yahve Jire Children's Foundation home. They will be helping to construct the dining hall and to plant lots of fruit trees, avocado trees, banana trees and Maringa trees along with building a chicken coop and compost bins.

The team will also be visiting Mark Hare, Presbyterian Missionary to Haiti at his agricultural project in Henche, Haiti; visiting the Ryan Epps Children's Home, a special project of Helen Little, from Clayton; and visiting the New Hope Haiti Mission orphanage with missionaries Scott and April Salvant. They will also be spending lots of times with the 24 beautiful children at the Yahve Jire house.

Our great 2013 Team Haiti is being led by Kathy Johnson accompanied by: Ed Johnson, Kate Trimble, John Bayne, Joe Burmester, and Ron Pittman – all returning team members along with newcomers: Walt Clapp, Adam Bryan, Mary Williams-Kotnik, Jo Ann Gardner, Jennifer Pittman, Allie Parker, Donna Parker, Harry Beshgatoorian, Scott Shepherd and Claudia Shepherd. We are pleased that members of 3 different congregations will be traveling together.

Just because you are not traveling with the team does not mean you cannot be a great part of our ministry at the Yahve Jire Children's Foundation. You can again help us by praying for our preparation and our safe travels and by sending needed supplies to the orphanage. Each team member will be carrying 2 suitcases of supplies with them. We want to bring items for the children and for the caregivers.

We will place donation bins in the narthex and Fellowship Hall from May 5 — June 2. To help us all get excited about the coming trip we will be posting teaser clues about the supplies in the purple Weekly Update in your Sunday bulletin and in the weekly email updates. Clues of what we will be collecting will begin this month! See if you can guess what we are starting at the orphanage this summer! Let's all be a part of sending lots of love from WBPC to YJCF!



Justice in Motion

Responding to Changing Needs with Nicaragua's poor

Sarah Junkin Woodard
www.jhc-cdca.org
Sunday, April 14, 2013
- Presentation after lunch -
- Crafts -



Sarah Junkin Woodard comes to us from the Center for Development in Central America (CDCA), the Nicaraguan project of the non-profit, faith-based organization, the Jubilee House Community (JHC). Before moving to Nicaragua in 1994, the JHC operated shelters for the homeless and battered women in Statesville, NC. Working in Nicaragua for the past 19 years, the CDCA seeks to respond to human needs created by poverty in the second poorest nation in the western hemisphere. The CDCA focuses on justice *now*, working towards freedom from poverty, helping communities become self-sufficient, sustainable, democratic entities, specifically in:

- sustainable economic development
- organic agriculture
- appropriate technology
- education
- health care



Sarah says, "The CDCA has been called to work with, and speak on behalf of the poor in our area of Nicaragua, and to share their lives and stories with folks in the U.S., to bridge the gap between us and our neighbors." Tax-deductible donations & proceeds from craft sales go to the operating expenses of the project.

For More Info: Sandy Irving 919-787-2254

We Read the Bible As Though We Have No Money, But We Spend Our Money As Though We Have Not Read the Gospels!

—Theologian John Hsughey

The Social Justice Forum at WBPC spent several weeks in the fall studying “Sabbath Economics.” As a result of this study we wrote a letter to and attended a meeting of the Finance, Administrative, and Personnel Committee. The FAP Committee listened to our ideas and suggested that we share with the entire congregation.

One of the things we learned is that return on investments is important but that the investment itself is not just a mysterious black box but a way to invest in God’s work. We must look at what we invest in and how it furthers God’s kingdom. Christianity is a living faith when we invest our money in ways that help “the least of these” to thrive. Betty’s sermon on Feb. 24 spoke to us directly when she said “to be a citizen of Heaven is to live out of a different set of values patterned after Jesus Christ and not after Caesar.”

The challenge to all of us is to invest some of our money in community investments that might be more Kingdom-building than our current investments. We learned that community investment is the most life giving of all investment. Some suggestions are Self Help Credit Union of Durham (www.self-help.org), Latino Credit Union (www.latinoccu.org), the Vida Fund (www.jhc-cdca.org then click on Vida Fund in the left hand column); Oikocredit which is one of the world’s largest sources of private funding to the microfinance sector (www.oikocredit.org.) We have included the web addresses to make it easier to investigate places for Sabbath Economics. Think about putting your money where your heart is.

Members of the Social Justice Forum can provide more resource if you are interested.

Recently Your Session.

- Had a communion serving training session
- Heard about our prospective members class with 9 participants.
- Discussed Congregational Care Groups and how they should function
- Approved Joe Matthews to preach on April 7th
- Heard about recent Presbytery meeting
- Learned that 13 youth are planning to go to Montreat this Summer
- Approved list of Tellers
- Heard about \$9,900 grant received from Presbytery for Haiti Orphanage

Quarter Drive for the Poor Ends April 7

The attendees of the **WBPC Social Justice Forum** still challenge you to join the New Hope Presbytery Presbyterian Women’s “quarter drive for the poor.” Our 100 day effort ends on **April 7**. One quarter at a time can save lives. The quarters will be used to provide kits to midwives in poor countries. Kits will include sutures, gloves, gauze, stethoscope, thermometer, alcohol wipes, soaps, and more. Look for **Orange Banks** in the narthex, outside Betty’s office, and @TheTable. Every little bit makes a difference.

Staying Alive with CPR

The Christian Education Committee announces that there are still openings in two spring classes for American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR with AED Training! Classes are four hours and cost \$38. CPR training gives you the skills necessary to intervene in the event of an emergency and provide the early interventions that may save someone’s life. You may need to assist a choking victim, provide care to a child in a playground accident or assist a person with a heart issue through the use of CPR and our AED. All these skills can be learned in four hours! Class is fun! Just ask the fifty some people who have attended our classes since we started our Lifesaver program. Current Lifesavers are reminded that classes are needed every two years: check your cards and sign up! Contact Joyce Smith at JoyceSmithNC@nc.rr.com or at 919-816-9157 to register or for questions. More details to follow once you’ve registered! Get Moving!!

Tuesday, May 7, 2013 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Monday, May 20, 2013 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wheels4Hope: Cars Change Lives

Consider these three mothers and their children... each striving to be responsible and self-reliant, each striving to be a loving parent. Imagine their lives without a car.

- Kristin: in recovery; works at the Healing Place; 5 yr old son; referred by Passage Home.
- Fran: 18 year old son with leukemia; weekly appointments at UNC-CH; referred by HOPE Ministry of Crossroads Fellowship.
- Tomika: employed; 3 children; without a car for 6 years; referred by Raleigh Rescue Mission.

Through the ministry of Wheels4Hope, they now are blessed with a car. Donated cars, repaired by volunteers, placed back into the community change lives! Please consider donating your used car to Wheels4Hope. Help change lives, one car at a time. For more information go to www.wheels4hope.org or call 919-832-1941.

Seeds of Faith Community Garden Newsletter



Growing Again

The first Seeds of Faith Community Garden workday was held on Saturday, March 9th. The beds were cleared out for spring and planting was begun. Already in the ground are a variety of lettuces, radishes, carrots, kale, sugar snap peas, arugula, and onions. Carried over from last year are cilantro and chives. It is once again time to sign up for a new year of gardening and enjoying fresh produce. We look forward to seeing everyone at the garden.

Welcoming New Gardeners of All Ages

Membership in the Seeds of Faith Community Garden is available to anyone who would like to participate. The cost is minimal at \$10 and 10 hours of labor a year. Invite friends and neighbors to join in the work, the fun and the delicious fresh produce. If they try it they are certain to like it! Brochures about the garden are available in the container below the Seeds of Faith Mailbox at the garden. Sally Curtis serves as Treasurer for the garden. To join complete an application found on the brochure and submit along with \$10 to the WBPC church office.



Water, Water, Everywhere

Seeds of Faith needs watering volunteers. Watering our newly planted vegetables is an easy way to complete the 10 hour volunteer requirement. Contact Keith Cassel at 919-851-6508 or dkc919@gmail.com for further information.



Plant a Row for the Hungry

Seeds of Faith Community Garden is once again participating in the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle program. We expect to far exceed our 2012 donations as groups went into the ground much early this year. Each week members may harvest during half the week and the rest of the week's harvest is taken to Logan's for the Plant a Row program. This mission project is just one more reason to join now.

Eagle Scout Project Improves Garden

Western Blvd. Presbyterian Church member Owen Clapp recently completed a garden project working toward becoming an Eagle Scout. Owen's Troop is affiliated with WBPC. The project was two pronged. Two smaller raised beds were created for use by the preschool students of the church. Additionally a split rail fence was built and installed across the front of the garden creating an attractive front facing Kaplan Drive. The youngest gardeners are certainly going to be excited about planting and harvesting from their very own garden plots. Thank you, Owen and the many people of all ages who helped with this project.



April Children's Chapel Schedule

April 7
Communion Sunday
(No Children's Chapel)

April 14
Jesus Makes Lazarus Alive Again
 Storyteller: John Bayne
 Greeter: Grace Odum

April 21
Jesus Appears to Thomas
 Storyteller: Suzanne Smith
 Greeter: Jacob Milchuck

April 28
The Story of Job
 Storyteller: Mitchell Odum
 Greeter: Jill Parker

Children 4 years old by Aug. 31 thru 2nd grade are invited to join us each Sunday morning (except first Sundays of every month), for songs and stories. Following the Message for Children, an usher will meet your child at the back of the Sanctuary to escort them to the Children's Chapel, beside the library in the Education Building. Please pick up your child at service conclusion.



Come One, Come All
 to the Everywhere Fun Fair
 VBS 2013: June 17-21
 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Hello! My name is Godwin Merrifeather! I'm your host for our upcoming Everywhere Fun Fair. I want to invite you this amazing world's fair happening this summer at WBPC. Beginning on Monday, June 17, our children will experience the love of Jesus, meet welcoming neighbors from Japan, Zimbabwe, the UK, Australia and Mexico. They will learn that God's love welcomes everyone, as they understand how to love and serve God and be a neighbor to the world. Come join us at this Everywhere Fun Fair!! Children ages 3 (potty trained) – rising 6th graders are welcome! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact my friends, Blythe Clifford (blytheclifford@gmail.com) or Allisen Fischer (afischer@wcpss.net).

Your feathered friend,
 Godwin Merrifeather



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS: Joyce Barbour, George Blum, Kaye Byrd, Bonnie Carter, Dot and Jimmie Smith

FAMILY/FRIENDS: Dorothy Allen (sister of Mary Jane Roberts), Jimmy Black (former member of WBPC), Charles Farinholt (father of Joan Thompson), Sandy Fisher (neighbor of the Lindsay's) Thomas E. Grady (father of Bruce Grady), Janice Johnson (niece of Mary Jane Roberts), Patsy O'Brien (sister of Nancy Wade), Angela Pigott (daughter-in-law of Betty Dean), Sally Readinger (mother of Becky Burmester), Pat Reynolds (aunt of Lynn Bell), Hazel Smith (mother of Jimmie Smith), Lauren Snyder (granddaughter of LouGene and Jim Hemphill), Jane Sutherland (mother of Jane Whitehurst), Helen Yilling (mother of Mike McIntire)

REX HOSPITAL: John McClellan

ABBOTSWOOD: Margaret Pittman

UNIHEALTH/THE OAKS: Betsy Roberts

THE COVINGTON: Annie Woodruff

BRIGHTON GARDENS: Jo Gilmore

MORNINGSIDE: Brady Jefcoat

Sympathy extended to the Perdue Family upon the death of Jean Perdue on Friday, March 8.

Happy Birthdays

Cassy Townsend	2
Kaye Byrd	4
Henry Wessell	7
Lindsay Simpson	8
Louise Beck	9
Catesby Partin	10
Christopher Bell	11
DeWayne Taylor	12
Jack Tierney	13
James Hemphill	15
Cody Nance	16
Brad Chard	17
Michael Clark	17
James Craven	17
Jim Overcash	17
Valerie Guzzo	18
April Goodman	19
Sarah Odum	20
Lisa Lentz	23
Beth Milchuck	23
David Reynolds	23
Annie Tucker	27
Helvina Ndepkeu	29
April Ruble	29
Morgan Herrin	30