



# 2020 Annual Report

*New Hope Presbyterian Church strives to...*

*Welcome and Include All*

*Worship God*

*Grow in Christian Faith*

*Serve Others*

*Be God's Love in the World*

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**NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**  
**January 26, 2020**

The annual meeting of the congregation of New Hope Presbyterian Church, 1580 Kisker Road, St. Charles, Missouri, was called to order by the moderator, the Rev. Dr. Christopher James, at 11:20 a.m. in the worship space. A quorum was declared as stipulated by the Book of Order (G-3.0203). Dr. James opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of the annual meeting was (1) to act on the terms of call for the Pastor, and (2) to hear about the 2020 budget and the condition of current finances.

The moderator asked Elder Ruth Irvine to moderate the portion of the meeting involving the pastor's Terms of Call. Dr. James excused himself and Elder Irvine presented the following Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James for the 2020 calendar year.

On behalf of the Administration and Church Support committee, Elder Irvine made the motion to accept the Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James. There being no questions about the Terms of Call, the motion to accept the terms of call for the Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James was approved unanimously.

Elder Irvine then reported that in December 2019, the Session received a designated gift in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the purpose of providing the pastor and his family with the opportunity to travel to religious sites around the world, including but not limited to the Holy Land, Scotland, and Rome. The Session received this gift; however, as these funds are given to benefit the pastor, Presbyterian polity requires that the congregation vote to receive this gift for their intended use. Since the gift does not require that the funds be used in a particular calendar year, they are not included in the "2020 Terms of Call," but will nonetheless be reported to the Presbytery and the Board of Pensions as available Continuing Education funds. This does *not* affect the amount New Hope pays as Board of Pensions dues for the pastor. These monies are listed on New Hope's Balance Sheet as a separate fund, not a part of the annual operating budget. Therefore, the congregation will need to act on this once, and, if approved, the monies will be reported to the Presbytery and Board of Pensions as funding available for continuing education until they are used.

On behalf of the Administration and Church Support committee, Elder Irvine made the motion to accept the designated gift of \$25,000 as presented. The motion was approved unanimously by the congregation without comment or questions.

Dr. James returned to moderate the remainder of the meeting. He thanked the Session and the Administration and Support Committee for their hard work.

In the absence of the treasurer, Jim Pettit, Dr. James reported that New Hope's finances are strong. We maintained a balanced budget for 2019. We put \$100,000 into reserves equal to three months expenditures, and put any surplus at the end of the year into reserves. Forty thousand dollars was paid to lower our outstanding mortgage to around \$36,000 balance. To

capitalize on a rebate from Ameren, the interior lights were changed to energy-saving LED lights. Finally, the Session approved a balanced budget for 2020.

Dr. James asked if there were any questions about the annual report. No questions were raised.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Barbara Lynn, seconded by Mike Dame, to adjourn. Motion carried. Dr. James closed the meeting with prayer at 11:40 a.m.

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Moderator

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Clerk of Session

Date

**NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
October 18, 2020**

The called meeting of the congregation of New Hope Presbyterian Church, 1580 Kisker Road, St. Charles, Missouri, was called to order by the moderator, the Rev. Dr. Christopher James, at 11:15 a.m. via Zoom electronic meeting. A quorum was declared as stipulated by the Book of Order (G-3.0203). Dr. James opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of the called meeting was (1) to act upon a recommendation of the Session to amend New Hope’s by-laws to allow for official church business to be conducted electronically and (2) to hear and act upon the nominations for Elders and Deacons for the class of 2023 and for the 2021 Nominating Committee.

Dr. James explained the necessity to amend the by-laws of New Hope. Acting upon the guidance and recommendation of our Presbytery, the Session moved the following change:

*“Meetings of New Hope Presbyterian Church should ordinarily be face-to-face. Telephone conference calls and electronic communications may, with approval of the Session, be used for stated or called meetings, including voting on matters therein, unless a simple majority of the body requests a face-to-face meeting. Meetings held by conference call or electronically abide by the same policies and procedures as a face-to-face meeting.”*

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. James thanked the nominating committee for their service in this ministry: Jim Phillips (chair), Camellia Callahan (Elder representative), Marilyn Pavia (Deacon representative) and Bryan Eikmann, Marty Hacker, Deb Mackin and Adam Huffman as members-at-large from the congregation.

The Nominating Committee placed into nomination these individuals to the ordered ministry of Elder for the class of 2023: Rick Cassetta, Kathy Gibbs, Margaret Lippert, John Moore and Tom Wilson. Dr. James asked if there were other nominations. Hearing none, the congregation voted unanimously to elect these individuals.

The Nominating Committee placed into nomination these individuals to the ordered ministry of Deacon for the class of 2023: Ruth Connor, Deb Marshall, Lauren Martinez, Kristen Moore and Leigh Lindahl Truett. Dr. James asked if there were other nominations. Hearing none, the congregation voted unanimously to elect these individuals.

The Nominating Committee placed into nomination these individuals to be elected to serve on the Nominating Committee as at-large members from the congregation for the 2021 year: Debbie Phillips, Ruth Reilly, Brian Saeger and Jim Salter. Dr. James asked if there were other nominations. Hearing none, the motion carried with one dissenting vote.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bill Reilly, seconded by Ruth Reilly, to adjourn. Motion carried. Dr. James closed the meeting with prayer at 11:40 a.m.

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Moderator

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Clerk of Session      Date

## REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Well, that was something! I know many who describe this past year by selectively quoting Charles Dickens' opening line to *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the worst of times." If nothing else, 2020 provided many firsts for all of us. From the standpoint of faith, there is no circumstance through which God cannot speak. Another way to put it is that grace is everything that happens, because all of life, even and especially the times of trial and great challenge are opportunities to learn something about God and about ourselves.

It does not take much effort to name what we lost in 2020. The pandemic that has sidelined our our lives since March has crippled our movement about and isolated us from one another. As a community of faith, we have lost the physical presence and fellowship of one another. We have lost the norms of our worship life together, by which I mean what is normal about our gathering and celebration of the sacraments. We have described this distance as being in something of an exile, separated from the regular patterns of our life together and, indeed, from one another. It has gone on for much longer than any of us imagined it would and it has been a real struggle.

And yet, even amidst the challenges that the pandemic has forced upon us, there is grace to be found in the wilderness. I would go so far as to say that if it were not for the pandemic, we would never have received the grace bestowed upon us in 2020, if only because we would never have had the occasion to discover it and name it for what it is: God's providence and care amidst our great struggle that calls us beyond ourselves to a way of life together that gives us opportunity to learn and grow and realize we are capable of much more than we might ever have realized.

What have we gained? First, and perhaps most obvious, we gained new and greater technological skills and acumen. Moving worship, committee meetings, Bible study, and other gatherings online was not without its hiccups, but you rose to the challenge and adapted. The pandemic will end and we will gather in-person together again, but we have learned to one degree or another how to navigate our way in cyberspace and we have acquired a new language, of sorts, by which to move now in our world that will never be the same again.

We have gained confirmation of what we have always said we believe, but now know verifiably to be true, that church is the people, not the building. Our building is simply a tool that helps us be who we are and do what we are called to do, but not having the building does not make us any less who we are, which is the body of Christ in and for our world. This exile, this time in the wilderness, has invited us to adapt to our new circumstances and consider anew how we go about our ministry to one another and our wider community. This time of physical separation has nurtured in us a more robust expression of our mission and ministry.

Many have been in agreement with how that was lived out and many have not. For example, our silent vigils against racism from June through September were not without controversy. Many felt called to unite in standing in solidarity with the Black community against systemic racism. Many were upset by the possible association of our vigils with the formal Black Lives Matter national movement. We learned that the decision—to vigil or not to vigil—has implications for who we are and how we are perceived. Neither decision is value-neutral. When we try to love our neighbors in deed and not just in word, we discover how challenging it can be.

Another expression of our more robust mission efforts has been our new self-serve food pantry. Located near the entrance to our lower-parking lot, the food pantry has tapped into a need we knew was present, but on a scale none of us imagined. And you, our congregation, have continued to support the food pantry with donations and your time by taking inventory and restocking daily, and sometimes more often than that.

The food pantry has been a huge success, partly because no one disagrees with feeding hungry people. It is much more difficult to try to address the reasons they are hungry in the first place. This is part of the enduring question of whether we invest our time and energy pulling people out of the river, or whether we go upstream and work to keep them from falling into the river in the first place. The first is charity work and the second is social justice work and the Bible commands both because they are a part of the same continuum. So the question need not be whether we give people what they need for today or advocate on their behalf for a better tomorrow. We ought not to think we must choose between the two. How we go about the work, however, is another matter and our mission efforts this past year have shown us both how important and how challenging that can be.

The grace we have received this past year is in learning that we become a stronger, healthier congregation not by avoiding difficult topics or fearing disagreement, but by respecting one another enough to have the hard conversations despite our disagreement. As William Sloane Coffin has said, “our minds don’t have to be one in Christ as long as our hearts are.” I know where our hearts are, and I am confident we can move forward together expanding upon our mission efforts as we strive to serve our community and be God’s love in the world.

I look forward to being a part of it with you.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Q. James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "C".

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James, Pastor

## CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

We began the year with 207 active members. We ended the year with 200 active members. There were two people who joined the church through reaffirmation of faith, and two members reactivated their membership. There was a loss of one of our members through death and another who left the area and joined a church nearer her home. Our average worship attendance was 131 people for the year.

Of course, the elephant in the room – no, the sanctuary (!) – is COVID-19. Just take a rear-view look at how our 2020 year unfolded and how everyone has handled the degrees of isolation we've weathered. Those statistics in the paragraph above are much more important than being mere numbers. Our active members and frequent visitors have made worshipping via ZOOM important enough that you come back Sunday after Sunday. You have remained active in the church in the many ways that you've been able to be involved. I hear about many of you – not just Elders and Deacons – calling each other and checking to be sure that we're okay. When someone has gotten sick or there's been a death in the family, people have reached out to them with comfort, warmth and a pot-luck meal, if needed.

I went with my husband one day when he went to restock the church's self-serve food pantry, and I saw with my own eyes the magnificent gifts that you and the Scouts have left in the form of hundreds of canned foods, paper products, toiletries, etc. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...."

Because of your generosity, we've seen the COVID relief fund grow from \$1500.00 to over \$5500.00. This was started to help anyone in our congregation who was effected by COVID-19.

Because you have chosen to remain active during these difficult times, you have fed the hungry, you have provided assistance to those who need shelter or clothing, and you have been supportive of those for whom tragedy, illness or death have invaded their life. I know we all yearn to be together physically as a church body, but, my friends, you have remembered that being God's faithful servants is NOT governed by whether our church building is open or closed. Bless you all, and I pray for you and all of us to have a healthy 2021!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Irvine  
Clerk of Session



## TREASURER REPORT

It is a testament to the faith and dedication of our members, to their church, that, in spite of how much of our daily lives have been upended since last March, we, nevertheless, received 94% of the pledges that the congregation made for 2020. Praise be to God!

We were offered the opportunity, in April, as part of the federal stimulus plan, to apply for a Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan, to pay for 3 ½ months of salary and benefits for our fulltime staff. The objective was to help small businesses, and nonprofits stay in business during the pandemic. We applied and were awarded a loan of \$50,555. If we used the money in accordance with the federal guidelines, and could show proof that we did, we could then apply for forgiveness of it, meaning we wouldn't have to pay it back. We did use it appropriately, submitted the proof, and were granted forgiveness in December.

The PPP loan, as well as the fact that the church building was closed most of the year resulted in our expenses being much lower than was anticipated in the 2020 budget. We have applied those excess funds to help balance the 2021 budget, as well as to establish several new designated reserve funds to be used for future needs.

A couple of those future needs deserve explanation. We will need some new audio/visual equipment in order to be able to continue to livestream our worship when in-person services are resumed. That will allow those who are reluctant to return to group gatherings, as well as those who are homebound, or away from the city, to still join us at church each week.

The reason funds were needed to help balance our 2021 budget is because the pledges for this year are 10% lower than last year. Some of the reason that is so is because we have lost some members to death, relocation, disagreement with church policies/activities, or reduced financial ability due to the pandemic. By using the excess monies from this year, we avoided having to ask our committees to reduce their expense needs requests.

One other important item needs to be discussed. Our church, like all others, receives the most money from its most senior members. The top five donors to our church provide 27% of our budget. Inevitably, we will lose those members, along with the money they would have contributed. We therefore have set up a fund to help offset what the Session believes are unavoidable future reductions in pledge amounts received, and we will allocate money to that fund each year.

Respectfully submitted  
Jim Pettit, Treasurer

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

*Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? (Robert Lowry, 1869)*

The music ministry began its January season as usual. Guest instrumentalists including Bob Baumann (clarinet) and Cathy Woebling-Paul (oboe and English horn) joined us in worship during January and March. Tracy Grundy also accompanied the choir on flute in February.

Shortly after we started to use Zoom to meet for worship, we began to include some recordings of our choir, bells, vocal solos and ensembles, and instrumentalists. We are blessed to have so many recordings. A big thank you to Mike Dame for his foresight on recording and archiving our music.

The choir began to meet once a week on Zoom in late spring. When given the option to continue or pause rehearsals, the choir definitively said, "Let's continue." So the choir met weekly through the summer and autumn months, and after a short break for Christmas, they will continue to meet in the new year. Although it's downright weird to rehearse in a room by yourself, choir members have been willing to do so, and they remain firm in their commitment to the ministry of music and the church. Thank you, Choir!

Several musicians have made new recordings at home or met me at the church to record. Thank you to Sharon Ricker, Lynne Snyder, Ruth Irvine, Connie Pettit, Bob Dencker, Mike Dame, and Colleen Shear for sharing your talents.

Several choir members participated in a study of music reading/music theory during the summer and autumn. Kudos to Bob Dencker, Barbara Lynn, Lindy Stacy, and Connie Pettit for tackling and completing this rather abstract study!

I thank Pastor Chris, Laurie, and Vickie for continuing to be a blessing as my colleagues in ministry.

We eagerly await the day when we can make music together.

Soli Deo gloria,  
Gay Spears

## **FORMATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE**

2020 was an especially challenging year for the Formation for Discipleship (FfD) committee. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of the church building, the weekly Sunday school was moved to a virtual format with access to NHPC Kids' website for the Bible stories, lessons and activities. Weekly "take home" packets to go along with the kid's website were available for families to pick up. When added onto virtual schooling, this proved to be difficult for some of the Sunday School children. The adult bible study continued using Facebook and was generally accepted by the adults.

Needless to say, we were unable to have our usual Church Family gatherings in 2020. The FfD committee did collaborate where possible with other committees and the modified Cookies with Santa event was successful, although smaller in attendance than previously.

We did sponsor a virtual Vacation Bible School (VBS) which was well received. The five session program, "Compassion Camp", featured five Bible stories, music time, mission projects, crafts, science time, outdoor activities, and yoga for kids. Families were provided with boxes of materials and supplies for the children to use while the Bible school was conducted online through the church's website.

In December, online Sunday School featured an Advent Bible Study for kids for the four Sundays of Advent. Again a "take home box" full of activities, materials and craft and snack supplies were provided for families who signed up. "Miss Laurie" (Laurie Meinert) even created a special puppet show for each Advent bible story.

The FfD continues to do its' best with virtual Sunday School in 2021 until it is safe for a return to in-person gatherings. We wish to especially recognize Laurie Meinert for her enormous contributions to the ongoing operations and activities of the Formation for Discipleship Ministry both as a NHPC staff member and as a member of the congregation. We also thank Shelley Geiger for all of her efforts in making the virtual Sunday School and VBS a success.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elder Stan Whiteley

# **WORSHIP MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE**

## **Worship Services**

In-person worship met every Sunday through mid-March with an average attendance of 154. On March 22, due to the Covid Pandemic, we begin to provide Zoom worship with an average attendance of 124 in attendance. A very special thank you to Rev. Chris James for leading us through this difficult time and providing a constant and steady presence.

## **Special Services**

As part of our commitment to The Journey, we were able to hold the Rite of Welcome before we moved all services online. We were also able to have the Ash Wednesday Service in person before also going online for Good Friday and Easter services, as well as Christmas Eve services. This also included the families who participated in the lighting of the Advent Candle from home.

We did hold a special candlelight service where approximately 50 members met around the crosses outside of church, socially distant and wearing masks.

## **Music**

A very special thank you to Music Director, Gay Spears, for her continued musical leadership through these very challenging times. And to the many musicians who gave of their talents to make our online experiences as “normal” as possible and as special and beautiful as if we had gathered together in person at New Hope.

This has been an unprecedented time not only for our world, our nation, our community, but for our congregation, as well. There were many people who worked behind the scenes to bring our virtual worship into our homes and keeping our New Hope community connected through worship and in faith. But to the congregation who learned to adapt, and who may have learned new things to stay connected in faith as a New Hope community, thank you from our committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Martinez

## **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Members: Laurie Meinert, Bryan & Laura Eikmann, Joe Seidler, Elaine Barbee, Jerry & Rhonda Dyer, Bobbi Cusumano, Margo Van Mill, co-chair and Paul Hacker, chair

The Hospitality Committee organized and scheduled members to act as “hosts” on the first, third and fourth Sunday of each month in January and February. These hosts prepare coffee and hospitality bar snacks, as well as greet and welcome members and visitors. Members of the committee were responsible for purchasing snacks for the hospitality bar on these Sundays.

Because of the COVID shut-down, we were unable to complete many of the activities that are normally scheduled during the year, including Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, assisting with the Congregational Gatherings and the annual Trunk-or-Treat.

Cookies with Santa was on December 19th in partnership with the Deacons. Approximately 15 children participated. They received treat bags, talked with Santa, had an opportunity to leave their letters to Santa and had their picture taken in the Gingerbread House.

The Hospitality Committee is responsible for stocking the kitchen with paper products and supplies, as well as maintaining supplies for the hospitality bar.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Hacker, Chairperson

# **MINISTRY, MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

2020 has been a year like no other in recent memory. Our church building remains closed, but the Holy Spirit continues to move through the congregation, spurring us on to love one another, and work toward change. This year, MME has continued to work toward racial and social justice through various programs and action. There is so much work left to do, but we know that all things are made possible through Christ.

## **Book Club:**

Every month over Zoom, MME chooses a book that focuses on historically marginalized and oppressed peoples to better understand how we, as Christians, can be allies in the fight for racial equity and justice. Please contact Leigh Truett or Alyssa Murray for more information.

## **Dismantling Racism and Privilege (DRAP):**

Junie Ewing (Interim Associate Presbytery Leader) and other members of DRAP, a part of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, accepted our invitation to host a Zoom meeting in August as part of the PC(USA)'s Week of Action to eradicate systemic racism and affirm God's love for all Black lives. The goal is to "provide faithful leadership in the area of justice, love and equality" within our denomination and our lives.

## **Emergency Weather Response (Warming Centers):**

This is New Hope's third year supporting the Emergency Weather Response (EWR) Warming Center program. This year, unhoused people are provided a warm place to sleep in motels and hotels across the area. New Hope provides care packages to those in need of the service, which includes food and hygiene items. The service runs from December through March and is activated if the temperature drops to 20 degrees or below overnight. If interested in learning more, please contact Kelley Hurrell, Bill Irvine, Bob and Linda Dencker, Leigh and Scott Truett, Del Phillips or Kirk Garten.

## **Harvest Ridge Elementary School (Francis Howell School District):**

Due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, we did not collect snacks for the students at Harvest Ridge, but were able to provide backpacks full of school supplies at the start of the 2020/2021 school year.

## **Metropolitan Congregations United:**

New Hope continues to provide financial assistance to MCU to further their mission of engaging in policy that promotes racial and social justice.

## **Neighborhood Angel Tree:**

MME helped other members of the St. Charles community provide toys, diapers, and grocery store gift cards to families in need. Over 70 children were able to open gifts on Christmas this year, due to the generosity of parishioners and other members of the community. These families were very grateful for the help and support, especially this year.

## **New Hope Self-Serve Food Pantry/Winter Coat Closet:**

The committee recognized the growing need for food and hygiene items at the beginning of the pandemic, which is why they worked with members of the Facilities Committee to construct a self-serve food pantry in the lower level parking lot. Since the construction, the pantry has served roughly 30 people, many of whom are newly unhoused, and has a volunteer team of 15 that

inventories, restocks, and manages the pantry. The congregation has been extremely generous with financial and food donations to keep the pantry well-stocked. In addition to food and hygiene items, New Hope began accepting donations of winter coats to provide to the community during the colder months.

After receiving a \$4000 grant from a local charitable foundation, and a \$500 grant from Presbytery, MME, in conjunction with the Eagle Scouts and the Facilities Committee, is constructing a much larger food pantry and coat closet. This will enable us to serve even more in the community. The pantry can always use volunteers! Please contact Alyssa Murray or Tracy Grundy for more information.

**Oasis Food Pantry:**

Early in the pandemic, Oasis closed until it could safely reopen to serve the community while keeping its volunteers and patrons safe. Since that time, a committed group of New Hope parishioners serve approximately 25-35 clients on the second Saturday of each month. During the summer months, OASIS offers families with school-age children some additional food for the benefit of their children. We are seeing, perhaps more than ever, that growing percentages of children rely heavily on their school lunches for their daily nourishment.

**Racial Justice Vigils/Racial Equity and Justice Taskforce:**

After George Floyd's death, New Hope held silent vigils every Saturday for several months to show the congregation's support for Black lives. Jesus commands us to love our neighbor, which is why we wanted to affirm that we are all God's children, regardless of race. After the vigils ended, we wanted to continue to stand with our Black brothers and sisters who are oppressed by racist systems and policies. We created a Taskforce that meets monthly to implement ways to dismantle racism in all facets of life. If you would like more information, please contact Tracy Grundy or Alyssa Murray.

**Voter Information:**

The committee offered a mail-in voting tutorial, led by the non-partisan group League of Women Voters. The short training was held over Zoom with Nancy Price, a representative from the organization. The training was designed to help people correctly cast their ballot by mail, not to sway their vote or in any way influence their decision. Voting is essential for democracy, and we need to ensure that everyone's voices are heard, even in a pandemic.

Through these programs and others, NHPC is truly making a positive difference in our community. Please continue supporting these and other ministries with your time, talent, treasure and prayers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Murray

## ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

This committee's job is three-fold: maintenance of the church's building and grounds, overseeing the development of the annual budget, and personnel. Committee members were Jim Phillips, Patrick Tilk and Ruth Irvine. Thus follows the work of the committee throughout the 2020 calendar year.

1. Research has been done on finding an air purification system that would help in the prevention of spreading COVID-19. However, since about 90% of our air is taken directly from the outdoors, an air purification system would not do that much good.
2. We are also in the process of researching the replacement of the furnace system. The control system is out of date and would not work with a new system. Research continues.
3. A water leak, caused by the sprinkler system, in the storage room off the worship space was repaired and the wall was properly restored.
4. In October, the congregation approved an amendment to the by-laws to add a provision for electronic meetings. Secondly, as a requirement for continuing to use the current insurance carrier, they required enhancements to the sexual misconduct policy, as well as creation of a social media policy. The changes made last spring included Safe Sanctuary training and background checks every two years for volunteers and every year for paid staff. A social media policy has been created and the sexual abuse section has been updated and includes new content.
5. In conversation with the Boy Scout Troop #30 adult leadership, they have proposed building a shed near the dumpster that would meet both their storage needs and the church's. The Scouts have agreed to build the structure, and discussion is ongoing.
6. During the summer, a free-standing self-serve food pantry was installed near the back driveway entrance. Jim Phillips oversaw that activity. Since the need has been so great, a new, larger food pantry will be erected in cooperation with a Boy Scout who wishes to get his Eagle Scout Badge.
7. Throughout the summer, the playground was sprayed and disinfected.
8. A circuit board was replaced that operated the incandescent lights in the sanctuary.
9. New lighting was installed in the church building and is much appreciated by many. The new lights are energy-saving LED lights. Exterior lights will be done at a later date.
10. Financial review of the books was completed mid-summer. As a result of a recommendation by the reviewer, a second bank account was opened in order to have all our funds guaranteed by FDIC.
11. Reviewed the compensation for all staff and recommended a small increase in salary for the pastor, office manager, and minister of music. In addition, the committee recommended continuing to pay our child care workers and custodian through the end of the year as a commitment to them as their employer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Phillips, Patrick Tilk, Ruth Irvine



## BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

New Hope Presbyterian Church - St Charles MO		
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2020		
Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
<b>Assets</b>		
1.100.025	US Bank Business Checking	255,122.28
1.100.030	US Bank - Chris James	5,000.00
1.100.040	Commerce Bank Checking	75,000.00
1.100.080	US Bank Investment Account	0.00
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>335,122.28</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
2.101.000	Prepaid Pledges	5,000.00
3.101.001	2018-2020 Income Reserves Balance	30,000.00
3.101.002	2020 Income Over Balance (for 2021 Budget)	34,684.00
3.103.001	Building Fund Balance	14,666.46
3.103.002	Roof Fund Balance	22,000.00
3.103.003	Boiler Fund Balance	10,000.00
3.103.004	Parking Lot Repair Balance	1,540.00
3.103.005	Audio/Visual Balance	12,000.00
3.103.006	Facilities Reserves Balance	16,362.34
3.103.010	Kitchen Suppression System Balance	2,500.00
3.103.011	LED Lighting Replacement Balance	3,597.10
3.104.001	Pastor Continuing Education Balance	25,000.00
3.203.002	Senior High Mission Trip Balance	5,713.82
3.401.001	Benevolence Fund Balance	5,484.61
3.401.002	Adult Mission Trip Balance	5,878.56
3.401.002	Coins for Concern Balance	41.87
3.401.003	Christmas Joy Offering Balance	50.00
3.402.004	One Great Hour of Sharing Fund Balance	0.00
3.402.005	Pentecost Offering Balance	0.00
3.402.006	Peacemaking Offering Balance	0.00
3.402.007	Food Pantry Balance	8,845.00
3.402.008	Festival of Sharing Fund Balance	0.00
3.402.009	Emergency Warming Balance	1,275.00
3.403.000	Lippert Mission Trip Balance	5,580.00
3.501.004	Worship Flowers Balance	99.00
3.601.001	Memorial Fund Balance	10,598.86
3.601.002	Memorial - Cathy Skinn Balance	9,439.52
3.601.005	Men's Fellowship Fund Balance	1,362.75
3.601.006	Presbyterian Women Fund Balance	4,688.23
3.601.007	Advent by Candlelight Fund Balance	10.52
3.701.000	COVID Emergency Fund	5,544.62
2.140.160	Taxes Payable	1,663.90
	<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>243,626.16</b>
	<b>Net Surplus Cash Position</b>	<b>91,496.12</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335,122.28</b>
	<b>Current Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>27,446.77</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020**

<b>Committees/Ministries</b>							
	Annual Budget	Monthly Total	Monthly Budget	Monthly Over/Under	Total through December 2020	Budget through December 2020	Over/Under Budget 2020
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>427,147.00</b>	<b>37,326.50</b>	<b>35,595.58</b>	<b>1,730.92</b>	<b>401,745.61</b>	<b>427,147.00</b>	<b>-25,401.39</b>
<b>Worship, Music &amp; the Arts</b>	<b>10,415.00</b>	<b>38.49</b>	<b>867.92</b>	<b>-829.43</b>	<b>3,378.07</b>	<b>10,415.00</b>	<b>-7,036.93</b>
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>2,310.00</b>	<b>197.98</b>	<b>192.50</b>	<b>5.48</b>	<b>544.32</b>	<b>2,310.00</b>	<b>-1,765.68</b>
<b>Formation for Discipleship</b>	<b>9,421.00</b>	<b>29.25</b>	<b>785.08</b>	<b>-755.83</b>	<b>3,747.85</b>	<b>9,421.00</b>	<b>-5,673.15</b>
<b>Ministry, Mission &amp; Evangelism</b>	<b>14,165.00</b>	<b>112.00</b>	<b>1,180.42</b>	<b>-1,068.42</b>	<b>11,781.87</b>	<b>14,165.00</b>	<b>-2,383.13</b>
<b>Administration &amp; Support</b>	<b>385,436.34</b>	<b>31,469.28</b>	<b>32,189.70</b>	<b>-720.41</b>	<b>304,599.64</b>	<b>386,276.34</b>	<b>-81,676.70</b>
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	<b>2,368.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>197.33</b>	<b>-197.33</b>	<b>455.86</b>	<b>2,368.00</b>	<b>-1,912.14</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>424,115.34</b>	<b>31,847.00</b>	<b>35,412.95</b>	<b>-3,565.95</b>	<b>324,507.61</b>	<b>424,955.34</b>	<b>-100,447.73</b>
<b>2021 Income Shortage</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>34,684.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>34,684.00</b>	<b>34,684.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>34,684.00</b>
<b>Roof Fund</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>
<b>Income Reserves Fund</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Audio/Visual Reserves Fund</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>
<b>Facilities Reserves Fund</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>16,362.34</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>21,362.34</b>	<b>21,362.34</b>		<b>16,362.34</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>					<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>

# BOARD OF DEACONS

**Board members:** Todd Rasche (**Moderator**), Rhonda Dyer (**Vice Moderator**), Sue Dittmar, Donna Huffman, Connie Pettit, Barbara Lynn, Greg Marshall, Robin Murphy, Mary Waltman, Joe Seidler, Bobbi Cusumano, Marilyn Pavia, Amie Tilk, Stacey Bordes and Kathy Salter

## **Benevolence Fund:**

January 1: \$5,373.95

December 31: \$5,334.61

## **Credits to Benevolence:**

Harvest of Talents (\$940.00), Flowers (\$50.00)

## **Debits from Benevolence:**

One storage balance (\$230.04), one past due electric bill (\$364.36), one towing fee (\$136.00) one car payment (\$151.36), one phone bill payment (\$150)

## **Congregational Care:**

The Board of Deacons managed a variety of opportunities to care for our church family: Transportation was available pre COVID for those needing rides to church on Sunday as well as other church activities. We hosted funeral luncheons and funeral receptions. Birthday, anniversary and sympathy cards were signed by our group pre COVID shutdown, then signed by Connie on the behalf of the Deacons then mailed to church members. Care boxes were sent to 10 college students. A card was sent via email to all the mothers and fathers for Mother and Father's Day, we also we had a special message for Veterans Day in the newsletter. A cash gift was given to Chris James in honor of Pastor Appreciation and he decided to donate that to the COVID relief fund. The deacons continued the congregational calls this year, and in March after the COVID shutdown the Deacons and Elders teamed up and stayed in weekly contact with the congregation via phone calls, texting, emailing and cards sent to them.

## **Deacon Annual Picnic:**

The picnic was planned to be held in September and was cancelled due to the COVID restrictions. This will give us another year to look forward to providing games and activities that would appeal to all ages: Cow Pasture Golf, Fishing Derby, Carnival Games and Bingo.

## **Harvest of Talents:**

Harvest of Talents was cancelled due to the COVID shut down. A nice message was added to the newsletter asking church members to donate what they would have spent on their crafts, bakery to the deacon's benevolence.

## **Monthly Hospitality:**

Deacons hosted the second Sunday of each month by providing cookies, donuts, bakery goodies, coffee, lemonade and other beverages.

## **Community Out-Reach/In-Reach:**

Blood drives were held in February and September. Eight church members donated. The fall was held at the Mississippi Valley building in St. Peters.

**Cookies with Santa:**

Cookies with Santa was held in December. Deacons assisted with the Hospitality committee this year. A drive through was setup to hand out pre- packaged cookies a photo op with Santa.

**Christmas Giving Tree:**

The Deacons and congregation supported the Crisis Nursery with online donations and other financial donations

The first two months the Deacons met in person on the first Monday of the month, from March on the Deacons was blessed with a virtual meeting platform (ZOOM). It was definitely a learning experience, but they did very well. No meeting was held in July as usual. The meeting minutes were recorded and sent to session. All meetings opened with a prayer followed by a discussion on deacon's financials, membership care, upcoming events, signing of cards and closed with a prayer.

The 2020 Deacon team was a great group to work with, their dedication was very high and they adapted to the current times and technology. It was my honor and privilege to work with this group and the rest of the New Hope church family. Thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Rasche, Moderator

# **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

## **THE JOURNEY**

During 2020, The Journey met in person from January through March. Ten Travelers and their Companions chose to meet via Zoom for several months throughout 2020. Unfortunately, we were not able to delve into phases three and four of The Journey, because much of what we do in those two phases are most meaningful in person.

We want to eventually gather together in person again, if for no other reason than to reconnect with each other and to celebrate the rite of baptism and reaffirmation of baptism. And, finally, we want to welcome them as new members of New Hope, if that is their desire.

It is our fervent prayer to be able to continue The Journey this fall with a new group of Travelers. Until then, we will Journey on!

Respectfully submitted,  
Camellia Callahan, Linda Dencker, Lynn Harmon, Ruth Irvine, Chris James, Amie Tilk, and  
Margo Van Mill

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

It is my privilege as Co-Moderator to communicate with you about the activities and efforts of the women (and their significant others) in Presbyterian Women, often referred to as PW at New Hope during this past calendar year. In the month of February, there were two activities in which we were involved, a catalog viewing of Pampered Chef items fund raiser which was distributed by Donna Huffman, and we also helped with the Chili Cook-Off. There were many more activities planned for the remainder of the year, but they came to an abrupt halt with the incidence of the Pandemic virus. We are attempting to maintain and revive interest in PW by keeping communication contacts with members of our church as well as having two very recent Zoom meetings of the Communications Team. We are pleased to let you know that we will be installing two young ladies from our church as Secretary, Mary Waltman, and Treasurer, Sharon Barnes. Co-Moderators continue to be Rhonda Dyer and Barbara Lynn. The officers will be installed at our General Meeting on Sunday, December 24, 2021, by Ruth Irvine, Clerk of Session, immediately following the congregational meeting on that date. This will be a Zoom meeting also. We extend our appreciation and thanks to two women who are out-going officers for the calendar year of 2020. They are Amie Tilk, Treasurer, and Marty Hacker, Secretary. Amie Tilk has served us well for several years and Marty Hacker has helped during this difficult time, and we owe them our debt of gratitude. There will also be a change in the by-laws as has been noted in past News and Opportunities sections for the past Sundays. New Hope PW Women donated \$200.00 to the NHPC Food Pantry and \$300.00 to the Presbytery Mission Fund. The change deals with the use of technology as a more frequent communication and fellowship device for our organization.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship continues to serve New Hope basically in supporting the Facilities Committee with regard to building and grounds projects and other church programs.

The group meets the 3rd Saturday of the each month at 8:30 AM for breakfast from January through March. The breakfast is cooked by our group members and served buffet style. Any and everyone is welcome. It's an excellent time for fellowship with one another and to keep up on what's happening in their lives. It is also a way we can help the facilities group with work days or setting up for other group activities.

The Men's Fellowship members will sincerely miss the guidance and support we have received from Allen Rudolph through the years.