

New Hope News

Volume 5, Issue 19 May 17, 2009

This year's Vacation Bible School, Camp E.D.G.E. (Experience and Discover God Everywhere), will be July 6 – 10 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. We will again offer Supper beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by an Opening, two Rotations per evening and a brief Closing. The Rotations will include Crafts, Music, Drama, Computers, Discover and Reflection Time, Mission and Games. Volunteers will be needed for Rotations, as well as Shepherds, Cooks, and Clean-up Crew. Volunteer Training/Orientations are scheduled for June 24 at 1 p.m. OR June 25 at 7 p.m. Please look for the VBS Volunteer Sign-up Form in the bulletin or contact the church office for more information!

Kids Fellowship Club

*Kids in the Kitchen- Boys and girls in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade are invited to come today from 3 – 4:30 p.m. for an afternoon of cooking fun! We will make (and eat) a snack supper and learn a little about cooking while we are at it!

*Next week: No KFC. Enjoy the Memorial Day Weekend!

*On May 31 KFC will go to Swing-A-Round Golf for a round of miniature golf. Drivers and chaperones will be needed. Please contact Barbi Smith (636 936-2200) if you are able to drive.

Female Connection—Golf a La Mode

Ladies, it's time for a little Putt-Putt. On Thursday, May 21, we'll meet at 7:00 PM at the Swing-A-Round Golf Center on Veteran's Parkway (that's the south service road of I-70) between Zumbahl and Cave Springs. We'll play a fun round of miniature golf and then we'll go over to Culver's on Muegge for some frozen delights. Please join us; no signup is necessary, just show up. We always have a great time and we always enjoy the extra fellowship that a new person brings to our group.

Employment Opportunity

New Hope has a position open for an additional Child Care Provider. This position is scheduled to work on Sunday mornings and at others times child care will be needed. If you know of someone who is reliable, works well with children, and may be interested in this position, please speak with Grace Harmon, Personnel Committee chairperson, at (636) 946-5099. Interested persons may also contact the church office at 936-2200.

Nursery News

We are truly blessed to have Regina Jones to provide child care in our infant nursery. We are also blessed that the number of infants in our congregation is growing, as evidenced by the five infant baptisms as our Easter Vigil Service on April 11. As we continue to grow, we want to be attentive to the needs of our youngest church family members. In order to maintain a quality nursery program, we will do our best to keep child to adult ratios low and to comply with the requirements of the Safe Sanctuary program. In order to do this, we need help! Parents are asked to volunteer twice a quarter (every 3 months) if they are able. Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and friends are also asked to volunteer occasionally. (Although we prefer volunteers to be Safe Sanctuary certified, it is not a mandate, since our Child Care Provider is certified.)

There is a sign up by the nursery door for each Sunday in May, June and July. If you have any questions, please contact Barbi Smith (636 936-2200) or Christie Tutschulte (441-1285).

Summer Worship Schedule

Sundays,
May 24 – July 26

Christian Education
9:00 AM

Worship

10:00 AM

*Sacrament of the
Lord's Supper*

June 7 & July 5

Deacon's Corner

Today the Deacons are providing an emergency contact form which will be kept at the church. These are completely voluntary and will only be used in a true emergency. Al Beamer will explain the project during a *Moment for Mission* this morning.

Update and Thank You!

Two weeks ago, on Sunday, May 3 at 5:00 p.m., about 20 worshippers gathered in our sanctuary for New Hope's first Service for Wholeness. This is a service of worship that recognizes two things. First, we experience brokenness in our lives. The theological word for this is "sin," and it can be traced back in the Bible to the story of Genesis when Adam and Eve eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For that transgression (sin) they were expelled from the Garden of Eden and the world has been broken forever since. This brokenness reveals itself in various forms and none of us is unaffected. As human beings, we are inextricably linked with everyone else as a part of God's creation. We suffer from our own brokenness as well as from the brokenness of others. We disappoint and wound those we love. We are disappointed and wounded by those we love. Relationships shatter, lives are forever changed and it takes a long time to understand the ramifications of it all. On top of that the brokenness can reveal itself in physical illness. We are mortals. "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," we are told, again, in Genesis. We get sick, our bodies wither. Sometimes we heal and sometimes we don't. Brokenness is something with which we all live.

The second thing the Service for Wholeness recognizes is that God is sovereign, that God does not will for the brokenness of the world, but God does continue to love and care for the world which God created and pronounced over and over again to be "very good." As broken people we come before God to give thanks for being God to us and to call upon God to help us through our trials. The Service for

Wholeness prays for healing, giving thanks for all the ways God has revealed some of the mysteries of creation through advancements in technology and medical science. We pray for healing, but with the recognition that, should healing not come, God is sovereign still and can comfort us in our suffering with God's presence and peace.

Those of us who gathered for our Service for Wholeness came to pray for ourselves, for friends and loved ones, for our community, the world and for the church. Of the 20, or so, who came, about five or six chose to receive the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil. When the time came, each came one by one to the front corner of the sanctuary and sat in a chair. I asked if there was a specific request for prayer. Some had specific requests, others did not. Then, two elders placed their hands on the person's shoulders while I placed my hand on his or her head. I said a blessing and then marked the sign of the cross with oil on the person's forehead. Afterward, we all came to the Lord's Table to receive the nourishment of the sacrament.

I don't know what those who came to the service thought of it, but for me it was a powerful experience. I am not used to having a pastoral encounter with people in the context of worship like I did when they came forward for prayer and blessing. It was a humbling experience for me to be able to pray with people personally in that service and it moved me in ways for which I was not altogether prepared, which is to say that at times I got choked up. As the church, we ought to take seriously the ministry of healing and so we will offer this service again in a

few months so that others might experience it as well.

On another note, I want to express my thanks to all of you here at New Hope for your patience and flexibility as we grow and develop. Growth is a wonderful thing, but it rarely comes without growing pains. As we expand our ministries and our membership, space will continue to become more of an issue that it already is. We are in the process of moving the choir to the "storage" room off the sanctuary because the choir will be rehearsing on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings in the sanctuary. In addition, we are preparing to move in the Preschool and make our Christian education rooms truly shared space. This will take some work and effort, but we are committed to our ministry of outreach that the Preschool will be as well as our ministry of inreach to our own membership. All of this requires an extraordinary amount of patience, forbearance and flexibility on everyone's part. The goal of all of it is to welcome and care for everyone God leads to this wonderful community of faith we know as New Hope. As I often say, all of our problems are good problems. All of our challenges are really opportunities. May we all embrace them as such and keep our focus on the people who come through our doors, not only those we know but also those who may be new to us and to what God is doing in and through us here. What a glorious time to be New Hope Presbyterians!

Faithfully,

Chris

Preschool News- Moving Day!

On May 23 and 24 the preschool will be "moving in" – bringing all the tables, chairs and other equipment that is being made available to us for purchase by Church of the Shepard. Since B.L.A.S.T. will be breaking for the summer from May 31 – August 2, and preschool classes will not begin until September, there will be time for all of us to adjust and transition the way we use the rooms on Sunday morning and through the week.

One of the immediate changes, however, is that the existing choir room will become the preschool office. As of May 24 the choir will practice in the Sanctuary. The Current Events Sunday School Class, which has been meeting in the Sanctuary, will move to the Narthex for May 24 and 31 and then to a room on the lower level until the end of July.

This is a very exciting time in

the life of our church as we welcome this wonderful opportunity to minister to the community and the youngest of those among us. THANK YOU to everyone for your patience and understanding while we assimilate this new program into the life of our church!!! Please watch the newsletter for more information or contact Barbi Smith, Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation at (636) 936-2200.

Youth Happenings

Mid-High Youth Group

Sunday, May 24th – Sunday School at 9:00 am – please note the change in time.

Sunday, May 31st – Sunday School at 9:00 am – please note the change in time. This will also be the last class before summer.

Saturday, June 13th – Working at the OASIS Food Pantry from 9:45 am until 11:45 am – we will be meeting at the food pantry. If you are able to come, please let Amy know.

Saturday, July 11th – Working at the OASIS Food Pantry from 9:45 am until 11:45 am – we will be meeting at the food pantry. If you are able to come, please let Amy know.

Senior High Youth Group

Sunday, May 17th - Servicing dinner at the Ronald McDonald House. We'll meet at church at 3:30, then drive to Ronald McDonald House to make & serve dinner. We will then return to church between 8:00 and 8:30 pm.

Monday, May 18th – Bible Study from 6:00 until 7:00 at Marissa Malta's house. If you need directions, please call Marissa. Marissa will be leading Bible study.

Sunday, May 24th – Sunday School at 9:00 – Please note the change in time

Sunday, May 31st -- Sunday School at 9:00 – Please note the change in time – This is the last Sunday School Class before the summer break.

Sunday, May 31st – Usher at the 10:00 service. Please be at church no later than 9:30 am. Please no jeans or tennis shoes. If

you are able to usher, please let me know ASAP.

Sunday, May 31st – Mission Trip Meeting immediately following the 10:00 service – we will be having a short meeting for all youth members and their parents about the upcoming trip. We will be reviewing the details of the week and what to bring. If you are not to attend this meeting, please let me know, so that I can get you the information for the week.

Dates to remember:

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

Friday, July 31 through Sunday, August 2 – Camping/Floating trip

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

The three "I's" of Evangelism:

Introduce yourself to our new members and visitors.

Invite them to join you in New Hope activities or out for coffee.

Include them, just as you would wish to be included!

May Meal-a-Month

God bless you for contributing so generously during the month of April! As the number of families who need assistance continues to grow, your generosity allows the pantries to reach more people in these trying times.

Our May menu is:

1 lb. pasta, 2 cans mushrooms, 1 large can/jar spaghetti sauce, 1 can each vegetables & fruit, 1 box/bag of cookies

Please contribute regularly!

Per Capita

Dear Friends,

One of the great strengths of our denomination is its connectionism. And, one concrete form of that connection is through our per-capita, which is distributed between the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, the Synod of Mid-America and our General Assembly. Their work is essential to the life of the Presbyterian Church at all levels.

Many of our members have already contributed their per-capita apportionment of \$22.96 and, for that, we are grateful. However, we have fallen short of the amount due based on the number of members. We ask that you prayerfully consider paying your per-capita. Envelopes have been provided in this week's bulletin. Thank you for your support of this vital mission.

Sincerely,

Jerry Brown, Mission Chair

Ben Tutschulte, Budget & Finance Chair

Rascals Game

Join the Pairs and Singles for our annual River City Rascals Baseball game and pre-game parking lot tailgate party, June 13 starting at 4:30. Sign up in the Narthex at the name tag table. \$14 per person buys a shaded seat game admission as well as pre-game fried chicken. Also asking attendees to bring an additional side dish to share, as well as own lawn chairs and drinks. Payment must be made by May 23. An envelope to collect payments will be in the church office. See Cathy Holder for taking payments in the form of either check made out to Patrick Murphy, or cash in separate envelope with name on it. Call Patrick or Robin Murphy at (636) 926-0517 for more information.

Calling All Acolytes!

If your son or daughter, ages 5 and up would like to be an acolyte, please contact Ruth Connor at 936-2818 or call the Church Office at 936-2200. Ruth provides training and will gladly answer any questions you may have. Most acolytes serve once every three months or so, depending on the number of children who participate.

Parable Of The Pencil

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box.

"There are 5 things you need to know," he told the pencil, "Before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be."

"One: You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in Someone's hand."

"Two: You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil."

"Three: You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make."

"Four: The most important part of you will always be what's inside."

"And Five: On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write."

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now replacing the place of the pencil with you. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be.

Dear Friends at New Hope,

The countdown is getting closer as I am about to journey off into the "real world." These past 18 years I have been faced with challenges and adventures that you, my mentors, have guided me through. This church has been a home to me; I am leaving high school with many memories you all have helped engrave in my mind. As I enter a new set of challenges I will stay strong and keep with me, my faith. Thank you for my graduation cross. I will keep it with me along with the memories, hugs and smiles I received every Sunday.

With God's love,

Casey Fancher

Concert

Two familiar faces in our congregation, Matt Johnson and Jim Parker, will be performing with The Ambassadors of Harmony on Saturday, June 20th at 2:00 pm and again at 8:00 pm at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Tickets range from \$21-26 and may be purchased by calling 314-516-4949 or by ordering online at www.touhill.org. Contact Jan Parker with questions.

Calendar of Events

Usher Schedule

Sunday, May 17

Happy Mother's Day!

8:45 Worship & Comm
9:45 Education Hour
11:00 Worship & Comm.
12:15 S. S. Volunteer Lunch
3:00 KFC
3:00 New Members Class
3:30 Sr. Highs in Service
6:00 Morris Faith Family

Monday, May 18

6:00 Sr. High Bible Study
7:00 C. E. Comm. Mtg.
7:00 Girl Scouts Mtg.

Tuesday, May 19

10:00 Staff Mtg.
10:30 Stay-at-home-Moms Picnic
6:30 N.A. Mtg.

7:00 A.A. Mtg.

Thursday, May 21

9:30 Presbytery Mtg.
7:00 Female Connection

Sunday, May 24

9:00 Education Hour
10:00 Worship
3:30 Sr. Highs in Service

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day—Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26

4:00 Staff Mtg.
6:30 N.A. Mtg.
7:00 A.A. Mtg.
7:00 Steering Comm. Mtg.

Thursday, May 28

Steering Comm. Team Mtgs.

Friday, May 29

Reception Set-Up

Saturday, May 30

4:00 Logan & Anita Phillips' Reception

Sunday, May 24

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

Sunday, May 31

Senior High Youth

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

