



Pastor's Page

May 2014

New Hope Presbyterian Church

The New Hope News



Friends in Christ,
Spring is here, and with its arrival my yard once again is filled with an abundance of flowering things, none of which I planted. The

grass, which I did plant, has mostly enjoyed its brief life in my lawn and then died. Just like the old saying 'You can't step in the same river twice', you can't mow my yard the same twice, because there are always new weeds and ant colonies and who knows what else out there.

As I mow, I think about the idea that there were no weeds in the Garden of Eden. To our modern eyes there were probably weeds, but at the time, it was just an abundance of creation. Only when we selected what a desirable plant was did we create weeds, which were suddenly undesirable. If our idea of a perfect lawn was that it was simply green and uniformity did not matter, then there would be no weeds. To Caleb's eyes, dandelions aren't weeds but objects of wonder and delight. The whole concept of a weed is a mental construct, a category in which we place

plants that we think don't belong.

It's easy to do the same with people. In our minds, we construct images of normal people. Typically, this includes people that look like us, and may include people similar to people we are already friends with. It's easy to make an ideal community that includes people who look and act like us, and to treat the others as weeds, less-than-desirables.

But the diversity of the world is, I believe, something wonderful in God's eyes, because each and every one of us is made in the image of God. It's a human idea that we should look or act the same. To God, we are all beautiful (though tainted with sin and in need of redemption, which he has graciously provided in Jesus Christ) and treasured.

So may we endeavor to see people as God sees us, worthy of love and affection and attention. May we recognize our propensity to label some people as 'weeds', and may we instead look for the wonder and delight in each.

In Christ,
Keith

May Sermon Titles

- 05/04 "Paul In Ephesus"
Acts 19
- 05/11 "What On Earth Am I Here For?"
Week 1 of "Purpose Driven Life"
- 05/18 You Were Planned For God's Pleasure
Week 2 of "Purpose Driven Life"
- 05/25 You Were Formed For God's Family
Week 3 of "Purpose Driven Life"



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Beginning May 5, New Hope is going to be following Rick Warren's *Purpose-Driven Life* for 42 days of transformation! You can read each day at home, (May 5=Day1, page 21 in the new version which we have in the church office. It's \$10 if you can afford it, free if you cannot, somewhere in between if you're somewhere in between.) and then our Sunday worship will serve as a summary of the previous week.

Join us on this adventure!



Confirmation

For the previous two months, some of the New Hope youth have been working hard in confirmation classes. On Sunday, May 18th, we will gather in worship to celebrate this milestone in faith as the kids step boldly into the future God has prepared for them. Please keep them in prayer, and encourage them on their continued journey of discipleship.



Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 18th as we celebrate our new confirmands with an Ice Cream Social following the worship service!



A Day In May

Ladies
of New Hope
You are invited
to the home of
Lynne Brock
for a Spring Luncheon
Saturday, May 10th
at 12:00pm, noon
6454 Solitude Drive
Chattanooga
Contact Lynne
for directions
423.902.4820



PW hosted the state meeting of Church Women United on April 11th and 12th, and it turned out to be a very good experience. We had an assortment of refreshments for the women to enjoy during their time of registration and then Teena and all her helpers served a delicious dinner in the evening. The CWU members said they felt very special with our use of cloth table coverings and napkins, china, crystal and beautiful flower arrangements. Saturday morning, the women gathered again at 8:00 a.m. in the McMillan Building and enjoyed a bountiful continental style breakfast. This was all made possible by Teena and her exacting standards for perfection, excellent meal preparation, organization/planning, attention to details and the support of her helpers. *Thank you* to all that made the hosting of this meeting so successful!

The annual PW Spring Gathering held on Saturday, April 26th, at Erin Presbyterian Church in Knoxville was a wonderful event. Ninety-two women from 22 churches attended and we had representatives from four of our mission partners: Sunset Gap, Morgan Scott Project, Mission Haven, and John Knox Camp. Our featured speaker was Kathy Reeves who presented an informative review of the PW US Mission Experience to Appalachia that occurred in June 2013. The annual PW Seminary Scholarship in the amount of \$1,658 was awarded to the Inquirer, Crystal Fallesen, of Rivermont. The Least Coin Offering was received in the amount of \$878.36. The meeting concluded with a beautiful communion service conducted by The Rev. John Stuart.

Coming up soon...

- Mon. May 5th 12:00 Noon PW Board Meeting – McMillan Building
- Tues. May 13th 10:00 a.m. Circle meeting & brunch
- Thurs. May 22nd 6:00 p.m. Dinner at the Tea Cottage



We invite all the women of New Hope to join us on May 13th and May 22nd!

Tea Cottage Dinner

New Hope Ladies!

You and your friends are invited to join us for our
New Hope Ladies Annual Event at The Tea Cottage for dinner

on Thursday, May 22nd at 6:00pm.

The cost will be \$12.00 per person;

this will include dinner, drinks, dessert and gratuity.

Please RSVP to Teena Bledsoe or Rosie Sanislo by May 18th.



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.

FUTURE PLANS



Over the past year, there has been some interest in developing a plan to renovate the Narthex. Recently, a very generous donation has

been made toward this project. If you would like to donate to this project, a fund has been established for this purpose, so that when plans are made the funds will be there to turn them into a reality.



We will **NOT** have our Monthly Potluck Dinner this month due to the Ice Cream Social on the 18th.

Join us again in June as we enjoy fellowship and great food at our next Potluck on Sunday, June 29th.



Elder of the Month
Barbara Krupp

STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Keith W. Jones

Music Director
Janet Sump

Organist
Larisa Abrahamyan

Office Secretary
Debbie Cessna