

NEW HOPE PRESS

DECEMBER 2015

Christmas Greetings!

From your staff at New Hope!

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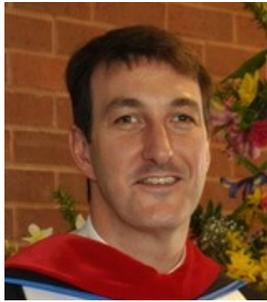
Jan Parker

new hope

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR...



It was a great joy to share dinner together on November 11th and to celebrate our Strategic Planning Team's work as we move forward into our future. I'm grateful for the support and energy with which "the Plan" has been received and am eager to live into it together.

The New Hope Presbyterian Church strives to...

- ◇ Welcome & Include All
- ◇ Worship God
- ◇ Grow in Christian Faith
- ◇ Serve Others
- ◇ Be God's Love in the World

Our Plan includes four strategies that are aimed at fulfilling the goals identified in our purpose statement:

Sacred Conversations on Race The Apostle Paul states quite plainly that we are "ambassadors for Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:20) Likewise, "The Confession of 1967" in our Book of Confessions, points out that Christ came to overcome barriers and break down discrimination "based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary." (9.44) It also states that "the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it." (9.44)

Given all that we've seen in recent months in Ferguson, Baltimore, Charleston, Minneapolis and elsewhere, 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've already begun 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. The conversations will certainly continue, but our next steps will be to determine what actions

we will take to begin to make a real difference. Are you interested in being a part of this? This strategy will continue to be led by a team of interested people. Our next planning meeting will be on Sunday, December 6, at 12:30, here at New Hope.

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. Not only is caring for the environment a biblical mandate, but at the congregational dinner, I noted that it is also the "civil rights movement" of our younger generations. If "attracting younger members" is really the concern I so often hear it to be, then we must be about the work of attending to the care of our environment that so occupies the concerns of young people. 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. This strategy will be led by a team of interested people. Several people have already indicated an interest in being a part of this. If you, too, are interested, please let me know. We will have an orientation meeting soon.

Church Family Gathering This initiative seeks 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, there are several possible ways to do this and our Formation for Discipleship Committee is considering the best way(s) to move this forward. If you are interested in being a part of this, contact Elder Shelley Geiger of the Formation for Discipleship Committee.

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." How right she is! 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. The goal of The Journey is focused on making disciples of Jesus Christ, rather

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR CONTINUED

than simply members of the church. That is to say, newcomers to the church will be invited into our life together through this process of faith formation, rather than the giving of information. But this is not for newcomers only. In fact, to get this started, we are inviting all New Hoppers to experience this together. The Journey is aimed at addressing all five of our goals: welcoming and including, worshiping, growing, serving and being God's love. There is more about The Journey elsewhere in this issue of the New Hope Press and I invite you to contact Ruth Irvine, Linda Dencker or Terry Martinez for more information.

These four strategies are just that—strategies aimed at helping us fulfill our purpose. When we complete or fulfill each strategy, or when a strategy “runs its course” or if we determine that a strategy is no longer working, our Session will develop a new strategy to meet the goal. So, in a very real sense, our work of planning will be ongoing as we seek to be faithful to who we are called to be as New Hope Presbyterians. At the congregational dinner it was pointed out that we do not expect everyone to feel called to be a part of every one of these strategies, but we do believe that there is something here for everyone and we are excited to walk this road together.

If missed the congregational dinner, but still want to hear about all this, rest assured. Our Strategic Planning Team is excited about getting the word out. For those of you who could not be with us at the congregational dinner, members of our Strategic Planning Team invite you to an informal gathering on Sunday, December 13 at 12:30 p.m. There they will share with you what we have in store, answer any questions you might have, and let you know how you can be a part of our future together.

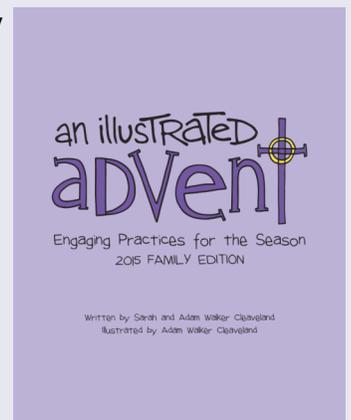
Faithfully,



An Illustrated Advent

It can be difficult to find meaningful ways to engage your kids in faith formation at home. It can feel awkward, we don't always know what to do, and sometimes we have a hard time talking about our faith. Seasons like Advent and Lent are great opportunities to say, “Hey kids... let's try something new for the next few weeks.” Particularly during Advent, with our culture's desire to get to December 25 as soon after Halloween as possible, it's important to take time to stop. To wait. To have conversations and engage in intentional practices for the season. An Illustrated Advent is one way to do just that—to slow down, ask questions, and try new things. There are coloring sheets that tell the story of Jesus' birth, scripture passages to read together, questions to spark family conversations, and suggestions for how to live out each week's theme.

These packets are being given to children in Sunday school classrooms on November 29th. There are also copies available on the Information Table. If you would like a copy for your child, you can also contact the church office.



Advent and Christmas at New Hope

Sunday, November 29th ♦ First Sunday of Advent

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship & the Lord's Supper

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 ❖ Psalm 25: 1-10 ❖ 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 ❖ Luke 21: 25-36

Sunday, December 6th ♦ Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship & the Lord's Supper

Malachi 3: 1-4 ❖ Luke 1: 68-79 ❖ Philippians 1: 3-11 ❖ Luke 3: 1-6

Sunday, December 13th ♦ Third Sunday of Advent

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship & the Lord's Supper

Zephaniah 3: 14-20 ❖ Isaiah 12: 2-6 ❖ Philippians 4: 4-7 ❖ Luke 3: 7-18

Sunday, December 20th ♦ Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship & the Lord's Supper

Micah 5: 2-5 ❖ Psalm 80: 1-7 ❖ Hebrews 10: 5-10 ❖ Luke 1: 39-45

Wednesday, December 24th ♦ Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship & the Lord's Supper

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship & the Lord's Supper

Isaiah 9: 2-7 ❖ Psalm 96 ❖ Titus 2: 11-14 ❖ Luke 2: 1-14

Wednesday, December 27th ♦ First Sunday after Christmas

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship & the Lord's Supper

1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 ❖ Psalm 148

Colossians 3: 12-17 ❖ Luke 2: 41-52



Evening of Carols

Turn your heart to Christmas by attending An Evening of Carols, an Advent celebration for the entire family, on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. Join your New Hope family and friends to celebrate the quiet spirit of the true meaning of Christmas.



- Instrumental music
- Canticles in Candlelight by Joseph Martin
- Christmas cantata presented by the New Hope choir
- The Advent story
- Candlelit singing of familiar carols
- Dessert
- Child care provided upon request
- Bring your family and friends

A sign-up sheet for reservations, child care and donations of desserts is located on the information table. You may also contact Nancy Seals at 636-294-0295 or nseals@charter.net. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 9.



Cookies with Santa

Santa Claus
is coming to town...

Join us for **Cookies with Santa!**

Friday, December 4th
6:30 ~ 8:00 pm

New Hope Presbyterian Church

Cookies, hot chocolate,
crafts, and of course,
a visit with Santa!

Call 636-936-2200 for
more information



Come, Join The Journey



The Journey begins with a single step. Fourteen people have already signed up to participate in the inaugural voyage towards baptismal living, and it's not too late for you to sign up, too. Beginning January 10th right after second service, we will share lunch together and begin the process called The Journey.

So, what is The Journey? During the first phase, called "Come and See", you'll have the opportunity to join with others who are seeking to deepen their relationship with God and fellow Travelers. There will be storytelling, listening, and a chance to ask questions – along with other opportunities to enrich you and inspire you on your spiritual travels throughout your life.

There are other phases, too, and all focus on living into being a missional church together. We hope you'll travel with us as we discover where we've been, where we want to go, who we've been and who we want to be. There are sign-up sheets on the Information table. Once you've completed the form, drop it in the offering plate or in the church office.

Bon Voyage! Questions? Ask Linda Dencker, Terry Martinez or Ruth Irvine.

Strategic Planning Presentation

If missed the congregational dinner, but still want to hear about all this, rest assured. Our Strategic Planning Team is excited about getting the word out. For those of you who could not be with us at the congregational dinner, members of our Strategic Planning Team invite you to an informal gathering on Sunday, December 13 at 12:30 p.m. There they will share with you what we have in store, answer any questions you might have, and let you know how you can be a part of our future together.

Poinsettias

You may order a "live" poinsettia to adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Eve and take it home with you after the 11:00 pm service that night. You may also purchase a "virtual" poinsettia, the cost of which will go to the Deacon's Benevolence Fund. Whichever you choose, you may still dedicate your gift in memory, honor or gratitude to someone. The list will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please use the envelope provided on the Information Table for your order. The cost of either the live or "virtual" poinsettia is \$9.00 each. Checks can be written to NHPC. Orders must be received by December 20th.



New Hope December Ministries

Holiday Hearts Giving Tree

The Deacons' Giving Tree is back up in the Narthex! Please take a moment to stop by and check out the ornaments, which contain wish lists of the family members the Deacons are sponsoring for Christmas. Pick an ornament, buy the appropriate gift, and return the gift to the tree to help make a family's Christmas a little brighter! If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Joy Offering

Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to shine the One True Light of Christ's love on the poor in circumstance or spirit. Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

OASIS

As always, New Hope will be collecting food for the OASIS Food pantry during the month of December, to help feed those less fortunate. A list of recommended items to donate during December includes: 2 cans chicken, 1 box Chicken Helper, 1 can vegetables, 1 can fruit, 1 box/bag cookies.

SHOEMAN WATER MINISTRIES

We are always collecting new and used shoes for the Shoeman Water Project! Once collected, the shoes get a second life through sale to exporters. Money from the sale of the shoes purchases well drilling rigs, water purification systems, and other supplies to bring clean, fresh water to those in need. To participate, give your shoes the boot by donating your used and new shoes, tied or rubber-banded into pairs into our drop off bin, located by the Mission Table in the Narthex.

CARE PACKAGES FOR THE HOMELESS

We are still collecting items for the homeless and there is a list of needed items on the Missions Table. Donations can be dropped off in the container by the Missions Tables. Thank you again for your caring and generosity!



December Birthdays

Margaret Reschetz	12/01	Keith Yarde	12/19
Quinn Barbee	12/02	Gary Freeman	12/20
Rebecca Harms	12/03	Samantha Hurrell	12/20
Laurie Meinert	12/04	Lori Seidler	12/20
Elizabeth Eikmann	12/06	Ruth Connor	12/23
Michael Ray	12/11	Eric Gibbs	12/23
Connie Hopkins	12/15	Patricia Wahler	12/23
Barb Griffith	12/16	Debbie McDanel	12/24
Don Higgason	12/16	Heather Gerard	12/26
Mackenzie Moore	12/17	Norris Dalton	12/27
Liam Schrautemeier	12/17	Marilynne Counts	12/28
Sherri Brennecke	12/19	Brooklyn Bommarito	12/31
Ann Schmid	12/19	Rachel Steele	12/31
Ann Sebaugh	12/19		

December Anniversaries

Craig & Nancy George	12/05/1998
Carl & Carolyn Doerr	12/10/1966
Ernest & Lisa Smith	12/27/1975
Jack & Tracy Grundy	12/29/2010



Church Office Schedule

The following is the church office schedule for the holidays:

12/24 - office closes at 12:00 PM

12/25 - office closed in honor of Christmas

12/31 - office closes at 12:00 PM

1/1 - office closed in honor of New Year's Day

2016 Giving envelopes will be available at the Information Table beginning December 6th.

FINANCIAL CORNER

CONTRIBUTIONS	To-Date November 2015	Year To Date
Budget	34,891.00	383,801.00
Actual	39,065.00	390,354.55

DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30am PW Coordinating Team 7:00pm A.A.	2 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir	3 10:00am Jubilee Circle 1:00 pm Agape Circle 5:50 Employment Ministry Committee 7:00 Employment Ministry 7:00pm Joy Circle	4 6:30pm Cookies with Santa	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Word & Sacrament 12:30pm Sacred Conversations	7 7:00pm Deacons Meeting	8 7:00pm A.A.	9 7:15pm Choir	10 6:00pm Boy Scouts	11	12 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Word & Sacrament 12:30pm Strategic Planning Presentation	14 10:30am Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Session Meeting	15 7:00pm A.A.	16 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Cantata and Evening of Carols	17 5:50pm Employment Ministry Committee 7:00pm Employment Ministry	18 3:00pm Boy Scout Blood Drive	19 8:30am Men's Breakfast
20 4th Sunday of Advent 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Word & Sacrament	21 7:00pm MME Meeting	22 7:00pm A.A.	23	24 Christmas Eve 12:00pm Church Office Closes 5:00pm Worship 11:00pm Worship	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26
27 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Word & Sacrament	28 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship	29 7:00pm A.A.	30	31 New Year's Eve 12:00pm Church Office Closes		



<p>New Hope Presbyterian Church 1580 Kisker Road St. Charles MO 63304 Phone: 636/936-2200</p>	<p>Fax: 636/447-7676 E-mail: office@newhopepc.org Website: www.newhopepc.org Preschool Phone: 636/922-9900</p>
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