

New Hope News

Volume 4, Issue 48 December 7, 2008

Supper with Santa



Supper with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 13th, 5-8pm

At New Hope!

Free to all, accepting donations of
canned goods to benefit local food
pantry.

Spaghetti Dinner, Photos with Santa
and Reindeer, Kids Activities, Carol-
ing, and New Friends!

Register through church office 636-
936-2200 or
newhopepresby@juno.com

Invite your neighbors, friends and family!

Evangelism Tip of the Month:

Share the mes-
sage, love and
spirit of
Christmas
through word
and deed.

Female Connection- Christmas Movie

Female Connection is planning dinner and a holiday movie for Monday, December 8th at Mid Rivers Mall. We will meet in front of the ticket office at 6:00pm, as the movie, "Four Christmases" starts at 6:25. We will then go for dessert and fellowship at Oberweiss on Mexico Rd. Please call Deb Morris with questions.

Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 PM *Christmas Worship*

Childcare Provided

11:00 PM *Candlelight Worship*

with Choir & Communion

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

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

From the Pastor:

Beginnings. That's something of what the season of Advent is all about. For one thing, Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It's a time when we celebrate, in the words of Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (1:1). In more ways than one, our congregation is experiencing several beginnings, or new beginnings.

Barbi Smith has just begun her ministry amongst us and as she continues to get settled, meet new people and make plans to expand our ministry of Christian education, she has been a breath of fresh air for me and a wonderful addition to our church staff!

Even now we are continuing to make preparations for the preschool to open its doors here next September. Registration for the 2009-10 school year will begin in January and families will want to see the space, so Tom Wilson and Gateway Construction were here this past week and are

nearing completion of the adjustments to our facility that will allow us to begin the ministry of the preschool. We have combined the "Art" and "Cinema" rooms into one large room that will be utilized as a classroom during the week (preschool) and on Sunday mornings. The Mid-High and Senior High rooms have been combined into one large room that will house our growing youth ministry. The current plan is for our Senior Highs to occupy this new space and our Mid-Highs to have the space which has been the "lower-level conference room." In addition to all of this, we are incorporating windows from the classrooms into the hallway to open up the space and allow more light to come in.

Our goal throughout all of this is to make the best use of our space, balancing the needs of our ongoing ministries and enabling the new ministry of the preschool to be in the best position possible for reaching out to our community and drawing people into the life of our church. This is an exciting time in the life of our

congregation. It necessitates an unusual amount of flexibility on everyone's part to deal with the changes that a growing church requires.

In addition to these new beginnings, our Building Committee continues to move us forward toward a more formal sanctuary that will include more office space and meeting rooms. It's a whirlwind of forward progress around here and I am grateful for the great spirit of patience and commitment of so many of you who continue to drive these new initiatives forward. My prayer is that we might continue to show patience and forbearance toward one another as we change and grow giving witness to the Reformed faith in our community and growing into whom God is calling us to become.

Faithfully,

Chris

Crisis Nursery Giving Tree

New Hope has been given three families in need from the Crisis Nursery this year for our giving tree. The giving tree will be located in the Narthex after worship beginning this Sunday. Please consider taking an ornament from the tree and helping a family in need this holiday season. Below are the profiles of the three families we are helping this year:

I've been using the Crisis Nursery to help get back on my feet. The Nursery watched my son so that I could get a job and a place for my family to live. My biggest wish is to find a place for my family to live and keep us together. I'm also trying to get my education so that I can do even better for my family. I work really hard and love my kids so much. I have a daughter and a son. They are great kids, and just want to have a home and be loved and safe. I am so grateful for your help with giving my kids a great Christmas!

I have a chronic illness that causes me to go into the hospital for 7-10 days every few weeks. If there was one thing that I could change for my family, it would be my health so that I could have more time with my three children. My health problems also make it impossible for me to go to work and support my family. The Crisis Nursery has been there for my family when I needed help caring for my kids while I was in the hospital. They also helped out with the basic necessities: clothing, diapers, school supplies, formula, and support for me. Right now I am concerned about how I will pay for some basic repairs that my house needs. I wish that my kids could just be kids without having to worry that my illness will kill me. I wish that they could have a normal life. My kids dream about big things like going to Six Flags, Disney World, and even small things like sports. They really want to play sports, but I just can't afford it. My kids are so great. They try hard to take care of me and the baby. God will bless you and we truly thank you for giving my children a Christmas. May God bless you all.

I am a single mother of three wonderful children. This year was hard because we lost our home to a fire. We all made it out okay but we lost everything. Since it was a rental property there is no insurance although the Red Cross helped us initially. Since that time we have been living with family and I have struggled with depression on and off. I had to take the kids and put them in a new school and find a new job. I'm also trying to go to school. We have been lucky to find a new place to live and will be moving soon. The move will take most of the money I have saved and it would be difficult to provide gifts for my children. Any help you could offer would mean so much to my children and I. Thank you so much and God Bless!

Youth Happenings

Mid-High Youth Group Activity Reminder

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 Move, 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

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 al.kitsmiller@newhopepc.net

Christmas Concert

On Sunday December 21st at 5:30pm come hear the joyous songs of Christmas. You will hear many familiar and traditional songs. The adult choir will present a song composed by one of its members. Our adult and children's choirs as well as other groups will be entertaining us while we enjoy a meal. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season.

If you can make cookies for dessert, call Tina Johnson at 939-0855. Please complete the insert in the bulletin so we can make sure we have enough food.

Shopping on Main

It's time for Christmas shopping and Main Street has some special evening shopping dates set up for the holidays. We will be meeting at 4:30 PM on Saturday, December 21 at Lewis & Clark Restaurant (corner of Main Street & First Capitol in St. Charles) for dinner before we shop. If you want to join us later, locate us by calling Deb Morris on her cell phone at 636-734-5618. We will do some shopping and then end our evening back at Lewis & Clark for coffee & dessert. The shops are open until 9. For more information or questions, please contact Deb Morris.

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, so that we might 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



**The nursery is in
need of volunteers
for the
5:00 Christmas Eve
service.
If you are available,
please contact
Christie Tutschulte.**

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. The Worship & Music Committee will continue to allow up to three people to sign up for flowers each week. The Church Office will call the week you are signed up to remind you and to ask about the occasion.

Gifts of the Magi

Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents.

--Jo March (Louisa May Alcott)

Jo's right. Remember when she grumbled about not having any money for presents in Little Women? Christmas is about gifts. Always has been. But we feel uncomfortable with this emphasis on gimme, gimme, gimme. Buy, buy, buy. Charge, charge, charge. We admonish our children to remember the reason for the season, even though we have difficulty remembering it ourselves when we're caught up in the chaos and commotion of the holidays.

Today, let's ruminate on the Real role of gifts in the Christmas story. Those gifts were wrapped in miracles, which is probably why we can't find them at malls or in mail-order catalogs. The first gift was of Spirit: unconditional Love. The next gift came from a Jewish teenager named Miriam, who was known to her family and friends as Mary. Her Christmas present was selflessness, the complete surrender of ego and will needed to bring Heaven down to earth. The gifts of her fiancé, Joseph, were trust and faith. He trusted that Mary wasn't pregnant with another man's child; he believed there really was a Divine Plan to get them through this mess. The Child brought forgiveness. Wholeness. Second chances. The angels' gifts were tidings of comfort, joy, and peace, the reassurance that there was nothing to fear, so rejoice. The shepherd boy's gift was generosity: his favorite lamb for the baby's first day present. The innkeeper's wife's gifts were compassion and charity: a warm, dry, safe place for the homeless family to stay, her best coverlet to wrap the new mother and little one, a meal for Joseph, the donkey's fresh hay.

Oh yes, Christmas is all about gifts. Nothing but gifts. But such gifts! Gifts tied with heart-strings. Gifts that surprise and delight. Gifts that transform the mundane into the miraculous. Perfect gifts. Authentic gifts. The gifts of the Magi. To give such gifts. To truly open our hearts to receive such gifts gratefully. Christmas just won't be Christmas without any presents!

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Dec 07

8:45 Worship & Communion
9:45 Education Hour
11:00 Worship & Communion
12:00 Congregational Mtg.
1:00 Phillips' Faith Family
3:00 Session & Deacons
Joint Mtg.

Monday, Dec 08

5:30 Supper w/ Santa Mtg.
7:00 Session Mtg.

Tuesday, Dec 09

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

Wednesday, Dec 10

7:30 Choir Rehearsal
7:00 Building Committee

Thursday, Dec 12

6:00 Healthy Beginnings

Saturday, Dec 13

9:45 Mid-Highs at Oasis
Food Pantry
5:00 Supper with Santa

Sunday, Dec 14

8:45 Worship & Communion
9:45 Education Hour
11:00 Worship

Monday, Dec 15

6:00 Sr. High Bible Study

Tuesday, Dec 16

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

Wednesday, Dec 17

6:00 Girl Scouts
6:30 Female Connection
7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec 18

6:00 Healthy Beginnings

Friday, Dec 19

7:00 Mid-High Movie Night

Saturday, Dec 20

8:30 Men's Breakfast

Sunday, Dec 21

8:45 Worship & Communion
9:45 Education Hour
(No BLAST)
11:00 Worship
5:30 Choir Christmas
Concert & Dinner

Usher Schedule

Sunday, Dec 14th

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

Sunday, Dec 21st

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