

New Hope News

Volume 5, Issue 6

February 8, 2009

Female Connection Gets "Crafty"

The Female Connection is going to have a day to work on our crafts. We're taking over the lower level of the church on Saturday, February 21 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please join us for fun & fellowship while catching up on your latest craft project. Bring your own craft and materials. Plan something with a friend and work on it together. We'll have a variety of activities including scrap-booking, card-making, painting, and needlework. All women are invited to attend; no sign-up is necessary. Come for a few hours, the morning, the afternoon, or the whole day. Also, please bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided. For more information or questions, please contact Deb Morris. We hope to see you there!

Kids Fellowship Club- Valentine's Day Party

Boys and girls in Kindergarten – Grade 5 are invited to come today from 3 – 4:30 p.m. for a VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY!!! We will learn about St. Valentine, have a special snack, games, a craft and a Valentine video. Boys and girls do NOT need to bring Valentine's Day cards – just themselves! For more information, contact Barbi Smith.

Worship Bags Have Moved!

The Children's Worship Bags are now hanging on the wall perpendicular to the Upstairs Conference Room (to the left of the sanctuary). The blue bags for older boys and girls (Grades 1 – 5) are hanging on top, with the red bags for younger boys and girls (ages 3 – Kindergarten) on the bottom. There will be a plastic container outside of the sanctuary for children to place the "used" bags each week. Forms to request worship bags are available on the Welcome Table or you may contact Barbi Smith directly.

Evangelism Tip for February

Evangelism is one part of God's mission. Many Presbyterians are confused about the relation between mission and evangelism. The word mission comes from the Greek for "sending," and evangelism from "good news" or "public messenger of good news." God is at work in our troubled and broken world. This is good news!

Source: <http://www.pcusa.org/today/believe/past/apr02/evangelism.htm>

DINNER, DVD FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Young Adult Sunday School Class is hosting a "Dinner, DVD, and Discussion" for young adults (age 18 – 30ish) on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Nancy Harrington (3 Sheran Court, St. Charles, MO 63303). The DVD presentation will be "The God's Aren't Angry" featuring Rob Bell, creator of the Nooma Series. Please RSVP to Barbi Smith at (636) 936-2200.

Meal-a-Month

It's February...a great time to reach out to others in the name of God's love!

The menu this month is:

1 large can chicken & dumplings

1 can ea. fruit & veggies

1 box/bag cookies

1 box biscuit mix

Deacon's

Corner:

In January, the Deacon's Benevolence Fund provided financial assistance to a New Hope member in need; provided one-night's stay for a transient; and provided a medical device for a laid-off worker with a broken tail-bone. The Deacons made 4 care phone calls, 2 hospital visits, 6 visits to shut-ins and responded to 2 congregational concerns. Deacons also provided refreshments for one funeral and hosted a reception at the church following a visitation.

Building Committee Update...from the Pastor

One of the greatest questions of the exploration of space is whether there is evidence of water on other planets. If there is, then it suggests that there may have been life there at one time. Water. Without it we die and with too much of it we drown. Because of it we can live and in it we can die. We use it for bathing, washing and cleansing. Water is essential for life.

Scripture is replete with images of how water fulfills each of these roles. In the beginning, God's Spirit swept over the watery chaos of nothingness and brought forth order and life. In the time of Noah, God sent the rains to flood the earth and destroy all wickedness. The Israelites escaped from oppression in Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea to the land of freedom. Jesus began his ministry in the waters of the Jordan River, where he was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. Of his life, Jesus says "I will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (Jn 4:14). Of his death, Jesus says "I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!" (Lk 12:50). The Apostle Paul encourages us: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,

so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:3,4).

These images, and more, all speak of how God has used water in the history of salvation. Last week I wrote to you about how the *location* of a church's baptismal space conveys some of the meanings of the sacrament. Today I want to share with you how the *shape* of a church's baptismal space conveys meaning as well. Baptism means death. It means life. It means cleansing. For these reasons, the waters of baptism represent a tomb, a womb and a bathtub. In the early centuries of the church, baptisms always took place outdoors in lakes and rivers, but as the sacrament moved indoors, fonts took on a variety of shapes. The oldest known font dates from the third century. It was rectangular, the shape of a coffin, representing death with Christ. Hexagonal (six-sided) fonts represent the sixth day of the week, the day on which Christ died. Octagonal (eight-sided) fonts represent the Eighth Day, the day of resurrection, the day of the new creation, the dawning of the new age of God's rule into which Christians are born. Some fonts are in the shape of a cross, and others are round, representing the womb of a mother. St. Augustine described baptism as

"the womb of the church" through which new Christians are born.

The shape of a congregation's baptismal space has the opportunity to speak volumes about what it believes the sacrament to mean and how it intends for the sacrament to shape its own spiritual life and practice. Of the shapes mentioned above, none is wrong, and all are needed to express the fullness of baptism's many meanings.

At the time of the Protestant Reformation, church leaders argued over how much water was needed to make baptism efficacious, that is to make it "work." That argument is not so much the case today. The question for us today, especially as we face the privilege of constructing a new worship space, is how much water it takes for us to realize baptism's radical claim on our lives. Baptism is death, life and bath. Enough water is needed to enable us to keep all of these in mind as we continue to gather, welcoming others into our midst, from death to life, and reminding ourselves that our baptism is not a one-moment-in-time event, but a lifelong process of conversion into the likeness of Christ. How much water will help us do that?

Faithfully,

Chris

If You Love To Be With Children...

We have the opportunity for you! The Kids Fellowship Club is looking for a few advisors to help each week. Advisors are NOT responsible for planning and are not required to be here every week. If you love kids, are Safe Sanctuary certified or can be, and are available from 3 – 4:30 p.m. on Sundays, call Barbi Smith.

Paging System

A silent paging system has just been installed in the nursery so that we can easily alert parents that they are needed in the nursery. The system is available to use anytime we are using the nursery and parents are remaining in the building.

Preschool News: Community Registration Has Begun!

A community registration for the New Hope Presbyterian Preschool began on February 7 and will continue through the summer months. The preschool will begin this fall with classes for three, four and five year olds. In addition, there will be a class for "young threes" who will be 2 years and 9 months by September 8, 2009. For more information, contact Barbi Smith at New Hope Presbyterian Church or Rhonda Gaines at Curiosity Corner (636 447-4769). Registration forms are available in the church office!

Youth Happenings!

Mid-High Youth Activity Reminder

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. We will be eating lunch at church following the second service. Please bring either a snack or dessert to share. After lunch we will be going to the Science Center where we will be watching Dinosaurs Alive at the Omnimax. **If you and your parents are able to go, please let Amy know no later than Sunday, February 8th– we need to purchase tickets before we get there.** We will be back to church by 5:00 pm that evening.

Sunday, March 1st – We will be having a meeting at church from 12:00 until 2:00 pm. Please bring a snack to share.

Saturday, March 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, March 15th – We will be going to the Daniel Boone Home – more details to come!

Sunday, April 5th -- Easter Egg Hunt following the second service.

Saturday, April 11th -- 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, April 12th – Easter and Confirmation Service

Sunday, April 19th – Demolition Ball from 1:30 until 3:00 – we will be meeting there. If you are able to attend, please let Amy know no later than Sunday, April 5th.

Demolition Ball

1875 Old Hwy 94 South ** St. Charles, MO 63303

Sunday, April 26th – Senior High Fundraiser Dinner – all funds raised will be going towards their Mission Trip in June.

Dates to Remember

Friday, May 15th through Saturday, May 16th – Lock-in at church

Senior High Youth Activity Reminder

Sunday, February 8th – Meeting at church from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm – **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN PLANS.** We will be working on Youth Sunday. Please bring a snack to share.

Sunday, February 15th – Deadline to turn in your Medical Forms and \$100.00 deposit for our Mission Trip in June. For any questions, please contact Amy.

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 – All money is due for the camping trip to Amy – cost is \$15.00 per person.

Saturday, February 28th – Sunday, March 1st – Winter Camping at Cuivre River State Park. We will be meeting at church at 8:00 am. Cost will be \$15.00, which is due to Amy no later than February 22. You will need to bring: money for breakfast/snack, as we will stop on the way. We will set then set up camp, have lunch and take a hike. After supper we will gather around the fire before settling in for a warm winter's night. You will also need to bring – a folding chair, winter sleeping bag, warm clothing (layer) and shoes. An extra blanket and ground cover or cot might be wise.

Monday, March 2nd – Bible Study from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Sara Martin's house. If you need directions, please contact Sara at 636-936-0480. Sara will be leading Bible Study.

Sunday, March 8th – Demolition Ball from

1:30 until 3:00 – we will be meeting there. If you are able to attend, please let Amy know no later than Sunday, March 1st.

Monday, March 16th – Bible Study from 6:00 until 7:00 pm at Tyler Salter's house. If you need directions, please contact Tyler at 636-926-9642. Tyler will be leading Bible Study.

Sunday, March 22nd – Movie Night at church from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. We will also be stuffing the Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th. We will be ordering pizza for dinner. Please bring a snack to share and also a bag of candle to fill the Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Jane will be picking the movie for the evening.

Sunday, March 29th – Usher – we will be ushering at both services. Please be at church no later than 8:15 am. Please no jeans. If you are able to usher, please let Amy know as soon as possible.

Dates to remember:

Sunday, April 5th – Easter Egg Hunt following the second service.

Sunday, April 19th – Youth Sunday at the 11:00 service

Sunday, April 26th – Fundraiser Dinner – all funds that are raised will be going to the Mission Trip

Sunday, June 21 through Sunday June 28 – Mission Trip to Detroit, MI

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

The New Hope Senior High Youth would like to thank everyone for all of the can goods and donations -- we are able to give the Oasis Food Pantry a check for \$322.85 from the donations collected on February 1st and then also another check for \$200.00 from the donations at the Mid-High Trivia Night. Thank you New Hope!

Story to Ponder

Mary Smith went to church one Sunday morning and winced when she heard the organist miss a note during the processional. She noted a teenager talking while everybody was supposed to be in prayer. She also couldn't help but notice that several blooms in the altar bouquets were wilted. She felt the usher was scrutinizing what every person was putting into the offering plate, which made her angry. She counted at least five grammatical errors made by the preacher in his sermon. As she left the church through the side door after the closing hymn, she thought, What a careless group of people!

Suzie Jones went to church one Sunday morning and was thrilled at the arrangement she heard of "A Mighty Fortress." Her heart was touched at hearing a teenager read the morning Scripture lesson. She was encouraged to see the church take up an offering to help hungry children in Nigeria. The preacher's sermon answered a question that had bothered her for some time. She felt radiant joy from the choir members during the recessional. She left the church thinking, What a wonderful place to worship God!

Mary and Suzie attended the same church, on the same Sunday morning!

*"Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,
making the most of every opportunity."
(Ephesians 5: 15-16)*

"Faith in Action"

We have all heard the expression "Faith in Action." One local resident, Catie, has taken that phrase very seriously for nearly 20 years. She and her daughter drive into the city on "winter patrols" to distribute needed items to people who don't or can't get to a shelter. The men and women they help are not begging or asking for handouts. They are very appreciative though, of any items willingly given them.

How can we help Catie? She has provided a list of things that are in great demand this time of year. She does not expect you to buy anything; just look around your house for these items: stocking hats, warm gloves (women's & especially men's), warm scarves and socks, long underwear (size lg.), regular underwear (med. & lg.), men's shoes & boots (any size), as well as any size sweatpants & sweatshirts, food (anything that's wrapped individually), candles, matches/lighters, toilet paper and toiletries, such as deodorant, mouth wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap & feminine products.

Please bring all items to the Church Office so they can be collected and given to Catie. These "gifts" will be given to her on an ongoing basis throughout the remaining cold winter weeks. Whether you are able to supply an item or not, please pray for these people, for Catie & her daughter's safety and for the important work they do.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Feb 08

8:45 Worship & Comm.
9:45 Education Hour
11:00 Worship
3:00 Sr. High Outing
3:00 KFC

Monday, Feb 09

7:00 Session Mtg.

Tuesday, Feb 10

6:00 Bldg. & W. & M. Comm.
Joint Mtg.
6:30 N.A. Mtg.
7:00 A.A. Mtg.

Wednesday, Feb 11

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb 12

7:30 Kerygma

Saturday, Feb 14

Valentine's Day
9:45 Mid-Highs at Oasis
Food Pantry

Sunday, Feb 15

8:45 Worship & Comm.
9:45 BLAST Open House
11:00 Worship
12:00 Mid High Outing
3:00 KFC

Monday, Feb 16

7:00 Sr. High Bible Study

Tuesday, Feb 17

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

Wednesday, Feb 18

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb 19

7:30 Kerygma

Saturday, Feb 21

8:30 Men's Breakfast
9:00 Female Connection
9:30 Presbytery Mtg.



Usher Schedule

Sunday, Feb 15th

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

Sunday, Feb 22nd

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