



February 2015

The New Hope News

PASTORAL WORDS

New Hope Presbyterian Church

Sometimes it is a good thing to be standing on the edge even though it may not feel especially safe.

In April of 2013 Dorothy and I made an extended driving trip through our American southwest. We saw incredible scenery, particularly the magnificent canyons in our national parks. Standing at the edge of those enormous cliffs, I found myself speechless at the immense beauty but also uncomfortable because my balance as a 'mature' man isn't the same as it was thirty years ago. I found myself resting my hand on a guardrail gladly.

As I continue to grow in my relationship with our congregation, it occurs to me that what I experienced that April is a picture of our life together at this point in time. We stand at the edge of a new chapter in the life of New Hope. And the name you chose for yourselves forty years ago speaks volumes today. We need new hope but even more we live in a time that needs new hope. We are surrounded by people hungry for new hope. Somehow, we all need to come together and claim the hope that our visions see.

But on those April visits to beautiful canyons of the west, I was old enough to feel uncertain, unsteady standing at the edge. I liked having the guard rail there to give me security, to help me know that even if I made a misstep I was still safe.

It's clear to all of us that our future is uncertain. And whomever the new minister is, that person will

not be able to make all our hopes come to pass. We are all in this together and the next minister is simply one piece of the puzzle. We need the security of a guard rail to free us from worry and concern so that we can take in the view and see the beauty of what lies out there for us in God's purposes. That guard rail is our faith. The Church of Jesus Christ is called by God to stand on the edge. We rejoice in the words that we are made new creations. We can be glad that the old does pass away and new comes in its place. We remember that the prophet proclaimed for God that, "Do not remember the former things. . . I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18,19)

I must admit that I do not yet perceive it. The future isn't something I can see yet. None of us can. And so, instead of seeing what is next, our vision is clouded by worry and concern for any number of things. My vision is just like yours at this point. But I do have every confidence, faith, that the God who cares for us is the God who constantly does new things. The Spirit is at work among us and our guard rail of faith is there so that we can take our eyes off of what we are holding on to and look out toward tomorrow without fear or trepidation. It is a good thing to be standing on the edge because God is there.

Pastor Frank Jump



Ash Wednesday is February 18th and initiates the season of Lent, the forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays). We will have a worship service that evening at 6:30pm in place of the regular mid-week program. Plan to join us to begin this season which focuses on deepening our connections with God.

Inside This Edition	
40th Anniversary	2
Session Highlights	2
PNC Report	3
PW News	3
Souper Bowl	3
Music Note	4
Thank You!	4

New Hope Session January Highlights

The following items were discussed at the Annual Session Retreat held on January 17 2015:

- Rev, Jump began the retreat with a discussion of the Book of Order and how it relates to the Session and the congregation of New Hope.
- The Session discussed where we felt New Hope was at this point in time and the direction we should take in the future. Several good issues were identified as being important to the future of our church.
 - We are at a point of change as the predominant generation is changing.
 - The community around us has changed drastically over time.
 - We have lost the middle age group. We are either younger or older, but no one in the middle.
 - Our congregation is geographically spread out so that socializing outside of church is difficult.
 - We may need to make changes to be more relevant.
 - We need to look more at missions to get more involved.
 - We are located at a prime geographic location.
 - We need to get to know our community better.
 - We have lost the liveliness of activity.
- Marilyn Suber , Lizz Savard and Carol Green represented New Hope at a special worship service at 2nd Presbyterian Church in Knoxville on January 4th.
- The Session voted to extend Rev. Jump's contract until the end of May.
- The Outreach Committee is making plans for the 40th Anniversary Celebration. More information will be coming soon.
- The new meeting schedule for the Session was adopted. The Session will meet on the third Sunday of the month after the worship service.
- The Nominating Committee reported that there were only 3 nominees for the 4 Elder positions. The nominees are Peter Savard, Gerai Kocher, and Linda Brandon.
- The Session voted to schedule a Congregational Meeting for February 1st for the purpose of electing Elders for the Class of 2016.
- The remainder of the retreat was spend in a discussion with Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Jacob Geerlings, and Carol Howard Merritt. This discussion revolved around the views and attitudes of the younger generations toward religion and the church and how that effects New Hope.

The next Session meeting will be February 15th at 12:15 PM.

Submitted by: Peter Savard, Clerk

Celebrating
40 *Years*

New Hope celebrates 40 years of life and ministry together on Sun-

day, February 22nd. There will be special elements in the worship service this morning. Dinner will follow in the McMillan building, featuring video remembrances by some of our founding members.

We hope to gather as many as we can who have been part of our church family, including those who grew up with us at New Hope. We need your help in reaching out with invitations to old friends and family in order to generate the greatest celebration possible. Watch for more details in the days ahead.



THE
OUTREACH
FOUNDATION

The winter PC(USA) publication of Mission Crossroads highlights some of the projects that Dan Turk is working on in far away Madagascar. These include reforestation of native forests, teaching seminary students to grow fruits and vegetables from grafted plants, and providing education to the Malagasy people about the great biodiversity in their country. Our mission support of Dan and his wife, Elizabeth, who works in public health, is an important outreach to protect and preserve God's creation. Please read the article which is posted in the Narthex, and pray for the environmental work our friends are doing.

The Earth Care Team



Sunday February 1st is the Super Bowl!

But we like to call it the SOUPER Bowl!

We want to take this opportunity to help others in the Chattanooga area by asking everyone to bring canned goods to the Narthex to support the Chattanooga Food Bank!



The next 2-Cents-A-Meal pick up will be Sunday, February 15th. Check all your sofa cushions, glove compartments and laundry lint traps for extra change! Every penny supports our Sack Pack program which provides

food for East Brainerd Elementary children who are at risk for hunger. Folding money gladly accepted as well!



Pastor SEARCH

The Pastor Nominating Committee would like to thank everyone who filled out the survey we circulated along with those who shared comments at the Congregational Conference on Sunday the 25th or privately with a committee member. We are using that information, along with a fruitful discussion with the Session and Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Jacob Geerlings and Carol Howard Merritt, to put together a Mission Study which describes New Hope, our congregation, our mission and our view to the future. From this we will fill out the Mission Information Form that will be submitted to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministries for approval. Once that is approved, we can begin to receive information on potential candidates to become the next pastor of New Hope Church.

This is a lengthy process so we thank you for your patience and understanding as we move through it. As always, your comments are welcome. If you have questions please see Ron Young, Gerai Kocher, Beth Hibbard, JoAn Wright, Jon Geerlings, Peter Savard, Erin Townley, or Lynne Brock.

The PNC



Thank you to Cheri Perry, Dixie Saeger, Rosie Sanislo and Gerai Kocher, for helping with the Sack Packs at the Food Bank in January. We also had help from Amber, who works at the Embassy Suites next to New Hope!

If you would like to volunteer, we are always looking for people to help fill packs on the third Tuesday of the month. We begin at 9:00am and finish before noon. If you would like more information regarding what we do, please contact Gerai Kocher or Rosie Sanislo.

In March we will be providing lunch to 808 Hope House on Tuesday, March 17th and March 31st. If you are able to assist please let Gerai or Marilyn know.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:



- 2/2/2015 PW board meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- 2/6/2015 Church Women United meeting at 10:00 am.
- 2/10/2015 Circle meeting in McMillan building at 10:00am.
- 2/11/2015 Wednesday Night Dinner provided by PW, cost \$4.00 per person.
- 2/17/2015 Sack Packs at the Chattanooga Food Bank



Presbytery Meeting in Chattanooga

Our Presbytery meets this month in Chattanooga at Northside Church. This meeting will have special interest for us at New Hope because one of "our own", Dorothy Parks-Piatt, will be examined as part of her request to move from the "Inquirer" status in preparation for ordained ministry, to the status of "Candidate".

The meeting is on Saturday, February 21st which is the best situation possible for us to be present and support Dorothy in her desire to move forward toward her goal of ordination. The agenda for the meeting will be set early in the month and we will let everyone know when Dorothy will be examined. This is a great chance to see our Church at work and we hope to gather a group to go to Northside on the 21st.

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.

Dear New Hope Family,

It was wonderful to see many of you during my meeting with the Session and again at Christmas Eve! Thanks so much for your continuing support and prayers as I continue journeying toward the ministry for which God is preparing me.

Thanks, too, for the monetary assistance for school books. It has been a tremendous help. Please know Jessie and I think of you fondly and often. Prayers for your communal life and mission as the Spirit leads you toward calling a new pastor, and thanks to Rev. Jump for his wisdom and leadership. Hope to see you again some time soon!

With gratitude,
Dorothy Parks-Piatt



Dear New Hope Friends,

Thank you for all your prayers, love and concern for Connie during her recent health setback.

Three trips to the emergency room and one brief stay in the hospital has taken its toll on her health situation.

Her local Doctor and her Pain Management Doctor are trying to adjust her medication to help her situation.

Thank you again for your love, concern and food during this time.

Yours in Christ,
Herb and Connie



Rehearsals begin!

Are you interested in being a part of the Handbell Choir for the Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday or the Youth Musical on Palm Sunday and the May Musical? Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, February 8th. Handbells will rehearse at 4:00pm and Youth at 4:45pm.

If you have any questions please see Janet Sump.



Please bring your **Box Tops for Education** to the Narthex kitchen. We will be sending them to East Brainerd Elementary School.

Each Box Top is worth 10 cents for the school!

STAFF

Interim Pastor
Rev. Frank Jump

Music Director
Janet Sump

Organist
Larisa Abrahamyan

Office Secretary
Debbie Cessna