

Stations of the Cross – 2011



Pastor Ed Rutenkroger of New Hope UMC listening as Information is given about the Walk.

The Stations of the Cross refers to the liturgical practice of using various events in the final hours of Jesus' life as a structure for prayer and meditation (also called the *Via Crucis* or Way of the Cross). These events encompass Jesus' journey carrying his cross from the Hall of Pilate where he was condemned to death to the site of his execution on Golgotha (Calvary). The 14 Stations of the Cross are:

1. Christ condemned to death;
2. The cross is laid upon him;
3. His first fall;
4. He meets His Blessed Mother;
5. Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross;
6. Christ's face is wiped by Veronica;
7. His second fall;
8. He meets the women of Jerusalem;
9. His third fall;
10. He is stripped of His garments;
11. His crucifixion;
12. His death on the cross;

On Saturday, March 12, 2011 worshippers had the opportunity to publically profess their faith by walking and praying the Stations of the Cross. *"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me"* (Luke 9:23). This event along with Ash Wednesday service on March 9th began a period of sober reflection, self-examination, and spiritual redirection for worshippers in Perquimans County, NC.

The one-mile walk began at Hertford UMC, in Hertford, NC. The 14 Prayer Walk/Stations were located throughout the lovely town of Hertford.



The faithful beginning their walk from Hertford UMC through the town of Hertford, NC.



Worshippers took turns carrying the wooden cross to the 14 Stations of the Cross.



A picture depicting a scene of Jesus' journey carrying the cross is held up while the Pastor reads the corresponding scripture.

13. His body is taken down from the cross; and

14. He is laid in the tomb.

Worshippers took turns carrying the wooden cross to each station. Once at a station the faithful viewed a picture of Christ which represented that station. Rev. Lawrence Bowden Jr., Hertford UMC; Rev. Sadat Mendez, Center Hill UMC; Rev. Ed Rutenkroger, New Hope UMC; and Rev. Raymond Tavenner, Perquimans Charge (Cedar Grove UMC in Winfall, Epworth UMC in

Winfall, and Oak Grove UMC in Hertford) read scripture at each station and a worshiper would express his/her feelings on the events that were taking place. Worshippers would then respond by reading prayers and singing hymns.



Worshippers gather at Station 14, Christ is laid in the tomb.

The Stations of the Cross Prayer Walk ended back at Hertford UMC with Worship and Holy Communion. A hot dog lunch was served following Worship.

This was a time to reflect on the final days and hours of Jesus' life.

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall have eternal life. (Romans 10:9)