



THE MESSENGER

HOWARD MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

• JANUARY 2024 •

POTLUCK

JANUARY 10 —
KICKING OFF OUR
150TH ANNIVERSARY!



A lovely reception at the beginning of December to welcome Rev. Rebekah Maul and Derek Maul — We look forward to all they will add to our church in 2024!

"We are united in the belief that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and in the transforming power of God's love and grace. We seek to follow the Word of God and remain committed to service and mission both locally and beyond."

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebekah Maul
Interim Pastor

Bill Hilderbrandt
Director of Music/Organist
bhilderbrandt@howardmemorial.org

Andrea Drake
Director for Children
and Youth Ministries

Angie Gregg
Office Administrator
angie.hmpc@gmail.com

Leigh Moore
Office Assistant

Anna Vaughn Kincheloe
Communications Coordinator

Kate Allen
Nursery Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Thursday: 9a - 5p

Friday: 9a - 1p

The deadline to submit items for
The Messenger is the
15th of each month.



**TUNE INTO OUR
YOUTUBE PAGE**

@HOWARD MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Our YouTube page is where you can
find Worship Services, Lenten Lectures
& Wondrous Wednesdays videos!*



A WORD FROM YOUR CLERK

Many of you know what Session Meetings are like. It's mostly business - between an opening devotion and a closing prayer. But sometimes there are experiences where Session Members reconnect with their mission and each other in a spiritual way. We did that during a retreat last February with Rev. Tom Tewell. We do that every time new Elders are examined before their service to the church begins. Monday night, December 4, 2023, when Rebekah moderated our meeting for the first time, was one of those nights for those of us who serve Howard Memorial. It was also the night we examined the Elders who will be installed and ordained on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

We have an exciting year ahead in 2024. If you haven't heard, we're celebrating a big 150th anniversary next year. We have Rev. Rebekah Maul to lead us. And we will be doing a Mission Study the first few months of the year that will help us focus on our future. Welcoming the new Elder Class was exciting too. Bennett Bradley will be joining us and serving as an Elder for the first time. Debbie Gammons, John Keck Moore, and Bill Goode will be serving a second 3- year term. Bonnie Whitehurst and Susan Roberson have agreed to serve as Elders for the second and third times. They're a wonderful group. Elders are trained and examined each time they serve. This year, Rev. Elizabeth Whitmer trained the group. One of the books she asked them to read was called *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice* by Joan Gray. The book leads us to think about allowing the Holy Spirit to be the "wind in our sails." The author explains:

Rowers are confined to the power they can generate themselves; sailors learn to let the boundless power of the wind move them where they need to go. Sailors live in the creative tension between our weakness and God's power, between our poverty and the wealth of resources God provides to those who obediently seek to do God's will. Living between the realities of "without me you can do nothing" and "with God all things are possible" is both humbling and exciting. We are constantly reminded that we are powerless to do the work of Jesus' church without him. At the same time, we find that the wind of Christ's Spirit still blows in the world, and as we put up the sails God does amazing things.

As one of the Elders being examined said, "We need to stop rowing, drop our oars and trim our sails." The questions they answered that night are questions we should all think about. What can we do to make HMPC a sailboat church instead of a rowboat church? As Joan Gray writes, it's a matter of attitude. And as Rebekah said once, we don't HAVE to do anything for Christ and his church – we GET to do it! At the December meeting, Rebekah asked us all to talk about how we were introduced to our faith. It made me think that those people who loved us and taught us were the "wind in our sails." Maybe we all need to listen for the wind and raise our sails.

Blessings,
Cindy Brittain, Clerk of Session, HMPC

SAVE THE DATE for Elder Installation & Ordination,
Class of 2026, on January 7th for Bennett
Bradley, Debbie Gammons, Bill Goode, John
Keck Moore, Susan Roberson, and Bonnie
Whitehurst.

PLEASE NOTE: as of January 7th,
Sunday School hours will change to 9:45-10:45a.



FIRST Wednesday
POTLUCK

**PROGRAM: Kick-off for the 150th
Anniversary Celebration!**

January 10
6p dinner,
followed by program

150
HOWARD MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
UPON THIS ROCK 1874 - 2024

HMPC HAPPENINGS

Dear Fine People,

Advent and Christmas were simply marvelous. What a fabulous way to move into our 150th year as an important presence in Tarboro as an anchor of faith! When we look at our troubled world, the importance of living and shining forth the light of Christ has increased many fold. Jesus is our center and the most unifying presence needed in the world, and in our hearts and minds, even in an election year.

The welcome that Derek and I received when we arrived just a month ago has been incredible. It has been a whirlwind. Your generosity toward us has touched us deeply and we are so grateful for how you have welcomed us home. We had no expectations, but whatever they may have been, you out did yourselves. We deeply thank you and are so excited to begin 2024. It is a New Year; New Opportunities; Possibilities yet to be discovered; A Vision for the future of Howard Memorial Presbyterian. *We are officially entering this faithful church's 150th Birthday, and things will kick-off the year-long celebration on Wednesday, January 10th ... covered dish style. You do not want to miss this.*

The Mission Study group (co-chairs Beth Brinson and Diane Lefiles; Bonnie Whitehurst, Martha Creech, Michael Peters, Jonathan Cobb) will continue their task of guiding HMPC in exploring the possibilities for our next 150 years, using the input from every single one of you and with the guidance of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of New Hope. Stay tuned for how this will be done...it's all in the details and your input will be vital and necessary, as we consider:

- What is our history?
- What are our demographics?
- What is God's purpose/calling for HMPC as we move forward?
- How are we to preparing for possibilities?

There is much to do but I sense an enthusiasm, and I know that your prayers are already hard at work to begin the process. Stay tuned, and pray as we strive to love God with all our hearts, strength, minds and soul.

Much Peace and more Grace,
Rebekah

Take Note!

Wednesday Night Supper

January 10 at 6:00p
Burns Hall

*and make sure you are there because...
...you'll learn what ses·qui·cen·ten·ni·al means for
HMPC!*

Two thousand and twenty-four marks the **150th Anniversary** of our church! It is a remarkable milestone, considering that the average church "peaks" after 25 years. Ministers Christopher Edmonston and Ben Kane both commented on the long histories that so many of our families have at HMPC, an observation Rebekah recently echoed.

While this may be true, we have the vibrancy of a younger congregation — not an old, worn out one! We have seen and are continuing to see the long arc of God's love at Howard Memorial.

Join us for supper at 6:00p. Bring your favorite dish or carry-out to the 1st Covered Dish Supper of the year. The Congregational Life Committee will provide the chicken and beverages; the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee will provide the decorations and the program.

The program at 6:30p will give a sneak preview of the exciting Sesquicentennial Celebration Year ahead. You'll find out what "Project 150," Alec Peters, socks, Mrs. Sally Drew, magnets, Carnell Lamm, box lunches, Captain Orrin Williams, blogs, Tate Mayo, bagpipes, Motsie Brooks and videos have in common. We promise, you will leave, appreciating our past and excited about the future as the story continues.

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday,
January 10th. You won't want to miss it!

"It is misleading to say that God accepts us the way we are. Rather, He accepts us despite the way we are. He receives us only in Christ and for Christ's sake. Nor does He mean to leave us the way He found us, but to transform us into the likeness of His Son."

—SINCLAIR B. FERGUSON

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

From the Annual Christmas Dinner and Children and Youth Christmas Parties to Breakfast with Mary and Joseph and Christmas Eve Services, Howard Memorial found many ways to celebrate the birth of our Savior!



HMPC HAPPENINGS

CHRISTMAS GIVING

"Thank you so much. I'm in tears thanks to you guys. I'm praying that this time next year, I'll be the one donating to help another family like myself. Thank you so much. They are going to love it. Now I actually have something to put under the tree."

This is a note that was sent to HMPC from a grateful parent who received a bundle of gifts from us for the family. This year, as always, God provided, through the members, staff and friends of our church, gifts for 11 families and 34 children. The Christmas Family Fund received a total of almost \$7,000! Shoppers shopped, Wrappers wrapped, and the gifts and gift cards were delivered. The Spirit of Christmas Giving is certainly alive at Howard Memorial!



BELL RINGING

Several HMPC members and friends helped bring in the Christmas season this year by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at the Tarboro Walmart. It was a rewarding experience and the generosity of shoppers was exceptional. (not pictured: Lindy Creech, Lillie Anderson, Jerome Creech, Rusty Holderness, David Anderson, Harry Doughtie, Tom Winslow.)



HMPC HAPPENINGS

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT *THE MESSENGER*

Due to rising postage costs and the expense of printing in color, HMPC has made the decision to email all Messengers beginning in February this year. If you would like to continue to receive your Messenger in the mail, please notify Angie or Leigh in the office. There will always be printed copies available on the bulletin board in the CE Building and in the Sanctuary Narthex.

THE SEASON OF LENT

The Season of Lent is coming soon! Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year and we will begin our Lenten journey again.

Please join us for a Bible Study led by Rev. Rebekah Maul based on Adam Hamilton's book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*. In this study, pastor and bestselling author, Adam Hamilton "explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today."

The Youth Class (Grades 5-12) and Children's Class (Grades K-4) will also meet to study a version of the book geared toward each age group. They will gather during the lecture time for adults in the Youth Room and the Wondrous Wednesday Room upstairs. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book (\$13) please call or email the church office.

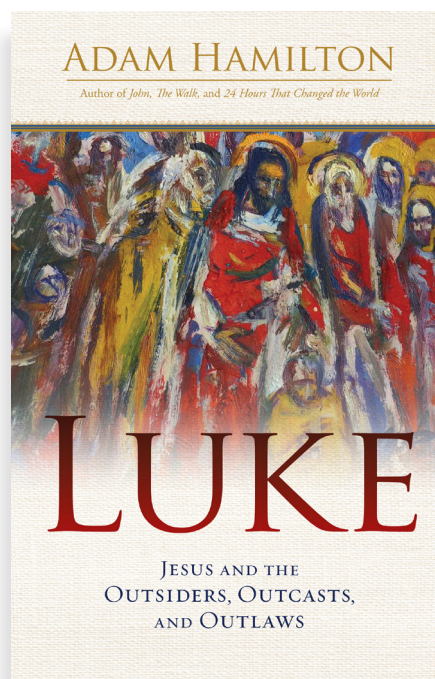


SCHEDULE FOR LENT 2024

Wednesday, February
14, 6:00 pm
Ash Wednesday/
Pancake Supper/
Disposition of Ashes

Wednesday, February
21, 28, March 6, 13,
20, 6:00 pm Dinner/
Lenten Lecture

More information will follow. Please mark your calendars and join us for this important season in the life of our church.



"If your faith rests in your idea of how God is supposed to answer your prayers... then that kind of faith is very shaky and is bound to be demolished when the storms of life hit. But if your faith rests on the character of Him who is the eternal I Am, then that kind faith is rugged and will endure." —ELISABETH ELLIOT

JANUARY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Church Office is closed.	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:45 Sunday School 11a Worship: Elder Ordination and Installation	8	9 7:30a Men's Bible Study	10 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6p Potluck Dinner and Kick-Off for 150th Anniversary 7p Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 9:45 Sunday School 11a Worship 5:30p Youth Group	15	16 7:30a Men's Bible Study	17 9:30a Women's Bible Study 6p Wondrous Wednesday 7p Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 9:15a Youth Coffee House 9:45 Sunday School 11a Worship	22	23 7:30a Men's Bible Study	24 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27
28 9:45 Sunday School 11a Worship 5:30p Youth Group	29	30 7:30a Men's Bible Study	31 9:30a Women's Bible Study 7p Choir Rehearsal			

GREETERS

January 7 Jim & Kathy Winslow
January 14 Chauncey & Tammie Leggett
January 21 IV & Fran Thompson
January 28 The McFadyen Family

TIME WITH CHILDREN: Andrea Drake

NURSERY: Kate Allen

THE JANE TRANSPORTATION

January 7 Chauncey Leggett
January 14 George Whitehurst
January 21 David Anderson
January 28 Ellen Clark

ACOLYTES

January 7 Usher
January 14 Cooper Schultz
January 21 Duncan McFadyen
January 28 Turner Cobb

CRUCIFER

January 7 Usher
January 14 Conner Schultz
January 21 Colin McFadyen
January 28 Davis Cobb

USHERS

Head Ushers: Bill Goode
Amy Goode
Charles & Linda Jenkins
Gil & Sherri Alligood
Inez Ribustello

COMMUNION SERVERS

January 7: Class of 2026: Bill Goode,
Debbie Gammons, John Keck Moore,
Susan Roberson, Bonnie Whitehurst

WORSHIP LEADER

January 7 Cindy Brittain
January 14 Derek Maul
January 21 Inez Ribustello
January 28 Andrew Sessoms

Thank you for being an active and vital participant in the worship of the Triune God. We understand that life happens, and plans change and ask that if you need to switch roles and/or dates, to please do so and let Angie or Leigh know so we can make those changes in the bulletin.

*You can reach Angie in the office:
252-823-4138 or by email:
angie.hmpc@gmail.com*

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON

"Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and renew a
steadfast spirit within me."

— PSALM 51:10



Christmas Eve Nativity Service.

Birthdays IN JANUARY

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

ONGOING CONCERNS

Mary Eleanor Daniel
Anne Harper
Motsie Brooks
Mary Alice Fountain
Michelle Keen Eudy
Eloise Clark
Maryann Rettino
Linda Goines
Leon Lamm

RESIDENTS OF THE JANE

Jeri McCranie
Marj Prescott
Carol Hansen Blankenhorn
Margaret Burlew
Lea Cutler
Jean Parker
Gwen Moore
Ed Jolley
Grace Fishel

SOMERSET COURT ROCKY MOUNT

Celia Allsbrook

CARROLTON OF NASH

Martha Muse

Marriages

Anna Keck Moore to Sheldon Roberts
on December 2

Births

Anna Catherine Ruddy was born on
October 12. She is the daughter of Claire
& Brian, and the granddaughter of Pam &
Ben C. Mayo.

Frances Winnifred Marett was born on
October 16. She is the daughter of Grace
& Scott Marett, and the granddaughter of
Dana Alexander.

Owen Scott Anderson was born on
October 22. He is the son of Deanna &
Cameron, and the grandson of Judy &
Bryan Mayo.

Minerva Wrenn Winslow (Minnie) was
born on November 17th. She is the daugh-
ter of Jenifer & Franklin Winslow & the
granddaughter of Kathy & Jim Winslow.

Deaths

Lee Rawlings Hall, October 3
Walter Godwin, October 31
Dianne Evans, November 24
Clarence Weeks "Buddy," December 7
Lynn Hemingway, December 15

Ronnie Weeks 1

George McFadyen 2

Katie Pennington 2

Vicky Bolivar 3

Shane Braxton 3

Pat Petruzzello 4

Harry Doughtie 6

Mary Alice Fountain 9

Fran Thompson 9

Pat Ward 13

Addison Cantrell 13

David Rettino 15

Maxie Coker 15

Gwen Lambeth 16

John Covey Blount 17

Mark Rogers 23

Pam Johnson 24

Brittany West 25

Penny Horne 29

BUDGET REPORT

HOWARD MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS				
Eleven Months Ending November 2023				
RECEIPTS	NOVEMBER	YEAR-TO-DATE	BUDGET	%
Pledges -(includes 2023 prepayments of \$83,202)	30,310	328,665	369,886	89%
Unpledged	1,230	22,186	25,000	89%
Plate Loose	511	6,053	3,000	202%
Session Funds-Youth Director			10,000	
Marrow Music Funds-Support			2,000	
Undesignated Sessional Funds			- 0	
Habitat for Humanity Reimbursement		10,000	10,000	100%
Prior Year Pledges	50	6,497	4,000	162%
Session Funds-Youth Camp Supplement				
TOTAL	32,101	373,401	423,886	88%
EXPENDITURES:				
Presbytery & Mission Program	1,688	18,568	20,058	93%
Assembly per Capita(300 x \$9.85)	247	2,717	2,685	101%
Synod per Capita(300 x \$1.15)	29	319	255	125%
SUB-TOTAL	1,964	21,604	22,998	94%
OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS				
Worship Committee	1,964	8,154	7,410	110%
Christian Education Committee	119	4,551	17,150	27%
Congregational Life Committee	(362)	4,036	4,600	88%
Membership Development Committee	558	508	1,500	34%
Mission and Christian Service Committee	(4,038)	6,257	18,850	33%
Finance and Stewardship Committee	11,463	258,545	312,509	83%
Facilities Committee	5,176	48,061	39,525	122%
Contingencies				
SUB-TOTAL	14,880	330,112	401,544	82%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	16,844	351,716	424,542	83%
REVENUE:(OVER/UNDER) EXPENDITURES:	15,257	21,686	(656)	
Other Revenue	- 0	13,077	656	
Other Expenses	-	7,000		
TOTAL	15,257	27,763	- 0	
CASH IN BANK BEGINNING	43,210	212,246		
Accrued Expenses		(450)		
Prepaid Pledges for Year 2023		(83,202)		
Edward Jones: 90 Day CD		(102,890)		
2024 Prepaid Pledge	24,500	29500		
CASH IN BANK ENDING	82,967	82,967		



THE MESSENGER

Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church
303 E. St. James Street
Tarboro, NC 27886

*...O come,
O come,
O come,*