

HIPC Happenings for July 2025

Happy 4th of July

Dear HIP Church,

Summer's dog days are upon us, and we, as a congregation, are scattering in different directions. Snowbirds returned just in time to say "hello" and "goodbye" to folks who travel for the summer, and of course, summer is a prime time for vacationing.

I have been traveling, and will be traveling more, this summer. Thanks again for your love and support as I have journeyed back and forth to Virginia in celebration of my grandson's arrival. Lydia and John were recently telling me how much they appreciate your generosity.

I will be on a study leave to Ring Lake Ranch in DuBois WY for an event on spiritual writing June 29-July 6. I look forward to visiting Yellowstone, Salt Lake City and Arches on the drive back. I hope that wherever you go and whatever you do, you will learn something -- and do something -- that will be life-giving and that you will share your joy with your church family.

Later in July, I will be away again, and you will be in the capable hands of Kaye Lee Moore, Mary Diehl, Doug Miller and Phil Blackburn in my absence. I am grateful for the presence of two retired ministers in this congregation. While all of us who still work full-time (or full-time-and-a-half) may occasionally daydream about retirement, I suspect that retired ministers sometimes miss leading worship. So, I am glad that Kaye and Doug will have the opportunity to do so while I'm gone.

At the other end of the spectrum are inquirers and candidates who feel called to ministry and are eager for their first chance to preach, and I am thrilled that I am able to give this opportunity to Mary Diehl, as she will not only be given an opportunity to preach for the first time but also will be afforded an opportunity to preside at the Lord's Table again.

Phil Blackburn leads The University of the Ozarks' Thriving Ministry Program, and the Presbytery of Arkansas benefits from this Lily Endowment funded program by having Phil and others offer training events for ruling elders. I know that some of you have participated in workshops that Phil has led and can attest to how fortunate you will be to host him.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if something major comes up (276-477-0000). I will return your call or text as quickly as I can. Please pray for me while I will be traveling, and as always, I will pray for you.

Blessings,
Ron