

As you enter the Sanctuary today, you are encouraged to pray and meditate quietly
as you prepare to join in the worship of Almighty God.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Arthur Sullivan

Lighting of the Christ Candles

***Call to Worship:**

Today we celebrate a great heritage as followers of Jesus Christ.

By God's grace, we belong to a community of faith.

In Christ, we see the light and truth of God's forgiveness.

By God's mercy, we are made new and filled with hope.

In Christ, we are called to share God's abundant grace;

Seeking to grow each day in our devotion to God!

WE PRAISE GOD

***Hymn of Praise No. 321:**

"The Church's One Foundation"

Prayer of Confession (unison):

Loving and caring God, we know that you wait for us many times, like a parent who yearns for a wayward child. We acknowledge before you our many frustrations and shortcomings, admitting that our days are often filled with trivial pursuits and selfish endeavors. Forgive our sins, we pray, and open to us the abundance of your renewing grace; so that we may go out this day and every day ready and willing to share the bounty of your forgiving love with our neighbors near and far.

Silent Confession of Sins

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child,

So God embraces all who turn in true repentance.

Friends, believe the Good News!

By the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A Time With Young Disciples

Sarah Scoggin

All children are invited to the front of the Church for the Children's Sermon.

Following this time, parents are welcome to take children three-years-old and younger to the Nursery (Room E-14 of the Education Building) for the remainder of the Service.

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson: II Corinthians 5:16-21

Pew Bible NT pg. 170

Anthem: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" arr. John Leavitt

Chancel Choir

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:11-32

Pew Bible NT pg. 73

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "The Best Homecoming of All"

Rev. Dr. John Y. Todd, III

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn of Response No. 839:**

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

***Affirmation of Faith--The Apostles' Creed (unison):**

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen."

***"Gloria Patri"**

No. 581, Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal

Prayers of the People

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory: "To God Be The Glory"

William Doane

***Doxology**

No. 606, Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal

*Prayer of Dedication

***Our Lord's Prayer (unison):**

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

***Hymn of Dedication No. 462:**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

***Blessing of the Homecoming Meal**

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response No. 543, verse 1:** “God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

***Postlude:** “O Word of God Incarnate”

Felix Mendelssohn

***All those who are able, please stand**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Homecoming at Hopewell! We extend a sincere welcome to everyone who is visiting with us this morning, especially all former members, friends, and family who have returned to celebrate this annual event. Everyone is invited to sign the **Register of Friendship** in the red folder on each pew. If you are interested in learning more about our Church or about Church membership, an Elder will be available at the front of the Sanctuary following the Worship Service and will be glad to answer any questions you may have. We hope that you will find the warmth and love of Jesus Christ among the congregation at Hopewell today!

We are delighted to have the **Rev. Dr. John Y. Todd, III** as our guest minister for Homecoming! Many of you may remember *John* and his wife, *Patsy* from when he served as our Interim Pastor from 2007 - 2009. *John*, who is a native of Gastonia, NC, is a graduate of Davidson College (B.A., History) and Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, where he received his Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry degrees. He has served installed pastorates in Wilmington, Maxton, Fayetteville, and Mint Hill, NC. In addition, he has served congregations as Interim Pastor in Pageland, Florence, Lancaster, and Rock Hill, SC, and in Concord, Gastonia, Huntersville, Matthews, and Charlotte, NC. He enjoys reading, music, travel, backyard gardening, and spectator sports. *Patsy* is a native of West Point, VA. They have two children and one grandson, who live in the Charlotte area. *John* and *Patsy* recently moved to Plantation Estates, a retirement community in Matthews.

Large-print bulletins are available upon request each Sunday morning. These include a large-print copy of each of the hymns used in the Service. We also offer **Assisted Hearing Devices** for use during the Worship Service. Please check with an Usher to obtain either of these items.

A special offering will be received today for the **Mary Garmon Scholarship Fund**, which was established in memory of our beloved former Director of Christian Education. This scholarship is awarded annually in the Spring to a deserving high school senior(s) seeking higher education. Offering envelopes for contribution to this fund are provided herein. Please recycle any unused envelopes by leaving them in the pews.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (con't)

Following the Worship Service, everyone is invited to remain and eat with us at our traditional **“Dinner on the Grounds.”** After the blessing and benediction, please allow folks time to pick up children from the Nursery, as well as to set out their food from coolers onto the tables before starting through the serving lines. Also, remember that our tradition at Hopewell is to allow our elder members the courtesy of being at the head of the lines.

After the meal, our Homecoming celebration will continue with special **Rally Day** activities provided by the Christian Education Committee. There will be a variety of games and fun for all ages. Information will also be available under the Breezeway about all the programs going on at Hopewell this year.

Today is the **deadline** for submitting articles for the October Newsletter.

Today is also the deadline to sign up for the **JOY Luncheon Meeting!** Anyone who is 55 or over is invited to come to the Family Life Center at 10:30 a.m. this coming Thursday, September 19th as this active group resumes monthly meetings. *Raymond's* famous baked hams, along with macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls, dessert, and beverages will be served for the meal (donations requested). The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by Room A-2 in the Administrative Building hallway.

The JOY Group is sponsoring a **Flu Shot Clinic** following their meeting on September 19th. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to participate and is invited to attend the lunch as well (please sign up as noted above). Immunizations will be administered in the Family Life Center by the Harris Teeter Pharmacy Flu Shot Clinic Program. Please bring your insurance card and a photo ID (most major prescription insurance plans are accepted).

We will receive the monthly **“Ten Cents-A-Meal” Offering** during the Worship Services next Sunday, September 22nd. Started in 1982, this important ministry of the Presbytery of Charlotte now provides much-needed funds to help approximately 70 programs in our area (covering seven counties) to support hunger relief and at-risk youth programs.

Hopewell is hosting the quarterly Presbytery of Charlotte Meeting on Tuesday, October 29th and volunteers are needed to assist with this huge undertaking! There are a variety of ways you can help, both with preparations or on the day of the event. Anyone who is available to volunteer is encouraged to attend the **Presbytery Organizational Meeting** next Sunday, September 22nd at 12:20 p.m. in the Jeff Lowrance Room (A-12) of the Administrative Building. Please contact *Jeff DePalmo* or *Conrad Puckett* for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (con't)

On September 22nd, **Kid's Kirk** starts back up from 5 - 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings! Kid's Kirk is open to all K-5th grade children and includes a time for Bible study, music with *Mr. Raymond*, crafts, games, and lots of fun. Contact DCE *Sarah Scoggin* for more details.

All Hopewell men are invited to attend the upcoming **Presbyterian Men Dinner** on Thursday, September 26th starting at 6:30 p.m. at Duckworth's Grill (16609 Statesville Road, Huntersville--near the intersection of Highway 21 and Sam Furr Road, close to Chili's). Please RSVP by September 25th to *Mike Puckett* at 704-996-9877 or infcol@bellsouth.net.

The Fall Festival and "Trunk-or-Treat" is just around the corner! Please mark your calendars now for Friday, October 25th from 6 - 8:30 p.m. and start planning your costume for this family event! Volunteers will be needed, as well as donations of candy and other goodies, so watch for sign-up sheets, boxes for donations, and more details coming soon.

If you are interested in ordering **pecan halves or pieces for holiday baking**, please contact *Jane Whitley* or *Katherine Farmer*. Depending on the response received, these nuts may be offered for sale again this year at \$10/pound, if there is enough interest to do so.

"Dear Members of Hopewell: Thank you for the love and concern that you have expressed through the many beautiful cards that I have received following the recent death of my sister. Your prayers and thoughtfulness have carried me through this unexpected loss. I also want to extend my deep appreciation to the Session and to everyone who worked so hard to make the extensive repairs needed to the Little White House. I am very grateful to be back home now and feel so blessed to have the Christian love and support shown to me in so many ways by my Church Family. Thank you for everything you did!"

Sincerely, **Barbara Setzer**

We offer our sincere Christian sympathy to **Anne Lowrance and Family** following the death of her mother, Margaret K. "Peggy" Doll on September 8th in Tampa, FL.

CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (Room A-8)
10:00 a.m. Homecoming Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:00 a.m. "Dinner on the Grounds" and Rally Day (Church Lawn)

Monday

5:30 p.m. Loch Norman Pipe Band rehearsal (FLC)
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (Activity Center)

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (FLC and Education Building)
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)
7:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting (Room A-1)
7:00 p.m. Congregational Nominating Committee Meeting (Room A-12)

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (Activity Center)
6:30 p.m. Christian Believer Bible Study Class (Room F-12)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Ringers rehearsal (Room A-8)

Thursday

10:30 a.m. JOY Luncheon Meeting and Flu Shot Clinic (FLC)
6:30 p.m. Basketball (FLC)
7:00 p.m. "Breaking the Code" Bible Study (Room A-12)

Saturday

8:00 a.m. Basketball (FLC)

Please note: Middle and High School Youth Groups will not meet tonight.

COMING EVENTS

- Sunday, September 22nd, 12:20 p.m.** - Presbytery Organizational Meeting
- Sunday, September 22nd, 5 p.m.** - Kid's Kirk resumes
- Monday, September 23rd, 7 p.m.** - Properties Committee Meeting
- Tuesday, September 24th, 7 p.m.** - Witness Committee Meeting
- Tuesday, September 24th, 7 p.m.** - Worship Committee Meeting
- Thurs., Sept. 26th, 6:30 p.m.** - Presbyterian Men Dinner at Duckworth's Grill, Huntersville
- Sunday, September 29th, 3 p.m.** - Presbyterian Women Moderators' Tea
- Monday, September 30th, 7 p.m.** - Presbyterian Women C. T. Meeting
- Tuesday, October 1st, 7:15 p.m.** - Cora Wayland Circle Meeting
- Friday, October 4th, 6:30 p.m.** - Dwell Adult Fellowship
- Sunday, October 6th, 9 and 11 a.m.** - Worship Service with World Communion Sunday
- Sunday, October 6th, 12 noon** - Congregational Luncheon to Honor Our New Members
- Monday, October 7th, 6:30 p.m.** - Christian Education Committee Meeting
- Monday, October 7th, 7 p.m.** - Membership Committee Meeting
- Tuesday, October 8th, 10 a.m.** - Mary Torrence Circle Meeting
- Tuesday, October 8th, 2 p.m.** - Ella Houston/Ona Patterson Circle Meeting
- Tuesday, October 8th, 7 p.m.** - Session Meeting
- Wednesday, October 9th, 10:30 a.m.** - John Moore Circle Meeting
- Thursday, October 10th, 1 p.m.** - "Happy Knitters" Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
- Sunday, October 13th, 12 noon** - Deacons' Meeting
- Sunday, October 20th, 9 and 11 a.m.** - Worship Service with Commitment Sunday
- Friday, October 25th, 6 - 8:30 p.m.** - Hopewell's Fall Festival and "Trunk-or-Treat"
- Sunday, October 27th, 11 a.m.** - Heritage Sunday Worship Service