


New Hope News



Volume 4, Issue 46

November 23, 2008

Advent Families

InReach is planning our 2nd Annual Advent Families. We will be handing out a sign-up and information sheet about Advent families listing the age of family members, hobbies, dietary needs, address and directions to your house, etc.. This activity is voluntary and is like a Secret Santa. Each week during Advent, a gift is purchased for your Advent family and is dropped off at their home secretly. (You can have someone else drop off your gift so you won't be discovered!) If you live a good distance away, you can drop your gifts at the Church office and Cathy will see to it that they are distributed to your family, secretly of course. We will try to match families that don't know each other well, so we can get to know each other better. The Advent gift you give your family should not be valued at more than \$10.00 per week. On January 4, 2009, (Epiphany Sunday), we will all come together for a Potluck Dinner, and reveal ourselves and give the last Advent gift. Please sign up today in the Narthex. Last year's Advent Family was a big success and lots of fun!

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

**TODAY, Nov. 23 following
the 11:00 am Service**

Members in Mission

A few months ago, members were asked to participate in a mission trip to Pearlinton, MS for the purpose of helping rebuild one town that is still suffering the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. Three of our members, Roger & Patty Nekula and Larry Holder left early this morning to begin their journey of compassion. Please keep Larry, Patty and Roger in your prayers as they begin their outreach to residents of Mississippi and for their safe return.

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.

Pre-Register for Supper with Santa

Pre-registration forms for Supper with Santa have been prepared and are tucked in today's bulletin. If you plan to attend Supper with Santa, you may take a form to fill it out here or at home and return it to the Church Office at your convenience.

Santa's "elves" also have 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 are available in the Narthex. New Hope will take care of stamping and mailing them on a timely basis.

Thanks to all of those who have contributed items that will help insure the success of Supper with Santa. For those who haven't made their purchases yet, please remember that all items need to be returned no later than November 30th.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The Session has called a meeting of the congregation for 12:00 PM on Sunday, December 7, for the purpose of electing two elders for the class of 2011. This should be a brief, but very important meeting.

Every Sunday in our theological tradition is Thanksgiving Sunday. When we gather together as God's people we receive God's Word in scripture, sermon and sacrament, and then we respond to God in praise and thanksgiving, offering not only prayers but our very selves to be used by God for the work of the Church. Every time we gather around the Lord's Table to share the meal Christ gave us, we offer what we know as the "Prayer of Great Thanksgiving," in which we sacrifice to God our praise and thanksgiving for such a wonderful gift to us.

But today the theme of Thanksgiving is particularly uppermost in our minds, as we will be celebrating Thanksgiving as a national holiday later this week. As I think about this I am reminded of all the people who quietly give themselves to God for the work of the Church in ways that are unassuming and unnoticed by most of us.

For one thing, I am reminded of Bob Terrell, who not only installed our entire phone system a couple years ago, but has continued to serve as a resource person for our computers in the main office and the BLAST computer lab downstairs. Just a couple of Mondays ago, Bob took a vacation day off of work to spend here in the office running data and telephone lines for the workspaces of Amy Kitsmiller and our "financial department" in the main office area. While he was here, he also spent time getting Barbi Smith up and running on her computer and making sure she was connected to the office network. I am thankful for Bob!

Just a couple of weeks before that, Jane Spurgeon took two vacation days off of work to attend a workshop on the financial component of our Church Windows software. She did that so she could better fulfill her responsibilities as our church treasurer. I am thankful for Jane!

Not only that, but as we have grown and developed as an organization, Jane has spent countless hours in the evenings along with Kathy Beamer and Diane Harms sorting and moving files and such to make our financial processes and procedures more effective and efficient. I am

thankful for Kathy and Diane!

About a week-and-a-half before Barbi Smith began her new position with us, we realized that she would need a lot more bookshelf space to house the wealth of resources she has brought with her. I called Rick Dickson and he came up with his tape measure and set to work on three new bookshelves for Barbi's office...just like that. I am thankful for Rick!

At the end of October, our Inreach Ministry hosted the 7th Annual Trunk-or-Treat. It was a marvelous community event pulled together by Jane Rigdon, Carol Botkin, Cindy Dalton and others. For every Trunk-or-Treater, they prepared goodie bags with a postcard thanking them for coming. It contained a list of our worship and Christian education schedule along with upcoming events in the life of our church. I am thankful for Jane and Carol and Cindy!

At some point almost every day I see Lenny Roth about his appointed rounds making his list of things around our building and property that need to be addressed—fixed or glued or caulked or replaced, etc. At other times he is looking for ways to help others, like collecting cases upon cases of canned corn and frozen chickens to donate on behalf of the Men's Fellowship to our local food pantries for Thanksgiving. I am thankful for Lenny!

As I go about my appointed rounds I continue to cross paths with Kevin Harms who has been tirelessly giving of his architectural skills and expertise to our congregation through his work with our Building Committee and Preschool Task Force, both of which have been making presentations and reports of their work to the Session. I am thankful for Kevin!

One Saturday morning little over a month ago, I came to the Men's Fellowship breakfast. It was scheduled in conjunction with a Facilities Committee workday. Several people were out of town on that day but, as usual, Tom Wilson and Joe Seidler were spreading mulch on the islands in the parking lot. Landon Kemp was brave enough to mount a cherry-picker to investigate and fix a leak we had on the back side of the building. As I left that day, I caught a glimpse of Mike Black on the roof fixing something

else. Mike is often here at odd hours, responding to requests to look into this or fix that. I am thankful for Tom and Joe, Landon and Mike!

This is a very short list of those for whom I am thankful. I am sure that some have slipped my mind for the moment and space simply doesn't allow for a complete listing of all of you who continually give of yourselves in ways large and small to the work of the church. Most of the examples are those which no one knows about. They aren't high-profile or flashy or glamorous, but without them we would not be able to accomplish all of the vital ministries that go on here. For all of you I am truly thankful!

Faithfully,

Chris

News from the New Hope Food Pantry

The reason you haven't heard from me for a while, is that I know how challenging this past summer's economy has been for all of us. I am so thankful to all the New Hope Supporters who continue to send their pledges and donate food, in spite of the challenges. I know the economy and the rise in everyday costs just to get by are sometimes overwhelming! Thank God for caring and generous supporters like you, who realize that it is so necessary to continue your support to help those urgently in need. Our biggest needs are for financial and food donations so we can keep up with rising demands. The increasing number of families adversely affected by the economy is staggering. But, together, we are making a significant impact on our community by helping those who need encouragement and a helping hand to overcome the issues now facing them. With your help, we are able to stand our ground and be there for those in need. Thank you so much for all that you are doing. It does make a difference. May God's richest blessings be yours.

Sincerely,
Mike Groeper & Staff

Thank You!

Thank you for the prayers during my recent surgery. Also, thank you to Cindy Martin for the wonderful meal...that was very helpful!

Bless you!
DiAnne Mueller

Youth Happenings

Mid-High Youth Group Activity Reminder

Sunday, November 23rd – Hanging of the Greens – If you are able to help decorate the church, please be at church at 5:00 pm.

Saturday, December 13th – 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. We will not be decorating cookies at church this day. This will be rescheduled early next year. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN PLANS.**

Friday, December 19th – Christmas Party and Movie Night from 7:00 pm until 9:30 pm – What to bring: Favorite Holiday Movie, Favorite Holiday Snack and a \$5.00 gift for our Christmas Gift exchange. If you have any ideas of any Christmas games that you would like to play, please let Amy know as soon as possible.

Sunday, January 4th – Meeting at church from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm – Please bring a snack to share.

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!

Senior High Youth Group Activity Reminder

Sunday, November 23rd – We will be having a work day in order to raise funds for Mission Trip - Amy will send out an e-mail regarding whose house you are to attend. This work day will be beginning at 2:00 pm

Sunday, November 23rd – Hanging of the Greens – If you are able to help decorate the church, please be at church at 5:00 pm.

Saturday, November 29th – Work day at the

Irvine's. If you are able to work and have not signed up, please let me know. We will be meeting at the Irvine's at 9:00 am.

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.

Monday, December 1st -- Bible Study from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Marissa Malta's house. If you need directions, please call Marissa. Marissa will be leading Bible Study.

Friday, December 5th through Saturday, December 6th – Christmas Lock-In at church – we will begin at 8:00 pm and will end the following morning at 8:00 am. Please remember to bring all of the gifts for our family that we adopted. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Monday, December 15th -- Bible Study from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Amy Connor's house. If you need directions, please call Amy. Amy will be leading Bible Study.

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

Pairs 'N' Singles

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.

Office Changes

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

November is upon us. For many in this area, 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 brownbag 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.**

2009 Flower Chart

The Flower Chart for 2009 is now in the Narthex near the Welcome Table. The cost is \$30 for a floral arrangement that will enhance the communion table for both worship services and may then be taken home with you. Up to three people may sign up for flowers each week. Please sign your name on the chart for the week(s) you choose. The Church Office will call the week you are signed up to remind you and to ask about the occasion.

NOTE: If you have signed up for flowers for now through the end of 2008, please contact the Church Office at 936-2200 as soon as possible as the current chart was inadvertently misplaced.

RECIPE FOR LIFE!

1. Take a 10-30 minute walk every day. And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate anti-depressant.
2. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day. Talk to God about what is going on in your life.
3. When you wake up in the morning complete the following statement, 'My purpose is to _____ today. I am thankful for _____'
4. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less manufactured foods.
5. Drink green tea and plenty of water. Eat blueberries, wild Alaskan salmon, broccoli, almonds & walnuts.
6. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
7. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.
8. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper.
9. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
10. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
11. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
12. You are not so important that you have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
13. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
14. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
15. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
16. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: 'In five years, will this matter?'
17. Forgive everyone for everything.
18. What other people think of you is none of your business.
19. GOD heals everything - but you have to ask Him.
20. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
21. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch!!!
22. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
23. Each night before you go to bed complete the following statements: I am thankful for _____. Today I accomplished _____.

Staff E-mail Addresses

Christopher Q. James, Pastor
cqjames@newhopepc.net

Barbara Smith, Director of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation
bsmith@newhopepc.net

Amy Kitsmiller, Director of Youth Ministries
alkitsmiller@newhopepc.net

Cathy Holder, Church Secretary
cholder@newhopepc.net

Jane Spurgeon, Treasurer
finance@newhopepc.net

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Nov 23

8:45 Worship & Comm.
 9: 45 Education Hour
 11:00 Worship
 12:15 Harvest of Talents
 2:00 Sr. High Work Day
 4:00 Phillips' Faith Family
 5:00 Hanging of the Greens & Pizza Supper

Monday, Nov 24

6:00 Supper w/ Santa Mtg.

Tuesday, Nov 25

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

Thursday, Nov 27

Thanksgiving Day
 Office closed

Friday, Nov 28

Office closed

Saturday, Nov 29

9:00 Senior High Work Day

Sunday, Nov 30

8:45 Worship & Comm.
 9: 45 Education Hour
 11:00 Worship

Monday, Dec 01

6:00 Sr. High Bible Study
 6:30 Deacons Mtg.

Tuesday, Dec 02

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

Wednesday, Dec 03

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec 04

10:00 Stay-at-Home Moms Circle
 1:00 Agape Circle
 6:00 Healthy Beginnings
 6:30 Joy Circle

Friday, Dec 05

8:00 Sr. High Lock-In

Saturday, Dec 06

8:00 Sr. High Lock-In Ends
 4:00 Pairs & Singles Dinner

Happy
 Thanksgiving

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Usher Schedule

Sunday, Nov 30th

Senior High Youth

Sunday, Dec 7th

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

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