



New Hope News in DECEMBER 2011



Programs
by our
children
and youth
Sunday,
December
4 at 6:00 p.m.

December at a Glance:

- 2nd - 7 - 10 p.m. babysitting (must be registered)
- 4th - 6:00 p.m. Children and Youth present programs. These are followed by refreshments and a special guest appearance.
- 11th - Choir Cantata in both services
- 24th - 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Communion services
- 25th - One worship service at 11:00 a.m.



Christian studies will expand in 2012 as part of our *Where Faith Meets Life* theme.

The Beth Moore study of Esther will be offered on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings. Although dates and times are yet to be set, a men's study is being considered.

On January 9 a class in Christian Financial Literacy will be offered. (See page 4) Wednesday night classes taught by JD and Cali won't begin until February.

More events and classes are being considered for the entire year so watch for information in future newsletters and weekly bulletins.



The Local Church Leaders Workshop has a new name: **Re-ignite.**

According to Aly Shahan, conference coordinator, "we are being more intentional; we want people to know the workshops are open to all." "The training will have more of a rally feel. We are even being intentional about organized, energized worship."

The Oklahoma City conference, to be held on Saturday, January 28, will add components for youth and children. The youth will explore differences in religions and discuss bullying. Children's groups will take part in a VBS-style experience.

When we receive information, it will be available in the office and in the January newsletter since registration is necessary to attend.



Beginning in January

New Hope is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings.

Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. If you give weekly you would no longer need to write out 52 checks or prepare envelopes.

When travel, illness or unforeseen circumstances prevent you from attending services, this allows your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

An authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

We are grateful for all new members to our New Hope family this year! Please welcome our newest:

Earl & Earline Baker
Jim, Teresa, Trey & Leslie Coffman
Samantha Howell
Shirley McIlroy
Elaine Pierce
James & Shirley Yates



Sunday, December 11 in both services. Come hear our Choir and the New Hope House Band.



Christmas Eve Services and Communion at 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - one worship service at 11:00 a.m.



Ninety-six pledges have been turned in for a total of \$448,985!

The pledges make it possible for us to plan for ministries in 2013. See page 2.

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Pastor's Report 2011



This has been a year of celebration and progress for New Hope United Methodist Church. The theme for 2011 was: **Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present, Anticipating the Future!** The past was remembered with a George and Martha Washington Dinner in February, Renewal of Hope Day in March with former pastors Dan Pulver and Dan Peil, a 50th Anniversary Celebration with Bishop Hayes in July, and a '60's Fellowship and Dance in October.

We celebrated the present as we refurbished the current facility and paid off the note on the building, leaving New Hope debt free for the present. This past year saw new flooring and paint in the fellowship hall, new ceiling tiles in many areas, new carpet in the offices and sanctuary, and new paint in the sanctuary.

We anticipated the future as we formed a Building Study Committee and did a congregational survey to determine the current and future needs for an improved facility. Preliminary plans were discussed in the October Town Hall Meeting and there was a consensus that the church will move ahead. The Building Study Committee is to become the Building Committee and it is anticipated that a building project will take place in the not too distant future.

This has been a year for many other church activities. Bishop Hans Vaxby of Russia preached in April and this has led to New Hope becoming involved in the Russian initiative. A mission trip to Russia is being considered for 2013. This past year, members of New Hope participated in VIM trips to Nepal and Nicaragua. The Health Fair, under the direction of Paul Stilwell, was a huge success. The youth, children's, and family ministries of the church continue to grow. The youth group went on a mission trip to Georgia and participated in Youth Force in Norman. A special offering was taken for Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Acahualinca in Managua. This offering is paying the rent on the building and helping to provide a feeding program to children living in poverty.

I attended a number of Continuing Education events in 2011. The highlight of these was the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis. In addition to this, I attended the Social Holiness Retreat at Camp Canyon, Stewardship Focus Day at Church of the Servant, and Day with the Bishop in Midwest City. In addition to preaching and pastoral duties, I taught Confirmation, taught Wednesday night classes on World Religions and John Wesley, completed Disciple I, and am currently leading a Companions in Christ group on Sunday evenings. I also served as a leader at JEM Camp and Elementary Camp. I have already enrolled for the Clergy Benefits Academy for 2012 and also plan to return to JEM Camp. I went on a VIM trip to Nicaragua in 2011 and plan to do the same in 2012. I have also participated in a number of A-OK projects, including the Winds House, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, and a cleanup effort in Piedmont.

In conclusion, let me say that I feel blessed to be a member of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church and to be appointed at New Hope. My wife, Karrie, and I had a wonderful vacation on an Alaskan cruise in 2011 and look forward to going to Yellowstone, Glacier National Park, and Mount Rushmore in 2012. The words I heard each day in Nicaragua come back to me, "Dios es bueno. Dios es bueno todo el tiempo!"

GENEROSITY CHANGES EVERYTHING PLEDGE REPORT

It is our joy to report that generosity is alive and well at New Hope Church!

As of the end of November, we have received pledges from 96 families, for a total of \$448,985 in pledges. The 2012 budget for New Hope is \$454,804, so we have pledged 98.75%!!

That is fantastic!! Our goal now is to receive at least 100 pledges and pledge 100% of the budget. If you have not made a pledge, please prayerfully consider what you can do.

Every pledge is important to us and supporting the church allows you to bless the lives of others. **GENEROSITY CHANGES EVERYTHING!!**



Sunday

Attendance:

November 6 - 249
November 13 - 234
November 20 - 227
November 27 - 240



Helping Hands Food Pantry gave out 23 holiday dinner bags for Thanksgiving thanks to your generosity. We have a few extras to give for Christmas.

We are having a large problem with opened, outdated food being 'gifted' to the pantry. Please do not give old food that you would not eat yourself. Also, when you are bringing something from a kitchen cupboard, please be sure it has not been already opened.

We will be closed December 27th, the Tuesday after Christmas. Thank you so much for the many generous donations we have had through the year. We have those who donate money, groceries and the physical act of going shopping for us. A huge thank you to all of you.....too many to thank by name. We are blessed to have such a wonderful congregation!

Our needs now are 18 oz. canisters of quick oatmeal, canned fruit, canned chicken, chunky soups & chili, peanut butter and jelly.
Thank you! Kimberly and Sharia

Easy Christmas Shopping!

The ladies of Mary Martha Circle are selling RADA cutlery. These quality utensils are made in the USA and guaranteed. They will have a display table set up December 4 and 11 for your shopping convenience



You are a GENEROUS bunch of Christians!

This fall:

We collected about 330 "warm fuzzies" that were given to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol's 16 districts and EMSA to be distributed to children in emergency situations.

125 boxes were filled and brought for world-wide operation by Operation Christmas Child.

You set up an apartment in Exodus House for someone coming back into society after being incarcerated.

Cell phones have been donated to the Sheriff's Department to be reprogrammed for emergency calls.

Used eyeglasses and cases are continually collected to be used by those less fortunate.

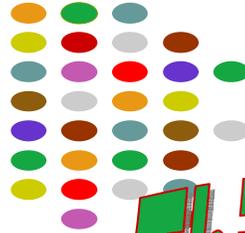
Thirty Holiday Food baskets were donated for Helping Hands Pantry Clients.

Thirty children in foster or adoptive care will be given Christmas wishes thanks to those of you who took a name from the Angel Tree. (ongoing until December 4)

Cowboy and Sooner fans are involved in friendly competition to be named most generous fans by bringing items for the Infant Crisis Center's Bedlam for Babies campaign. (ongoing until December 4)

Thank you for participation in these wonderful outreach projects! If you have something in mind for 2012, please share the ideas!

"Christmas reminds us that we are not alone. We are not unrelated atoms, bouncing and ricocheting amid aliens, but are a part of something, which holds and sustains us. As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same. Christmas shows us the ties that bind us together, threads of love and caring, woven in the simplest and strongest way within the family." Donald E. Westlake.



This 'n' That



If you took a slip from the **Angel Tree** be sure to return the gift Sunday, December 4. It should remain *unwrapped* with the original slip attached so it goes to the correct child.

"Christmas gift suggestions:
To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect."

Oren Arnold



SERVICES

6 p. m.
and
8 p. m.

Christmas Day - One service at 11:00

Holiday
Baby-
sitting
Dec. 2
See
Page
6

December Liturgists:

December 4 1st - Lori Foster
2nd - Rick Ernest
December 11 1st - Tim Gosdin
2nd - Robin Paul
December 18 1st - Julie Gosdin
2nd -Jacque Bruce
December 25 *one service at 11:00*
Craig Sturniolo

Exodus House Report

from information provided by Denning Crowe

Exodus House is finished! What a blessing it has been. To recap: This program of the Oklahoma UM Conference in Oklahoma City and Tulsa provides temporary housing for convicts who have just been released from prison. A group of New Hope people in Oklahoma City redecorated and refurnished a two-bedroom apartment on 25th Street which has the smallest kitchen most had ever seen.

Exodus House has strict rules to be followed and counseling and church attendance is mandatory. Over 80% of the men and women successfully complete the program. When they do, they may take all furnishings as they start a new life.

New Hope has committed to refurnishing the apartment when it is needed. Most stays are six months but can be extended to nine. We have a good start on needs for the next time, thanks to generous donations from members of the congregation. The two unrelated people who are to occupy it now were to move in this week.

Thanks to the Methodist Men for undertaking the project and providing manpower and two gift cards from local businesses. Many of the volunteers took on Herculean tasks, including re-flooring and painting the apartment. New Beginnings Sunday School class provided the flooring and had a party where things for the apartment were gathered. Ruth Circle and Mary Martha Circle were generous in providing kitchen items, groceries and other household items.

Many anonymous members of the congregation took slips from our bulletin board and provided things we had needed and requested to make this a livable and comfortable home. An unexpected expense of a new refrigerator was covered by you wonderful people!

Special thanks to Tim Gosdin for all his work and Jim Coffman who provided a truck to make many trips down there transporting furniture. Mary Ann Hullinger, Julie Guilford, Nellyne and Bob Hanlin spent untold hours making this an appealing and comfortable apartment. At the risk of leaving off a name, and huge apologies if you are not listed, these people were very helpful throughout the process in various ways: Randy and Rhonda McGuire, Beth Brown, Randy Scott, Dan Korner, Jim McClure, Leroy and Patti Saiz, Zach Foster, Lizz Foxhoven, Chris Porter, Richard Foster. Also, Sharia and Bob Cleburn, Margaret Mills, Chris and Corey Reed, Liz Long, Vita Crowe and Roger Hurt. Thank you to those nameless people who donated things

A few weeks ago JOY Sunday School class was asked to pray from a passage in Max Lucado's book *Out Live Your Life: You Were Made to Make a Difference*:

"Dear Lord, you promised we would always have the poor among us. Help me to make sure that the reverse is also true: that I am always among the poor -- *helping*, serving the very visible poor in my corner of the world. Help me to be *creative* without being condescending, *encouraging* without being egotistic, and *fearless* without being foolish."



Scenes from the Greens (Hanging of the)

Fire of Advent

by Edward Hays in

A Pilgrim's Almanac

"Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. Since it comes at winter time, fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent....If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time."



DECEMBER Birthdays

Anniversaries

Rick & Charlene Ernest
Ken & Mary McQueen
Dave & Donna Reynolds
Todd & Irene Krout
Bob & Margaret Mills
Harold & Cindy Brown
Mike & Jenni Owen
Michael & Jerry Tippet
Don & Cheri Parker

Fred Hillemeier
Justin Brewer
Richard Canterbury
Jo Sheppard
John Cook
Claudia Gross
Kellie Seay
Katie Seay
Allie Seay
Amy Tippet
Rhonda McGuire
Beth Miller
Noah Paul

Margaret Mills
Amber Featherstone
John Smith
Lori Foster
Richard Norman
Jonathan Eck
Dan Korner
Sarah Brewer
Jim McClure
Marty Crawford
Casey Pattillo
Roger Hurt
John Featherstone
Mel Hollis

Paul Stillwell
Caitlin Doak
Louise Byers
Marie Arndt
Paula Reynolds
William Diaz
Benjamin Eck
Leah Medina
Teresa Van Sickle



Christian Financial Literacy

will be taught by Rhonda McGuire on Monday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30. The class will meet at New Hope beginning January 9.



Topics covered will include Christian Tithing, Household Budget Worksheet, Reducing Debts, Social Security Benefits, College & Financial Aid Information for parents and high school students, Mortgage Refinancing and Retirement Planning.

The class will include guest speakers and will use materials from a variety of Christian financial planning guides.

Any fees and the number of classes will be announced shortly.

Please sign up in the Narthex.

There will be no Potluck lunch in December.

Young at Heart

will not have their regular meeting in December. They do have a trip planned for December 15.

Buck and a Bible Men's Group

will meet December 13 but then take a winter break until January 10.



Jaxon Willis arrived in good health last month, eagerly welcomed by James, Stephanie and Justice. May his life be blessed and he grow to be a blessing to others.

Congratulations to Randy & Rhonda McGuire who welcomed the birth of grandson Elliott recently.

Christmas Cards



Angel Express

The in-house mail service for Christmas cards is open. This is an easy and cost-saving way for you to share greetings with members of the congregation.

Just bring your cards with names on them!

There will be someone available on Sundays to help you. The fee is .25 cents per card.

This annual service by members of Seekers Sunday School class raises money to purchase items for the church kitchen.

Don't forget to check the mail boxes to pick up cards addressed to you!

Thank you to those who provided poinsettias for the Sanctuary during this blessed season! You may take them home after services on Christmas Eve.



"Dear New Hope UMC,

Thank you very much for the two rocks you gave the parsonage for the west side-yard. We are so pleased with the improvement you have helped make.

We will send a photo of the completed project. God Bless you during these seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent!!

Bonnie & Dan Pulver"



The Finley family sends thank you and blessings to the New Hope congregation. The warmth and love expressed by comments, cards and hugs in remembering Jacob on All Saints Day were comforting and much appreciated. Those plus Dr. Ward's appropriate and understanding sermon made our journey easier now.

Former member Rose Feddersen who moved to Tulsa a few years ago was recently visited by the Popes. They report that she would love to re-establish contact with any old friends. Her phone number and address are available in the church office or you can ask the Popes for more information.

Young New Hope

One Evening/
Two Great Shows
at New Hope!

Sunday, December
4 beginning at
6:00 p.m.



"Follow the Star" will be performed by our Children's Department.

"The Perfect Gift" will be performed by our Youth. This unpublished first-work was written by Chris Porter and Alex Atkinson.



Rock Solid Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

December's Lessons

Sunday	Lesson Title	Scripture
December 4	An Angel Visits Mary	Luke 1: 26-38
December 11	Joseph Hears the Good News	Matthew 1: 18 - 24
December 18	The Trip to Bethlehem	Luke 2: 1 - 7
December 25	Jesus Is Born	Luke 2: 1 - 20

(The only worship time on Christmas is 11:00 so there will not be a 9:45 class.)

CIA - Children In Action meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30.

On December 14 we go to Gattitown at 6:00 though.

Acolytes

December 4	1st - Alyson Roark & Grace Roark 2nd - Leah Medina, Payton Ellsworth
December 11	1st - Kellie Seay, Jake Sherwin 2nd - Roni Cook, Katie Seay
December 18	1st - Emma Bruce & Anieca Valentour 2nd - Jonathan Eck, Carly Hurt
December 24	Jake Anderson & Noah Paul
December 25	one service at 11:00 a. m.- Zach Foster & Matt Miller

Bearers of the Cross

1st service Sam Gosdin
2nd Service Benjamin Eck
Christmas Eve Sierra Paul
Christmas Day Leah Medina

This Friday, December 2 from 7 until 10 p.m. \$10 per child or \$25 maximum charge for family. Call Donette quickly if you want to register your child so they know how many to plan to "sit."



CHRISTMAS PARTY
The New Hope Youth Christmas Party will be December 9th, 5:00 -8:00, at the Kingfisher Aquatic Center.

We will leave the church at 5:00, swim, eat hot dogs, have a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange (price limit \$10), change into dry clothes and ride the bus through the Christmas lights in the Kingfisher

Confirmation Classes begin in January, 2012.

Those in the class now and their mentors are:
Josie Anderson (Terry Swart)
Peyton Ellsworth (Todd Krout)
Cooper Stogsdill (David Darter)



Confirmation

Notify Cali or Donette if you are interested in being in the class which is open to anyone in the Sixth grade or above.

Confirmation Camp will be January 10 - 11 at Canyon Camp.

YOUTH SUNDAY
January 29

First Parents' Meeting of 2012
- January 15 at 12:30!



	9:45	11:00
December 5	Beth Brown	Robin Paul
December 12	Brooke Gulvas	Casey Pattillo
December 19	Nellyne Hanlin	Alice Pattillo
December 26	Becca Pappas	Elyse Ellsworth



New Hope in December, 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Nov 30 9 - 2 - CDO 6:30 - Advent Study "A Journey to Bethlehem" 6:30 - Children perform at Legend 6:30 - NHHBand 7:00- Choir	1 9 - 2 - CDO 6:30 - Disciple 3	2 7:00 - 10 p.m. Holiday baby-sitting by the youth - children must be pre-registered	3 10:30 children rehearse 12:30 - Youth rehearse
4 6:00 p.m. Children and Youth will each present a Christmas program. Refreshments follow.	5 10:00 - prayer team	6 6:30 a.m. Buck & a Bible 9 - 2 CDO	7 9 - 2 - CDO - 6:30 - Advent Study "A Journey to Bethlehem" 6:30 - Children, Youth, NHHBand 7:00 - Choir	8 9 - 2 CDO 9:30 a.m. - Mary Martha Circle 6:30 - Disciple 3	9 Youth leave at 5:00 for Christmas party at Kingfisher Aquatic Center.	10 10:00 choir rehearsal followed by their Christmas potluck lunch
11  Christmas Concert <i>Chancel Choir in both services</i> 3:00 -Family life committee meets	12 10:00 - prayer team	13 6:30 a.m. Buck & a Bible (last until Jan. 10) 9 - 2 - CDO 1 - 3 - Pantry Open (only time in Dec.) 6:30 p.m.- Ruth Circle	14 9 - 2 - CDO 6:30 - Advent Study "A Journey to Bethlehem" 6:00 - Children's party at Gattitown 6:30 -Youth 6:30 - NHHBand 7:00- Choir	15 9 - 2 - CDO 4:30 - Young at Heart trip to see Christmas lights	16	17
18 4:30 - Youth, Companions in Christ, Disciple 2	19 10:00 - prayer team	20 9 - 2 - LAST CDO until January 4	21 6:30 - Advent Study "A Journey to Bethlehem" 6:30 - NHHBand 7:00- Choir NO Youth or Children	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Services 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
25 Happy Birthday, Jesus! <i>One service at 11:00 a.m.</i> NO evening events	26 Office Closed	27 10:00 - Prayer Team	28 6:30 - NHHBand 7:00- Choir NO Youth or Children	29 NO Young at Heart meeting 6:30 - Disciple 3	30	31
January 1, 2012 Regular worship times	2 10:00 - prayer team	3	4 9 - 2 - CDO returns 6:30 - Children, Youth & Band 7:00- Choir	5		Have a heavenly 2012