



## A Certain Crazyness

When I was called to be your pastor, some of you thought I was *crazy*. Many did not understand me. I spoke too much about Jesus; I asked to be called “a pastor,” not “a minister” (I thought it your calling to be ministers); I refused not to encourage you to grow in your spiritual life by loving Jesus far more than you could ever imagine. The truth: I wasn’t crazy as I am in love – with Jesus, the church, and, thus, with the likes of you.

Christians, not just pastors, are deemed either crazy or incredibly *different*. Scripture tells us the early Christians were known as “those” who were turning the world upside-down. Not very Presbyterian, some would say. However, turning the world upside-down is no small part of our calling. Every year, especially in Easter, we, too, should set about such a daring task in the most *extra-ordinary* ways, and, oftentimes, we do; namely, through *worship, mission, and witness*. We are called by the risen Lord to spend lavishly ourselves in such ways because **He is risen**. That’s not *just* Easter’s message. That’s our message, the message that culture and custom and convention would love to alter, change and/or rewrite, but which remains a message pretty much a given for eternity. Such a fact of faith causes us, in the eyes of some, to be *crazy*.

We should revel in being Christian-*crazy*, each one of us. We believe things some Christians and not-a-few non-Christians consider ridiculous and a waste of time. We say things that cause not-a-few to roll their eyes. I was reminded of that reaction through a poem by Mary Oliver entitled, *In Praise of Crazyness, of a Certain Kind*:

On cold evenings  
my grandmother,  
with ownership of half her mind-  
the other half having flown back to Bohemia-  
spread newspapers over the porch floor  
so, she said, the garden ants could crawl beneath,  
as under a blanket, and keep warm,  
and what shall I wish for, for myself,  
but, being so struck by the lightning of years,  
to be like her with what is left, that loving.

I realize, now, and will never take for granted, that the best compliment a pastor can receive is to be considered *crazy* by his or her congregation. Thank you for the times you reminded me of how crazy I am, and thank you in advance for the times when you will need to remind me that there is, at least for me, no hope, none whatsoever, of being cured of my faithful *crazyness*.

Faithfully,  
Gus Succop, Pastor



**NEWS,  
EVENTS,  
& HAPPENINGS  
IN AND AROUND  
QUAIL HOLLA**



- **Wednesday May 1**
  - **After School:** Come hang out with us after school!
  - **Oasis Dinner** (6:00—6:45 pm)
  - **Small Groups** (6:45—7:45 pm): Our weekly opportunity to share trials and get hope from one another as well as some general encouragement for the week!
- **Wednesday May 5**
  - **Church School** (9:45—10:45 am): We are working our way through History Channel's *The Bible* miniseries together and comparing *The Bible* with the Bible.
- **Wednesday May 8**
  - **After School**
  - **Oasis Dinner** (6:00-6:45 pm): Last Oasis until fall!
  - **Small Groups** (6:45—7:45 pm)
- **Sunday May 12 (Mother's Day)**
  - **Church School** (9:45—10:45 am)
- **Wednesday May 15**
  - **After School**
  - **Quail Holla Dinner** (6:00—6:45 pm): Oasis is over but if anyone wants to meet up for dinner somewhere local or make dinner here at the church, we'll be doing that! Check the Facebook page and emails for further details on where.
  - **Small Groups** (6:45—7:45 pm)
- **Sunday May 19**
  - **Church School** (9:45—10:45 am)
  - **Youth Group** (4-6 pm): Our only Youth Group for May! We'll have some fun and start thinking about our summer movie.
- **Wednesday May 22**
  - **After School**
  - **Quail Holla Dinner** (6:00—6:45 pm)
  - **Small Groups** (6:45—7:45 pm)
- **Sunday May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend)**
  - **Church School** (9:45—10:45 am)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

### QHPW BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

The QHPW will celebrate the birthday of Presbyterian Women with a luncheon on Tuesday, May 14th at 12:00pm. in Johnston Hall. Bring a salad to share. Beverages and dessert will be provided. A special program and offering will follow the meal. The Birthday Offering is collected to celebrate the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women. No giving guidelines are suggested, other than to give as you are blessed. All ladies are invited to attend. Bring a friend.



*Note: We will not meet this month for our regular scheduled Circle meetings at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.*



Ladies, it's time for LADIES NIGHT OUT.

We will meet at Trio's Restaurant Pineville Matthews Road on May 28, at 6:30 p.m. New members, we would love for you to join us for tasty food and warm fellowship.

Please call Carol Crumbley [\(704\) 542-6273](tel:7045426273) or Nancy Smith [\(704\) 552-1568](tel:7045521568) by May 24, if you plan to join us.

## May Scripture Lessons

*The Bible is alive -- it speaks to me; it has feet – it runs after me; it has hands – it lays hold on me.*  
(Martin Luther)

May 5, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter (Kirkin' Sunday): John 5: 1-9  
Pastor Succop preaching: *Rhetorical Questions Worth Answering*

May 12, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter: Psalm 97  
Pastor Succop preaching: *Pit Falls of False Advertising*

May 19, Pentecost  
Matt Wiggins preaching

May 16, Trinity Sunday (Holy Communion): Romans 5: 1-5  
Pastor Succop preaching: *The Pretentious Presbyterian*

## Placing Yourself Before God

“If the heart wanders or is distracted, bring it back to the point quite gently and replace it tenderly in its Master’s presence. And even if you did nothing during the whole of your hour but bring your heart back and place it again in Our Lord’s presence, though it went away every time you brought it back, your hour would be very well employed.”

—St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

Based on the nomination of the Session, the Presbytery of Charlotte selected our own Elton Parker to receive a *2013 Outstanding Older Adult Award*. Elton will be honored at a luncheon and program at Sardis Presbyterian Church on May 2.

Elton was nominated in accordance with the Presbytery’s guidelines, which include the following:

- + personally exemplifying positive images of aging
- + serving as a role model to younger generations for growing older with a sense of God’s grace.

**Congratulations, Elton!**

**2013 ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Sunday, June 9, 2013, 12 noon - 4:00 P.M.**



QHPC has quite the communication network. We have prayer chain emails several times a week. We have a weekly update and a bulletin each Sunday. Once each month a newsletter is prepared and made available online or by paper copy. QHPC has a Facebook page and many of us stay in touch via our own Facebook pages where we have many church family members as our Friends. We are notified immediately, in these many different ways, of the folks who have situations in which they need prayer, a meal, a card, a phone call or anything else we might be able to do to ease their burden. And we respond. We don't care if they are members or not, whether they are close by or not. We respond.

The Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church **Annual Blood Drive** is scheduled for **Sunday, June 9, 2013, from noon until 4:00 p.m.** and I am asking that you once again respond to the need of a friend, friend-of-a-friend, family member, stranger, whomever, and sign up to donate as soon as possible. Every pint of blood is precious and life-saving to someone. Personal connection with a person in need is not something we've ever cared about.

The need is great in our community. Donors are decreasing. Our goal each year is only 30 pints. Quite frankly, we haven't met our goal in several years and it would be very nice if we could turn that around this year or even exceed it.

If you are unable physically to donate, your presence will still be a huge help. We need to register donors and care for them during and after the process. Also, we provide lunch and a hot, hardy (or should that be hearty) soup is always a happy addition for the donors, as well as sandwich makings, chips, etc.

Please call me at (704) 747-5858 or email me at [leonaejohnson@aol.com](mailto:leonaejohnson@aol.com) to schedule a time to donate or contribute in any other way.

Use this website to determine if you are able to donate:

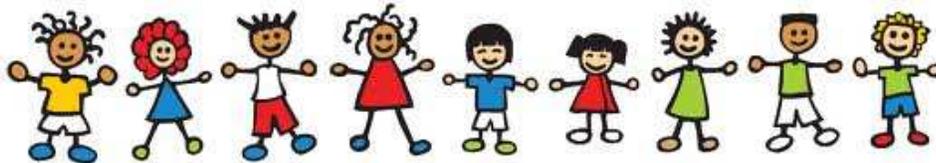
<http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood/eligibility-requirements>.



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Erin Gillis

We are wrapping up another wonderful year at QHPS! Our 4's Classes and TK will be graduating and will be preparing for Kindergarten or Transitional Kindergarten. In April we celebrated *The Week of the Young Child* and *Our Community*. Some of the events included a Bubble Show, Bouncy Houses, and visits from the Fire Department, Police Department and an Medic Service. We also continued our tradition of doing our annual *Trike A Thon* for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. We raised \$2155.00, which means since we have started doing *Trike A Thon* we have raised over \$25,000.00 for the cause. I am so proud of our children and families for playing such important roles in helping others in the community! We are also gearing up for the Summer. We will be holding 4 weeks of summer session and I am excited to say that we have over 65 registrants for Vacation Bible School and most of them are preschool families. I am in need of many volunteers. If you are interested in helping please email me at [preschool@qhpc.org](mailto:preschool@qhpc.org)



Erin Gillis, Director  
[preschool@qhpc.org](mailto:preschool@qhpc.org)  
 704-553-9614

### Wells Fargo Championship Begins



The Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow Club begins Monday, April 29 and continues through Sunday, May 5. Please keep in mind that our lawn is leased to Wells Fargo for tournament employee and media parking. If you need to come to the church during the week, simply tell the parking attendant that you have business at the church office.



### QHPC RECEIVES ANNUAL REBATE CHECK

The east coast field representative of the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program (PILP), Catherine Lynch, worshipped with us on April 14. As most of you know, QHPC has its mortgage through the Program. A unique feature of PILP is that the effective interest rate can be reduced if Presbyterian entities (e.g., members of QHPC) invest with the Program. When members invest, they receive interest on their investment, help QHPC, and provide funds for other churches doing building projects. It's a win-win all the way around. At the beginning of the service, Catherine presented the church's annual rebate check in the amount of \$1870.21, made possible by those members who have invested.

To learn more about PILP, contact Catherine at her Wilmington, DE, office at #866-261-3530 (toll-free), or via email at [catherine.lynch@pcusa.org](mailto:catherine.lynch@pcusa.org). The Program's website is <http://pilp.pcusa.org>.

## CRAFT FAIR SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who both helped and shopped at this year's Spring Craft Fair! We raised **over \$1500** for the Live Nativity. Our Scout Troop raised \$986 through the car wash and selling lunches! Once again, vendors complimented us on how polite and friendly QHPC is, especially our youth (thx, Charlotte!), and how they love our venue. And a great story: BSA Troop 256, while working hard, saw a car break down on Park Rd with a woman in it who was 9 months pregnant. They pushed the car over to the church, popped the hood, and one of the scout leaders got the car running so her husband could take it to the shop. All in all, a great day to be at QHPC! We are a witness to God on this corner of south Charlotte!





## Community Conversations

Rich Bonnell, Clerk of the Session

What is a *Community Conversation*? A *Community Conversation* is a Session convened conversation with the congregation. The Session holds a *Community Conversation* to facilitate faithful, transparent and effective communication. Oftentimes, each conversation will have no specific agenda, although one subject may prevail.

The congregation is invited to bring to the conversation questions, comments, critiques, and compliments. When necessary, the Session may convene a *Community Conversation* at a specific time to impart timely information. Each conversation lasts about an hour and is held in the Sanctuary after worship. The *Community Conversations* scheduled for 2013 are: **June 23, September 22 & December 22.**



# REST IN THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION LIFE

May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be confident knowing you are a child of God. Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love.

- Anonymous



Join us for our last Wednesday night  
Oasis on May 8!

**COMING TO QHPC: *THE STORY***

A church-wide study of the Bible is set to debut in September 2013 here at Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church! Some members may remember the *Purpose Driven Life* study here at QHPC in 2004 and how the whole church came together around one study and how much energy and enthusiasm that generated. *The Story* aims to recreate that and more as we start “in the beginning” in September and go through the entire story of the Bible in worship, in Church School, in small groups, and individually.



*The Story* is more than just the Bible though, it’s a new way of looking at scripture as God’s story in a way that allows us to see how *our* stories intersect with God’s story in surprising ways. The individual stories will come alive, flow into one another, and become more meaningful as we uncover God’s love and plan for restoring our fallen world. This will be a great opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and family who are longing to find their place in something greater than themselves!

As mentioned above, you will have plenty of ways to tailor *The Story* to your preferences. Pastor Gus will kick things off in worship each week by preaching through *The Story*. Small groups and Church School classes will give us a chance to go deeper through conversation and sharing. Daily devotional readings will encourage us to encounter God’s story on our own. There will literally be something for everyone!

If you have any questions about *The Story* and how you or your small group or class can be involved, please contact a member of the Christian Education committee.

**Memorial Gifts were received from the following members and friends of Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church.**

**In Memory of Mal Edwardson  
Betty Phillips**



**Coming in September!**



Plans are underway for an evening of blue grass music on the front lawn. Mark your calendars for September 21 and stay tuned for more details!

**2013 Holy Communion Celebrations**

<i>Communion Sunday</i>	May 26
<i>Summer Communion</i>	July 14
<i>World Communion Sunday</i>	October 6
<i>First Sunday in Advent</i>	December 1



## May Birthdays



Mark Bartholomew	May 3
Ed Milliken	May 3
George Kurani	May 4
Pixie Williams	May 4
Edna Huneycutt	May 8
Megan Sheely	May 9
Ruth Stewart	May 9
Beth Succop	May 9
Angie Clark	May 10
Katy Hudson	May 15
Ellie Wiggins	May 16
Rachel Bonnell	May 19
Linda Patterson	May 19
Cara Rusmisell	May 19
Barbara Navarro	May 20
Blair Olmstead	May 20
Stephanie Barger	May 22
Carol Crumbley	May 23
Paul Pearce	May 23
Cheryl Mims	May 25
Ray Palmer	May 30

## Thank You to our May Ushers!

**Phil & Candace Brandt**  
**Colin Brandt**  
**Becky & Chuck Cheney**  
**Fred & Shonda Deckelman**

### March 2013 Financial Report

March Tithes and Offerings	\$23,226
YTD Tithes and Offerings	\$75,879
YTD Budget for Tithes & Offerings:	\$83,720
YTD Actual Tithes & Offerings vs. Budget	-\$ 7,841

YTD Total Church & Preschool Actual Revenues (offerings + other revenues) versus Expenses: +31,078

### STEWARDSHIP 2013 UPDATE

(as of April 30)

**104 pledges**  
**Totaling:**  
**\$282,844**

### June Newsletter Articles/Information

Deadline for Articles:  
*Friday, May 10*



Submit your articles to  
[qhpcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:qhpcnewsletter@gmail.com).

**New email address?**  
**New mailing address?**  
**New phone number?**

Please notify Ministry Assistant, Liz Hambly  
 (liz@qhpc.org; 704-554-5714) of your changes.



# Quail Hollow

Presbyterian Church

*Loving God...loving neighbor*

## Active Elders

### Class of 2013

Mark Bartholomew  
Ron Blake  
Lee Dempsey  
Cheryl Mims

### Class of 2014

Rich Bonnell, clerk  
Reid Johnson  
Waldo Miller  
Bill Navarro  
Janet Stephens

### Class of 2015

Jan Federal  
Sherrie Young  
Stephanie Burns

Moderator: Gus Succop, Pastor

## Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church (USA)

Learning Hour 9:45 a.m.  
11 a.m. Worship

**Church Office: 704-554-5714**  
**Preschool: 704-553-9614**  
**Office Fax: 704-554-0054**

**VISIT US ON THE WEB!** [www.qhpc.org](http://www.qhpc.org)

Visit us on Facebook! [www.facebook/quailhollowpresbyterian](http://www.facebook/quailhollowpresbyterian)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

**Tuesday—Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Friday: 8:00 to 1:00 p.m.**