

New Hope News

Volume 4, Issue 43 November 2, 2008

Meal a Month : November

November is upon us. Contentment fills our hearts and homes as we prepare for the upcoming holidays. For many in this area though, November is a time of dread as there is not enough money to cover increased heating costs, increased appetites and increased living expenses. Won't you brown-bag just one lunch this month in order to donate a meal to New Hope Food Pantry?

The suggested meal this month is:

**2 cans chicken, 1 box chicken helper, 1 can vegetables,
1 can cranberry sauce and a pkg of cookies.**

Supper with Santa

Some church "elves" have been hard at work preparing for Supper with Santa on December 13 and they are hoping for a little help! If you would like to contribute an item that will help ensure the success of this outreach event, please stop by the table near the front window to volunteer to contribute an item of your choice. Items sought range from blank cd's to candy for the treat bags, as well as cash donations to help feed the reindeer and purchase food items to be served that evening! The "elves" have also prepared festive postcards for you to address to friends, neighbors and relatives who might enjoy a special evening at New Hope. Please take a moment to address a few cards that volunteers will hand out in the Narthex after each service.. New Hope will take care of mailing them on a timely basis. Pre-registration forms have also been prepared. If you plan to attend Supper with Santa, you may take a form to fill it out at home and return it to the Church Office at your convenience. Perhaps your saying to yourself, "My kids are grown, why should I come?" There is an answer for that...volunteer for a couple of hours at Supper with Santa! The insert in the bulletin lists all of the areas that still need help. Please call the Church Office at 936-2200 to volunteer on this magical night at New Hope!

Female Connection—Turkey Feet

The Female Connection will be meeting on Thursday, November 20 at 7 PM in the Narthex at the Church. Please join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, snacks, and 'turkey feet' (a dominoes game normally known as 'chicken feet'). We will also have a holiday gift exchange that is for Thanksgiving or Christmas with a value from \$4-6, examples include ornaments and candles. All women are invited to attend. Please bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided. For more information or questions, please contact Deb Morris.

If you can arrive early, Lindy Stacy would appreciate assistance any time after 6 in setting up the items for the Secret Gift Shop that will be held for the children on the following Sunday.

N - Needy Families
O - Our Time and Talent
V - Valuable Donations
E - Extraordinary Choices
M - Making Opportunities
B - Board of Deacons Benevolence
E - Evangelical Outreach
R - Remember Harvest of Talents

**November 23 after
the 11 o'clock Service**

Evangelism Tip of the Month:

Please prayerfully consider how you can share your faith through word and or deed with your family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers. Look for opportunities to help those who are struggling due to health or loss of a job, family issues etc.

Recently, a list of addresses for our shut-ins was published in our newsletter. Boyce Smith was omitted and he, too, needs our care and concern. Boyce's address is listed below. Please take a moment to write him a few words of encouragement and remembrance.

Mr. Boyce Smith

**MO Veterans Home, Rm 541
367 @ 10600 Lewis & Clark
St. Louis, MO 63136**

From the Pastor...

A while ago I wrote a note in this newsletter thanking Del and Susan Phillips for the gift of my new doctoral robe they gave me on the occasion of my graduation this past spring. I also thanked the choir for its gift of my doctoral hood. Today, All Saints Sunday, is the first occasion on which I have chosen to wear it.

Many of us come from a wide variety of Christian traditions and so I thought that a brief explanation of the vestments that clergy often wear might be helpful. The robe that Protestant clergy usually wear is really modeled after the academic robe scholars wore in the universities during the Middle Ages. The Protestant tradition has always placed an emphasis on the importance of an educated clergy. Indeed, ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (among others) requires at least a master's degree, called a Master of Divinity. But the Reformers also wore this robe to highlight the point that ministers are not "priests" offering a sacrifice on an altar. Instead, ministers are understood to be "teaching elders," who with the gathered assembly make up the "priesthood of all believers." The only

sacrifice made during our worship is a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered by the entire congregation, who gather at the Lord's Table to find spiritual nourishment in the bread and the wine.

So the robe is an academic robe, highlighting the importance of the teaching of the Bible throughout the whole of our worship. Pastors also wear stoles, colored fabric around the neck which is associated with the sacraments. The color of the stole depends upon the season of the liturgical year. White is for Christmas and Easter. Red is for Pentecost and other occasions that represent the Holy Spirit. Green is for "Ordinary Time," which is marked by the theme of spiritual growth. Purple is for Lent and blue is for Advent. All of my stoles were gifts on different occasions – graduation from seminary, ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament, and installation to service in a particular congregation. My blue "Advent" stole was a gift from this congregation given to me on the day of the congregational meeting that called me.

So I often wear a robe and a stole together to represent my role as Minister of Word and Sacrament. The doctoral hood is closely

associated with the academic gown. The red velvet on the doctoral hood identifies the discipline of study, and the satin colors on the "field" of the hood represent the colors of the academic institution from which the degree was earned. In my case, the red velvet is for the discipline of "theology" and the blue and white satin are for the colors of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

There are no hard and fast "rules" around clerical dress, but there is a long tradition around what it all represents. I always wear my robe for services of worship and I add the stole on occasions when one of the sacraments is celebrated. I chose to wear the hood today because All Saints' Sunday is considered a "high holy day" in the church year. But what's more, all of my vestments have been given to me as gifts by important people in my life on special occasions in my life. Whenever I put my vestments on, I am quite literally surrounded by the saints in my life who have nurtured my faith in the past and continue to be a part of it even now.

Faithfully,

Consecration Sunday Report

Thank you for making our Consecration Sunday such a huge success. Your response shows not only faithfulness to God, but also confidence in the leadership of our congregation and places us in the position of being able to provide significant ministries in 2009. Last Sunday, October 26th, 87 giving units completed estimate of giving cards. A total of 68 of those increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount. The 87 giving units present to fill out estimate of giving cards last week committed a total of \$353,080. Based on last year's giving records, we can expect to receive \$80,000 during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns but were not present last week to complete an estimate of giving card. Also, based on the average total of loose offerings, we can expect to receive an additional \$20,000 from that source. This gives us a total of \$453,080 of anticipated income for 2009. This represents a 12.5% increase in total giving over 2008.

If you have not yet filled out an estimate of giving card, we invite you to do so. Estimate of giving cards can be found on the Welcome Table, and may be returned to our treasurer, Jane Spurgeon, in the main office. This not only represents a step of faith for you, but gives our leadership a good idea of estimated income that helps us to plan our ministry for 2009 more responsibly and accurately. Thank you for your commitment to the mission of the New Hope Presbyterian Church!

Festival of Sharing

In tough economic times such as these, it's more important than ever to help those in crisis, and New Hope has responded with extraordinary generosity. The Mission Committee wants to thank the many people of New Hope that contributed to the 2008 Festival of Sharing. This is what you collected: 2 Baby Bundles, 30 filled Backpacks of Love, 4 Family Food Boxes, 10 Paper Products Kits, 8 Personal Hygiene Kits, 4 Prison Kits, 42 Readin' and Writin' Kits and 12 Student Dental Kits. The Festival Office estimates the value of the kits, and based on that estimate, New Hope gave goods valued at \$2,618. `THANK YOU!

We worried about not having enough room in the vehicle for all the kits and we thank Keith Yarde not only for delivering a large load to the Festival Office in Columbia the week prior to the Festival but also for printing the bulletin inserts about the Festival of Sharing. Thanks also to Kay McCarthy who put together the packets listing the items that were required for the various kits.

Mission committee members Bill Irvine, Patty Nekula, Jerry Brown and Jeanne Brown took the Backpacks of Love to the Festival of Sharing held October 18, at the State Fairgrounds in Sedalia. There was a lot of activity going on that day and a lot of pictures were taken that you will soon see as a slide show. The quilt auction was fun to watch. One quilt sold for \$1,940!

Welcome Barbi!

Today we welcome Barbara ("Barbi") Smith, our new Director of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation. The Inreach Committee is hosting a congregational reception in Barbi's honor at 12:00 in the narthex. All are invited to come and welcome Barbi.

Barbi's responsibilities in this position will include the whole of our Christian education programming. She will resource the Christian Education Committee and coordinate all of our educational opportunities, including teaching and modeling spiritual practices appropriate for children and adults. With the beginning of our Preschool next year, and the extent to which our various educational programs will be sharing space, Barbi will also supervise our transition to that new ministry to see that it gets off to a good and healthy start, and to continue to cast the vision of the Preschool as a ministry outreach to our community.

Barbi is married to Ken Smith. She has three adult children and four grandchildren. Make a point to come by and welcome Barbi to our life and ministry together.

Changes in the Office

Many of you have taken note of the changing landscape of our church office. This is all the result of our growing staff and programming. In order to maximize our efficiency and make the most of our space, we have moved our financial department from the copy room out into the main office area. This will give us more room for storage and workspace for copying, collating, etc. In addition, we have dedicated space in the main office area for Amy Kitsmiller, our Director of Youth Ministries, in preparation to welcome Barbi Smith, our new Director of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation, and the wealth of resources she brings with her.

You are always welcome in the church office, and as we continue to make the changes necessary to respond to our growing congregation, we ask that whenever you come into the office you respect the workspace of our staff. Thank you! -CQJ

Wedding Announcement

Sharon Barnes is pleased to announce the wedding of her daughter, Tracey Barnes, to Phillip Mackey which took place on Wednesday, October 15, 2008, at the Old Peace Chapel which is in the Daniel Boone village in Defiance. The reception followed at Sugar Creek Winery. In addition to a new husband, Tracey is also mom to Phill's children who are Kaylee, 4 and Alex, 3. Tracey also has a son, Noah who turned 2 in July this year. They have returned from a honeymoon in Walt Disney World in Florida and are now making their home in Troy, Missouri.

Join "Pairs n Singles" for the Annual Holiday Dinner!

Saturday, December 6th, 2008 at the Mother-In-Law Restaurant (in the Cider Mill Room) located at 500 South Main St., St. Charles, MO 63301.636-946-9444. Dinner will be served at 4:00pm, so please plan to arrive around 3:30pm. The cost per person is \$27.00 and includes dinner, drink and gratuity. Each attendee is also asked to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for an exchange. After dinner and social time, attendees can also attend Las Posadas beginning at 6:00pm in Old Town. Signup sheets will be located on the information table in the narthex. Please sign up by November 23. Looking forward to seeing all of you! For questions, please feel free to call Sue Stiegemeier at 636-474-1923.

Youth Happenings!

Mid-High Youth

Activity Reminder

Sunday, November 2nd – Meeting at church from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm – Please bring either a snack or a bottle of soda to share. We will be working on our project for Harvest of Talents.

Saturday, November 8th -- Working at the Oasis Food Pantry from 9:45 am until 11:45 am – we will be meeting at the Food Pantry at 9:45 am. If you are and your parents are able to come, please let Amy know as soon as possible.

Sunday, November 16th – We will be playing Laser Tag from 2:00 pm until 3:30 pm. We will be meeting at the Adrenaline Zone at 1:45 pm. The first game will start at 2:00, so please be there no later than 1:45 pm. Cost is \$5.00 per person. If you would like to come, please turn in the attached flyer to Amy no later than Sunday, November 2nd.

Sunday, November 30th – Hanging of the Greens – Immediately following the second church service, we will be assisting in "Hanging of the Greens."

Senior High Youth

Activity Reminder

Monday, November 3rd – Bible Study from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Elynn Yarde's house. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN PLACE.**

Saturday, November 8th -- We will be having a work day in order to raise funds for Mission Trip - More details to come!

Sunday, November 9th – Meeting at church from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm – We will be working on our project for Harvest of Talents. Please bring a snack or a bottle of soda to share.

Saturday, November 15th -- We will be having a work day in order to raise funds for Mission Trip - More details to come!

Monday, November 17th – Bible Study from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Maggie Officer's house. Maggie will be leading Bible Study. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN PLACE.**

Sunday, November 23rd – We will be serving dinner at the Ronald McDonald House – more details to come!

Sunday, November 30th – We will be ushering for both services. Please be at church no later than 8:15 am. Please no jeans or tennis shoes. If you are able to usher, please let Amy know as soon as possible. Immediately following the second church service, we will be assisting in "Hanging of the Greens."

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

E-Mail at al.kitsmiller@newhopepc.net

New Chrismons for New Hope

If you have celebrated Advent and Christmas with New Hope before then you are familiar with our Chrismon tree. The Chrismon tree is the large tree in the sanctuary, decorated with white lights and Chrismons, which are usually white and gold. White, the color of Christmas, is the color of purity and perfection, while gold is the color for majesty and glory.

The Chrismons are ancient symbols for Christ or some part of Christ's ministry: the crown, descending dove, fish, Celtic cross, Jerusalem cross, shepherd's crook, chalice, shell, and others. Our original Chrismons have become quite worn since we began using them seven years ago. This year, when we have the Hanging-of-the-Greens on Sunday, November 23rd, New Hope will have new Chrismons. They are handmade by a retired pastor, Bob Mallett, and his wife. Bob makes the Chrismons with high quality plywood that he laser cuts, water sands and then covers with eight coats of paint. They are beautiful.

Bob writes, "My wife and I are very blessed and love being able to share with others some of what God has given us. This is my 'Retirement Project' and we raise about \$10,000 a year for missions in this way. God is SO good. I just turned 70 and hope to be able to continue this ministry for several more years...that is in God's hands. My dad lived to be 99 and my mother was 92 so I guess I stand a chance."

Our Worship and Music Committee has ordered two sets of the large size and one set of the small size Chrismons. Included are Chrismons in the shape of the Presbyterian cross. You may buy a Chrismon for the church tree and do so in honor or memory of a friend or loved one, or simply in gratitude for a blessing in your life. The large Chrismons are \$5.00 and the small ones are \$4.00. The Presbyterian crosses are \$6.00 (large) and \$5.00 (small). Please stop by the table in the narthex (foyer) on Sunday. You may also order a set of 24 Chrismons for your home for \$85, or order individual ones from the smaller set. Individual orders cannot be guaranteed for delivery this Christmas, but dependent upon current stock.

Susan Phillips - Worship and Music Chair

Member News

Many of you know that next week, Connie Pettit will be competing in the Sweet Adelines International Competition in Honolulu as a member of the St. Louis Harmony Chorus. The competition will be webcast live and if you'd like, you can watch it by logging onto www.stlharmony.org. At the bottom of the home page, you will find a link to the webcast. The webcast is for friends and family of the Chorus to be able to see the performance, if not possible in person. Connie's group is scheduled to perform at 11:13 A.M. Honolulu time on Thursday, November 6, which will be 3:13 P.M. here in the Midwest. They will be the second group (of 33) to perform, and they will follow the group from Wellington, New Zealand. If her Chorus makes it to the top ten, they will perform again on Saturday, November 8th, exact time to be determined, for the championship. Connie and her Chorus have been practicing for a year for this competition, and they are all very excited. Please wish her and her chorus well!

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Nov 02

8:45 Worship & Comm.
9: 45 Education Hour
11:00 Worship & Comm.
12:00 Mid-High Mtg.

Monday, Nov 03

6:00 Sr. High Bible Study
7:00 Deacons Mtg.

Tuesday, Nov 04

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

Wednesday, Nov 05

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Nov 06

10:00 Stay-at-Home
Moms Circle
1:00 Agape Circle

6:00 Healthy Beginnings

7:00 Joy Circle

Saturday, Nov. 08

9:45 Mid-Highs at Oasis
Food Pantry
TBA Sr. High Work Day

Sunday, Nov 09

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

Monday, Nov 10

6:00 Supper w/ Santa Mtg.
7:00 Session Mtg.

Tuesday, Nov 11

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

Wednesday, Nov 12

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Nov 13

6:00 Healthy Beginnings

Saturday, Nov. 15

8:30 Men's Breakfast
9:30 Presbytery Mtg.
TBA Sr. High Work Day



Usher Schedule

Sunday, Nov. 9th

Jim Phillips
Debbie Phillips
Michael Black
Mel Fairchild
Gary Freeman
Ben Tutschulte
Christie Tutschulte

Sunday, Nov 16th

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

Substitute List

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