

Pastor's Page



Friends in Christ,

A new year has begun! As this begins my 7th year here at New Hope, I thought about following the Biblical model and choosing a year of rest, but I have a suspicion that such a decision might not go over too well.

But rest is important. For in rest, we allow ourselves to be renewed.

In rest, we acknowledge that the world will continue to spin without us being in control. In rest, we allow Jesus to be Lord, rather than always trying to be our own lords. Caleb doesn't like to nap when he's at home - he'd rather stay up and play, but if he refuses to nap, his decision to give in to momentary temptation punishes him (and us!) later when he's out of energy and patience. He simply runs out of energy. The same thing happens to us if we refuse to rest.

January is often a time when we pledge to do more. We will exercise more and read more and work more and clean more and love more and eat more vegetables. The list goes on and on, for there is always more to do. One thing I'd invite you to consider is how you can do less. Maybe there is some television time or some internet time or some other time that gets lost in the day that you can reclaim for rest. Maybe there are some habits that chew up your time but leave you no energy. Perhaps there are some things you can not do. However you

can manage it, I'd invite you to try and do less, to be still and rest, so that you can be restored by the Lord who loves you.

In the Old Testament, fields were commanded to lie fallow once every seven years so they could be renewed. The anticipation was that they would yield even more the following years thanks to their sabbath rest. May God renew us as well, that our rest in God may yield fruit down the road, that we may serve others for the glory of God's wondrous kingdom.

In Christ,

Keith

Worship SCHEDULE

01/05/14 - Matthew 2:1-12

"A Visit"

01/12/14 - Acts 1:1-11

"The Christmas Child Resigns"

01/19/14 - Acts 2:1-11

"Holy Spirit Power"

01/26/14 - Acts 2:37-47

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Keith W. Jones

Music Director

Janet Sump

Organist

Larisa Abrahamyan

Office Secretary

New Hope Session Highlights

The following notes are highlights from the December 18th meeting:

- Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders was held on December 15th.
- A report was heard from Marilyn Suber who attended the Presbytery meeting on November 12th. Jacob Geerlings was approved to move from Inquirer to Candidate for ordained ministry.
- Approved use of our buildings for a statewide assembly of Church Women United in April.
- Declined a request from the City to locate a CARTA bus stop on our property.
- Approved a 2014 Budget with expenses of \$159,000.
- Called a Congregational Meeting for January 12, 2014 for the purpose of approving changes to the pastor's Terms of Call.
- Approved Christmas gifts to the staff, totaling \$700.
- Approved using investment reserves to pay 2013 benevolence commitments to Presbytery and the Turks. \$4500 will be sent.
- The next Stated Meeting of the Session will be a retreat on Saturday, January 18th at 8:30am.



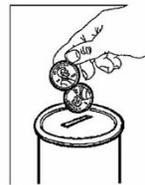
The Fruit of the Spirit

Make plans to join us Sunday evenings beginning January 26th from 6:15-7:30pm for a 10-week Discussion Group on Galatians 5:22, "The Fruit of the Spirit".

Please speak with Andy Sanislo or see the poster located in the Narthex.



Two Cents A Meal



January 19th will be the next 2-Cents-A-Meal pick up. All your pennies are going for the snack pack program benefiting East Brainerd Elementary children.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Music Ministry this Christmas. Thank you for the Precious Moments Figurines, Olive Garden gift card and the Poinsettia plant.

Thank you to all the families that were so willing to do the Advent Wreath Readings.

Happy New Year! Janet



December was a month of wonderful fellowship for the women of New Hope as well as some friends and family members. Our lunch at *Beyond the Garden Gate* in Ooltewah was enjoyed by twenty-four women and our circle meeting and brunch hosted by Teena Bledsoe at her home was also well attended. On both occasions, we marveled at the beautiful and festive decorations, the delicious food and superb hospitality. Lizz led us in a project of creating a paper star Christmas ornament that reflected the words on our sanctuary banners: peace, hope, love and joy. We were also pleased to receive the M & M Christmas Story from Lizz and a lovely angel ornament from Teena. It was so nice to celebrate our blessings with those so dear to us.

Coming up soon... Mon. Jan. 06 12:00 Noon PW Board Meeting – McMillan Building

Tues. Jan. 14 10:00 a.m. Circle meeting & brunch

We invite all the women of New Hope to join us at our January 14th meeting and enjoy the food, fellowship and Bible study.



January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 10:00a Prayer Group 11:00a Bible Study 12:00p PW Officer's Mtg.	7	8 6:00p Bring your Brown Bag Dinner 6:30p Bible Study 7:30p Choir Practice	9	10	11
12 12:00p Congrega- tional Meeting	13 10:00a Prayer Group 11:00a Bible Study	14 10:00a Circle Mtg. & Brunch	15 6:00p Bring your Brown Bag Dinner 6:30p Bible Study 7:30p Choir Practice	16	17	18 8:30a-1:30p Session Retreat
19 2-Cents-A-Meal Pickup	20 10:00a Prayer Group 11:00a Bible Study	21 9:00a Sack Packs	22 6:00p Bring your Brown Bag Dinner 6:30p Bible Study 7:30p Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 12:00p Monthly Pot- luck	27 10:00a Prayer Group 11:00a Bible Study	28	29 6:00p Bring your Brown Bag Dinner 6:30p Bible Study 7:30p Choir Practice	30	31	



01/01	Lynn Meyer	01/17	Anoose Taj
01/03	Herb Robinson	01/20	Matt Talley
01/06	Don Kaller	01/23	Jon Geerlings
01/14	Bill Carlock		Roger Meyer
01/15	Nathan Piatt		

January Acolytes

01/05/14 - Sarah Beth Parker
 01/12/14 - Thomas Edwards
 01/19/14 - Jade Smith

January Worship Leaders

01/05/14 - Ashley Gerskin
 01/12/14 - Ron Young
 01/19/14 - Lloyd Hoover

January Ushers

01/05/14 - Beverly & Avery McCuiston
 01/12/14 - Jan & Bob Edwards
 01/19/14 - Linda Brandon & Jon Geerlings

January Greeters

01/05/14 - Lynne Brock & Teena Bledsoe
 01/12/14 - Judy Smith & Janet Phillips
 01/19/14 - Marilyn & Walt Suber

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.

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