



and

suddenly

there was with

the **ANGEL**

a multitude of
the heavenly host,

praising GOD

and saying

Glory to God

in the highest, and on earth,
peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2

13-14

Session Commits to Earth Care

At its meeting on November 14, New Hope's Session approved its Earth Care Team's application to become an Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). As a part of the strategic planning process last year, the Session adopted this initiative of increasing our stewardship of creation and formed an Earth Care Team, led by Elder Cindy Martin.

The Earth Care Team began meeting this past summer and over the past five months have worked with other committees and teams of the Session to complete an "earth care audit" of our congregation as a means to help make us aware of how "earth-friendly" we currently are, as well as challenge us to take measures in the future to increase our stewardship of creation.

The Earth Care audit measures accomplishments or progress in four key areas of congregational life: Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach. To receive certification as an Earth Care Congregation, we must show activity, emphasis, or progress within each of these areas of focus in our attention to caring for creation. This is measured in achieving a point-total of 25 in each area of focus, for a total of 100 points needed for certification. There are many opportunities to achieve these points. Points may be achieved in the worship area, for instance, by singing a particular number of creation-related hymns per year, as well as holding at least one service of worship per year outdoors. In the area of education, points are awarded for such things as using earth-care related curricula and hosting speakers or programs on care of the earth. As a relatively new building (comparatively speaking), we do well in the area of facilities. Our energy efficiency is rated high because we all our windows are double-paned, our thermostats are programmable and do conduct regular and routine maintenance of our HVAC systems. In the area of outreach, we scored high for our youth taking a mission trip with care for the environment as its focus. As you will recall, our youth worked with Project Green Shores this summer building oyster reefs to protect and maintain the shoreline along Florida's gulf coast. Other outreach related items for which to earn points are in a congregation's advocacy for caring for the environment. While we needed to score 25 points in each category for a total of 100, our audit revealed a score of 213 spread out across those four categories.

The work continues as our Earth Care Team has begun to plan for next year and ways we can continue to increase our care for the environment. Lastly, as a part of the application for certification, our Session approved the Earth Care Pledge, which reads:

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

- 1. Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.*
- 2. In education, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.*
- 3. Our facilities will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.*



Session Commits to Earth Care continued

4. Our outreach will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

Our Earth Care Application will be submitted in early 2017 and we will continue to make our care of the environment a priority in the life of our congregation. The members of New Hope's Earth Care Team are Cindy Martin (Chair), Nicole Faubert, Bob Dencker, Deb Garten, Mark Phillips. All are welcome to be a part of this initiative, so if environmental stewardship is of interest to you please contact Cindy Martin at ckmartinrd@charter.net.

Holiday House Tour & Dinner

Saturday, December 10th
4 pm—9 pm

Tour 6 Christmas-Decorated Home!

We're starting a new tradition here at New Hope! We hope you will join us on Saturday, December 10th from 4—9 pm for a Holiday House Tour and Dinner. All participants will visit three houses for appetizers and to see the owners' Christmas decorating style. Then, you'll meet up at church for a sit-down dinner while being waited on by the youth of the church. After dinner, you will again visit three decorated homes for dessert.

The cost per person is \$25.00 and participation is limited, so, grab a few friends and make your reservations next week for what is sure to be a fun, delicious evening of visiting with friends! All proceeds will benefit the Youth Mission Trip.

RSVP on the forms in the "Outreach & Information" Area in the Narthex



PW Cookie Walk

On December 11th, Presbyterian Women will be holding a Cookie Walk and Fair Trade Market. Members are asked to contribute dozens of their best homemade cookies for the Cookie Walk (please mark the type of cookie you are donating). The cookies will be sold by the pound. The Fair Trade Market will feature artisan-made crafts, coffee and chocolate. These make wonderful Christmas gifts and promote safe and economically viable opportunities for people in developing countries. The cookie walk and fair trade market proceeds will benefit PW, which provides scholarships, programs and charitable giving throughout the year. Please join us for this special day.



Advent and Christmas at New Hope

Sunday, November 27th ♦ First Sunday of Advent

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

Isaiah 2: 1-5 ❖ Psalm 122 ❖ Romans 13: 11-14 ❖ Matthew 24: 36-44

Sunday, December 4th ♦ Second Sunday of Advent

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

Isaiah 11: 1-10 ❖ Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 ❖ Romans 15: 4-13 ❖ Matthew 3: 1-12

Sunday, December 11th ♦ Third Sunday of Advent

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

Isaiah 35: 1-10 ❖ Psalm 146: 5-10 ❖ James 5: 7-10 ❖ Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 18th ♦ Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Isaiah 7: 10-16 ❖ Psalm 80: 1-7 ❖ Romans 1: 1-7 ❖ Matthew 1: 18-25

Saturday, 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 25th ♦ Christmas

10:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols

Isaiah 62: 6-12 ❖ Psalm 97

Titus 3: 4-7 ❖ Luke 2: 8-20



Lessons & Carols

Our choir, handbells, and soloists will present a Lessons and Carols service on Sunday afternoon, December 11, at 3:00 p.m.



The first Lessons and Carols service was performed in 1880 in Truro, Cornwall (U.K.). Edward Benson, at that time Bishop of Truro, later became Archbishop of Canterbury. The service followed him into this appointment and became widespread throughout Britain. The best-known version of the service is the one held at King's College, Cambridge. The Cambridge service was first broadcast in 1928, and with the exception of 1930, has been broadcast every year since on the BBC. The opening hymn is always "Once in Royal David's City." Several passages from both Old and New Testaments concerning the birth of Christ are read, and hymns, carols, or anthems are interspersed between each reading. Our Lessons and Carols will follow this traditional pattern somewhat.



Please mark your calendars for this event.

Cookies with Santa

*Santa Claus
is coming to town...*

Join us for *Cookies with Santa!*

**Friday, December 9th
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**



Please bring white men's socks for Peters & Paul Society

Music Notes

I feel blessed to have been called to serve in the music ministry at New Hope. This past six weeks I have been busy organizing the music library. Did you know that New Hope owns more than 500 different short choral pieces? In addition, there are several file cabinet drawers containing collections of songs (such as Christmas or Lent cantatas).

I'm excited to share the upcoming Advent season with you. I understand that we will have some art work by Bob Dencker adorning the worship space. His art work is based upon the "O Antiphons."

What is an antiphon? It is a short sentence sung or recited before and/or after a psalm or canticle. In the case of the "O Antiphons," the text of each antiphon highlights a different name or attribute for Christ. Each one begins with "O." These antiphons have been sung since at least the 8th century! They are sung at Vespers during the period beginning on December 17, and they accompany the Magnificat canticle (Mary's Song) as found in Luke 1. The names/attributes for Christ as found in these antiphons include: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel (O God with us).

The text of the hymn VENI EMMANUEL ("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel") is based upon the "O Antiphons." Each Sunday of Advent we will signal the beginning of worship with the melody of VENI EMMANUEL played on the handbells, and we will sing one or more verses of the hymn.

The choir will present the anthem "Creation Will Be at Peace," based upon Isaiah 11 on December 4. On December 11, Alegria will provide special music, including "Mary, Did You Know?" The handbell choir will ring on December 18.

On December 11 at 3:00 p.m., the choir, handbells, and soloists will present a Lessons and Carols service. Following more or less the traditional pattern of this service as practiced in the U.K., we will hear prophetic scriptures concerning the coming of the Messiah and the story of his birth. Between the readings there will be a musical selection or two, including congregational hymns. We hope you will be present for this special event. Plan to stay afterward for a time of fellowship with cookies and coffee.

We will sing many of the beloved hymns and carols at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. A guest violinist will join us for the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

I pray that the music ministry at New Hope will enrich your Advent and Christmas season.

Peace,
Gay

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 18th.



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!

The Female Connection—Christmas Shopping on Main

Every Saturday Christmas Traditions comes alive with the life and spirit of the holiday season. It's time for Christmas shopping on Historic Main Street. We are going to start at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 3 at Cracker Barrel at 901 Veterans Memorial Parkway (next to St. Charles Convention Center and there is now a side entrance on Convention Center Drive) for brunch before we shop. We will then proceed down to Main Street. If you want to join us later, locate us by calling Deb Mackin on her cell phone at 636-734-5618. We will enjoy shopping along with the characters and events (Santa Parade is at 1:30). For more information or questions, please contact Deb or you can also check out www.stcharleschristmas.com.



Christmas Day/New Years' Day Services



LESSONS and CAROLS

On Christmas Morning, Sunday, December 25th, New Hope will offer one worship service at 10:00 am. This will be a Lessons and Carols service. There will be no Christian Education Hour, Worship Feast or Nursery available on Christmas Day.

On New Year's Day, January 1st, New Hope will offer one worship service at 10:00 am. There will be no Christian Education Hour, Worship Feast or Nursery available on New Year's Day.

December Birthdays

Quinn Barbee	12/02	Lori Seidler	12/20
Laurie Meinert	12/04	Ruth Connor	12/23
Michael Ray	12/11	Eric Gibbs	12/23
Barb Griffith	12/16	Patricia Wahler	12/23
Don Higgason	12/16	Debbie McDanel	12/24
Mackenzie Moore	12/17	Norris Dalton	12/27
Liam Schrautemeier	12/17	Marilynne Counts	12/28
Ann Schmid	12/19	Greg Marshall	12/29
Brian Yarde	12/19	Brooklyn Bommarito	12/31
Gary Freeman	12/20	Rachel Steele	12/31
Samantha Hurrell	12/20		

December Anniversaries

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:

12/23 - office closes at 12:00 PM

12/30 - office closes at 12:00 PM

12/26 - office closed in honor of Christmas

1/2 - office closed in honor of New Year's Day

2017 Giving envelopes will be available at the Information Table beginning December 4th.

FINANCIAL CORNER

CONTRIBUTIONS
Budget
Actual

November 2015
35,614.00

Year To Date
391,754.00



DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00am Jubilee Circle 1:00 pm Agape Circle	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Word & Sacrament 12:00pm Harmony Faith Family	5 7:00pm Deacons Meeting	6 7:00pm Advent by Candlelight	7 6:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	8 6:00pm Boy Scouts	9 6:30pm Cookies with Santa	10 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry 4:00pm Holiday House Tour & Dinner
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Word & Sacrament 3:00pm Lesson & Carols	12 6:00pm Fellowship Committee 7:00pm Session Meeting	13	14	15 5:50pm Employment Ministry Committee 7:00pm Employment Ministry	16	17 8:30am Men's Breakfast
18 4th Sunday of Advent 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Word & Sacrament	19 6:00pm Jubilee Circle 7:00pm MME Committee	20 9:30am PW Coordinating Team	21	22 6:30pm Boy Scouts	25 12:00pm Church Office closed	26 Christmas Eve 5:00pm Worship 11:00pm Worship
25 Christmas Day 10:00am Word & Sacrament	26 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	27	28	31 12:00pm Church Office Closes		



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