



Pastor's Page

March 2014

New Hope Presbyterian Church

The New Hope News



Friends in Christ,
 Easter is here!
 Easter is coming!
 Being Christian isn't always easy. We believe that belief in Jesus Christ is the path to salvation, and we believe that God is in charge, but beyond that, we often have to do some serious thinking to try and understand exactly how our faith works.

Take Easter, for instance. Several thousand years ago, Christ burst forth from the tomb and life shattered the power of death. Resurrection has come, and death is no more. Easter has happened! Yet, we currently are about to enter the season a Lent, a time of preparation in which we prepare for Easter, celebrating what has happened and looking forward to what will still happen. We're living in the past, present and future all at the same time.

In a sense, it's a bit like receiving concert tickets for a Christmas present. You've received the gift and celebrated that gift with joy, but the promise of what is coming leaves you giddy with excitement and hope. Your present life is informed by the gratitude for the past and your hope for

the future. All of life is transformed by the gift.

Easter is a reality-changing gift. It is far behind us, yet it is in the future, moving closer every day. How does the hope of resurrection transform your life?

Wednesday, March 5 is Ash Wednesday. We'll have a service at the church to commemorate this day, and it begins Lent, a season of preparation for Easter. This Lent, I'd invite you to live with one constant question: *Am I living throughout my days in an awareness of God's great love for me?* I think all of us can better train our hearts and minds to be aware of what God is doing in our midst. I think we can all discipline ourselves to avoid distractions and cultivate a prayerful heart while we're busy with other things in life. We can probably all set aside more time for prayer and study.

The first step, though, is to pay attention. Watch how you spend your time. Notice where your thoughts go. We are between the first Easter and the final resurrection, so may this present time be awash with an awareness that God has done miraculous things and is still on the move.

In Christ,
 Keith



- 03/02/14 - **Led By The Spirit**
Acts 8:26-4
- 03/09/14 - **Transformation**
Acts 9:1-22
- 03/16/14 - **Reaching Out**
Acts 10
- 03/23/14 - **Jailbreak!**
Acts 12:6-19
- 03/30/14 **Attempted Murder!**
Acts 14:8-20

Inside This Edition	
Session Highlights	2
Pavilion Planning Team	2
Mission Statement	2
PW News	3
Youth News	3
Passover	4
Thank You	4

New Hope Session Highlights

The following notes are highlights from the January 18th Retreat:

This was our annual organizational meeting.

The following items were discussed:

- Elder of the Month duties
- Assignment of Care Givers
- A new Session meeting schedule. Session will now meet on a bimonthly schedule. Church committees will meet during the off-months.
- New committees were designated and Session members volunteered for each committee as follows: Buildings & Grounds – Ron Young, Jon Geerlings, Worship – Jon Geerlings, Lloyd Hoover, Barbara Krupp, Youth – Lizz Savard, Lloyd Hoover, Congregational Care – Marilyn Suber, Strengthening / Fellowship – JoAn Wright, Andy Sanislo, Shaun Townley, Outreach / Mission – Ashley Gerskin, Lloyd Hoover, Admin / Finance /Personnel – Lizz Savard, Troy Ivey, Peter Savard
- The church calendar was discussed. The clerk will update the current calendar with all scheduled events. The calendar will be kept in the church office and also be available on the church website.
- Building use requests are to be submitted to the clerk. All non-controversial requests can be approved by the clerk. Requests from new, non- church groups and any that may be controversial will be submitted to Session for approval.
- Elder training was scheduled for new elders and any current elder who would like to attend.
- Lizz Savard was elected as New Hope's representative to the Presbytery Meeting February 22, 2014
- Corporation officers for 2014 were elected as follows: President – Keith Jones, Vice President, Ashley Gerskin, Treasurer – Troy Ivey, Secretary – Peter Savard

The next Session meeting will be March 2, 2014.

UTC Board

New Hope has an allotment of 3 spaces on the board of our campus ministry. Friends, this is an exciting time to participate in the life of the ministry. There is good attendance and some big questions that will shape the future of the ministry. If you are interested at all in taking part in the life of the campus ministry, please contact Keith.



Our Church Mission

It has been some time since the New Hope mission statement was reviewed. If you're interested

in taking a look at what this says, please be in touch with Lizz Savard, who is hoping to evaluate the statement to insure that it currently reflects our congregational life and hopes.

2-CENTS-A-MEAL

The next 2-Cents-A-Meal collection will be April 6th. Your spare change is used to purchase items to help fill the sack packs for East Brainerd Elementary! Our goal is to put more food in each sack, so your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Pavilion Team

A year ago, the pavilion was listed by many of you as a priority project for the road money. Now that other projects (playground, parking lot, McMillan Building) are complete, we can turn our attention to the pavilion. If you're interested in being part of the team that debates the pros and cons and reviews design options, please contact the church office.



OUR purse ministry is progressing well and will continue until mid-March. Several empty purses are available in the basket in the narthex for anyone that does not have a bag, but would like to contribute items for the bags. All contributions will be welcomed and appreciated. The purses are going to be given to Chattanooga Room in the Inn.

OUR PW will serve dinner for the residents at Chattanooga Room in the Inn on March 24th. If anyone wishes to help with the meal, please contact Marilyn Suber. We always have an enjoyable time when we prepare dinner and then dine with the women and children at CRITI; we hope that more New Hope women will take advantage of this opportunity to serve.

UTE Campus Ministries, 808 Hope, has been energized with increased opportunities for participation, Bible study, enjoyment of the new coffee bar and lots of fun Christian fellowship. Attendance at the Tuesday lunches has grown considerably and it will be our pleasure to provide lunches on Tuesday, March 18 and Tuesday, April 1st. If anyone would like to help with the March 18th lunch, please contact Teena Bledsoe; anyone wishing to help with the April 1st lunch, please contact Rosie Sanislo.

CELEBRATE the Gifts of Women Sunday, originally planned for March 9th, has been postponed until later in the year so we will have more time to devote to planning and preparation. Please be thinking about how you can give us a *peek* into the way you have used or are using the splendid gifts and talents that God has given you.

COMING up soon...

Mon. March 03 12:00 Noon

PW Board Meeting – McMillan Building

Tues. March 11 10:00 a.m.

Circle meeting & brunch

WE invite all the women of New Hope to join us at our March 11th meeting to enjoy the food, fellowship and Bible study. Rosie Sanislo will be hosting.



Youth Committee

On Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30pm anyone interested in joining together to plan activities for our church youth are invited to attend this meeting in the McMillan Building. Topics for discussion will include VBS, church school and fall activities. Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm as we plan to serve God's children. Speak with Lizz Savard if you have questions, 508-8456.

Confirmation

The Confirmation class will begin on March 2nd, continuing through April 27th. Please commit to regular times of prayer for the children and the teacher throughout this process. This should be a time of celebration in the church! Let us affirm what God is doing in the lives of these young people.



This year's VBS program will be held in the early evenings of July 15th - 18th. In doing a new time we are making plans to include adults, not just parents of VBS children but ANY ONE that would like to come. Watch future newsletters for more exciting information!

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.



To the New Hope Family,

Thank you for your continued donations of laundry detergent. We appreciate everything you do for us. We would not be able to serve the community without people like you!

Warm wishes,
The Samaritan Center



Spring Forward!
Day Light Saving

On Sunday, March 9th
Remember to set your
clocks ahead one hour as we
SPRING into Day Light saving Time.



Jesus' Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Bob Mendelsohn of Jews for Jesus will recreate the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover" at New Hope Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:45 PM.

Bob Mendelsohn will set a table with items traditionally used at the Passover meal and detail their spiritual significance. He will also explain the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Christian communion celebration today.



Elder of the Month

Shaun Townley

STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Keith W. Jones

Music Director
Janet Sump

Organist
Larisa Abrahamyan

Office Secretary
Debbie Cessna