

The Harmony Grit

Robert Fletcher Hardy, IV, Pastor

February, 2008

2007 Missions Giving a New Record!

Harmony may be small in membership, but our heart is definitely in the right place. Our Missions Committee held a pledge campaign for the 2007 calendar year. The congregation pledged \$6,600. The money was to be divided between God's Pit Crew (local), Red Bird Mission (National), and Peter & Masha Oswalt in Russia (International). When the dust settled, we had collected \$7,970.84 for the year! That is by far our highest total. Isn't it a wonderful feeling to be a part of such a caring congregation?

Youth and Children Programs Growing!

Sunday nights are definitely busier at Harmony these days. Several months ago we started a Sunday night program for our teenagers. Rick Hayward is working with our Middle School students. Sue Gibson meets with the High School group. Everyone was having so much fun that the pre-teens wanted to get in on the action. In January, Lauren Betterton, Kendra Hardy and Sherri Hayward began a class for the younger children.

The activities start at 6:30 PM each Sunday. There is food, fun and fellowship galore. Classes are available for the pre-kindergarten through high school students. The festivities end at 8. Come to think of it—the Adult Bible Study Class (taught by Butch Salmons) runs from 7 until 8 PM each Sunday. That means you can bring your children, stay for Bible Study, and pick them up at 8. How's that for covering the needs of all ages?

Harmony UMC Profile "Amazing"

How long have you been attending Harmony Church? Have you seen any changes in the last 10 – 15 years? Our Pastor shared with me some very interesting and humbling facts just recently. It seems he received a "Local Church Profile" for the 1996 -2005 time period. The report was given to him by our District Superintendent Bruce Tuttle at a January meeting. The information I am about to share with you is compiled from data provided by the VA Conference of our United Methodist Church.

In 1996, membership at Harmony was 29, but our worship service attendance averaged 33 each week.

In 2005, membership had grown to 57, and worship attendance averaged 75. During those 10 years, our membership increased 96%, and our attendance increased 127%. Those are humbling statistics, but wait, there's more!

In 1996, our Sunday School program attendance averaged 18. By 2005, the number had grown to 39. That is a 116% increase in attendance!

Giving to benevolences has shown the greatest increase. The offerings to worthy causes are up 1,320% over this 10 year period. That 10 year period also included such actions as: vinyl siding of our sanctuary, padding the pews, paving the parking lot, purchasing five acres of land, and the construction of our building addition! God has allowed us to accomplish great things at Harmony. All He asks is that we remain faithful to His Word. Thanks be to God!

Men to Feed Congregation

Some of you may remember that the Faithful Few Men's Crew prepared a delicious feast for the congregation last year on the Sunday near Valentine's Day. I have been able to procure a menu for this year's mouth watering meal. If my source is correct, we will be dining on roasted chicken, lasagna, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, dessert and drinks. It sounds almost too good to be true. Plan now to attend the "Men's Meal" on Sunday, February 10th. Come to worship to feed your faith and stay to feed your stomach!

Back Page Bits

Check out these activities for February.

Tuesday, February 5th @ 7 PM
Wednesday, February 6th @ 7 PM
Sunday, February 10th @ 8 AM
Sunday, February 10th @ 12:15 PM
Wednesday, February 13th @ 7 PM

Building and Grounds Committee Meeting.
Ash Wednesday Service.
Faithful Few Men's Crew breakfast and meeting.
Lunch (compliments of Faithful Few Men's Crew).
Ladies Fellowship Meeting.

These events are in addition to the regular 6:30 PM Youth and Children meetings and the 7 PM Bible Study on Sunday nights, and the 7PM meal and 7:30 PM Contemporary Worship Service on Thursday nights.

February Birthdays: Millie Abbott – 1st Myrna Gibson – 2nd Faye Smith – 9th Tony Mosteller – 16th
 Noel Salmons – 22 Kurt Dougherty – 28

February Anniversaries : Rick & Sherri Hayward -- 7th Robert & Woodie Hardy – 25th

Three of our Harmony families need your prayers for an extended period of time. Jenelle Crow (Debi Keatts' mother) is a patient at: Brian Center Room 208 224 North Oakland Ave. Eden, NC 27288. She is being treated for kidney failure and heart disease.

Ann Hardy is undergoing physical therapy and intravenous antibiotics for her infection at: UVa-HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital Room 319 515 Ray C Hunt Drive Charlottesville, VA 22908. She will be there for at least the next two weeks. Her room phone number is 434-244-2185.

Kyle Hilbert is facing several months of experimental chemotherapy treatments. He will be traveling to the hospital for 7-8 days of treatment, returning home for a few days of rest and recovery, then starting the routine all over again. Kyle and Joyce's home address is: 1131 Manning Street Eden, NC 27288 The phone number is 336-627-5605.

A Valentine Message!

When you buy that box of candy or bouquet of flowers for your valentine (or a necktie for your guy), don't forget about the One who gives True, Pure Love to you every day – our Savior Jesus Christ!



The All-Star cast for our December, 2007 Christmas Play.



Cast and congregation enjoy refreshments after the Play.