



## New Hope United Methodist Church

164 New Hope Church Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22405

### ***THE CONNECTION***

***"A friendly people in a loving service."***



#### **A Message for the New Year**

"Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel."--Joshua 1:2



Joshua was a faithful servant to Moses and God for years. Moses had died and Joshua watched as all his contemporaries, except for Caleb, die in the wilderness over a period of forty years. It was a new generation and there was a changing of the guard! Joshua was to take up the mantle of Moses and move God's people forward into the promised land. The old was fading in the distance and there before him was the door to the future. No doubt fear was present, and questions arose by doubters as to his ability to fill the shoes of Moses. After all, Moses had been used by God to do incredible things; things never seen before such as the plagues of deliverance from bondage, the parting of the Red Sea, healing from the deadly snake bites, manna from the sky, water from a rock, taking a tree and making the bitter waters sweet, constructing the tabernacle, the tent of meeting where God would speak to him face to face, the battles fought and the giving of the Ten Commandments.

Who could fill such shoes? What lay in store for him by following God? What new battles lay ahead? Moses had buried his wife during his leadership; along with countless others and he lost the privilege of taking the people into the promised land after wandering with them for forty years. If Moses had paid such a great price just to lead them to the desert, what cost would Joshua pay in the future leading them into battle for the land that God had promised?

As the old comes to a close and the new begins to emerge upon us, waves of doubts filled with fear can overwhelm the heart as it contemplates the unknown of what lies ahead. We look back, often with regret, from the days that have now slipped by at the blink of an eye and pray that the next year will be a better one. We often restrict our decisions based upon our limitations rather than on God's limitless power. I'm sure Joshua's first thought could have been; "Where do I begin?" But God made it very simple for Joshua, as He does for us. He told him two things to

do, yes only two: arise and cross. Joshua could not remain where he was and fulfill the purpose God had for his life. He could not wallow in self-pity, grief or fear, recite a list of excuses, or wait for a more opportune time to emerge. He had to choose to get up, to stir his heart, to act upon the commands of the Lord going forth to obey all that He had told him to do. Refusing to arise and move forward will defeat the child of God who desires to answer the call of God upon their lives. Courage is not the friend of hesitation.

The second thing Joshua had to do was to cross the Jordan River. This river was the only thing standing between God's people and the land of Canaan. Stepping out into the waters of faith allowed Joshua and the people of Israel to cross over into their calling of God. He could not allow the Jordan to keep him from obeying God, no matter how impossible it seemed to overcome. He had to leave the "how to" to God.

When they stepped out into that water, God dried it up before them. After all, He parted an entire sea for them; surely He could part a river. God takes our Jordan's and dries them up before us when we move forward in faith with Him. It was the first step of obedience that cleared a path to walk across. If we cannot face the waters of difficulties in the land of comfort, how will we ever face the enemies in the land of war? God will always meet you at your place of obedience. There are new battles ahead of us, new enemies to face, fears to conquer, new land to tread upon, and walls to bring down. With this New Year before us, beloved, let us say with the apostle Paul, *"...One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead"* (Philippians 3:13). Arise, beloved one of God, step out into the waters of faith and behold the power of God to bring you into the land!



### **Highlights from the Administrative Council Meeting December 14, 2021**

- **Pastor's Report**

- **Healthy Church Report**

- Church going really well, new families, 12 children on Sunday, looking positive, not having a lot of post covid issues. A lot to look at new ways to do things, discussion Jan. 2022. Sheriff's office continues to use supplies at New Hope; we also do our best providing other needs as requested.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Available cash for discretionary Expenditures \$30,380.44, Portion of Discretionary funds from donated assets \$5,868.80, Total Cash on deposit \$97,454.57, Designated Funds \$26,674.13, Cash Reserve (90day) \$36,900.00, Checkbook Reserve \$3,500.00, Land Balance \$35,283.53

- **SPRC Committee**

- SPRC recommended to the Administrative Council to give Christmas gifts to staff members.

- **Finance Report**

- Update on kneelers: (one was delivered 12-14-21) 3 more to be delivered.
- The Boy Scouts of America have filed for bankruptcy. Since New Hope had a troop many years ago, we had to file a proof of claim so that we were protected from any future lawsuits brought against BSA. Since we filed the claim, we had to vote on whether to accept or not accept BSA's bankruptcy filing. Originally, we did not accept it because the churches were not protected. We have since accepted the filing because the BSA and United Methodist church reached an agreement. Said Bankruptcy filing was sent in.
- Robert B Payne HVAC contract has not been renewed and price is going up to \$956, but they have to come check before it can be renewed.

- **Trustee Report**

- **Old Business:**

- AED - Device was checked by Clyde Bingham in October. Although the device is charged, the battery and pads have expired. A new battery and pads have been ordered, however will not be in until February.
- Heat/Fire Detectors - Dillards and ADT both offered estimates to install systems in the church building. The cost would be \$20,000+. Both companies recommended not installing systems. Residential devices may not work in a large building. Most churches do not have such systems. Our building and property are insured for a total of \$1.9 million.
- Deck Replacement - The deck construction was done on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Two or three boards still need to be added.
- Painting of Church Exterior - This project was completed on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The unused bucket of paint was returned to Lowes for a \$200 refund.
- Trees for Playground - Gordon Silver planted the three trees around the playground on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Mulch has been placed around the trees.
- Kneelers - The cushions were ordered. Dean Harding was having health issues earlier in 2021.
- Windows - Windows were ordered for the hospitality room and the nursery. Windows should be delivered in December. Once installed all windows, except those in the sanctuary, will have been updated by Window World.
- List of 2021 Projects - Kristina compiled a list of projects completed by the Trustees in 2021. This list will be added to the New Hope Project List. Trustees are to let Kristina know if there are any additional projects that may have been left off the list.

- New Hope Project List - Kristina compiled a list of projects/purchases from 2006-present. This list was completed using receipts gathered by Karen Sokolowski and Brian Smith. Members were asked to review the list and let Kristina know if any items should be deleted (i.e., old computers, lawn equipment, etc.) Kristina will also add a list of due dates. This will show when items need to be inspected or replaced.
- ADA Lift - Pastor Robin and Kristina went to Cokesbury United Methodist church to see their lift. Members were sent photos of the lift. Cokesbury paid \$5,000 for their lift several years ago. It was guessed that this project would be \$10K-\$12K, including the enclosure. We have not gotten estimates as we are not ready to begin this project. It was suggested not to start this project until the land is paid and we are ready to tackle a new project.
- **New Business:**
  - Nursery - Two magnetic bulletin boards were purchased for the nursery.
  - Southern States - Both tanks were filled on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the oil was \$3.60/unit; up from \$2.49 in March.
  - Robert B. Payne - Kristina will contact Robert B. Payne regarding the HVAC winter check.
  - Rodent Issues - Pastor Robin stated that there has been a problem with mice at the church. They have been seen in the Hospitality room. Mouse droppings have been found in the kitchen. A box was found in the attic that looked like mice may have been living in it.
  - Several suggestions were made as to how to eradicate the mice. Clyde suggested setting traps.
  - Fans - Karen stated that the fans in the sanctuary are to run 24/7. Robert B. Payne has endorsed this statement to Pastor Robin. One fan turns left; the other turns right. This allows equal airflow. Karen stated that if a Trustee notices the fans are turned off to please turn them on.
  - Kristina thanked Karen for her work on the Trustees. She also stated that Andy Little, who passed away in November, also was serving as a Trustee and was instrumental in the sanctuary project.
  - Pastor Robin thanked all the Trustees for their efforts. She stated that although the work is not glamorous, it is necessary and very appreciated.



- January 2 Holy Communion
- January 3 Trustees Meeting - 7 pm
- January 6 Twelfth Night - Epiphany
- January 9 Faith and Fun with Young Families - After Worship
- January 10 Social Justice Book Club - 6 pm
- January 11 Administrative Council Meeting - 7 pm
- January 17 Martin Luther King Day
- January 18 Disciple Four begins 5:30-7:00 pm



- Youth Group: The Youth Group continues to meet every Sunday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Come join us!
- Bible Study Groups:
  - The Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets Tuesdays online from 9:45 to 11 am
  - The Social Justice Book Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6 to 7 pm.
  - Disciple Four Session 1 - Under the Tree of Life - Tuesday Evenings 5:30 to 7 pm.



**Stafford Food Security**, <https://www.staffordfoodsecurity.org/>

**S.E.R.V.E.:** S.E.R.V.E. is a local food pantry. 540/288-9602

**Healthy Families Rappahannock Area** - 540-374-3366.

**Stafford Junction:** [www.staffordjunction.org](http://www.staffordjunction.org)

**Take Them A Meal:** [www.takethemameal.com](http://www.takethemameal.com)

**United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR):** <https://umcmission.org/umcor>

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***We are a Church that is very active.....***

On Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, we were able to provide Stafford County Public Schools with several bags of individually packaged hygiene items for the McKinney Vento students.

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, we were able to provide diapers and wipes to three families through the Stafford County Sheriff's

Office Santa and Sheriff's Office elves that delivered toys throughout the county. These are just two (2) ways that we were able to support our community partners to make a difference in the lives of families in our community. Praise be to God for your generous support!

What you do for our community is recognized and greatly appreciated! You are the "Hands and Feet" of Christ in Stafford County!

### **OUR JANUARY MISSION OPPORTUNITY!!**



Stafford County Public Schools (SCPS) is dedicated to educating all children and youth experiencing homelessness. Our Homeless Liaison is responsible for ensuring that students experiencing homelessness are identified, enrolled in school and receive equitable access to high quality education and support services. We understand the challenges facing these students and have programs in place to make certain they have the resources necessary to

succeed.

The McKinney Vento students and their families still need support. McKinney Vento are students who are currently experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Please consider helping our School District support these students and their families.

Items needed: Socks (especially for elementary students), Gloves & Mittens, Small Blankets, Toothbrushes & Toothpaste, Laundry Detergent (small sizes), Books at all reading levels, Crayons & Colored Pencils with a Coloring Book, Board Games/Card Games. Items can be brought to the church for delivery to the Central Office.

### **UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery**

It is our tradition to donate our Christmas Offering to a mission project. This year the Administrative Board designated UMCOR - Tornado Relief as the recipient of our Christmas Offering. Please consider giving generously to support our fellow Americans who are rebuilding their lives after these devastating tornadoes.

Wow! What an amazing outpouring of love for our brothers and sisters in the Midwest! Our Christmas Offering and UMCOR designated gifts totaled \$3,101.00. Thank you for your generous support of those recovering from the December tornadoes.

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### THANK YOU FROM THE GROUP HOME!



Thank you all who prepared extra food and helped our friends at the Group Home enjoy a joyful celebration! The food was delicious and Santa made the day with special gifts. Thank you for everything you do to show the love of Christ!



### OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY!!



We had a wonderful turnout for the Church's Christmas Party! Many thanks to Joe who cooked a delicious turkey and to all who contributed side dishes (yummy) and of course the desserts! We even had a surprise visit from who else - Santa Claus! Again, many thanks to those who helped make this a joyous time of fellowship!

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



Our Christmas Eve service was a wonderful and joyful celebration of Christ's birth. A special thank you to Jane Leonard who did a beautiful job decorating the sanctuary and the altar was so beautiful. It was joyous to hear some of the choir members again. Outside there was an unexpected visitor - Sasquatch (Big Foot) who was handing out candy canes!!



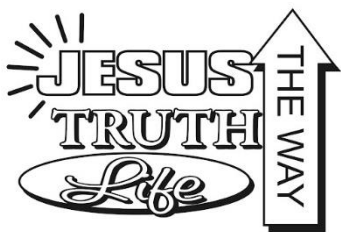
### Worship Update:

Friends, we have all been hearing the news of the significant rise in Covid cases hitting our area. First, thank you for all who have been feeling under the weather and have been staying home and isolating so that if they have Covid, they are not infecting those around them. From all the recent studies, this should be a temporary

spike that will subside soon.

We will continue to hold regular worship services on Sunday morning but will wear masks as much as possible to keep possible exposures to Covid limited. I know we have been on guard for a long time but friends, I know that we will get through all these variants. We will persevere!

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Several weeks ago, I mentioned during our sermon titled, "What is Truth" that we would have a short study on the topic in the new year. We will start the study in February (date to be determined). If you are interested, please send me an email at [robinbemiller@vaumc.org](mailto:robinbemiller@vaumc.org), text (703) 303-9017 or tell me when you see me that you are interested and what days/times work best for you. Some options are a study during Lent on Sunday mornings

at 9:00 am, Saturday mornings or a weeknight. I look forward to our discussions!



### **PARENTS OF PRE-SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY CHILDREN!**

Come join us on **January 9, 2022** at 11 am after the worship service for a time of faith learning and family fun!



## WHAT IS YOUR GOOD LUCK DISH FOR NEW YEAR'S?!!!



this Southern menu staple, usually a mix of black-eyed peas, rice and pork, originated with in the United States in the 19th century, most notably in the South Carolina Low Country.

The first known time the [hoppin' John](#) name appeared in print, according to [The New York Times](#), was in the novel [Recollections of a Southern Matron](#) in 1838. Often

served with collard greens and cornbread, some food historians attribute the dish's unusual name to a take on "pois pigeons," French for dried peas and pronounced "paw-peejohn," which may have sounded like "hoppin' John" to English speakers.



While Southerners may dig into hoppin' John, those in parts of Pennsylvania and Ohio savor slow-cooked pork and sauerkraut on New Year's Day. The dish is said to bring good luck and progress because pigs are known to root forward, or move ahead, while sauerkraut is made with cabbage, which is tied to symbolic riches and prosperity and a long life thanks to its long strands.

The Germanic tradition was brought to America by the Pennsylvania Dutch. Fresh pork [was the star](#) of Christmas and New Year's meals for early settlers because of its timing with winter hog butchering, and sauerkraut was served as a side dish because winter was also cabbage harvesting season.



**PRAYER FOR HEALING**

Father, thank you for loving us and calling us out of darkness. There are those of us in need of your healing virtue today, by His Stripes we were healed. Father, we bind up all sickness and disease, and loose your healing virtue unto your children. For those going into surgery, we loose guidance to the hands of the surgeons. Touch all the sick and shut ins today and restore health to their bodies. In Jesus' precious name,

**Amen!**

### Healing

Larry Snellings beginning treatment, Wayne Stuart (awaiting liver transplant), Jean Madison and strength for her caregivers, Matthew Gramtatico, Fred & Ellen, Ron N., Jewel Berry, Sharon Self, Lucy (brain tumor), Sharon Barry, John Winn, Jarrett (surgery), Carolyn Libby (knee problems), Baby Rhett, Bonnie Bourne, Sharon Holland (Covid & After Effects), Werner Schultz, Eileen, Tiffany Reynolds, Denby Thomas, Aston Williams,

### Cancer:

Chris McCullough (Chris has been in the hospital since before Christmas as he begins treatment for cancer that is under his arm and in his lungs. You might know Chris has a kidney transplant which makes cancer treatment difficult. Please pray for his body to be strengthened for these treatments as we continue to pray for healing for his body from cancer), Frank GoMillion, Theresa Boutchyard, Jackie Lynch, Jodi Weaver, Micalyn, James J., Linda B., Brenda Swidak, Danny Barnes, Betty Harris, Mark Johnsen, Scott Kizner. Erin

Wetzel., Bill Hauger, Stephanie Priddy, Scott Bandy (treatments), Gerri Reid, Rob D., Jane K.,

### Comfort

Julie Little and family, Linda Pemberton and family, The Family and Students of Mrs. Kelsey, Sharon Barry mourning the death of her husband, Friends and family of Bob who passed from Covid last week, the family of Doug Richardson and all those who had loved ones pass this year

### Prayers

Strength for Alison and all the medical professionals who are facing stress from dealing with Covid, Paul & Callie Jett, those affected by the recent tornadoes, prayers for a family during a loved ones hospitalization, for a cousin, travel mercies for those traveling , Thanksgiving for an assisted living home for Michael and continued prayers as he continues to settle in, Drs and nurses, travel mercies for the Hawbers and Hubers, Thankful for the blessing of Christmas, prayers for those who are traveling, thankful for this beautiful day

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Eleanor Bandy  
167 Ferry Road  
Falmouth, VA 22405  
Ruby Roberts  
26 Heritage Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405  
Paul and Callie Jett  
103 Camp Seldon Road  
Falmouth, VA 22405

Jean Harrell  
2242 Karen Terrace  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405  
Susie Sullivan  
545 Brooke Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405  
Theresa (Whirt) Hutton  
581 Brook Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405



1. If you are not receiving weekly church emails and you have not seen a text from the church in the last 30 days and you wish to, please contact George Williams at [bucketokinawa@yahoo.com](mailto:bucketokinawa@yahoo.com). Provide him your latest email address, your current cell phone number with your cell carrier (e.g., Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T, etc.)
2. Members will be receiving The Connection through their email. If you wish to receive hard (printed copy) of The Connection, please contact Pastor Robin and one will be mailed to you.
3. Also, if you would like to contribute in any way to New Hope's "The Connection", i.e., inspirational stories, poem, thoughts on life as it is now, church news, birthdays, anniversaries, updates, etc., all are welcomed! Please send to Ginger Johnsen at [kraftylady22406@yahoo.com](mailto:kraftylady22406@yahoo.com).