

Blessing of the Backpacks



Sunday, August 7th ~ 10:15 a.m.

Children & Youth... Bring your backpack

Teachers... Bring your backpack or Planning calendar

We will ask for God's blessings, praying for a school year full of wonder and learning.

This will be a day to remind our children that God and the church are in their lives at all times and in all places, even in their school classrooms and at their lockers!

We will pray for God's blessings to abound in the lives of our students and teachers.

All are welcome!

Spaghetti Luncheon



Join us for a Spaghetti Luncheon!

Sponsored by The Senior High Youth Mission Trip

Sunday, August 21st, 2016
11:30 am

Enjoy Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Rolls, Drinks and
Dessert

Entertainment provided by New Hope members

Free-Will Offering Accepted

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...



Welcome. Worship. Grow. Serve. Be God's love. These are the five points of our purpose statement as New Hope Presbyterians. They name what we strive to be and become and have opened to us new initiatives in our congregational life that bring us together and send us out to a

world in need. As a reminder, here are the initiatives and an update on where we are:

Sacred Conversations on Race + Action

The Bible calls us "ambassadors for Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:20) The Confession of 1967 states that "the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it." (9.44) Likewise, "The Confession of Belhar," which was officially added to our Book of Confessions by the General Assembly at its meeting this summer, states "We believe...that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others."

Given all that's happened in our nation in recent years, it is all too clear that the church has a lot of work to do in this area. Aimed at welcoming and including all and being God's love in the world, our Sacred Conversations on Race are our way of being honest with ourselves about the systems that keep some of those barriers in place and what steps we might take to help break them. We began last fall with a series of conversations with other congregations united together at the First Presbyterian Church, Ferguson, MO, and also amongst ourselves as New Hope Presbyterians. Following the structured conversations, the initiative added "+ Action" to indicate that we are on the move to address this issue. New Hope's participants in this initiative feel it is important, for a variety of reasons, to keep our efforts local (St. Charles County), and are seeking ways to address, particularly, diversity within our schools. Mary Powers and Jane Cox continue to spearhead this effort and welcome the interest of all newcomers.

Earth Care Congregation God made everything, proclaimed it "good," and has given humanity the responsibility of caring for it all. The psalms tell us that the sun, moon and stars; the mountains, hills and trees all praise the glory of God. (Psalm 148) This is simply to say that we are to be stewards of creation. Caring for the earth is both a biblical mandate and a particular passion for younger generations. Aimed at welcoming and including all, serving others, and being God's love in the world, becoming an Earth Care Congregation seeks to expand our ministry of concern for all God's creation. Elder Cindy Martin has headed up the Earth Care Team, which is currently completing an "earth care audit" of particular ways our congregation is presently involved in the stewardship of the earth. In the next couple of months it will turn to planning ahead for ways we can continue to limit our carbon footprint and raise our awareness about ways to broaden our stewardship of creation. There will be many ways for you to participate in this effort and, if you have particular interest in this, please see Cindy Martin.

Church Family Gathering This initiative has sought to build up and strengthen the whole church by bringing multiple generations together for fellowship, prayer, study and worship. Aimed at worshiping God and growing in Christian faith, our Formation for Discipleship Committee has hosted two Church Family Gatherings, the first on Palm Sunday (March 20) and the second on Pentecost (May 15). While different in emphasis and activities, both were well attended and brought all of us together to celebrate our congregational life and practice our faith in meaningful and tangible ways. The next Church Family Gathering is scheduled for Sunday, September 11th, with a pancake breakfast to kick-off the new church program year.

The Journey Author Diana Butler Bass reminds us that "faith is costly. It takes time to explore and engage. What is truly worthwhile is not flashy or fast. The Christian way of life is a journey." That is what our first round of participants of The Journey have discovered. At New Hope, The Journey is a process of faith formation. That is important to know. It is not a program or a class, but a process of exploring and growing faith through Scripture read-

Pastor's Article Continued

ing, worship, prayer and ministry in daily life. The Journey is for members who seek spiritual renewal and any others who have questions about faith and the church. We tell those interested in church membership that, if they choose, they may become members of New Hope through The Journey, but the focus of this process is much larger than simply membership in the church. We recognize a life of faith is not about being a member of an organization, but rather about being a follower of Christ in a community of believers. So, we invite people into our life together through this process of faith formation, rather than the giving of information.

Our first cycle of The Journey, which began in early January and concluded in May, included 38 Travelers and Companions. Many of these people were members of New Hope who were curious and interest in spiritual renewal. A few became members of New Hope through the process, and we celebrated two baptisms along the way.

A new leg of The Journey will be on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m., beginning on August 16th. Dinner will be provided and childcare available to all who need it. Sign-ups are happening now, so call or email the church office if you are interested or need more information. You may also speak with Ruth Irvine, Terry Martinez, Linda Dencker, Nancy Seals, or Del Phillips.

These four strategies are just that—strategies aimed at helping us fulfill our purpose of welcoming, worshiping, growing, serving and being God's love in the world. They have already begun to have a positive impact on our congregation, prompting new people to become involved in new mission and ministry among us. The progress we have seen has been, at times, slow but also certain and I am grateful to God for the new things happening in our midst.

Faithfully,



Take Me Out to the Ballgame!



Join us on August 20th for a night at the ballpark! We'll be taking a bus to the Rascals Baseball Game in O'Fallon.

Meet at church at 5:15 pm to head to the ballpark. Tickets for the bleachers are \$7.00 per person. Transportation is provided by the Fellowship Committee.

Food and drink are available for purchase at the stadium.

Please RSVP by completing a form on the Welcome Table by Sunday, August 7th. Contact the church office with questions.

Announcing a New Social Enterprise in St Charles

There's a new bakery in St. Charles, selling DELICIOUS handmade artisan bread and rolls! Bridge Bread on Main is open for business at 419 South Main Street. This is a perfect way to enjoy wholesome baked goods, with nothing artificial added, AND support the bakery which provides supportive employment for people experiencing homelessness.

Below is Bridge Bread on Main's recent press release, which provides more information about the ministry.

Bridge Bread Bakery Expands to St. Charles on July 1 Providing More Hope to the Homeless

ST. CHARLES, MO Bridge Bread Bakery, a social enterprise designed to provide supportive employment for people experiencing homelessness, will open the doors of a new storefront at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 1, 2016. Bridge Bread on Main, located at 419 S. Main in St. Charles, will provide handmade artisan bread and rolls using simple, wholesome ingredients with nothing artificial added.

Fred Domke, the driving inspiration behind the program, started Bridge Bread in 2011 with his wife, Sharon, after being inspired by a discussion of poverty at their church, Lafayette Park United Methodist. Bridge Bread has six bakers and has signed on over forty churches as distributors. Last year they opened a retail location on Cherokee Street in St. Louis and now they are expanding to the new shop on Main Street in the historic neighborhood of Old St. Charles.

Domke says that the real purpose of Bridge Bread "is not about making bread." "It's about making jobs," he said. "It's about giving people employment that matters. It's about letting them do something that they're proud of — and let me tell you something, these guys make great bread!"

Bridge Bread Bakery is a Missouri nonprofit corporation with Federal 501(c)(3) charitable status. About three quarters of proceeds from product sales goes to the bakers' wages and one quarter pays for ingredients. There is no other paid staff. Rent, utilities and insurance are covered by donations.

Bridge Bread invites the public to their ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, July 12 at 4 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet some of the bakers and sample their breads, sweet rolls and brownies.

Bridge Bread's mission is to help the disadvantaged engage in a financially rewarding effort that enhances self-worth, promotes dignity and enables them to help themselves.

Hours of operation are from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Saturday and from 12 until 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call Bridge Bread on Main at 636.757.3577, visit their website at www.bridgebread.org .



Deacon Picnic

Save the date for the annual church-wide Deacon picnic on Sunday, September 18th, immediately following the second service.

The Deacons are providing the main dish for everyone, as well as fun and games! We welcome the entire congregation, as well as friends, but do ask that you RSVP to the church office at 636/936-2200 or lbrown@nhpres.org.

The Deacons are teaming up with the Fellowship Committee to provide games and activities after lunch. Please watch future newsletters for more information!



Blood Drive

The Deacons will be sponsoring a blood drive at church on Sunday, September 11th. The Blood Drive will take place between 8:30 am and 12:30 pm in the Blood Mobile, which will be located on the upper parking lot. Sign-ups sheets will be available on the Information Table. Walk-ins will also be welcome that day! For more information, please contact the church office.

Benefits of Donating Blood:

- It feels great to donate!
- You get free juice and delicious Keebler® cookies.
- It's something you can spare – most people have blood to spare... yet, there is still not enough to go around.
- You will help ensure blood is on the shelf when needed – most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do.
- You will be someone's hero – in fact, you could help save more than one life with just one donation.



Church Rummage Sale



Mark your calendars and start saving your items!

The Youth Mission Trip participants will be hosting a rummage sale on Saturday, October 22nd at 7:00 am. The sale will take place in the lower level of the church, and outside by the pavilion if the weather's nice! We'll be accepting items for donation beginning on Sunday, October 16th.

Watch for more information coming soon!



August Birthdays

Madeline Saeger	08/03	Kelly Hantack	08/13
Nancy Seals	08/04	Craig George	08/15
Lynne Snyder	08/04	Marge Dalton	08/17
Susan Stiegemeier	08/04	Carolyn Rudolph	08/18
Barbara Newman	08/07	Stephanie Waldo	08/20
Mike Bommarito	08/08	Russell Dittmar	08/21
Allen Rudolph	08/08	Mark Besselman	08/26
Joe Petrowsky	08/09	Lindsay Lamey	08/27
Mitchell Hantack	08/10	Charlotte Saeger	08/27
Charli Bordes	08/12	Jerry Brown	08/29
Nancy Harrington	08/12	Kathy Gibbs	08/31

August Anniversaries

James & Kathryn Salter	08/03/1985
Joe & Jane Rigdon	08/06/1965
Kirk & Deb Garten	08/11/1984
Robert & Linda Dencker	08/15/1975
Trevor & Lindsay Gonterman	08/15/2015
Jerry & Jeanne Brown	08/16/1953
Don & Nancy Harrington	08/19/1978
Michael & Peggy Black	08/22/1970
Mike & Jane Dame	08/22/1981
Allen & Carolyn Rudolph	08/22/1954
Philip & Patricia Wahler	08/23/1975
Jeffrey & Ruth Connor	08/24/1992
Clark & Kelley Hurrell	08/25/1990
David & Kimm Besgrove	08/27/1994
Gregory & Barbara Newman	08/29/1981
Mark & Jennifer Everly	08/31/1985

FINANCIAL CORNER

CONTRIBUTIONS	To date July 2016	YTD
Actual	26,904.00	234,684.00
Budget	35,614.00	249,289.00



AUGUST 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00pm Deacon Meeting 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship 7:00pm Nominating Committee 7:00pm Director of Music Search Committee	2 5:00am Election Board 6:30pm Journey Leadership Team 7:00pm AA Meeting	3 7:00pm Handbell Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 9:30am Christian Ed 10:15am Worship	8 6:00pm Fellowship Committee 7:00 Session Meeting	9 7:00pm AA Meeting	10	11 3:00pm Boy Scout Blood Drive	12	13 9:45am Oasis Food Pantry
14 9:30am Christian Ed 10:15am Worship	15 7:00pm MME Committee	16 9:30am PW Coordinating Team 6:30pm The Journey 7:00pm A.A.	17	18 5:50pm Employment Ministry Committee 7:00pm Employment Ministry	19	20 8:30am Men's Breakfast 5:15pm Rascals Ballgame
21 9:30am Christian Ed 10:15am Worship 11:30am Spaghetti Luncheon	22 7:00pm Ministry Mission & Evangelism Committee	23 6:30pm The Journey 6:30pm Earth Care 7:00pm A.A.	24	25	26	27
28 9:30am Christian Ed 10:15am Worship	29	30 6:30pm The Journey 7:00pm AA Meeting	31			

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