



# HYDE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## September 2024 Church Mouse



Dear HPPC Family,

During my first pastorate in Charlotte, North Carolina, I took a course on understanding the culture of various socio-economic classes. The knowledge I gained in that class has been invaluable to me over the years as I have ministered to and with people from all walks of life.

Henry and I had a neighbor who lived across the street from us in Section 8 (subsidized) housing who had a 12-year-old boy. That young boy would come over and ask for school supplies or food, which we happily obliged if we had what he was seeking. While he munched on a homemade cookie, I would listen as he told me about his recent trip to an amusement park or to an NBA game. Though I never shared this with him, I was always a bit frustrated that his mom chose to spend money on extravagant things when she wasn't buying him what he needed for school, and he was regularly eating Beanie Weenies straight from the can.

What I learned in that class is that people of lower financial means often tend to live more in the present moment. If the mom received extra money and could make her son happy with a roller coaster ride or basketball game, she would. It also could be true that she would run out of money before the end of the month, but it is hard to see the future when you are so focused on the present.

The flip side of this is that as a young middle-class couple, we were meeting with a financial planner. We wanted to start saving so we could retire one day and send our kids (who didn't even exist yet) to college. We ate out at restaurants only on occasion and never took extravagant trips or made unnecessary purchases. This, I learned in my class, is because the middle class live less paycheck to paycheck. Because of this, they are more able to think about and consider the future, to set goals and make choices that will help reach those goals.

With the help of that class, I came to see my neighbor in a way that was more compassionate and understanding. I learned from her that if you are always thinking about the future, you may forget to grab hold of the joy that is here now. I also learned that people in lower socio-economic classes tend to be much more giving of their limited funds than people in the upper socio-economic classes.

As we begin this new program year embarking on a mission project in Africa, planning our holiday market and focusing on stewardship, let us consider these present moments with awe and joy, and look to the future for ways to be generous in all of it. May it be so.

Love,

Emily



# Monthly Giving Report



## Volunteer Calendar September 2024

| Date | Greeter/Usher | Refreshments    | Liturgist | Communion    |
|------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1    | Jack & Ross   | Elsa            | Kathryn   | Set Up: Elsa |
| 8    | Jack & Ross   | <b>Luncheon</b> | Ross      |              |
| 15   | Jack & Ross   | Kathryn         | Gary      |              |
| 22   | Jack & Ross   | Karen           | Karen     |              |
| 29   | Jack & Ross   | Alan & Kathy    | Henry     |              |

## Financial Report



| July 2024     |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Plate Income: | <b>\$5,333.00</b>  |
| Expenses:     | <b>\$7,348.34</b>  |
| Total:        | <b>-\$2,015.34</b> |



It is through the seeds of faith that we grow.

Thriving through Prayer, Service & Generosity.

Thank you for your generous contributions as we continue to build for our future.

## Food Pantry



As you give thanks for God's many blessings, please remember those who are hungry and in need. Your donations are greatly appreciated as we provide groceries to our neighbors.

Between August 6th and August 27th, 53 people received groceries.

## Keeping Connected is Important

We have needed an updated Directory for quite some time. Having the correct information is how Emily sends out Zoom invites for weekly service and how Esther sends cards. Gary would like to include photos for the new directory. He is willing to take pictures or if you have one you prefer, please email it to Karen or Emily Owen.



# SEPTEMBER



| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                          | TUESDAY           | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                   | FRIDAY                        | SATURDAY                  |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1<br>HOB  | 2<br>Labor Day                  | 3<br>Food Pantry  | 4  | 5<br>Int'l. Day of Charity | 6<br>Hosea Eyob's Birthday    | 7                         |
| 8<br>Int'l. Literacy Day<br>Grandparents Day<br>Luncheon<br>Women's Group | 9                               | 10<br>Food Pantry | 11<br>Elsa & Joe Aleman's Anniversary<br>Patriot Day | 12                         | 13                            | 14                        |
| 15<br>Gary Brizendine's Birthday  | 16<br>Steven Navarro's Birthday | 17<br>Food Pantry | 18   | 19                         | 20<br>Charlie Eyob's Birthday | 21<br>Int'l. Day of Peace |
| 22<br>ASH Session<br>Start of Fall  | 23                              | 24<br>Food Pantry | 25<br>Int'l Daughter's Day                           | 26                         | 27<br>Austin Christian        | 28<br>Violin Recital      |
| 29  | 30<br>TK Paisley's Birthday     | 30<br>Food Pantry |  |                            |                               |                           |



Relax, kick your feet up and spend time with friends and family as you enjoy a long weekend in celebration of Labor Day on **SEPTEMBER 2ND!**



Our world needs peace now more than ever. Think of how you can contribute to unity on International Day of Peace on **SEPTEMBER 21ST!**



Prepare yourself for refreshing cooler temperatures and beautiful color changes as we welcome the Start of Fall on **SEPTEMBER 22ND!**



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## August Session Highlights

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- Alan gave an update on what he has been doing. He has:
  1. Visited Capital Food Bank. Our church doesn't qualify to receive food for our food pantry because we don't have a refrigerator in the food pantry.
  2. Presbyterian Children's Home is holding its annual lunch at the Viata Hotel. Alan is hosting a table.
  3. He has been in touch with Amplify Austin which matches funds for non-profit organizations. Perhaps our food pantry would benefit from this program.
  4. He has been in contact with the Presbyterian Task Force.
  5. There is a new position at the Presbyterian Seminary entitled Associate for Congregations. The position has been filled and Alan will meet with her soon.
- Emily suggested waiting until new elders are elected for 2025 to fill George's position.
- Emily is applying for another grant for the food pantry. It is offered by the Presbytery and is called the SERVE grant.
- A thank you gift for Doris' hard work was decided on and will be presented to her soon.
- Boram Choi will be our seminary intern for the fall and spring. She will begin in September.
- Emily will be out September 14-20. Alan will preach in her absence.
- Thank you to Elsa and Karen for the lovely reception following George's funeral service.
- Esther sent out 20 cards in June and 18 in July. Thank you, Esther.
- Emily Eyob gave an update on the Congo Mission Project. She will give a presentation to the congregation on September 1st.
- Karen has signed up another group, Austin Christian. They will meet on Friday evening once every other month through July of next year.
- Bennie is concerned about the erosion of the dirt on the hill in front of the church.
- There have been several memorials to the church in honor of George.
- The Holiday Market will be held on Saturday, November 9th. It is never too early to start working toward making that a big success.
- We need a new directory. Gary suggested a photo directory and offered to take the photos. Karen and Emily will work on compiling everyone's updated information.

The next session meeting will be on September 22nd since Emily and Henry will be out of town on the 15th.



# In Honor of George Part I



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## George Bourianoff from Emily Eyob

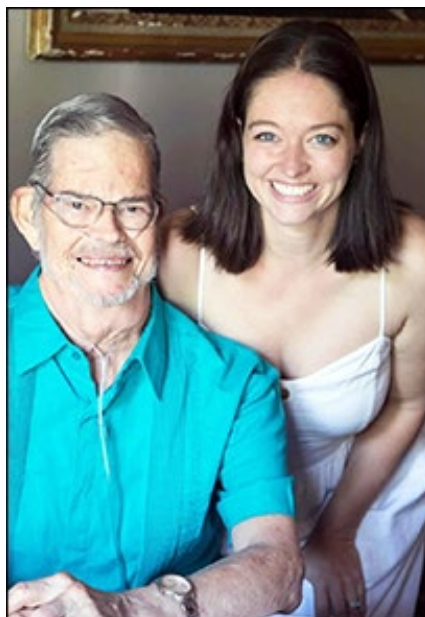
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As you know, we lost a dear member of our congregation, a friend and a mentor recently. Following is a message from Emily Eyob about George and photos from Linda and Emily.

George was a dear friend of mine. We all know how brilliant he was, but he was also gentle, optimistic, enthusiastic, and resilient. We could talk for hours about politics, history, current events, and genealogy. He would add scientific knowledge that sometimes went over my head, but he was never condescending. He always took the time to explain. He truly was a wonderful teacher.

I have deeply missed our breakfast dates and our long conversations. In the past few years, he became interested and intentional about storytelling, so we would swap stories- sometimes they were about personal adventures, sometimes about work, but often they were about family. I had the pleasure of getting to know George's family history and helping him find clues about his father's history. I also learned about his childhood and of course, he shared stories about Linda and his daughters. He would beam with pride when he talked about them. The last date we had set we were supposed to talk about his time at the Superconductor, but unfortunately, we had to postpone because of Covid. I still find myself longing to hear that story.

I was lucky to have a friend like George. He always checked in on us and was so good to my husband, my girls, and me. George was brilliant and an optimistic fighter to the very end. He was a good friend and he will be dearly missed. The last text he sent me was the day we embarked on our crazy road trip to Canada (which he fully encouraged). His text said "Bon Voyage on your big adventure. Have fun, be safe, and let life happen in a good way. Via con Dios." Via con Dios my good friend. Can't wait to see you again.





## In Honor of George Part II



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### George Bourianoff from Emily Owen

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I got to know George better when he went through officer training and installation in January of 2021. Part of the process to become an elder includes preparing a faith statement. George was an artist when it came to words. He spoke about his work in physics and science and things I don't fully understand. Then he eloquently spoke about how those things informed and deepened his faith. It was the beginning of seeing a person always willing to ask questions, to stay curious and to being open to the Spirit and the love of God moving in and around him. It was the beginning of being witness to a man filled with a hope that was constant and deep and wide. Authentic is the word that comes to mind when I remember George.

When I visited George after a more recent hospitalization, George was quick to tell me about the excellent care he was receiving. I know he was tired, but he insisted on sitting up on the edge of his bed and leaning in... listening intently and relishing in the simple act of sharing some moments together. He knew each of the hospital staff who entered his room by name and often knew something about them or their family. George was present in a way that was unique and special. He paid attention and this made it fun to be in his presence.

George was involved in many aspects of the church, but I will always remember his wisdom when it came to matters of money, budgets and stewardship. He had a way of practicing and balancing generosity and humility in a pretty amazing way. He was always asking great questions that helped us be better stewards as individuals and as a church family.

George loved stories. He loved to ask questions that led to great stories and he could tell some great stories. He loved sharing a meal and it didn't have to be fancy. George and I shared a love of biscuits and gravy and I know all of us will miss his laughter around the fellowship table after church.

George will be greatly missed by us at Hyde Park Presbyterian Church. I think it was evident by the turnout and love at his memorial service that George will be missed by so many. Our faith tells us that death doesn't have the last word and we celebrate that George is enjoying the beauty and joy prepared for him by a God who loves him and loves us.

So ask questions, stay curious, take time to get to know people and be present in a way that is authentic and filled with love. Ask questions that bring stories out of others and tell your own stories, too. Be generous and humble. Be good stewards. And laugh as often as you get the chance. May it be so.

Amen.



# In Honor of George Part III



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George Bourianoff from Linda Bourianoff

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# In Honor of George Part IV



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George Bourianoff from Linda Bourianoff Con't.

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## In Honor of George Part V

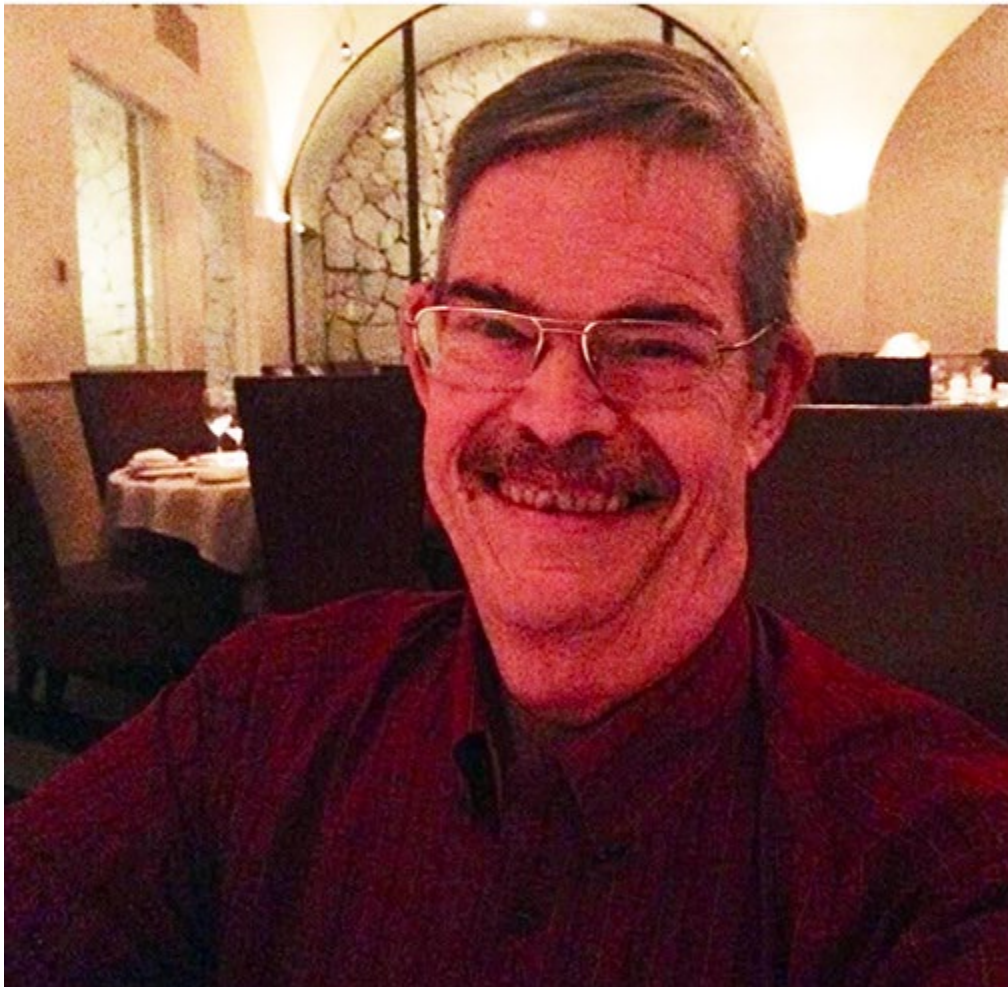


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George Bourianoff from Linda Bourianoff Con't.

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**Thankful for this man and his love, sense of humor and generosity of spirit in all thing and toward all people.**



I think this memory from Linda says so much about George in so few words. HPPC will not be the same without him. Please keep Linda, Michelle and her children in your prayers.