

*Welcome to
Mt. Hope Community Church!
Celebrating our life together in Christ*

THE LORD'S DAY -- February 17, 2008

***Those who are able are welcome to stand.**

THE PEOPLE GATHER

(Please sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pad.)

Welcome/Recognition of Visitors/Special Events

Pastor Carmen Cox Harwell

Prelude

"Christ Lag in Todesbanden"

Aaron Wheeler, Organist

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Acolytes

Silent Meditation

"A voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.'"

Luke 9:35

****Call to Worship***

Miss Gretchen Hiller

L: We gather this day to worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.

P: **God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves. God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.**

L: God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life's fullness. God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might know true freedom.

All: **We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth. We root our faith in worship, seeking to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent. Amen!**

****Hymn of Praise***

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

No. 466

***Invocation**

Miss Hiller

Holy God, breathe Your Spirit of life into us! As You created life at the beginning of time, create and shape us anew. We want to be clay once more, shaped by Your hand, touching earth, contemplating heaven, loving, working, and playing on this good earth. We want to be a part of the circle of love You began in Jesus – a circle where the sick are healed, the dying are comforted, the oppressed achieve new dignity, and all live in peace. Through the power of Your Spirit that surrounds us for Christ’s sake, Amen!

(You may be seated.)

TO CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Elder Alyce Duffus

When we are in bondage, God offers to set us free. When we are poor, God in Christ identified with us and offers us riches money cannot buy. When we are lonely and discouraged, God’s Holy Spirit is our Comforter, pointing us beyond ourselves. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord for help will be saved. Let us call on the Lord’s name now, **in silence**, as we confess our sin. . .

Silent Prayer of Personal Confession

“For Your name’s sake, O Lord, pardon [our] guilt, for it is great,” but You are “**Our Father**. . .” (Psalm 25:11)

Elder Duffus

Kyrie

“He Looked Beyond My Fault”

See insert

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor Carmen

Children’s Chat

Mrs. Barb Wakefield

(Children ages 4-Grade 2 exit to Children’s Worship.)

If this is your child’s first time, please accompany him or her.

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn of Preparation

“O for a Closer Walk with God”

No. 397

If you have a prayer request, fill out a blue card and pass it toward the center aisle.

New Testament	<u>John 5:1-9</u> (Page 753)	Pastor Carmen
Sermon	“Just Answer the Question”	Pastor Carmen
*Hymn of Invitation	“I Must Tell Jesus” <u>(You may be Seated.)</u>	See insert
Prayers of the People		Pastor Carmen

TO RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

Offering Call Miss Hiller
 God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of the Christ, and in the never ending gift of the Holy Spirit! God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that blesses others through the sharing of our love, our talents, and our material possessions. So let us rejoice in all that has been given to us and in what is ours to give with thanksgiving, as we receive God’s tithes and offerings.

Offertory	“Jerusalem My Happy Home” Chancel Choir	L. Sateren
*Doxology	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	No. 592
*Prayer of Dedication		Elder Duffus

TO GO OUT TO SERVE

*Hymn of Departure	“Sing Praise Unto the Name of God”	No. 226
*Taking the Light of Christ into the World		Acolytes
*Charge and Benediction		Pastor Carmen
*Benediction Response	“Go with Us, Lord”	No. 535

Welcome to Mt. Hope! We are a people united in Christ, challenged and empowered by His Spirit to make a difference in the world.

Your children are loved and welcomed at Mt. Hope! We provide a nursery for infants and toddlers up to age 4. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery. Also a cry room is located at the rear of the Sanctuary for your convenience.

Worship kits are available in the Kids' Korner of the Narthex for children age pre-school through 6th grade. The kits are color-coded: pink is for pre-school and kindergarten; blue is for children in grades 1-3; and white is for children in grades 4-6. Please do not take the kits home, but feel welcome to take any papers with you, and return the kits to the Narthex following worship.

The "**Young Children in Worship**" story today is *Jesus and the Children*, led by Betty Ann Tis and assisted by Corey Williams and Allie Dick.

Greeters: Felix and Elder Elizabeth Cutruzzula
Liturgists: Elder Alyce Duffus and Miss Gretchen Hiller
Flowers: are given by the Hiller family to celebrate and to welcome Aaron Wheeler as Mt. Hope's Minister of Music.

Mt. Hope Community Church, Presbyterian, USA
12106 Frankstown Road, Penn Hills, PA 15235 - 412.793.0227
email: mthope@mthope-church.org **website:** mthopechurch.org
Rev. Carmen Cox Harwell, Pastor
Mr. Aaron Wheeler, Minister of Music
Mrs. Cathy Mowery, Administrative Assistant

ANNOUNCEMENTS - 2.17.08

Thanks to the **Session** for providing the reception for Aaron Wheeler today.

Beverage and snacks for fellowship time in the Narthex will be provided by the Fellowship Committee on Sunday, February 24.

The Flower Chart Notebook for 2008 is in the Narthex. The costs are: 1 arrangement - \$15.00; 2 arrangements - \$30.00. You may have the following options: buy one or two arrangements or two can share the flower arrangements.

Today is Blood Pressure Sunday. Come back to the Multi-Purpose Room immediately following worship to check on your blood pressure! Our Mt. Hope Health Ministries Team will be waiting. You can't begin one day earlier to have a once-a-month blood pressure checkup.

Join us this Wednesday and every Wednesday during Lent, at 6:30 p.m., for dinner and study led by Pastor Carmen. The theme of this year's study is "*Evil and Sin - Is There a Difference?*" This week's dinner is BBQ's, hosted by Session. Donation is \$3.00 for adults; children 10 and under -free will offering. Please fill out a reservation card and place it in the offering plate.

Calling all Daddy's Girls. . . The Snow Ball Father/Daughter Dinner Dance, February 23, 2008, is a wonderful time to spend together. Dinner, dancing, conversation, and chocolate are all part of the package. Tickets are \$20.00 per couple, \$10.00 a person, or \$150.00 per table of 8 and can be purchased after church or by calling the church office. Advance reservations are required. This event is for all ages, because you never outgrow being "Daddy's Girl."

Did you take down your Christmas lights? We're looking for outdoor icicle lights to BORROW for the Snow Ball. If you care to contribute, please mark them with your name and bring them in or call Amy Williams at 412.798.4355.

Be sure to check out the Mission bulletin board next to the Conference Room. The young people at the Mars Home have sent you their thank-you notes. We will be participating in "**One Great Hour of Sharing**" again this year. This is the sixtieth

year. The offering supports hunger programs, self-development of people and disaster assistance. Fish are available in the Narthex; see Millie. The campaign will begin officially February 24 and end on Palm Sunday.

A member of the Flower Committee will be in the Narthex after worship to hand out order forms for **flowers for Resurrection Sunday**. Deadline for ordering is February 24, 2008.

We will celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday, March 2, 2008.

Friday, March 7, 2008, is World Day of Prayer. It will be hosted by the Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills at 1:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Plans are being made to hold a Flea Market in late March. Please bring your items to the church, as we have an area set aside for this purpose. If you need to have your items picked up, please call Doris Kuhn at 412.795.2149.

The date of the 2008 Mt. Hope Desert Classic is Monday, June 16. Once again we will be playing at Alcoma Golf Club on Saltsburg Road in Penn Hills. Mark your calendar and look forward to more information coming soon. Our goal this year is to have 80 golfers participating in this event to support Mt. Hope and the youth.

The annual Mt. Hope Pirates Game will be Thursday, August 14. This is sky-blast night! We have purchased 60 tickets in Section 331 for this event. The ticket cost is \$9.00/each. A tailgate will be planned; details and cost will be given later. If you are interested, see Eric Schramm to reserve your tickets with payment.

All bulletin information must be in the office by Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

We are now recording the church service to CD. If you want a copy of the service, please contact the office. The cost is \$1.50.

If you know of any persons who are in the hospital, a nursing home, or shut-in, kindly call the church office and let us know.

There is a basket in the Narthex to collect toiletry items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, etc.) for the **Men and Women Shelters**.

We continue to collect food for the **Penn Hills Service Association**. They need **hardy meals**. Please bring pasta, cereals, pb&j, and canned meats or fish. Thank you very much, the Mission Team.

In order to keep disturbances at a minimum during the worship service, **if you must leave**, please use the rear door exit.

CELL PHONE FUNDRAISER – Don't throw away that old cell phone. There's a box in the Narthex where you may place that old phone. When the box is full, we will send them in for cash that will be used to help the **Youth Programs**.

We are in the process of updating the **church directory** and want to include email addresses. If you **do not** want your email address listed, please call the church office.

It is with celebration and regret that we announce the retirement of Cathy Mowery, effective in April, 2008. Cathy has served the needs of ministers, committees, and members of Mt. Hope for 20+ years, and she will be missed. We wish her health and happiness as she enjoys a well-deserved retirement with Aime.

The Personnel Committee has considered many options for replacing Cathy, and we have decided to use an employment agency and hire a candidate from outside the congregation. Although Mt. Hope has been blessed with two administrative assistants in Cathy Mowery and Nancy Schramm who served with compassion and discretion, it is generally accepted practice to fill the position of church secretary from outside the congregation; and Mt. Hope is going to follow that practice in the future. There are many qualified candidates within the Mt. Hope family who would no doubt serve well, but it is in the best interest of the congregation at large to follow the mainstream and fill this position from the outside. The new candidate will begin training with Cathy within the next few weeks.

A special thanks goes out to Debbie Dillman for volunteering her time and talents to assist Cathy and the Mt. Hope family during Cathy's recuperation.

Pastor Carmen's office hours are:

Tuesdays between 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays between 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.

If you want to make an appointment with the Pastor, please call the office with the date and time that you want to meet!

HOSPITAL

Margie Baur.....St. Margaret, 815 Freeport Rd., Pgh. 15215
Hilda Kerr.....Forbes Hospital, 2570 Haymaker Rd., Monroeville 15146
Dottie Knight..... " " "
Norma Reed.....St. Margaret, 815 Freeport Rd., Pgh. 15215

THIS WEEK AT MT. HOPE

Today - after worship.....blood pressure check – M-P Room
after worship....reception for Aaron Wheeler – JKH
6:00 p.m.....Youth Group – Youth Room
Mon., Feb. 18 - 6:30 p.m.....Session – Conference Room
Tues., Feb. 19 - 5:00 p.m.....Logos
Wed., Feb. 20 - 11:00 a.m.....Stroke Survivor Group – Conf. Room
6:30 p.m.....Ash Wed. Dinner & Service
8:00 p.m.....Narcotics Anonymous - JKH
Thurs., Feb. 21 - 7:00 p.m.....Chancel Choir
Fri., Feb. 22 - Youth Guys Nite Out
Sat., Feb. 23 - 2:00 p.m.....Gamblers' Anonymous – JKH
6:30 p.m.....Snow Ball Dinner Dance - JKH

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, February 24	6:00 p.m.	- Youth Group
Tuesday, February 26	5:00 p.m.	- Logos
	7:00 p.m.	- Adult Leadership Meeting
Wednesday, February 27:		
	11:00 a.m.	- Stroke Survivor Group
	6:30 p.m.	- Lenten Dinner & Study
	8:00 p.m.	- Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday, February 28	7:00 p.m.	- Chancel Choir
Saturday, March 1	2:00 p.m.	- Gamblers Anonymous
Sunday, March 2		- Communion