

New Hope News

Volume 5, Issue 20 May 24, 2009

Vacation Bible School News!

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!

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

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.

Safe Sanctuary

Why do we do Safe Sanctuary? Several years ago, about the time the program was adopted by New Hope Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy encouraged ALL churches to institute the program or one like it. Screening and training volunteers and implementing policies and procedures is one of the ways that we work toward providing a safe environment for children and youth, but that is not all that the program does. The Safe Sanctuary Program also protects our church AND our volunteers, *by making the church less desirable to would-be predators, and to those who would falsely accuse volunteers of misconduct for monetary gain (yes, this happens...)*. History and experience has shown that churches with the Safe Sanctuary Program are **generally** avoided by those who come with less than honorable intentions.

Elaine Barbee and Misty Hause do an outstanding screening and training volunteers and helping us to implement the program. Twenty-four volunteers have been trained (or re-trained) so far this year. An additional class is scheduled for **June 7, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.** In order to expedite the class, the Volunteer Application, the Authorization to Release Information and the Covenant Statement are available on the Welcome Table for you to complete before the class.

If you would like to attend this class to become Safe Sanctuary Certified, or if you have questions, please contact Barbi Smith at 636 936-2200 .

The preschool has begun “moving in” – bringing all the tables, chairs and other equipment that is being made available to us for purchase by Church of the Shepherd. 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.

History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War: a hymn published in 1867, "Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping" by Nella L. Sweet carried the dedication "To The Ladies of the South who are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead" (Source: Duke University's Historic American Sheet Music, 1850-1920). While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings; each of those towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to honor our dead, each contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in Gen Logan giving his official proclamation in 1868. It is not important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.

Preschool- Moving In!

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 Contemporary Issues 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.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Source:
<http://www.usmemorialday.org/backgrnd.html>

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 936-2200

Youth Happenings

Mid-High Youth Group

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 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)

Parking Lot Construction

This past week the last permit was issued and construction on the new parking lot has begun. Erosion fencing has been put in place and a section of old pavement near the back door was removed to make way for the new lot. This coming week you will see heavy equipment in the back moving dirt so we can move forward, allowing us to accommodate more people and give access to our property off of Central School Road.

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!

Kids Fellowship Club

No KFC today. 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.

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

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.

Story to Ponder

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened...

Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused. Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients. Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Along towards dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited. Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her. "Who was that man?" he asked. The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered. "No, he wasn't," the Marine replied.. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?" "I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed."

The next time someone needs you ... just be there. Stay.

--Unknown

Calendar of Events

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

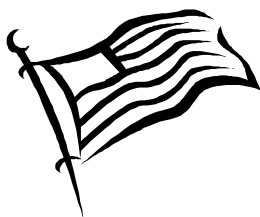
Reception Set-Up

Saturday, May 30

4:00 Logan & Anita
Phillips' Reception

Sunday, May 31

PENTECOST
Remember...Wear Red!
9:00 Education Hour
10:00 Worship



Usher Schedule

Sunday, May 31 Senior High Youth

Sunday, June 7

Sharon Barnes
Bryan Eikmann
Laura Eikmann
Gary Freeman
Kirk Garten
Craig Graber
Bob Terrell

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