



# The New Hope News

## PASTORAL WORDS

New Hope Presbyterian Church

**What** makes for a flourishing church? There are a variety of answers offered to such a sweeping question about a thing with as many complex parts as a religious community. One of my favorites is rooted in St. Paul's observation about the congregations with which he related. He saw them like our bodies, composed of a multitude of parts all working together in the wondrous mystery of life (Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12).

**That** image both teaches us and challenges us. We know in our bodies how important it is for every part to be working well. We know the problems that occur when one or more parts don't do well and how that effects the other parts. The challenge comes in making sure all the parts are performing their best.

**Our** Session is currently engaged in performing what we might describe as an 'annual physical'. We are asking each of our members to indicate that area of our life together which is either most important to you or draws your highest interest

or concern. Worship, Learning, Caring for each other, Reaching out to others in invitation or service, these are the four basic activities of any Christian community. We do those and add a fifth, the stewardship of our Building and Grounds.

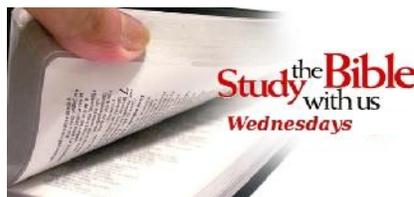
**When** we have everyone's expression of interest, we will have important information. We will know what areas are most important and which may need some attention. This information is vital to us moving forward as our search committee works to discern who God's Spirit will lead them to invite as our next pastoral leader.

**So** I invite and urge you to help us complete our 'annual physical'. Make sure your name is on a sign-up sheet or on a worship bulletin insert or, if you can't be here, call the church and indicate your area of prime importance. We need all our parts!

Pastor Frank Jump



May 24<sup>th</sup> is the Day of Pentecost. On that day we remember and celebrate the intervention of the Holy Spirit into the gathering of Jesus' first followers. Red is the liturgical color for this special day. We invite everyone to wear red and expect the unexpected as we celebrate the birth of Christ's Church.



Wednesday Night Bible studies together will conclude on May 20<sup>th</sup>. We are finishing an extended look at Jesus' sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. Our Lord's words are an arresting prod to our lives and minds and we encourage you to keep them as your summer study.

**Elder of the Month**  
**Shaun Townley**

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# New Hope Session April Highlights

The following items were discussed at the Session Meeting held on April 14, 2015:

- The Session meeting began with a devotional by Lizz Savard.
- The PNC presented a report.
  - ↳ The PNC has had several meetings since our last Session Meeting.
  - ↳ We have received approximately 30 candidate referrals from the Presbytery.
  - ↳ The committee has reduced that number to 9.
  - ↳ The committee is currently checking out candidates online.
  - ↳ There were no immediate standouts so the committee will advertise the position.
- The Session has initiated a church audit as required by the Presbytery.
  - ↳ The audit has not been done in two years and it is important, with a new pastor coming, that it be completed now.
- Building & Grounds reported on the condition of the front area of the church.
  - ↳ The cross on the building is in need of renovation.
  - ↳ The light on the sign is working again.
  - ↳ The front area is badly in need of new landscaping. This will be a major project.
  - ↳ Ron Young is in the process of getting estimates.
  - ↳ It is important to improve the appearance of the grounds if we are to attract a quality pastor and new members.
- The Worship Committee reported that planning for the Taize services this summer continues.
- The Education Committee reported that planning for the Vacation Bible School is underway.

The next Session meeting will be May 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 PM.

Submitted by: Peter Savard, Clerk



The Worship Committee met on March 1st to discuss starting a Taize service. Thanks to those who joined us to share ideas.

As a result of the discussion, we are proposing to begin a Sunday evening Taize service in the summer led by non-staff volunteers. We will commit to 6 weeks and evaluate after 5 weeks whether we wish to continue, modify, or restart at another time. Worship will be held around tables in the McMillan Building and a time of food and fellowship will follow the service. We would like to have a rotation of worship leaders. Janet Sump reported that we already have purchased a lot of Taize music. Music will be led by guitar and/or dulcimer if we can find a dulcimer player.

Any help from Outreach to promote the service would be welcome.



The Big Tent is coming to the Presbytery of East Tennessee and volunteers are needed, July 30th - August 1st!

The Presbytery of East Tennessee and its member congregations have been asked to provide up to 200 volunteers to help with everything from onsite registration and information to assisting with worship. This is an incredible opportunity for us to extend the hand of fellowship to our brothers and sisters from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities,

contact Dana Hendrix in the Presbytery Office,  
865/688-5581, ext. 101,  
[dana@presbyteryeasttn.org](mailto:dana@presbyteryeasttn.org).



members are active on community leadership boards?

Did you know that many New Hope

**Pete Savard** is on the UTC Presbyterian Campus Ministry board

**Lizz Savard** is on the Chattanooga Room in the Inn board

**Gerai Kocher** is on the Newton Center board

**Marilyn Suber** is the moderator of East Tennessee Presbyterian Women.

And this is just a few of our leaders!

We are so proud and grateful for their service!

The Outreach Committee is always open to suggestions for ways to serve others. Currently we have several upcoming projects:

- ☺ In May we will collect diapers for the Chattanooga Room in the Inn and also plan to prepare and serve a meal.
- ☺ In the Summer we will have a shower to support the Newton Center.
- ☺ Also in the Summer we will have another 2-Cents-A-Meal pick up to benefit the children at East Brainerd Elementary.

We love new additions to the Outreach Committee!!!

The next meeting will be June 2nd at 5:30pm!

We hope to see you there!



The Community Kitchen is in need of various items. If

you would like to donate, you may bring your items to the Narthex kitchen and place them in the designated basket.

The items needed are: Dry Milk, Cornstarch, Vegetables (# 10 cans), Canned fruit (#10 cans), Napkins, and Jelly. Thank you for your generosity!

The Outreach Committee



The PW have various activities happening in May...

May 4th PW Board meeting

May 12th PW Circle meeting

May 13th PW Wednesday night supper

May 19th Dinner at the "Tea Cottage" cost \$13.50.

May 24th PW Birthday Offering



On April 21st Gerry & Don Kaller, Dixie Saeger, Cheri Perry, Rosie Sanislo and Gerai Kocher were at the Chattanooga Food Bank packing boxes with the Sack Packs.

Saturday, April 25th Cheri Perry, Marilyn Suber, Gerai Kocher, Rosie Sanislo, Lizz Savard and Dorothy Taj attended the Spring Gathering for Presbyterian Women of East Tennessee.

They all found it to be very inspirational and had a great time.



Please continue to save those **Box Tops for Education** and drop them off in the designated box in the Narthex kitchen. We continue to send them to East Brainerd Elementary School. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents for the school!

## New Hope Ladies!



You and your friends are invited to join us for our Ladies

Annual Event at *The Tea Cottage* for dinner on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00pm. The cost will be \$13.50 per person; this includes dinner, dessert and gratuity. Please RSVP to Teena Bledsoe by May 15th.

We are going to be supporting the *Chattanooga Room In The Inn* by accepting donations of disposable diapers of any size that evening. If you would like to donate a package of diapers we will have a box for the collection.



## New Hope Presbyterian Mission Statement

We seek to fulfill Christ's greatest commandment to love God with heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, by assuaging the hunger of our neighbors and ourselves for food, fellowship, and faith to satisfy the body's longing for sustenance, the heart's longing for belonging and the spirit's longing for connection with the Triune God, revealed to us most fully in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



The following letter is from Laxmi Shrestha, part of our church family here at New Hope.

*You might be already aware of the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal in the morning of April 25th. Until now 7,000 people have been confirmed dead, and the casualty is expected to go up. Thousands of injured are in desperate need of medical attention. Countless have lost their homes and are literally on the street in need of food, warm clothes and medicines. Organizations like Red Cross, Unicef, and Help Nepal are on the ground with supplies and volunteers but it is no match to the devastation the earthquake has left behind. We may not share the victim's anguish but we can help to alleviate it. Please pray for my Country so that people can stay strong and help us go forward by donating anything you can. My eldest daughter is there and helping people by providing food, water and shelter. 100% of your contributions will go towards helping victims.*

*Thank you for your help and God bless us all!  
Laxmi Shrestha*

## Thank You!

I want to thank you all for your prayers, cards and kind words in the time that my family and I were in Michigan as my



father's final struggles with leukemia ended and he has gone to celebrate with Jesus.

Losing a parent is difficult no matter what the age, but feeling the support of everyone here and knowing that we will all be together again in heaven helps to ease the pain.

I appreciate all of your understanding while I was away.

May God bless my New Hope family!  
Debbie Cessna



A Christian congregation worships, learns and grows, nurtures caring relationships, reaches out to others and is steward of its properties.

The Session is assessing our congregation's interests and strengths and to do that well, they need you to indicate your area of highest interest. They are:

**Worship - Education/Learning- Fellowship/Caring Relationships - Mission/ Outreach/Serving Others - Building And Grounds.**

If you have not fill out an insert from the bulletin please contact the Church Office to share the area you feel is your passion and interest.

### STAFF

Interim Pastor  
Rev. Frank Jump

Music Director  
Janet Sump

Organist  
Larisa Abrahamyan

Office Secretary  
Debbie Cessna