

Director's Note

I pray the New Year brings good health and happiness to you and your families. As I look back on 2022 I can see God's hand at work in a mighty way. For example, we started getting in a lot of formula and weren't sure why, but we knew God sent it for a reason. Then the formula shortage came along and the grocery stores did not have formula, but Hope Women's Center had formula. Through God's provisions we were able to help people who normally would not need our help. Then we had someone bring in a double stroller for twins. We do not get a lot of requests for double strollers, but that same evening a client came in needing a double stroller. We could go on and on telling about God's blessings, but you know how He works.

We Praise God for all the blessings in 2022, but the greatest blessing He provided was you, our faithful partners in the ministry. May God richly bless you! Serving together,
Glennon Britton

Considering Volunteering?

Hope Women's Center is here to serve those in unplanned pregnancies and we can always use your help in this ministry. No matter your skill set or interests, your gifts can be used to make a profound difference in the lives of women in our community. Please consider volunteering at Hope Women's Center. Call (864) 855-8500 for more information.

Walk for Life

Our 2022 Walk for Life event was held in October and was very successful, bringing in just over \$9,000.00. We praise the Lord for all the folk who came out to walk (or run) the Doodle Trail with us. The Center only runs on donations and with the Walk we are able to do projects and if we run low on donations we are able to buy supplies for the young ladies that come into the Center for personal needs for their baby. The Walk for Life will again be held towards the beginning of October this year on the Doodle Trail across the street from the Women's Center. We will send out more information during the summer. God Bless and Happy New Year.

Gail Porter-Chairman

Sanctity of Human Life

Sunday, January 22, 2023

The commemoration of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday traces its roots to a U.S. Supreme Court decision made in 1973 and the presidential proclamation which followed in 1984. On January 22, 1973, the Court ruled that a state law banning abortions except to save the life of the mother, was unconstitutional. The ruling essentially legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states. On January 22, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating that day as the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day. Churches around the United States continue to mark Sanctity of Human Life Sunday as a day to recognize human beings are created in the image of God and that all human life is sacred set apart for the worship of and service to Him. They commemorate the many lives lost to and impacted by abortion, and commit themselves to upholding the sanctity of human life at every stage.

On Going Needs

Hope Women's Center tries to provide anything a baby up to the age of 24 months might need. As with any "family" our stock frequently needs to be replaced and often our needs vary. Please understand that when God blesses us abundantly through you and we have ample supplies of certain items, we pass them on to other organizations that hold the same view of life as we do and may be in need of some of these items. As of right now we could use diapers sizes 4 & 5, pull ups sizes 3T/4T and 4T/5T, baby wash, girl and boy clothes and sleepers sizes 18 months to 2T, maternity clothes, breast pumps and boy crib sheets.

We can always use wipes, lotion, and baby shampoo. Please check the dates on formula or baby food to make sure they are not expired or close to being expired. Again, thank you so much for all your faithfulness in giving and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to call and ask.

Legislation

The new legislative session has begun. The 125th South Carolina General Assembly convened on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, with a large budget surplus and a long list of proposed legislation to get through. During the next five months, lawmakers will debate issues and bills in areas ranging from

public safety and workforce development to fentanyl, and education. The legislature began its two-year schedule with a new House Speaker and a far more conservative republican set of representatives after last year's election. "Our priority over this next session is going to be South Carolina," said New House Speaker Murrell Smith. "We can only do this together. South Carolina and Columbia is not Washington D.C." In the wake of the state supreme court's decision to throw out the fetal heartbeat law, abortion restrictions could also dominate discussions in both chambers.

Leaders in both parties emphasized they don't want abortion to dominate the session. "It is unfortunate that we're going to see a flurry of action to take away what has already been deemed a constitutional right for a woman with her own body," said Rutherford.

"Protecting life is going to be important to us in this state and the House of Representatives, but also that doesn't mean we're going to be bound by one issue," said Smith. Please be aware of what is happening in Columbia and if a major bill comes up we will pass the word on to you.

Did You Know ...?

You can change and save lives simply by volunteering, giving and praying?

That over 60% of women choose abortion because they are not being supported by the father and/or their parents?

That you can help support young women in crisis pregnancies through your local Pregnancy Care Center and Hope Women's Center is the only local such center?

That telling others about why you are pro-life can save a life in the future?

That getting out there and helping a woman in crisis speaks much louder than just saying you are pro-life?

My Body, My Choice

Pregnancy is beautiful, powerful, amazing. Where there was one, now there are two. God creates, and in His astonishing generosity, He grants women the opportunity to share in this new, generative, life-forming process.

A new life begins. A new body is formed.

But with this wonderful opportunity comes weighty responsibility, because beginning at conception, every pregnancy involves two or more bodies.

No matter how you spin it, women don't have four arms and four legs when they're pregnant. Those extra appendages belong to the tiny human

being(s) living inside of them.

The slogan, "My Body, My Choice," betrays a tragic misunderstanding of what is taking place inside the womb. At no point in pregnancy is the developing embryo or fetus simply a part of the mother's body, as a number of clear biological facts and all sorts of legal precedents indicate.

It's a hard truth for many to hear though. The body inside your body is not your body.

Each of us has to admit, when we look at the ultrasound—even a young child knows; we all know—there's another body in there. Where there was one, now, there are two. So, to delude ourselves into thinking it's just my body, my choice betrays a tragic misunderstanding of reality. To intentionally harm either of the bodies, mother or child, is wrong. Point blank.

It may be surprising to realize that many of the people who are most vulnerable to the abortionist's rhetoric when they are faced with an unwanted pregnancy are not actually pro-choice. They're just scared, scared to scandalize their family or a church with their secret. The false gospel of the abortion clinic, which says, "We can make all your trouble go away for you," is overwhelmingly seductive to them.

What they need more than a lesson in embryonic development is to have the Gospel preached to their conscience. This means much more than simply offering "The Roman's Road" plan of salvation or prompting a sinner's prayer. It means speaking directly with the message of Jesus' complete sovereignty of the universe (including their lives) as well as His righteous indignation on the murder of the unborn. But, most importantly, they need to understand and embrace His complete absorption of God's wrath on the cross, His invitation to mercy and fellowship, and the imputed righteousness of the Son of God.

The Gospel disarms the appeal of the abortion clinic because it offers truth with love, judgment with mercy, and righteousness with grace. The consciences of those around us don't believe what they're telling themselves. They're scared and confused. Shine a light on their conscience, and then present the Gospel of reconciliation. We are thankful that the grace of Jesus Christ is available to all. Mothers who have made a decision they regret and now deal with the echoing pain. Fathers who have shirked responsibility. A nation who has turned a blind eye to the ravages of a "convenience abortion" culture. A church who has abdicated care for the least to the state. And yet, there is always hope in Jesus Christ.

That's the hard truth. I've sought to tell the truth. Have you?