



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**

---

## *PW Fair Trade Market And Cookie Walk*

Presbyterian Women will be holding a Cookie Walk on December 17th. Members are asked to contribute dozens of their best homemade cookies for the Cookie Walk. The cookies will be sold by the pound.

The Fair Trade Market will be held on December 10th and 17th. It 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 these special days.



## *Cookies with Santa*

Santa Claus  
is coming to town...

**Join us for Cookies with Santa!**

**Friday, December 8th  
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*

## *Advent and Christmas at New Hope*

### **Sunday, December 3rd ♦ First Sunday of Advent**

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

Isaiah 64: 1-9 ❖ Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 ❖ 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 ❖ Mark 13: 24-37

### **Sunday, December 10th ♦ Second Sunday of Advent**

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

Isaiah 40: 1-11 ❖ Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 ❖ 2 Peter 3: 8-15a ❖ Mark 1: 1-8

### **Sunday, December 17th ♦ Third Sunday of Advent**

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

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 ❖ Psalm 126 ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 ❖ John 1: 6-8, 19-28

### **Sunday, December 24th ♦ Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:15 a.m. Worship & the Lord's Supper

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 ❖ Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 ❖ Romans 16: 25-27 ❖ Luke 1: 26-38

### **Sunday, 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

### **Sunday, December 31st ♦ First Sunday After Christmas**

10:15 a.m. Lessons & Carols

Isaiah 61: 10—62: 3 ❖ Psalm 148

Galatians 4: 4-7 ❖ Luke 2: 22-40



## Christmas Around the World



The adult choir, handbells, and instrumentalists will present "Christmas Around the World" on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. This musical program will showcase Christmas music from several different countries. The Presbyterian Women will host a reception following the program featuring treats from the various countries. Please show your support for our music program with your attendance, and please invite friends to come and enjoy the music.

## Advent and Christmas Music

We look forward to the Advent and Christmas music in December. Several guest musicians will share their talents with us.



December 3 (11:00) The adult choir anthem will be *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* with handbells and Chris Torretta, violinist. Chris is a music educator in the Fort Zumwalt School District. He will also play during the prelude and communion meditations.

December 10 (11:00) Alegria Women's Ensemble will sing several selections.

December 17 (11:00) A Fifth Above Woodwind Quintet will play several selections. The Quintet is composed of Andrea Clark, flute; Cathy Woelbling-Paul, oboe; Katie Myler, clarinet; Daniel Shavers, bassoon; and Doug Luke, horn. Each of these outstanding musicians is actively involved in several ensembles including the St. Louis Civic Orchestra, Gateway Festival Orchestra, Illinois Symphony, St. Louis Philharmonic, University City Symphony Orchestra, Washington University Orchestra, and the Town and Country Symphonic Orchestra.



December 17 (3:00) The adult choir, handbells, and instrumentalists will present "Christmas Around the World."

December 24 (Morning service) The adult choir anthems will be *I Shall Know Him When He Comes* and *Every Valley*.

December 24 (5:00 p.m. service) The children's choir is planning to sing.

December 24 (11:00 p.m. service) The adult choir anthem will be *Love Came Down at Christmas*. Tracy Grundy will play the flute.

December 31 (Morning service) The adult choir will sing a Christmas-themed anthem, and Terry Martinez will play the saxophone.



## *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.

### **Toys for Tots**

This year, New Hope will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate children. Collection boxes will be available starting on Sunday, November 12 and will be in the Narthex and in the lower level until December 13. Please help children in our community know the joy of opening a new toy on Christmas Day.

### **Help For School Kids**

New Hope is again collecting snacks for school aged children who attend Harvest Ridge Elementary School. You may pick up lists of peanut-free snacks and drop off your donations in the "Information and Outreach" area of the Narthex.

In addition to snacks to help students through the school days, let's help reduce sniffles. During November and December, New Hope will collect Clorox wipes and facial tissues for use in the Harvest Ridge classrooms. Snacks and classroom supplies may be dropped off in the Outreach and Information area.

## *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 9 at Cracker Barrel at 901 Veterans Memorial Parkway (next to St. Charles Convention Center) 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](http://www.stcharleschristmas.com).



## *Thank You!*

A HUGE thank you to the anonymous donor for the new ping pong table in the youth room! As you can see, the youth have set it up and are enjoying it tremendously! Thank you!



## *Birthday Party for Jesus!*

On Sunday, December 17th the Formation for Discipleship Team will be sponsoring another Church Family Gathering during the Sunday School hour. Everyone is invited to come together for a continental breakfast, advent activities, and a special program to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will start serving breakfast at 9:30 a.m. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a performance by the children's choir followed by a Christmas storytelling. We are asking for people to RSVP to the office by Wednesday, December 13th so we can plan the food appropriately. Please bring a canned food item for O.A.S.I.S. Food Pantry.

We are in need of volunteers for the following tasks:

- 10-12 bakers to make coffee cakes (pans and recipes provided)
- set-up on Saturday, December 16th at 9:00 a.m. (includes setting up tables and chairs, decorating and setting tables, preparing fruit salad, etc)
- 12/17 morning set-up crew (making coffee, heating water for tea, staging of food, etc.)
- 3-4 beverage servers on 12/17
- 2 food runners/hosts on 12/17
- 5-8 tear down/clean up crew on 12/17



You will find the volunteer sign up sheet in the Narthex or you can call (636-578-8328) or email (slg925@aol.com) Shelley Geiger who is coordinating the event. Hope to see you and your family there!

## *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 17th.

## *Tom Wilson's relief efforts and journey for Hurricane Harvey as told to Cindy Martin*

Tom Wilson's relief efforts and journey for Hurricane Harvey as told to Cindy Martin

Tom Wilson is a member of New Hope Presbyterian Church. Tom has been a contractor in the past, has worked with home renovation projects. He has worked at Home Depot for the past year. Tom was asked by Home Depot to volunteer to go to Houston, Texas, to help with the recovery process in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Hurricane Harvey caused catastrophic flooding in the Houston area. In a four day period in August, 2017 many areas received 40 inches of rain.

Tom had a personal connection to the Texas area as his wife's relatives lived in Springs Texas which is north of Houston. Their home was not affected by flooding but they had travel restrictions as they could not leave their subdivision due to flooding.



## *Tom Wilson's relief efforts and journey for Hurricane Harvey as told to Cindy Martin*

Tom knew he was going to be paid overtime for working 12 hour shifts but he did not want to profit from others' misfortune. He knew he wanted to give back wherever and however he could in the community. Tom left the St. Louis area with cash on Friday September 8, 2017, on a chartered bus with 48 other Home Depot employees. Employees from Florida and Georgia had been scheduled go to Houston but they were needed to help in areas affected by Hurricane Irma. Four hundred Home Depot employees from the Midwest were on their way to Houston. Forty-seven Home Depot stores in the Houston area had been affected by flooding. As soon as their stores were restored they were constantly busy stocking and providing supplies for customers.

Tom's bus arrived at the Houston Marriott Hobby hotel at 1:00 am. His Home Depot shift for Saturday was 1:00 pm to 1:00 am. He got up that Saturday morning around 8:00 am and walked around the hotel. There was a nearby apartment complex that was destroyed as well as a strip mall. There was a working Shell station and a Denny's within walking distance.

As Tom walked the area he met a man named Wayne who was staying under an overpass of the highway. Tom asked Wayne to have a meal with him at Denny's. Wayne shared with Tom that his apartment building was flooded, his car was lost due to flooding and his place of employment was flooded. He had stayed in a hotel for 5 days but ran out of money. Wayne was a displaced person. Tom called a nearby church – St. Stephen Presbyterian Church to see if that had any housing assistance or shelter for Wayne. They did not but gave Tom the number of a man named Paul who might be able to help. Tom called Paul and told him about Wayne. Paul was able to get Wayne housing for 30 days.

When Tom was working his shift on Sunday he helped technical school students who were gathering supplies needed for the start of school. Tom was helping one young man named Sergio with his supplies. Sergio was accompanied by a young woman and a baby. Sergio collected all the needed items but put back 2 insulated screwdrivers. Tom asked him if he did not need these. Sergio stated that he would have to wait until his next pay day as he had to pay for a moving van for his family to move their belongings. Tom told the young man that all his school supplies were important. Tom gave Sergio twenty dollars to cover the cost on the screwdrivers.

Tom helped a man named Charles in the electrical department. Charles' home was flooded but he had flood insurance. The adjustors and flood team had removed the damaged parts of his home, removed drywall but before new material could be installed all the wiring had to be replaced as the existing wiring was not up to code. Charles' insurance did not cover replacing the wiring. His plan did not include wiring code upgrade. His neighbor had an estimate for his home which was \$7700. Charles and his wife Charlene are on a fixed income, helping raise their grandchildren, and, could not afford this. Charles intended to replace the wiring himself. Tom asked Charles if he had electrical experience. Charles indicated he had replaced a receptacle and changed a light fixture.

Tom explained to Charles how he could replace the wiring with a diagram, and what supplies he needed. After he explained the process he asked Charles if he thought he would be able to do this. Charles stated he had to be able to do this. Charles had a nephew that would be able to help him later in the week to complete the wiring in the attic. His home did not have a basement so the connections were in the attic.

Tom told Charles if he gave him his address he could take an Uber there and help with the wiring. Charles let Tom know that, if he was willing to help, he would come pick him up. Tom helped Charles Monday morning before his Home Depot shift. That day it was 84 degrees – very warm in the home. Charles followed Tom's instructions and they completed what they could. Charles called Tom after he had returned home to



## *Tom Wilson's relief efforts and journey for Hurricane Harvey as told to Cindy Martin*

let Tom know his nephew had completed the attic wiring, the home passed inspection and the repair work was scheduled.

Tuesday morning Tom went to the Houston Food Bank to volunteer before his Home Depot shift. The Houston Food Bank is a 317,000 square foot facility that serves 610 local charities. After Hurricane Harvey 120 charities were added. The food bank has platinum sponsors - HEB grocery stores, Houston Texans, Thrivent Mutual Funds, and Sysco Foods that provide support. The food bank owns several tractor trailers that are filled at local grocery stores with donated product and unloaded at the food bank. At the facility there is a large kitchen that provides meals for senior centers, Kids cafe and many other programs. Tom was part of an assembly line that packed two-pounds of pinto beans in sealed bags. Two huge bags of beans had been donated by a local farmer.

Wednesday morning Tom went to an animal shelter in South Houston that was close to the water treatment facility. The woman in charge told Tom that the smell from that facility limited the number of volunteers they had. The shelter used cargo containers for animal kennels by subdividing the space into 7 spots. This was an inexpensive way to expand as each container was \$700. The facility's washing machine was not working, and was full of wet towels that had been there for several weeks. A new machine had been donated but needed to be moved into place. Tom told the coordinator he could bring a dolly back to help it into place. Tom helped walk many of the dogs at the shelter. One dog was very shy, did not want to go too far from his mother.

When Tom returned to the hotel before his shift his Home Depot team members wanted an update on what he had been doing. Of the 10 team members, 2 wanted to volunteer the next time he was going to the animal shelter. Tom returned to the animal shelter on Thursday morning with 2 other volunteers.

Tom met other individuals near the overpass where he had met Wayne. At a busy intersection he noticed a man cleaning windshields of stopped cars. He had a squeegee that looked like it was from a gas station. Tom thought this man was actually homeless, not displaced. Houston had a really bad bug problem so this was a needed service. Tom talked to the man whose name was Tony. Tom asked how he was doing and Tony shared that he made about \$30 a day which was enough for food. Tom took Tony a few bottles of Windex that would help do a better job cleaning off bugs which may bring better donations. Tom also gave Tony \$50 for additional supplies or food.

Tom met 3 individuals who were living under another overpass. Tommy was a retired aircraft mechanic. His home was paid for, flooded, and a total loss but he had no flood insurance as his home had not been in a flood zone. His truck was also flooded. He had stayed at a hotel until his money ran out. He was not able to get his mail as he had no address and was expecting a check. A relative from west Texas was coming to get him later in the week. He was going to retrieve his mail from the postal center and contact FEMA about getting any aid to replace his home. Tom gave Tommy \$100 for meals until his relative came.

Robert had been in the hospital having his appendix removed three days before his apartment, vehicle and place of employment were flooded. Robert was discharged from the hospital and had been recuperating under the overpass with Tommy. Robert's brother was coming later in the week to pick him up. Tom gave Robert \$100 for meals until his brother arrived. Tom said Robert gave him the biggest death grip handshake he had ever received.

There was a woman with Tommy and Robert. When Tom first saw her she was face down on the ground. Her name was Julie. She had been living in an apartment with her boyfriend when the apartment and neighborhood flooded. Her boyfriend was stranded at his work and let Julie know she was on her own. She was rescued from her apartment with one bag of clothes. She had come to Houston from Phoenix earlier in the

## *Tom Wilson's relief efforts and journey for Hurricane Harvey as told to Cindy Martin*

year when her boyfriend got an oil field job. Her phone had gotten wet and she did not know her mother's phone number in Phoenix as her mother's phone number had recently changed. She told Tom "she did not want his money". Julie said she just wanted to go home.

Tom checked for the location of the Greyhound bus station. It was just a few miles away. A discounted one way ticket to Phoenix was \$ 130 but would be available in 2 weeks. A ticket for a bus ride from Houston to Phoenix was \$ 170. Tom gave Julie \$200 for a bus ticket and food. He told her she needed to make the trip to be reunited with her mother. He asked Tommy and Robert to make sure she got on the bus. They agreed to do this. Julie thanked Tom for his help. When his bus left the Houston area it passed by the overpass where he met Tommy, Robert and Julie. Tommy and Robert were there but Julie and her bag of clothes were gone.

Tom and his Home Depot team left the Houston area on Friday, September 15, 2017. Tom had been sharing his experiences with his wife, Cindy. They both felt there was more they could do to help. They decided they would return to Houston. Tom felt that the Houston Food Bank needed financial assistance and families were in need of school clothes. The school year had just started when the hurricane struck and many families lost all their possessions, including school clothes. Tom asked the New Hope congregation and his wife asked the St. Joachim and Ann congregation for assistance in these two areas. Tom was amazed at the outpouring of donations they received.

Tom, Cindy and their granddaughter Mabry who was on fall break returned to Houston on Wednesday October 18 with 1800 clothing items vacuum packed and \$4,014 in cash donations for the Houston Food Bank. Home Depot matched the cash donation for a total of \$8,028. They stayed with Cindy's relatives in Spring, Texas.

On Thursday they volunteered at the Houston Food Bank. They helped assemble packages of pinto beans, rice and emergency care snack packs. Friday morning they went to the animal shelter and walked many of the dogs. Tom and Cindy took Mabry to Galveston for her first ever trip to the beach.

On Saturday they returned to the Houston Food Bank. On that morning there was a long line of cars filled with volunteers. Five hundred eighty volunteers showed up that morning. Tom was impressed with their cardboard recycling station program. There were fifty men in bright green vests from a work release program. These were people who had non-violent offenses and were serving their time by working at the food bank processing cardboard, washing out trash cans and the loading dock. Tom said they were working hard and keeping up with the pace needed.

The tractor trailers used to transport food from donors to the food bank cost \$700 for fuel and processing. The cash donations provided 11 tractor trailer fees for the food bank. The clothing was donated to catholic schools.

Tom, Cindy and Mabry returned home on Sunday October 22, 2017. They had an incredible journey.

Matthew 25:35-40 English Standard Version (ESV)

35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

## *Christmas Eve Day/New Years' Eve Day Services*



*LESSONS  
and  
CAROLS*

On Christmas Eve Morning, Sunday, December 24th, New Hope will offer one worship service at 10:15 am.  
 On New Year's Eve Day, December 31st, New Hope will offer one worship service at 10:00 am.  
 Christian Education Hour will begin at 9:30 am on both Sundays

### *December Birthdays*

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

12/22 - office closes at 12:00 PM	12/29 - office closes at 12:00 PM
12/25 - office closed in honor of Christmas	1/1/2018- office closed in honor of New Year's Day

**2017 Giving envelopes will be available at the Information Table beginning December 3rd.**

### *FINANCIAL CORNER*

CONTRIBUTIONS	November 2017	Year To Date
Budget	35,146.00	386,606.00
Actual	28,041.01	370,861.02



## DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 1st Sunday of Advent 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Word & Sacrament 12:00pm Harmony Faith Family	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Deacon Dinner 7:00pm Deacons Meeting	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Advent by Candlelight	<b>6</b> 6:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 1:00pm Agape Circle 7:00pm Joy Circle	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Cookies with Santa	<b>9</b> 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry
<b>10</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:45am Christian Formation 11:00am Word & Sacrament 12:00pm Fair Trade Market	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Session Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast
<b>17</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:45am Word & Sacrament 9:30am Birthday Party for Jesus 11:00am Word & Sacrament 12:00pm Fair Trade Market & Cookie Walk 3:00pm Choir Christmas Program	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30am PW Coordinating Team	<b>20</b> 6:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Employment Ministry	<b>22</b> 12:00pm Church Office closed	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve 9:20am Christian Formation 10:15am Word & Sacrament 5:00pm Word & Sacrament 11:00pm Word & Sacrament	<b>25</b> Christmas Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00pm Church Office Closes	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> New Year's Eve 9:30am Christian Formation 10:15am Word & Sacrament	<b>1</b> New Year's Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>					



New Hope Presbyterian Church 1580 Kisker Road St. Charles MO 63304 Phone: 636/936-2200	Fax: 636/447-7676 E-mail: <a href="mailto:lbrown@nhpres.org">lbrown@nhpres.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.nhpres.org">www.nhpres.org</a>
---	--