

# New Hope News

## Membership Ministry

Volume 5, Issue 2      January 11, 2009

The Membership Ministry is meeting at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 19 at the church. We would welcome anyone who would be interested in joining us. There are large & small tasks that our committee is responsible for and we would appreciate some additional members assisting with those. If you have any questions, just stop by the Welcome Table or come to our meeting!

## Children's Fellowship

All boys and girls in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade are invited to come to our new Children's Fellowship Program from 3 – 4:30 p.m. today in the big room downstairs. We will choose a name for our program, play some get-to-know-you games, have a snack and decide on some activities for our next meetings. If you have questions, see Barbi Smith.

## The Gospel of Matthew Bible Study

If you signed up for the new adult Bible study, "The Gospel of Matthew: God with Us," the first chapter of the resource book is available on the information table. It would be helpful to read this before the first meeting on Thursday, January 15. We will be meeting in the main room on the lower level at 7:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Barbi Smith at 936-2200 or [bsmith@newhopepc.net](mailto:bsmith@newhopepc.net).

## New Hope Presbyterian Church Preschool

Enrollment time for the New Hope Presbyterian Church Preschool, which will debut in September 2009 is just around the corner! After both worship services on January 11, church members will have the opportunity to enroll their children in either a 3 year old, 4 year old, or 5 year old morning or afternoon classes. The morning classes will meet from 9 – 11:30 a.m. and the afternoon classes will meet from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. Please watch for more detailed enrollment information as well as a tuition schedule for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

## Youth Sunday School Class

The Young Adult Sunday Class (primarily for adults age 18 – 30 years) has begun to meet each Sunday during the education hour (9:45- 10:45 a.m.) Our current study is "The Prayers of Jesus" from the Deeper Connections Series. We can be found meeting in the office of the Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation (and if we aren't there – look in the kitchen!). All our welcome! For more information, contact Barbi Smith.

**Mid-High  
Trivia Night  
Sunday,  
January 18th  
5:00-8:00pm  
See bulletin  
insert  
for details**

**January  
Meal-a-Month**

**2 can Beef Stew  
1 box of rice  
or noodles  
1 can vegetables  
1 can fruit  
1 pkg. of cookies**

**Please find it in  
your heart to share!**

## From Our Pastor...

Today we celebrate the ordination and installation of church officers. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a denomination is defined by its theology and that theology directly informs our governing structure, or polity. The term *Presbyterian* comes from the Greek word *presbuteros*, which means “elder” or “wisest one.” With Christ as the head of the church, we have established a system for governance that is representative and democratic. Power and authority are not held by a bishop, as in more hierarchical denominations, but by the assembled body of presbyters which consists of both Elders, who are elected and ordained by congregations, and ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament. We have a Constitution that consists of the *Book of Confessions* and the *Book of Order*. We value shared authority and power and so we work together with other congregations within a structure called a Presbytery, in a region called a Synod, and as a national body called the General Assembly.

Each local church is governed by the Constitution. Its officers are Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Elders and Deacons. For institutional purposes in relating to state and society, New Hope is also established as a not-for-profit corporation. When circumstances require, the elders of the congregation also serve as the trustees of the corporation.

Elders, together with Ministers of Word and Sacrament make up the Session of the congregation. The function of the Session is to govern the life of the congregation. The Deacons make up the Board of Deacons and serve to care for the members of the congregation, as well as ministering to the needs of the larger community. Each year, the congregation is asked to nominate members of the church for service as elders and deacons. The Nominating Committee prays over those nominations and presents a slate of nominees to the congregation to be voted upon and elected to those respective offices. Once a person is ordained to the office of elder or deacon, that person is an elder or deacon for life. Once that person's term of active service on the Session or Board of Deacons is over, that person can be called again through the voice of the church to serve another term. When that happens, he or she is not re-ordained, but rather is installed again to active service.

Today, twelve members of New Hope are being ordained and/or installed

to service as elders or deacons in and for the church. Bryan Eikmann, Matt Hutzler, Karen Yarde and Tyler Salter are being ordained and installed as Elders. Elders Mike Dame, Ann Sebaugh and Ruth Irvine are being installed to active service on the Session. Al Beamer, Sean Bippen, Libby Reidt and Bill Reilly are being ordained and installed to the office of Deacon in and for the church, while Deacon Lois Kempf is being installed to active service on the Board of Deacons. These incoming church officers spent time together this past fall preparing for their service. I am thrilled with the commitment and energy this group brings to the life of the church and I look forward to working with them in leading our congregation in the coming years.

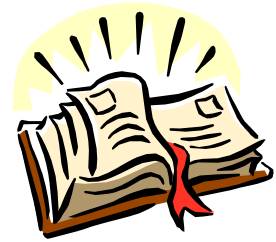
Just as today is a beginning for those named above, it is also an ending for elders and deacons who are completing their terms of service. Elders Jan Dickson, Jim Salter, Jennifer Taylor and Grant Wagner are ending their active service on the Session today; and Deacons Steve Gerke, Cindy Martin, Bill Pires and Susan Sanker are ending their service on the Board of Deacons. They have led this congregation well over the past three years, bringing about much growth and development of our congregation. These deacons have ministered to us through tragedy and grief, while also celebrating with us our joys. These elders have continued to strengthen our life together while preparing the way for increased ministry, programming, building, staff and membership.

I would be remiss if I didn't mark one more ending. The ordination and installation today, marks the conclusion of Elder Deb Morris' eight years of service as our Clerk of Session! The Clerk serves the role of parliamentarian and secretary, preparing the meeting agendas and minutes, and making sure that as a governing board we dot our 'i's and cross our 't's. When I arrived as your pastor, I hadn't moderated a Session before. She made it easy and comfortable for me, while I got my feet on the ground. Deb has been an advisor to me, helping me talk through problems and issues as they've arisen, as well as planning for their most faithful resolution. Deb has been a most competent and effective Clerk and I will miss her dearly. Hers are no small shoes to fill, which is why I was so excited when Elder Ruth Irvine agreed to serve as our next Clerk of Session.

All of our outgoing deacons and elders have served us faithfully and well and I ask you to join me in giving them all our thanks and gratitude for their ministry.

Faithfully,

Chris



## Building News

The building committee is excited to let you know that this past week six bore samples were drilled on the site of the new sanctuary to determine whether the site contained large rock deposits which would drive up the cost of construction. For those of you that were members when the multipurpose building was built you might remember that rock had to be blasted from the site during construction. The drilling company reported that five of the six test holes contained no rock and one hole had only a few feet of soft sand rock which would not significantly affect construction. GREAT NEWS!

The committee is also unveiling a new drawing revision of the front elevation of the sanctuary that raises the height of the steeple and changes the roof lines to give the building a more distinct “Church look”. This change is the direct result of feedback we received from the congregation. Stay tuned, a new floor plan including the incorporation of your comments will be released later this month. Please stop at the table in the narthex and take a look at the revised drawing, as always your comments are greatly appreciated.

# Youth Happenings!

## Mid-High Youth Group Activity Reminder

**Saturday, January 10th** -- Working at the Oasis Food Pantry -- We will be meeting there at 9:45 am. We will be working from 9:45 am until 11:45 am. If you are able to work at the food pantry, please let Amy know as soon as possible.

**Sunday, January 18th** – MARK YOUR CALENDARS – TRIVIA NIGHT! This is a very important event because this is the money that will help us have our activities. It is starting at 5:00pm. Door will open to the guests at 4:30pm. The cost is free will donations. We will also be having a canned food drive with all of the donations going towards the Oasis Food Pantry. We will need youth and adults to help as judges, runners, etc. Please let Amy know as soon as possible if you and your parents are able to help.

Additional activities going on will be:

50/50 – Will sell tickets for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The winner receives ½ of the money collected. The other ½ will be donated to the Oasis Food Pantry

We will also be collecting canned goods for the Oasis Food Pantry

Silent Auction –You are not required to bring in any auction items but they would be greatly appreciated. These items must be turned in no later than that afternoon.

Each youth member will be assigned a job that evening. We will be setting the tables up immediately following church that day. We are asking that all youth members be at church no later than 4:00 that evening.

**Saturday, February 14th** -- Working at the Oasis Food Pantry -- We will be meeting there at 9:45 am. We will be working from 9:45 am until 11:45 am. If you are able to work at the food pantry, please let Amy know as soon as possible.

**Sunday, February 15th** – We will be going to the Science Center following church. More details to come!

## Senior High Youth Group Activity Reminder

**Sunday, January 11th** -- Meeting at church from 3:00 to 5:00. Please bring a snack to share.

**Sunday, January 18th** – Mid-High Trivia Night – this will start at 5:00 pm, will doors opening at 4:30 pm. Cost is free will donations and there will be a canned food drive, with all donations going towards the Oasis Food Pantry. Soda and popcorn will be provided. Hope to see you there!

**Monday, January 19th** -- Bible Study from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Casey Fancher's house. If you need directions, please call Casey, at 447-5457. Casey will be leading Bible Study.

**Sunday, January 25th** – Bowling at Brunswick Zone from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm – Cost is \$5.00 per person. If you would like to come and bring friends, please let Amy know who is coming and shoe size no later than Sunday, January 18th. I must have this information in order to reserve your spot. We will be at Brunswick Zone at 2:15.

**Sunday, February 1st** – Souper Bowl of Caring – We will collect donations as well as canned food, which will be donated to the Oasis Food Pantry. We will need volunteers after the first and second services. If you are able to help, please let Amy know as soon as possible.

**Monday, February 2nd** -- Bible Study from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Josh Dalton's house. If you need directions,

please call Josh, at 379-8413. Josh will be leading Bible Study.

**Sunday, February 8th** – Laser Tag – more details to come.

**Monday, February 16th** -- Bible Study from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Tyler Sayer's house. If you need directions, please call Tyler. Tyler will be leading Bible Study. PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECTION IN PLACE.

**Sunday, February 22nd** -- Meeting at church from 3:00 to 5:00 -- We will be talking our dinner that is on April 26th – all funds raised will be going towards to our 2009 Mission Trip. Please bring a snack to share.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Kitsmiller at 314-795-9759 (cell) or

E-Mail at al [kitsmiller@newhopepc.net](mailto:kitsmiller@newhopepc.net)

## Thank You!

Thanks to the InReach Committee for another great Advent Family Dinner on January 4th! The food was simply delicious, the camaraderie was wonderful and the opening of the last gift and revealing of the special Advent Families was the perfect way to wind down the holiday season! Jane Rigdon and her InReach Committee made this a memorable evening! Thanks also to all of the Advent Families who took down the beautiful Christmas decorations and trees. Because so many stayed, the entire project took less than one hour! If you were unable to participate in the Advent Families this year, you missed a great time and you are encouraged to sign-up this coming November. And, believe it or not, Advent will be here before you know it!

## UNEXPECTED BEAUTY

A man sat at a metro station in Washington, DC and started to play the violin; it was a cold December morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that a thousand of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. Three minutes went by and a middle aged man noticed there was musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried up to meet his schedule. A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip: a woman threw the money in the till and without stopping continued to walk. A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother tagged him along, hurried but the kid stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on. In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition. No one knew this but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars.

Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell sold out at a theater in Boston and the seats average \$100. This is a real story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context? One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?

*Wishing you a new year that brings unexpected beauty from everyday life!*

### Calendar of Events

#### Sunday, Jan 11

8:45 Worship & Comm.  
9:45 Education Hour  
11:00 Worship & Ordination  
& Installation of Officers  
3:00 Sr. High Mtg.  
3:00 Children's Fellowship

#### Monday, Jan 12

6:00 Girl Scout Mtg.  
7:00 Session Mtg.

#### Tuesday, Jan 13

6:30 N.A. Mtg.  
7:00 A.A. Mtg.

#### Wednesday, Jan 14

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, Jan 15

6:00 Healthy Beginnings  
6:30 Female Connection  
7:30 Kerygma Class

#### Friday, Jan 16

5:00 Girl Scout Fundraiser

#### Saturday, Jan 17

7:00 Pinewood Derby

#### Sunday, Jan 18

8:45 Worship & Comm.  
9:45 Education Hour  
11:00 Worship  
3:00 Children's Fellowship  
5:00 Mid-High Trivia Night

#### Monday, Jan 19

Office Closed  
6:00 Sr. High Bible Study

#### Tuesday, Jan 20

6:30 N.A. Mtg.  
7:00 A.A. Mtg.

#### Wednesday, Jan 21

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, Jan 22

6:00 Healthy Beginnings  
7:30 Kerygma Class

#### Saturday, Jan 24

8:30 Men's Breakfast

### Usher Schedule

#### Sunday, Jan 18th

Rick Cassetta  
Rick Etling  
Tyler Etling  
Ken Pinkley  
Kevin Harms  
Joe Seidler

#### Sunday, Jan 25th

Carol Botkin  
Gary Freeman  
Tyler Salter  
Bill Reilly  
Ruth Reilly  
Jim Pettit  
Joyce McDonald

#### Substitute List

Al Beamer  
Kathy Beamer  
Bunny Gauthier  
Don Moore  
Allen Sebaugh  
Ann Sebaugh  
Sue Stiegemeier  
Gil Stuenkel  
Sue White  
Jim White  
Kathy Freeman  
Gary Freeman