

Your call, should you choose to accept it...

When I was asked to write something for the bulletin, I asked what should I write about?

Some suggestions included, writing about how a pastor views a congregation, or about what I learn about ministry, in general, and myself, in particular, over the years. I decided to do both.

I'm a second career pastor, who, after 20 years in the rehabilitation counseling profession, felt the call to ordained ministry when I was 43. However, for a variety of reasons, I didn't enter Seminary until I was 51.

Seminary provided the educational training to be a minister but learning to be a pastor didn't start until my first internship. It was a disaster; I'd done well in preaching 101 at seminary but preaching in a real church was different. Overall, I was a flop; the congregation wanted me to leave. I'd failed; I was wrong about the call to ordained ministry, and decided I should quit the pastorate, altogether. Fortunately, the supervising pastor persuaded me not to give up. I entered another internship and passed with flying colors.

Eventually, I answered a call to a church in Otis, CO. where I served as their pastor, but after three years, I realized that was not where my call was so, *Cont. on back...*

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY NEWS

February 3, 2019



FLEA MARKET - COME ONE...!!!! COME ALL...!!!!

Hope is hosting a "FREE" neighborhood Flea Market, 8 to noon, Saturday February 16th. Spread the word...!!!!!!

Invite friends and neighbors to come out and buy or sell ...!!!! Pull up out front, set up and sell your wares from your trunk.

YOUTH VALENTINE DINNER FUNDRAISER

– On Saturday, February 16th at 6:0 PM, the Youth will be hosting their Annual Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser. They will plan, decorate, prep, cook, serve, and clean. All you have to do is enjoy a wonderful meal and a fun evening! You can purchase your ticket from any youth or from Beth Walley. Proceeds will go toward the Youth Mission Trip to Panama City, FL to help with relief efforts from Hurricane Michael.

GETTING ACQUAINTED

-- After worship on February 24, all are invited to Hambley Hall for a get-acquainted time. This is a good time for newer church folks to share some about who they are and what they like at Hope church. Pastor Ginny hopes our Suncatchers (her name for "Snow birds") will make a point to stay on that day to "tell us a little about your life up north (where, for example) and share some of your story." Cookies, fruit and coffee will be served. Please come, everyone!

"When you understand that life is a test, you realize that nothing is insignificant in your life."

Rick Warren

I became an interim/transitional pastor and served five different churches all over the country for the next 9 years.

I have discovered that failure is never final; that the pastorate is full of surprises; that all congregations, no matter where they are, are the same, but also different; that pastoral care is more important than bang up sermons; that listening is far more important than talking; that congregations think you know more than you do, and that a sense of humor is necessary for survival. And, that is for starters.

Clem Street

PER CAPITA -- Now in the 2019 budget year, the church will be paying the "per capita fee" for all our official church members. If you are able and would like to cover this charge yourself, it will be appreciated. You may do this by writing a check, adding that amount to another check, or putting cash in an envelope marked "per capita." For 2019 the per capita amount is \$32.20.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES -- As many folks know on Wednesday evenings supper is served here at 5:45. All are invited and welcome. The first Wednesday of the month, and on occasional other Wednesdays we have a pot luck night, with everyone sharing something. Other Wednesdays there is a wonderful hot meal served by our Kitchen Crew, for a reasonable price: \$3. At 6:30 we have study time: children and youth go to their classes, and adults' study in Hambley Hall. The Bell Choir rehearses at 7:00; the choir practices at 7:30.

For our **ADULT STUDIES**: Gay Gentry teaches twice each month: once, the Presbyterian Women study (offered for everyone!) and the other time a study on the Liturgical Seasons of the Church. In 2019 Pastor Ginny will be picking up some of our other weeks to offer consideration of the documents that make up the Presbyterian Book of Confessions. Upcoming studies are as follows:

- February 06 -- The Nicene Creed (our oldest creed) -- Ginny Ellis
- February 13 -- God's Promise Chapter 6 God with us Through Trials -- Gay G
- February 20 -- For Everything a Season: Lent -- Gay G
- February 27 -- The Apostles Creed
- March 06 -- ASH WEDNESDAY - Service at 6:30 p.m. NO DINNER OR STUDY.

CHURCH EVENTS COMING UP

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| Wed. | 02/06 05:45 p.m. | WNA prepared meal |
| | 07:00 p.m. | Bells practice |
| | 07:30 p.m. | Choir practice |
| Saturday | 02/02 09:00 a.m. | Men of Hope breakfast |

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