

Sanctity of Human Life Remembrance

On January 22, 1976, the Supreme Court handed down a ruling that held a woman's right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision gave a woman total autonomy over the pregnancy during the first trimester and defined different levels of state interest for the second and third trimesters. As a result of that ruling over **46 million** abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973.

Our Judeo-Christian tradition teaches us the sanctity of human life. The Bible says in Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Having been made in the image of God means so much more than receiving certain abilities and attributes. It means we actually are the images of God. Without a doubt, human life is sacred! What a privilege!

At Hope Women's Center, we believe that all of human life is of inestimable worth and significance, including the life of the pre-born. Yet today, over 80 million people have participated in an abortion-related decision—including boyfriends, husbands, and parents. The scars of those decisions will remain forever with the family. Yet, God, in His infinite wisdom and love, is able to forgive. He cannot restore the aborted life, but He can give forgiveness that will meet each person at her point of need, and His sufficiency will abundantly supply. One way He often does that—in fact, the most common way—is through His people. And that is the primary purpose of Hope Women's Center.

This month, as you celebrate the Sanctity of Human Life, pray that God will begin to change the society in which we live by changing the hearts of people to whom we minister. Pray for the families that have been affected by the abortion decisions. And pray for the ministry of Hope Women's Center right here in Pickens County.

Who is Hope Women's Center?

Hope Women's Center is overseen by a dedicated Board of Directors. Judy Pace is the director of the Center and her warm and loving heart touches each person who enters the building. Joan Johnson and a small number of volunteer counselors

give of themselves to counsel the ladies who enter the Center. Yet, in a very real sense, the people behind the Center are the many individuals, churches, and businesses within the community who constantly and consistently reach out to help with time, talent, and finances. HWC could not exist without them. So in a special way we would like to thank:

****Kathleen Herbst, Laura Leners, Katie Breazeale and Megan Fogle.** These girls have been together in a local Girl Scout troupe since first grade. Together with their leader, Carol Breazeale, they chose to donate \$1,400.00 to the Center.

****The Jones Hill Church of God, under the direction of Sam Stephens, sponsored a motor cycle diaper run.** Imagine 17 motorcycles coming to the Center with an abundance of baby items! What a joy it was.

****Under the leadership of Larry Gibson and Wallace Williams, the Center now has a new roof and gutters completely paid for.** We praise God and thank the following for all they did to make this possible: James & Ann Black, John & Sue Donnell, Larry & Bertie Gibson, Gary & Betty Harris, Tom & Jo Ann Husley, Ed & Jeannie Jagers, Jerry & Brenda Miller, Bill & Marie Nichols, Chupene and Carolyn Nalley, George & Donna Patterson, Mike Rogers, Jerry & Ginger Sloan, Dan & Sandra Staley, Oscar & Susan Thorsland, David & Barbara Trotter, Wally & Diane Williams, Dixie Lumber Co, Glenco Insulations, Lewis & Barbara Huss, Huss Exteriors, and the Hunt Law Firm.

****After nearly 20 years in operation, 2009 was a banner year for Hope Women's Center as we were able to pay off our mortgage—made possible by many monthly donations from churches, individuals, groups and businesses.**

New Volunteer

Hope Women's Center is always looking for volunteers to help with the counseling ministry. Our newest volunteer is Pennie Hundley. She has already been a blessing to the Center. She has a heart of love for all the young girls who come into the Center. Welcome Pennie! And if you have the time and the desire to help young people in our community, please contact us at Hope Women's Center for more information.

Opportunities

We had many opportunities in 2009 to speak to churches regarding the Center, the Sanctity of Human Life and abstinence. We also had many church groups visit to learn more about our services. We assisted people from the State Fair through the Association. We also welcomed church groups who came in and helped to change over our summer clothes to winter clothes. We are so thankful for all these openings. If you would like us to present the work of Hope Women's Center to your church or ladies' group, or if you would like to arrange a visit to the Center, please call us. We would be happy to meet with you.

In addition to the opportunities to speak, we also were able to minister to 688 clients and had 17 babies born to our clients. What a tremendous joy!!! We praise God for all He does for us and through us.

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. We are always in need of diapers (sizes newborn to size 6), wipes, baby lotion, powder, shampoo, baby oil, pacifiers, bottles, formula (please check the expiration date), sleepers, preemie clothing, warm coats and sweaters, new or gently used baby clothes, baby cribs (with all the parts) and bassinets. Maternity clothing is also a frequent need.

We strive to serve God by giving Him our best at Hope Women's Center—spiritually, physically and emotionally. When the women/girls come through our doors, we want to furnish them and their babies with the best items possible. Thank you for helping us to do this.

From Our Volunteers

The dictionary defines hope as "one that gives promise for the future." That is the goal for the Hope Women's Center—to give unborn babies a promise for the future. I have been volunteering at the Hope Women's Center for over five years. I believe it is God's desire to use His people to minister to the poor and needy, the hungry and homeless, and the lost and complacent. The women who come through the Center are God's children and the life that they are carrying is a life that only God can give. I am blessed to have a part in helping these women learn to take

care of themselves and their children. I enjoy watching the learning videos with each client and always learn something new. Each client is unique and it is a joy to watch them grow physically, mentally and spiritually.

God has a plan for the Hope Women's Center and I have seen it come to fruition under the present leadership. Judy Pace has a wonderful, compassionate heart for everyone who comes to the Center. She knows each client and always has a hug for them and their families. Joan and all of the volunteers are genuine in their desire to minister to the needs of the women and their babies. I count it joy to be a part of this ministry. Donna Roberts.

Having worked with children for 45 years in various capacities, after our youngest child graduated from high school, I wanted to be part of a ministry that worked with children. Hope Women's Center seemed to offer this opportunity. This time, however, I found that working behind the scenes was a much better niche for me. Since 2005 I have been privileged to work in the nursery room, as well as the maternity room, sorting, organizing, and storing all the donations. Helping with the newsletter has also allowed me to be part of the ministry while still fulfilling my role as primary care giver for our physically handicapped son. I have been blessed to see Judy and Joan as they minister to the people who come through the Center. Their obvious caring hearts are well suited for their ministry. There are so many ways in which HWC could use the help of people, whether for a few hours each month or many hours each week. As we teach our children the blessing of giving rather than receiving, putting that into practice at the Center becomes a double blessing—for us and for the women who so much need the help. I am truly thankful for the opportunities I have had at the Women's Center.

Gale Farrier

Psalm 139:13-16 - "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."