

NEW HOPE PRESS

NOVEMBER 2014

Strategic Planning Congregational Luncheon



Our Session and Strategic Planning Team invite you to a Congregational Dinner on Wed., Nov. 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m. You don't have to bring anything but yourself to hear about this plan the Session has adopted and to learn how you can be a part of it. Childcare will be available for all who request it. This is a catered meal, so please RSVP and let us know if you need childcare, by completing the RSVP card and placing it in the offering basket, or by calling or emailing the church office (936-2200 or lbrown@nhpres.org).

Harvest of Talents

Did God bless you with a special talent to make things? Maybe you are a wood-worker or artisan. Maybe you paint or sculpt. Maybe you sew or bake. Whatever it is, we invite you to share your gifts with New Hope on Sunday, November 22nd, immediately following the 11:00 am worship service.

We invite the congregation to share their talents with us! Please start to work on any projects you would like to contribute, such as special food goods, craft works, needle arts, or anything else you can share. All proceeds go towards the Deacon Benevolence Fund, which is used to help members and the larger community in need.



Consecration Sunday

October 25th was New Hope Presbyterian Church's annual Consecration Sunday. On this day we seek to secure our future ministry by recording our financial commitments for 2016. Members and friends made our financial estimates-of-giving confidentially as a part of our worship.

We make our financial commitments to the church not because we think the church needs our money, but because being disciples of Jesus Christ urges us to return to God a portion of His many blessings. We give because doing so honors God and enables us grow more fully in our own spiritual development. We give in the sure confidence that our gifts proceed from the Spirit and are used for the common good.

If you were unable to attend either service on October 25th, an "Estimate of Giving" card has been mailed to you. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to New Hope and return your card to the church office.

A Word from Our Pastor



The world is changing all around us and the church has not kept up with it very well. I hope that's not news to you. Earlier this year a Pew Research Center study found that fewer and fewer Americans are identifying with Christianity than in years past. This decline in religious affiliation is especially pronounced among young adults. You can find the specifics here: <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>, but the long and short of it is that, while people say they still believe in God, they have not found the church to be a credible or effective witness to the love and promises of that God. They may not say it quite like that. They usually describe their departure from the institutional church as exasperation with "organized religion," or the like. There is a lot more that needs to be said to unpack that statement, but these people simply do not see or experience God in the church. Regardless of whether you think their criticism is legitimate, it's quite an indictment and the church needs to change.

I know that's a bad word. We don't like change. So we do this: "Let's just add some more classes to attract young adults." "Let's just ask people to be on our committees. That will get them involved and the best way to get them involved is to ask them personally." "Let's create more programs for people to be involved with. We used to do (this or that). We should try that again."

It's what change theorists identify as the difference between a technical problem and an adaptive challenge. Technical problems are solved with known answers and resources. If the lightbulb is burned out, take it out and put in a new lightbulb. If you have high-blood pressure, you can take medication to lower it. The technical problems of no light or high blood pressure can be addressed from the outside with resources and know-how that already exist.

But adaptive challenges are different. They are not solved according to well-accepted standard operating procedures. Adaptive challenges are so named because they are addressed from the inside, by individuals or groups of people changing their habits. So, one way to address high-blood pressure is to take medicine. That's a technical fix, but the underlying problem still exists. A more holistic approach would be for an individual to change his habits and lifestyle by eating healthier and getting regular exercise.

When our Strategic Planning Team began its work, it did so with prayer, asking God's Spirit to lead and guide us. We had our own schedule and this process has taken longer than we thought it would or should, but one thing we've learned is that we ought not to ask God's Spirit to conform to our schedule. *"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."* (John 3:8) I have to admit, that's one of the more annoying aspects of God's Spirit, but it's also what makes God's Spirit life-giving, as our Strategic Planning Team has discovered.

When the Strategic Planning Team presented its finding and recommendations to the Session in August, it took a while for the Session to warm up to it and I was not surprised by that at all. That's because many of us expected "the Plan" to involve technical fixes, like building an education wing or sanctuary, or adding a staff person to do this or that. But instead, the Plan is designed to address the adaptive challenges before us. It asks us to change our habits and lifestyles so we, as the church, can give the best, truest and most faithful witness to God's love and promises in our lives and in our community. We don't expect it to be easy, but we do expect that it will breathe new life into our midst. We can't see too far down the road, but we can take the first steps in faith, trusting that God is leading the way. That's all we are really called to do.

So I invite you to the Congregational Dinner hosted by the Session and the Strategic Planning Team on Wednesday, November 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m. We don't want you to have to worry about getting a meal together

A Word from Our Pastor Continued

to bring to a pot-luck. We'll share a wonderfully catered meal at no cost to you. We'll share with you what we've discovered and what opportunities this Plan provides for all of us as a community to "welcome and include all, worship God, grow in Christian faith, serve others, and be God's love in the world." We need to know how many are coming and whether you need child care, so sign up on the insert in the worship bulletin or by calling/emailing the church office (936-2200 or lbrown@nhpres.org).

I am excited about what God has in store for us and about walking this road with you.

Faithfully,

Chris

All Saint's Day

On Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate All Saints' Day. The Festival of All Saints' began in the church around 800 AD. In the Protestant church we recognize all believers as saints, as all of us are made holy by the God who calls us and redeems us. As a part of this celebration, during the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we will be remembering members and loved ones that have died in the Lord during the past twelve months (since November 2014). A list of those being remembered will be included in the November 1st bulletin.



Set your clocks BACK one hour on 11/01/2015!

Daylight Savings Time Ends



Daylight saving time in the United States was first observed in 1918. Most areas of the United States currently observe daylight saving time, with the exceptions being the states of Arizona and Hawaii along with the territories of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Since 2007, daylight saving time starts on the second Sunday of March and ends on the first Sunday of November, with all time changes taking place at 2:00 AM (0200) local time. In 2015, daylight saving time ends on November 1st.

Cookies with Santa

Friday, December 4th ~ 6:30—8:00 pm

Children of all ages are invited to share a wonderful fellowship with our special visitor—SANTA! The past few years, Santa has cleared his schedule so that he can be with us—WOW!



So, don't miss out! Mark your calendars, gather your little ones, your teenagers, grandchildren, etc. and spend the evening here at New Hope for "Cookies with Santa"!

There's a special twist this year—we're collecting packages of men's socks...hoping to warm lots of toes this year. Socks will be given to Kathy Freeman, who volunteers with the Peter and Paul Community Services.

Children's Ministries

Children Worship Bags for Toddlers

The Worship and the Formation for Discipleship Committees are pleased to now offer our youngest churchgoers their own Worship Bags, just like the "big kids"!

White Toddler Worship bags are tagged with children's names and are located on the coat hooks in the hall by the church office for families to pick up before Worship Service. We ask these all items remain in the bags for the children to use each week. Additionally parents are welcome to add other items to their child's bag. A fruit snack pack is optional. Please let the church office know if a bag needs to be made up for your child. Thank you!

Children Music Time

Children's Music Ministry began last month for Pre-K through Fifth Graders! "Music Time With Miss Tracy" will be offered during the last 15 minutes of Sunday School every other week. Children will become familiar with Christian children's music and learn new songs to experience making a "Joyful Noise to the Lord!" through song and movement! "Music Time With Miss Tracy" will meet this semester on Nov. 8 & 22, and Dec. 6 & 20. On those Sundays parents will pick their children up in the Sunshine Room at 10:45 am, when Sunday School is over. Contact Shelley Geiger for more information.



Youth Hayride

Join us Sunday, November 1st for dinner & a hayride. A lasagna dinner will be served at church at 5:00 pm and the group will leave for the farm at 5:45 pm for the hayride, bonfire and S'Mores. Please bring jackets, coats and blankets to keep warm. There is no charge to the youth to attend!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX MINISTRY

New Hope will participating in the Samaritan's Purse International Christmas Shoebox Ministry. Shoeboxes should be filled with items for children and distributed to children around the world. Brochures and information are available on the information table. Please share in this worldwide ministry to bring God's love around the world. Boxes must be received by Nov. 15. Thanks for sharing your love and blessings!



PURSE AUCTION & COOKIE SALE

Please join the Presbyterian Women on Saturday, November 7th at 2:00 pm for a Purse Auction and Cookie Sale! We are asking attendees to bring a gently used purse with small gifts inside (the kind of items you might find in a woman's purse) and three dozen or more of your best cookie. We will be auctioning the purses and selling the cookies to benefit the PW Scholarship Fund. Please RSVP by November 1st by completing a form on the Information Table or by calling or emailing the church office.



EVENING OF CAROLS

Mark your calendars now for an Evening of Carols, sponsored by the Presbyterian Women, on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 PM. This will be a congregation-wide event. More information is coming soon, so watch the weekly News & Opportunities!



Advent



Advent is a season observed as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas. The term is an anglicized version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming".

For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming.

In 2015, Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th. New Hope has many activities planned during this Advent season. Watch for more information on these in next month's New Hope Press.

November Birthdays

Jim Phillips	11/01	Robert Matheny	11/18
Nicole Faubert	11/02	Emily Salter	11/19
Summer Brennecke	11/05	Jen Bommarito	11/20
Donna Hritzkowin	11/05	Scott Taylor	11/22
Barb Knes	11/05	Ron Edwards	11/24
Pat Murphy	11/05	Ken Smith	11/24
Jan Parker	11/07	Ed Hopkins	11/25
Owen Nowakowski	11/08	Jennifer Lippert	11/25
Kathryn Salter	11/09	Ethan Schrautemeier	11/25
Bradley Harmon	11/11	Linda Judd	11/26
Vi Boyd	11/12	Jim Cox	11/30
Cindy Martin	11/12	Alex Rademan	11/30
Samantha Hantack	11/13	Jhevin Faubert	11/30
Deb Macklin	11/14	Kathy Kuehne	11/30
Jody Romkey	11/15		
Rhonda Dyer	11/16		
Kelley Hurrell	11/16		
Melba Nelson	11/16		
Jason Murphy	11/17		
Meredith Saeger	11/17		



November Anniversaries

Kerry & Donna Huffman	11/06/1982
Terry & Holly Martinez	11/19/1994
Tom & Cindy Wilson	11/22/1986
Jim & Jan Parker	11/24/1963
Mike & Jen Bommarito	11/27/2007

FINANCIAL CORNER

OPERATING	October 2015	YTD
Pledges	34,891.00	348,910.00
Actual	30,051.00	351,289.55



NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Youth Dinner & Hayride	2 7:00pm Deacons' Meeting	3 9:30am PW Coordinating Team 7:00pm A.A. 7:00pm Elder/Deacon Orientation	4 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir	5 10:00am Jubilee Circle 1:00pm Agape Circle 5:50 Employment Ministry Committee 7:00pm Employment Ministry 7:00pm Joy Circle	6	7 2:00pm PW Purse Auction & Cookie Sale
8 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 3:00pm Sacred Conversations	9 10:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00pm Session Meeting	10 7:00pm A.A. 7:00pm Elder/Deacon Orientation	11 6:00pm Strategic Planning Congregational Dinner	12 6:00pm Boy Scouts	13	14 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry
15 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship	16 7:00pm MME Committee	17 7:00pm A.A. 7:00pm Elder/Deacon Orientation	18 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir	19 5:50 Employment Ministry Committee 7:00pm Employment Ministry 7:00pm Female Connection	20	21 8:30am Men's Breakfast
22 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Harvest of Talents 1:00pm Hanging of the Greens	23 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship	24 7:00pm A.A.	25 7:15pm Choir	26 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 First Sunday of Advent 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship	30					

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