



The New Hope News

PASTORAL WORDS

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.

International Peacemaker To Visit in Chattanooga

We will have a great opportunity to see and hear our PC(USA) International Peacemaker, Hendrik Shanazarian, who will be preaching at Second Presbyterian Church on October 4th at their 10:55 am worship service. As an International Peacemaker, Hendrik will speak about the plight of the Christian Church in Iran, especially over the past ten years when churches have been closed and house church leaders have been arrested, imprisoned and tortured. While many Christians have fled from Iran, these have also been years of reported conversions to Christianity. Hendrik Shanazarian was born in Tehran and grew up actively participating in the Armenian Evangelical Church in Tehran, eventually providing leadership for their Children and Youth Ministry. Upon graduating from the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, he returned to Iran to serve in pastoral ministry. For seven years he served as the executive secretary of the Synod of the Evangelical Church in Iran and as pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Congregation in Tehran. He currently resides in the United States where he serves as pastor of the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church in Glendale, CA, and as associate pastor of the Christ Armenian Church in La Crescenta, CA. He also has a part time interim position at the Evangelical Union of North America as the Acting Minister to the Union.

WEDNESDAYS THIS FALL

Our mid-week program will begin on Wednesday, September 9th. A meal will be provided at 6:00 for a cost of \$4.00. The program will begin at 6:30 and conclude at 7:15. Choir rehearsals start at 7:30.



"The Church and Change" will be the title of our fall study led by Rev. Jump. Our understanding of Church is grounded in the pages of the scripture and the study will put that understanding in the context of all the changes which have challenged the Church over the centuries and forced us to deal with change. It is a fascinating story of how the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, has interacted with the world around it throughout its history. It will help us understand how we can faithfully deal with the changes today as they press upon us with great intensity. There will be child care during the program time. Alex Meulenburg has agreed to help us in this part of our Wednesday program. Thank you Alex! This year we are asking for people to make reservations for Wednesdays in order to best provide meals in a way that frees people from the extensive preparations that has been necessary in the past. We are asking that people please indicate their intention to attend by leaving a reservation in the morning offering plate or by notifying the church office by noon Tuesday. This is a "change" and one that will make Wednesday's Bible study time much easier for us all.

Fall is approaching and the Search Committee is beginning to interview ministers. The search process in our Church is lengthy and requires congregations to be both patient and persistent in their prayers for those eight members who have accepted this very important responsibility. You need to be preparing for new leadership just as seriously as they are seeking someone to recommend as your next pastor.

The Session and I have agreed for me to continue through September, serving in the same way I have throughout this past year. (Yes, it has been a year.) We will evaluate everything about the need for my service as an interim pastor beyond September when the session meets after worship on the 20th.

This past year has been an enjoyable one for me. You are a pleasure to work for and with. I have discovered a number of strengths in our New Hope congregation which can be built upon for the future. I hope in the days ahead that we

can build on those strengths so that you can be at your best when the next pastor arrives.

There are also areas that need attention and these are typical of any congregation in between pastors. It is easy for participation to slip back along with church support. The financial report in this newsletter shows some healthy reserves but it also indicates some reduced support compared to last year when we anticipated some increase after our stewardship program last fall. This is a time to work at building our presence and our support in anticipation of the new pastor. I hope all of us can make a special effort to boost our participation on Sunday and Wednesday as well as our support as we begin the fall program.

I am looking forward to continuing to serve as your interim pastor in the weeks ahead as we move into the new church year.

Pastor Frank Jump

New Hope Presbyterian Church

Did You Know...

... In the Boy Scouts Troup 74, our very own Chase Lowery is the Chaplain Aide of Troup 74. He has the closing prayer at weekly meetings; he conducts the Sunday service and leads the prayers at meals at campouts.



Every year at the week-long campout at Skymont, he takes the Chaplain's Aide class, and when he is 16 and receives the Eagle Badge, he will become the Chaplain of Troup 74.

Way to go, Chase! We give thanks to God for you!

Elder of the Month Linda Brandon

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OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

New Hope is currently in good financial condition. Details can be found in the attached budget summary and balance sheet.

Year-to-date income exceeds expenses by \$18,025.19. While giving is down slightly from 2014, the Session has done a good job of managing expenses in a conservative manner while we are in this state of transition. The budget surplus to date also reflects that the youth leader position we had planned to create remains unfilled.

Going forward, we expect the year to end with a surplus; however, that is not as positive a statement as it appears. The 2015 budget assumed that the senior pastor position to be filled by the end of September – an assumption which turned out to be overly optimistic. If the position remains unfilled through the end of the year, our payroll and benefits expenses will be significantly under budget. While the financial benefit is a nice silver lining, I think we will all be glad when we have a new pastor!

We have a number of designated funds that are excluded from the operating budget. The Building

Fund received a designated gift of \$20,000 early in the year. The Road Money Fund has remained steady for the year, as the Session decided to refrain from further withdrawals from this fund until a new senior pastor is called. The remaining funds have had modest activity, with some having no activity in several years. The Session and I are currently reviewing our designated funds to clarify each funds' purpose and define a strategy for these funds going forward.

Our investments have made modest gains in a challenging financial market. Through July, our investment balance has increased at an annual rate of 2.27%. These investments continue to be managed with a low to medium risk tolerance. In June, we closed the SunTrust money market fund and transferred the balance into the Edward Jones account. We plan to do the same with the SunTrust CD in September when it matures.

Please continue your generous and faithful giving. Thanks to your support, we are weathering the challenge of being without a permanent pastor well, but we will face new financial pressures once the new pastor is called. If you would like more information or have questions on New Hope's finances, please see me or call me at (423) 637-1923.

Yours in Christ,
Troy Ivey
Treasurer



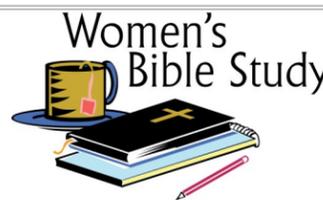
Taizé

The plan for the Taizé evening services is to meet on the first and third Sunday each month at 6:30pm.

The first Sunday of each month, we will meet at **Morning Pointe Assisted Living** located at 7719 Shallowford Road. Our first service at Morning Point was in early August. We had such a nice crowd, with smiles, tears, enthusiastic singing, and requests that we return soon.

The third Sunday of each month we will meet in the McMillan Building.

Please invite your family and friends to this relaxed yet uplifting time of worship with music, scripture readings and meditation!



Women's Bible Study

A new Women's Circle is starting on September 13th during the 9:45 – 10:30 Sunday school time. Open to any woman of the church,

this circle especially welcomes our working women or women who find it hard to participate in a women's circle during the week.

We will be meeting in the McMillan Building (near the coffee pot) for 45 minutes each Sunday. Our informal group will be studying *Come to the Waters*, put out by *Horizons* magazine. Other Bible studies may be substituted at the wishes of the group.

This group will be structured around the needs of the women involved so don't let your individual situation stop you from joining us! See you on September 13th!



PW NEWS...

The 2015 Fall Spiritual Retreat will be held at New Hope on Saturday, September 19th from 9:30am - 2:00pm. The theme this year is "Come To The Waters". Come and learn about Hydroponics. Lunch will be served and the cost is \$8.00 a person. Registration is due by Saturday, September 12th. Please see Marilyn, Rosie or Gerai for more details.

PW has scheduled a trip to Mission Haven, Columbia Seminary and Villa International on Saturday, October 10th. This trip is limited to 15 people and registration is due by September 18th. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

Upcoming events...

- 9/1/2015 - PW board meeting 11:00 a.m. McMillan Bldg
- 9/8/2015 - PW Circle meeting 10:00 a.m. McMillan Bldg
- 808 Hope House lunch served by New Hope
- 9/15/2015 - Sack Packs at Food Bank
- 9/19/2015 - Fall Spiritual retreat
- 9/29/2015 - 808 Hope House lunch served by New Hope



sanctuary Banners

Have you ever wondered what our sanctuary banners represent? We look at them each week during worship, but maybe we don't see or understand the creative symbolism in them, which display the glory of God.

Not long ago, Pastor Jump presented a series of sermons about The Great Ends of the Church as stated in our Presbyterian Book of Order. The 6 banners that hang along the window side aisles, describe these ends, which point us toward our Christian mission:

- ~ The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
- ~ The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
- The maintenance of divine worship;
- The preservation of the truth;
- The promotion of social righteousness; and
- The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World.

The banners were made by former long time member, Mikie Lancaster, who is an A+ seamstress. If you cannot identify each of the banners, take a peek at the back corner for a brief explanation.

Facing the front of the sanctuary, we have 2 banners, designed and made by Lynne Brock. The left side banner describes the 4th verse of 'Amazing Grace'—"When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first begun." Purple represents royalty; the yellow half circle is the rising sun; the X with the bar is the Roman numeral for 10,000; green is everlasting; all hanging together on a red cross representing the blood of Christ, shed for us.

The right side banner is liturgical in nature. The 3 panels and the triangles represent the Trinity; circles are wholeness; again, the colors are green for everlasting, gold for the glory of God, white for purity and red for the blood of Christ. These panels hang on a green cross.

Our thanks go to Mikie and Lynne for their time and talents to beautify our sanctuary. Contemplate what you see and the meaning behind this art (but not during the pastor's sermon!)

