

High Country United Church of Christ

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



Candlelight Vigil -- November 14th - 7PM

The LGBT Center at Appalachian State holds its second annual candlelight vigil to speak out against bullying and harassment of LGBT youth.

Mark Rasdorf, vigil organizer, has attended HCUCC and in keeping with our affirmation to be open and affirming, has invited Shelly to add a spiritual dimension to the Vigil by providing an opening prayer. Please be there to support the event and to expand awareness of HCUCC.

A **congregational meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 20th, after worship. This is a very important meeting, which includes approval of the revised church constitution and bylaws, as well as affirmation of the 2012 budget and council members. The vote for the governing documents **requires that two thirds of the congregation be present**, so please plan to attend! A potluck will precede the meeting.

Farm Café – From Dream To Reality

FARM Cafe has a permanent location! Downtown Boone Drug will be the home of the nonprofit restaurant, which will feed all, regardless of means. The King Street location will provide instant name/place recognition and be accessible to students, faculty, business people, tourists, and, most importantly, those in need who might utilize the Appal Cart bus routes. Fund raising events are being planned for November and December to raise the remaining amount needed to open for operation in April 2012. If you'd like to help, please contact Renee Boughman, n_boughman@yahoo.com or Chris May, cmay060994@aol.com

The final Hospitality Cafe dinner of the year will be held on Thursday, November 10th, at 5:30 in the Hospitality House dining room on Brook Hollow Rd in Boone. The employees of Earth Fare are donating the groceries for this event, and the menu includes braised short ribs, vegetable cobbler, sweet potato casserole, cranberry walnut scones, and pumpkin cookies!

The next church council meeting is Sunday, November 13th, at 12:30 in the sanctuary.

Not Just Another Workday

Workdays at HCUCC are a great time for fellowship and learning new skills. Most recently our volunteers built a raised-bed garden and deer fence. The garden is located to the left of the shed beyond the parking lot. It consists of 7 3x14-foot raised beds, surrounded by an 8-foot deer fence. The tree trunks for the fence posts came from Frank and Donna Helseth's land. The compost, which will fill the beds, will be donated by ASU. We will plant the garden next spring, and the produce will benefit FARM Cafe, Hospitality House, the congregation, and those in need. About 20 church members participated in building the garden.

The second purpose of the workday was to build back porch/steps for the two doors on the back side of the church. Steve Figlow provided his carpentry/engineering expertise to lead this effort.



far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard
at work worth doing.
Theodore Roosevelt



Five Wishes

By Jeanne Tayloe

If you are in a same sex relationship, this is an advisory. If you are legally married in the state of North Carolina, this is informational. If you are single, have you designated someone to make end of life decisions for you?

Recently a friend of mine died unexpectedly. She and her partner thought that their legal papers covered everything regarding health and dying decisions. They had business and health care power of attorneys that had been drafted by an attorney and notarized. These legal documents covered essential issues while a person is alive, but once death occurred, the situation changed. Their papers did not include the necessary phrases that would allow the partner to claim the body, its disposition, or make funeral plans. It was heartbreaking for me to stand beside her at the funeral home and listen as she was told that legally, they could not follow her wishes. I remember my response, "After twenty-seven years together...this is so wrong! No grieving person should have to endure this. Fortunately in this case, the legal next of kin, honored the relationship of these two women and thus, honored the wishes of the remaining partner.

If you do not have legal documents to protect your right to make decisions regarding medical, end of life and after death decisions, for each other, then I urge you to take action to protect yourselves. Susan and I carry a copy of our documents for both of us in each of our cars. This heart-wrenching situation prompted us to be sure that we had language that covered after life decisions and fortunately, we do. Our general power of attorney states "*funeral and disposition of remains- To make whatever arrangements my attorney-in-fact may deem appropriate for the disposal of my body at the time of death.*"

A North Carolina attorney was responsible for our documents, but you may have another less expensive option. During the 2010 Lenten season, HCUCC provided a weekly series on death and dying issues. During one session, church member, John Wilson, introduced the *Five Wishes* living will. This document is recognized in the state of North Carolina when legally notarized.

The five wishes are:

1. The Person I Want to Make Health Care Decisions For Me When I Can't Make Them For Myself.
2. My Wish for The Kind Of Medical Treatment I Want Or Don't Want.
3. My Wish For How Comfortable I Want To Be.
4. My Wish For How I Want People To Treat Me.
5. My Wish For What I Want My Loved Ones To Know.

Wish number one allows the health care power of attorney to donate organs and tissue. Available space allows for other changes, additions or limitations. This could be an appropriate place to specify a partner to make whatever arrangements for the disposal of your body at the time of death.

Wish number five has spaces to designate burial or cremation, the final location of the body or remains and a specific person who knows funeral wishes. It has an area where you can state any other wishes. This area also seems be an appropriate place to specify a partner to make whatever arrangements for the disposal of your body at the time of death.

The *Five Wishes* document can be found at <http://www.agingwithdignity.org/five-wishes.php>

It can be mailed to you or is available as a download. The cost is five dollars each. There may be an additional charge for the notary.



Stephen Mocilan – HCUCC Youth of the Month

Stephen, age 12, is brother to Brooklyn, who is soon to be 10, and is a 6th grader at Hardin Park. Stephen has lived in a couple of different places in NC and started attending Hardin Park in the 4th grade. Stephen's favorite subjects in school are science and language arts. He likes the "cool experiments" they do in science and the reading in language arts.

Stephen spoke extensively about his participation on the Hardin Park "Battle of the Books" team. "In the 4th grade, we got all the way to regionals."

Stephen's favorite movie is "either 'Abduction' or 'Transformers 3: Dark of the Moon'... It's between those two." Stephen commented further that he likes these movies primarily because they have "a lot of action." Stephen's favorite books include the "Percy Jackson" a series of adventure and fantasy fiction books by Rick Riordan. (You may recall, if you've been keeping up with past Youth of the Month articles, that this series is a favorite of Michael Koh as well). "I just like the mythology," says Stephen, "the Greek gods and all that."

When asked what he likes to do in his "free time", Stephen responded, "I usually choose reading, but every now and then, like twice a week, I'll ask if I can go on the computer or play the Wii." Stephen is passionate about reading, playing basketball & football, and watching the UNC Tarheels and the Carolina Panthers. For fun, Stephen likes to play outside. "At school, I go outside every minute I can get." Stephen describes a "great day" as one in which "I improved in something or got recognized or maybe won something." He went on to tell me about his undefeated flag football team at school.

Stephen was posed with the question, "Whom do you admire?" With little hesitation, Stephen responded, "My mom and dad. They're always there for me... When I'm down, they cheer me up. They just try to help me with life." Stephen is actually "Stephen Peter Mocilan, III."

Most HCUCC folks know Stephen and Brooklyn because they typically come to church with Mary Miller and Teri Cleavinger. I asked Stephen what he liked about HCUCC. "Everybody's friendly and just nice. From the first day I was there, Shelly and everyone made me feel welcome. We just have good people at our church." Stephen thinks it would be cool if our youth group "took a trip or just did something that we might not ever do otherwise, like, a once-in-a-youth-group chance to do that." (Well said, Stephen.) "It would be cool if we went to a football or basketball game together."

Thanks for the interview, Stephen, and congrats on being a HCUCC Youth of the Month!!

~ Allan Johnson



Sadie Ann Whyte HCUCC High School Youth of the Month

Sadie, age 17 and a senior at Watauga High School, is daughter to Tom & Lauri Whyte and sister to Alice. Sadie works at Peddler Restaurant in Boone. Sadie's favorite movie is "Forest Gump". "It's funny, but it's also heart-warming and it's good acting. It's a good story." When Sadie has free time, she likes to "hang out with my friends and my boyfriend...maybe go eat at a restaurant or go to the Greenway." Sadie is passionate about art. She especially enjoys creating temporary tattoos (floral designs, etc.) with colored Sharpies.

I asked Sadie to describe what she would consider a "great day". "Let's see... I have a lot of great days. It would be one where I accomplished a lot of things... a day where I wake up on time, eat a good breakfast and get to school on time. If I had any projects or homework due, I would have gotten them done so there was no stress. And then, I would have hung out with my friends and there would have been no tension or anything there and then I would have gone home. And it would have been a good day!"

Sadie's goals for the next two years include graduating from high school and getting into ASU. "I don't know if I want to take a year before I go to ASU to travel or if I just want to go straight into college." Places to which Sadie would like to travel include Central America, South America and Africa. When asked who she admires, Sadie responded, "I admire my mom a lot. It doesn't seem like she's ever mad at anybody for no reason. If she's mad at somebody, she always has a reason and she's still loving towards them... even if she's angry at them. And that's what I admire the most... that she loves everybody and it seems like a reflex for her... like she doesn't even have to try."

Sadie thinks the HCUCC Youth Group does a lot of cool things and commented further that it would be cool if the youth group, as well as the church at large, continued to do community service, "but on a more personal level where we can connect to the people we're helping."

Thanks for the interview, Sadie! And congratulations for being Youth of the Month!

~ Allan Johnson



Happy Thanksgiving

