



the Forerunner

“Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1

HUNTING RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
www.huntingridgechurch.org

FEBRUARY
2016

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The challenge, “Go out to serve...” has been set by your deacons and session as our 2016 focus here at Hunting Ridge. As we go through the year, we will evaluate our events, activities and resources (human, property, financial) by their ability to assist us in going out to serve. We will ask ourselves: how does this event/ practice/ activity help us to go out to serve?

Of course, you can serve without going out. You can serve as an usher, as a communion server, as a Faith Place teacher, as a musician, as a teller, as a member of a ministry team. All of these forms of service are essential to the healthy functioning of our worshipping, learning and growing community of faith.

Go out to serve... is a reminder that we are called by God to go out, to take the good news of the gospel outside the doors of the church and into the community, outside of our comfort zones and into unfamiliar territory, outside of what we have done before and into new ways of ministry in 2016.

Go out to serve...is purposely left open ended. How will YOU complete the sentence? Go out to serve who? Go out to serve where? Go out to serve how? Go out to serve... Here are some sentence completions which come to my mind. I hope you will create your own and add them to our brand new bulletin board space (where the large bank of mail boxes use to be).



Please send any prayer requests to Jacquie Myles-Roach,
lamjedi69@gmail.com

Or Pastor Deborah, dmceach-
ran@hrpc.comcastbiz.net

Join us for our Wednesday
night prayer calls at 9pm.

641-715-3200
code:986261#

Go out to serve...

...with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

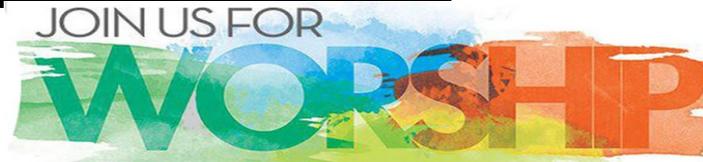
...as forgiven children of God who are forgiving of others.

...your neighbors near and far.

...a hurting world.

I look forward to serving together with you in the name of our Lord.

- Pastor Deborah



February 7	Music Sunday! Special songs and instrumental music.	The Supper of the Lord; Cents-ability Offering
February 10	Ash Wednesday Worship at Hope Presbyterian 7:30pm	
February 14	Mark 6:45-52	Hunting for the Kingdom– on the OTHER side?
February 21	Mark 10:32-45	Hunting for the Kingdom– at the grave?
February 28	Mark 12:1-12	Hunting for the Kingdom– in the midst of violence?
March 6	Mark 12:28-44	Hunting for the Kingdom– by following the law?
March 13	Mark 13:1-8, 24-37	Hunting for the Kingdom– by keeping watch?
March 20	Palm Sunday Mark 14: 3-9	Hunting for the Kingdom– through devotion?
March 24	Maundy Thursday Mark 14:10-72	Worship with Dinner in Home
March 25	Good Friday Worship at Dickey Memorial Presbyterian Church	
March 27	Resurrection Mark 16:1-8	The Kingdom is FOUND!

Our 2015 confirmation class came up with these characteristics of a church member:

- Lives like a disciple
- Forgives others
- Is involved in church– worship, learning and serving
- Prays for self and others
- Gives time, money and talents to God’s work
- Reads the Bible
- Tells others about the church
- Is thankful to God and Jesus
- Is kind
- Shares



2016 Leadership Retreat

Your leaders (3 deacons and 6 elders in attendance) on retreat— a chance to be away for a day together, building stronger ties with one another, sharing ideas, looking ahead to 2016 as a healthy congregation on the corner of Edmondson and Winans Way! We met on Saturday, January 16 at the Maryland Presbyterian Church (in the “woods” on Providence Rd.) with a focus on becoming transformational leaders. Why? Your leaders must be equipped to aid our church family in transforming old ways of doing things into new ways, in transforming us all into stronger disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Transformational leaders practice:

- Spiritual discernment as a tool for group decision-making, making use of prayer, time, input from others and more prayer as we make major decisions in the life of our congregation.
- Worshipful work which leans more toward a communion table spirit instead of following a corporate board meeting mentality. That is a spirit which asks, “What is God calling us to do?”, “Who needs to be invited/included?”, “What will build up the body?”, and “How well are we serving God and Christ’s church?”
- Keeping Sabbath, which means intentionally setting aside time during the week to receive from God, to rest, to recreate (play), to be reconciled to God and to others, and to reflect on our relationships, on Scripture, on our service to Christ during the week.
- Regular spiritual practices like prayer in a variety of forms, writing psalms, listening to music, meditation on a work of art, etc.

Please keep your leaders in YOUR prayers as they begin their service this year. Each will be connected to a ministry team or to the deacons. Teams will meet by phone or in person as needed; invite church members to use their gifts and passion to take charge of a particular activity throughout the year; continue to meet quarterly after worship for lunch on the following dates: February 21, May 15, August 21 & November 20.

Ministry Team facilitators are:

Administration: Malachi Mbenga
 Worship: Johnnie Summers
 Spiritual Growth: Stella Ngang
 Justice and Peace: Roseline Petro-Siewe
 Property: _____ (no session member assigned)
 Welcoming: Willa Banks and Suzanne Jewell
 Moderator of Deacons: Emmanuel Addo

If you are interested in learning more about any of the teams, please contact the facilitator or the pastor.

FAITH Place

How will we make disciples at Hunting Ridge?

Current Faith Place attendance by HRPC member families is so inconsistent that there is currently no way for the children to get any sense of the connected nature of the lessons from week to week, to learn the songs that the Faith Place choir sings in worship, or to really receive the spiritual nurture that we have all agreed to provide for children when they are baptized. As a church family we have made a commitment to the children in our midst when we agree to **“welcome each child into the family of faith, to share the good news of the gospel with him/her and to help him/her to know and follow Christ in his/her own life”**.



Your session needs to hear from you. Give some thought as to how Hunting Ridge can be more effective in passing along the Christian faith to the next generation if the current Faith Place model is not working. Jesus charges us to make disciples, baptizing AND teaching. (Matthew 28:19,20) The way we make disciples can vary from generation to generation. It is time for Hunting Ridge to get creative about making disciples. Look for the suggestion form in the bulletin this month or send an email to the church office or speak to any session member: **What are YOUR ideas?**

Now Receiving Applications for Gloria Carlyle Scholarships



Ms. Gloria Carlyle was a long time active member of Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church. She felt strongly about the future of young people and wished for their success beyond high school.

After her death, a scholarship was established in her memory.

Scholarship funds are available to assist youth who pursue education beyond high school: community college, vocational school, a four year college, or beyond.

Application forms are available from the church office. They include an essay describing service to the church, current trans-

script and how the funds will be used. A letter of recommendation from a teacher or professor must accompany the application. Submission deadline for the 2016 fall semester is March 1, 2016.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday every year. Ash Wednesday ashes are traditionally burned from the palms of the previous Palm Sunday, marking a complete circle from the royal welcome of Christ as King to the depths of sorrow at the cross to a joyful day of victory over death to a life lived trusting in a resurrected Savior. As we approach

the journey to the cross once again, we start from ashes, from the ground from whence we came. So we pause mid-week to gather with our companions in Christ, acknowledging our oh-so-human limits and our inherent sinful nature with the sign of ashes on our foreheads or hands.

...And the journey begins. As you plan for your Lenten observances, consider the following suggestions:

1. Set aside time to experiment with a spiritual practice you do not typically use.
2. Turn off the electronics for a specified time period daily or weekly, giving yourself some quiet to just be with God.
3. Read the entire gospel of Mark.
4. Make a commitment to be a part of a weekly small group together with members of Hunting Ridge, Dickey Memorial and Trinity Presbyterian Churches. Each group will meet on Wednesday evenings in a home for a simple meal and for scripture reflection / discussion and prayer.
5. Check out our Lent Online, an web-based devotional posted on our website (www.huntingridgechurch.org) by 4pm each Tuesday , beginning on "Fat Tuesday", February 9th.
6. Be present in worship EVERY Sunday in Lent as we go on a hunt together for the kingdom.

February Birthdays

- 6 - Joann Holland
- 17 - Annette Snyder
- 18 - Jordan Hall
- 20 - Demi Womack
- 26- Dionne Wilson



Highlights:

We received a thank you letter from the Presbytery of Baltimore for our annual 2015 contribution of \$900.

Our pledge for 2016 is also \$900.

"As we move into 2016 we do so with new commitment to our mission of supporting, challenging and equipping congregations to thrive spiritually and be apostles for reconciliation."

- Mary Gaut, Interim General Presbyter



Come, strengthen your relationship with God.
Available each Tuesday afternoon

LENT ONLINE

Beginning Tuesday, February 9th

Music, prayer, and reflection questions will be updated each week.

www.HuntingRidgeChurch.org

Our Lenten Hunt Together

Hunting for a way to deepen your connection with Christ through Lent? Beginning February 9 (the day before Ash Wednesday), you can find Lent Online on our website (huntingridgechurch.org— link also on our Facebook page), a brief guided experience of a different prayer practice each week. Available every Tuesday, you will be able to access it any time and anywhere during the week. Be sure to like and share our Lent Online with your contacts? We will be sharing our Lenten observances with Presbyterians from two sister congregations on the west side of Baltimore: Trinity and Dickey Memorial. All three pastors will work to develop the Lent Online materials and each one of us will be leading a weekly small group to dig deeper into the prayer practice and the scripture passage for the week. We hope that members of each of the three churches will be involved in each of the small groups. Here are your options: 1) Conference call small group, 1pm, weekday (tba); 2) Lunch small group at Dickey Memorial, 12:30pm on Sundays; 3) Supper small group in homes on a weekday (or weekend) evening, 6:30-8pm. Think now about which group you will participate in. Make a commitment to stick with the group for the 5 weeks leading up to Holy Week. All three churches will worship together on Good Friday at 7pm. The hunt is on...



Sparks Says

After Christmas services and a busy "stay-cation" working on projects I don't normally take time for, I found myself scrambling throughout much of January to get caught up on all my usual work. Now, music for services are planned, all of the choirs I work with are up and running again, and my students are loaded up with challenge pieces to prepare for their spring recital. It's a good time to take stock of my own life in these last few moments before Lent. When I was growing up, I remember adults talking about what they were giving up for lent...Chocolate, coffee, or some other delicacy or treat. I never really understood what that was about until I was much older and was engaged with a community where Lent was about taking on a discipline to bring you closer to God. While that could be through the abstinence of an indulgence, it could just as easily be from the engagement in a new personal discipline such as working out or praying daily. Over the years, I've done a bit of both, cutting out processed sugar for one Lent, running every day for another. This year, I'm looking forward to taking on a new discipline, fifteen minutes of meditation and prayer each day. I used to have a regular meditation practice, but have let it slide for far too many years. I'm also encouraged by the online prayer/devotional that Pastor Deborah and I have been brainstorming about. Having that little extra support from the community once a week will be such a support, and one I hope you will avail yourself of to support you in your own spiritual pursuits this Lenten season.

- Craig



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40 WEST ALWAYS NEEDS FOOD!

PLEASE bring canned and dry goods ANY Sunday.

Help us help our neighbors meet their basic needs this winter!

Happenings Around Town

Imagining Justice in Baltimore is a year-long series of innovative programs will bring together diverse participants from the city and surrounding areas, across ethnic, socioeconomic, and religious divides, to read, reflect and talk about justice.

Please join Pastor Deborah on Thursday, February, 11th at 7p, at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, 830 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

This event is **FREE** and open to the public. To reserve a seat, please RSVP by February 4th. Call 410-494-7161. For more information about ICJS please visit www.icjs.org

Imagining Justice in Baltimore: A Jewish Perspective April 5th

Imagining Justice in Baltimore: A Muslim Perspective May 3rd



Catonsville Concerts at 3

Sunday, February 14th at 3pm

Catonsville Presbyterian Church will host an afternoon concert with Stefan Scaggiari.

The event is **FREE!**

Catonsville Presbyterian

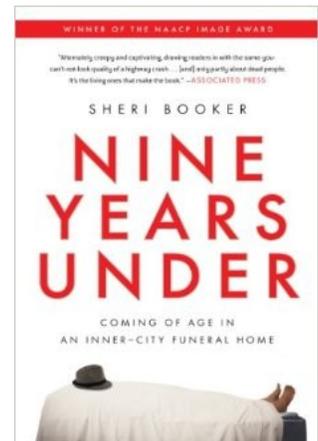
1400 Frederick Road.



Nine Years Under- Book Talk

On Sunday, March 20th at 7pm, join the book club meeting as they discuss Nine Years Under: Coming of Age in an Inner-City Funeral Home with author Sheri J. Booker.

In the Hunting Ridge Church Hall



HRPC 2015 Financial Report

This past year has been a very active one at HRPC. In the spring we had some wonderful visitors from Hickory, North Carolina who donated many hours of their time and also contributed funding towards repairs on our facilities.

Later in the year, we started working on the remodeling of the kitchen. We received funding from our members and friends of the church and withdrew \$20,000 from the Taylor Estate. We still have work to do on the kitchen, but we are well on our way!

By The Numbers:

2015 Operations and Benevolences income: \$180,0680.00

2015 Operations and Benevolences expenses: \$194,105.00

Kitchen Fund Income: \$52,811.00

Kitchen Fund Expenses: \$44,004.36

Pledges for 2016 (23 pledges): \$93,125.00

Your mission support for 2015: \$7,787.00 (Includes budgeted amount and special offerings)

HRPC Weekly Calendar

Sundays	9:00 am	English/Spanish Class	Conference Room
	10:00 am	Adult Bible Study	Library
	11:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	1:00 pm	Baltimore Falam Baptist Church	Sanctuary
	4:00 pm	Free Community Yoga	Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays	7-10pm	Berea Church	Sanctuary
Thursdays	7:00	Imani Ringers	Choir Loft
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	8:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting	Fellowship Hall
Saturdays	7-10pm	Berea Church	Sanctuary



Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church

4640 Edmonson Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21229

www.huntingridgechurch.org