

New Hope News

Children's Worship Bags Coming in January

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The Children's Worship Bags are coming soon and will contain worship helps, coloring sheets, a lectionary based children's bulletin, crayons, a small snack and special seasonal activities from time to time. The bags are designed to help make worship more comprehensible and meaningful for children ages 3 through fifth grades. (Parents may request a bag for younger or older children at their own discretion.)

The bags will be personalized with each child's name so that they may add a Bible, a stuffed animal or other treasure. In order to insure that each child has a bag with his or her name on it, we are asking parents to fill out a form (found on the welcome table).

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Phillips, Chair of the Worship and Music Committee or Barbi Smith, Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation.

The Gospel of Matthew: GOD WITH US

This study takes us to the heart of the controversy in the Church of the first century. With all we have to unite us, we still find ways to create division. It is an age old question: do we focus on what sets us apart, or what holds us together? According to Matthew, the Church is an earthly manifestation of the kingdom of God, and it is comprised of Jesus' followers who have been called out to live righteously in the world and to serve in the manner of the Christ with deep humility and unfathomable forgiveness. In Jesus, there is a new community at work for the blessing of the world.

This study, which will be led by Barbi Smith, begins Thursday, January 15 at 7:30 p.m. and continue through April 23, 2009 in the Upper Conference Room. The cost is \$25 per resource book, and couples can share. You may register by calling the church office at 636 936-2200 or emailing Barbi Smith at bsmith@newhopepc.net.

IN ORDER TO HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCE BOOKS,
PLEASE REGISTER BY JANUARY 4!

New Hope Presbyterian Church Preschool

Enrollment time for the New Hope Presbyterian Church Preschool, which will debut in September 2009 is just around the corner! After both worship services on January 11, church members will have the opportunity to enroll their children in either a 3 year old, 4 year old, or 5 year old morning or afternoon classes. The morning classes will meet from 9 – 11:30 a.m. and the afternoon classes will meet from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Please watch for more detailed enrollment information as well as a tuition schedule for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Evangelism Tip of the Month:

Share the message, love and spirit of Christmas through word and deed.

January Meal-a-Month

2 can Beef Stew
1 box of rice
or noodles
1 can vegetables
1 can fruit
1 pkg. of cookies

Please find it in
your heart to share!

From the Pastor...

New Year's! This day is bursting with great symbolism of potential and new beginnings. It's a time for "resolutions," and our hope is for those resolutions to become more than symbols, but rather realized in our lives to make us new or improved or better or whatever. My prayers are with you for whatever resolutions you may be making for 2009!

I've written to you in the past at this time of year about my annual ritual of closing out one year and beginning another. Each year at this time I get a new calendar. I am still so primitive that I actually use a paper calendar. And I need an actual pen to write with. I have yet to step up to a PalmPilot or iPhone, or other such hand-held electronic device. I like to see my week all laid out in front of me. It makes me feel so "twentieth-century", but I'll get over it. When I get my new "Week

-at-a-Glance" every year, I begin filling in meetings and appointments that I have already scheduled. I select just the right pen I want to use and then proceed carefully to begin writing on the fresh, blank pages. I write as neatly as possible, only in the space given for the time allotted. I vow each year to keep my calendar clean and neat. No scribbles or scratches or lapping over into another time slot (or, heaven forbid, another day).

I haven't even bought my 2009 calendar yet! It happens like this every year. There's a lot at stake in getting a new calendar. Sitting with it in my hands, I feel the weight of so much time ahead, so much to do and yet so much potential, too. Who knows what will happen in this year ahead. By the end of it, the pages will be like a doodle pad, with appointments scratched in different colors of ink.

Rescheduled appointments will be crossed through and some of the pages will surely have brown rings from my coffee cup.

Such is the story of this Christmas season. For ages, people thought they could reach perfection by doing things...being good, following the Law, achieving this and accomplishing that. People still live like that, but it never worked and never will. Then God came to us and, in Jesus Christ, made us perfect so we could stop trying to do it on our own. In Jesus Christ, God wipes our slate clean and gives us a new beginning. Thanks be to God, and Happy New Year!

Faithfully,

Chris

Mid-High Youth Trivia Night

WHO: You *and* Your Family *and* Your Friends *and* Your Neighbors!

WHEN: Saturday, January 18 from 5:00—8:00 pm. Doors open at 4:30 pm.

WHERE: New Hope Presbyterian Church
1580 Kisker Road St. Charles, MO 63304

COST: *Free!* However, free will donations will be collected by the Youth to go toward Mid High Youth Activities and to OASIS Food Pantry. We will also be having a canned food drive with all donations given, as well, to the OASIS Food Pantry.

SNACKS: Soda and popcorn provided and served by the youth!

QUESTIONS: Contact Amy Kitsmiller at: 314-795-9759 or alkitsmiller@newhopepc.net.

See You There!

January Celebrations

Anniversaries:

Matt & Kay Johnson 1-01-00
Jim & Sue White 1-20-68
John & Anne Ledbetter 1-22-00
Ed & Julie Nowakowski 1-25-92
Shawn & Stephanie Rogers 1-28-06

Birthdays:

Kay McCarthy 1-01
Al Beamer 1-01
Del Phillips 1-02
Craig Potts 1-04
Deryl Botkin 1-05
Alison Griffith 1-05
Frank Pupillo 1-06
Bethany Gerard 1-07
Katherine Groat 1-07
Grace Harmon 1-07
Sally Gerke 1-08
Mary Murphy 1-10
Josh Dalton 1-11
Kristen Moore 1-11
Tim Armstrong 1-12
Chris Griffith 1-12

Jim Pettit 1-13
Sawyer Reidt 1-14
Faith Roegge 1-15
Jim Salter 1-17
Katie Platt 1-17
Sam Connor 1-18
Leila Diveley 1-18
Oneita Barks 1-18
Fern Stewart 1-19
Bunny Gauthier 1-22
Emmett Kelewae 1-23
Amelia Ward 1-23
Hannah Dame 1-25
Phil Diveley 1-25
Alyssa Deranja 1-26
Susan Sanker 1-27
Dannika Ward 1-27
Kim Graber 1-28
Arlene Lynch 1-28
Joann Stewart 1-28
Georgie Dawkins 1-29
Kaitlin Isbell 1-30
Jim White 1-30
Carlin Bippen 1-31

Mid Highs

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!

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

E-Mail at al.kitsmiller@newhopepc.net

Building Committee

The building committee wants you to know that they are taking notes and trying to incorporate everyone's comments into the design of the new sanctuary. So please continue to voice your opinion, we want to hear from everyone!

The members of the building committee include:

Allen Sebaugh – Chairman

Nancy Stuenkel

Clark Hurrell

Kathy Freeman

Kevin Harms

Tom Wilson

Jim Phillips

Clark Hurrell

Advisors Needed for Children's Fellowship

Adult advisors are needed for the new Children's Fellowship program to begin on Sunday, January 11 (from 3 – 4:30 p.m.). Advisors should be people who LOVE children, LOVE God, LOVE to have FUN and are Safe Sanctuary certified (or willing to be)! Advisors will not be responsible for planning, although input will be gladly accepted! If you think this opportunity might be right for you, please contact Barbi Smith, Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation at bsmith@newhopepc.net or (636)936-2200.

Contributions

Please note that all contributions received in the church office by noon on December 31st will be credited on their giving statements for 2008. Anything received after that time, even if postmarked prior to that, will be credited on 2009. Thanks for your understanding.

Offering envelopes for 2009 have been ordered but are not anticipated until in early January. Thanks for understanding and still keeping up with your giving by using a pew envelope.

Youth Sunday School Class

The Young Adult Sunday Class (primarily for adults age 18 – 30 years) has begun to meet each Sunday during the education hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) Our current study is "The Prayers of Jesus" from the Deeper Connections Series. We can be found meeting in the office of the Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation (and if we aren't there – look in the kitchen!). All our welcome! For more information, contact Barbi Smith.

Children's Fellowship

January 11 marks the beginning of our new children's fellowship program, which will meet weekly on Sunday afternoons from 3 – 4:30 p.m. Lots of fun activities will be planned for boys and girls in Kindergarten through Fifth Grades. We will need adult advisors who love kids and are Safe Sanctuary certified (or willing to be!). If you are interested, please contact Barbi Smith, Director of Christian and Spiritual Formation (636 936-2200).

Annual Reports

Annual Reports are due no later than January 7, 2009. All reports are to be done single spaced in Times New Roman, size 11. They are to be submitted as an attachment via e-mail to newhopepresby@juno.com or submitted on a disk to Cathy Holder in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office at 936-2200. Your timely submission of your report is gratefully appreciated!

New Year Prayer

Give us the kindness to hear
with compassion,
to offer support,
loving comfort, and care.

Give us the courage to do
what is needed,
the wisdom to choose
what is right and fair.

Give us the vision to see what
is possible.

Give us the faith
that will help pave the way
for a present that is hopeful,
a future that is peaceful—

Give us a heart to bring joy
to each day.

Recipe for a Happy New Year!

Take twelve whole months,
Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy,
Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or
thirty-one different parts,
but don't make up the whole batch at once.
Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith,
one part of patience, one part of courage,
and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope,
faithfulness, generosity, and kindness.
Blend with one part prayer,
one part meditation, and one good deed.
Season the whole with a dash of good spirits,
a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play,
and a cupful of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love.
Cook thoroughly over radiant joy,
garnish with a smile,
and serve with quietness, unselfishness,
and cheerfulness.
You're bound to have a happy new year.

--- Author Unknown ---

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Dec 28

8:45 Worship & Comm.
9:45 Education Hour
(No BLAST)
11:00 Worship

Tuesday, Dec 30

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

Wednesday, Dec 31

New Year's Eve
1:00 Office Closes

Thursday, Jan 01

Office Closed

Sunday, Jan 04

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

11:00 Worship & Comm.
12:00 Mid-High Mtg.
5:00 Advent Family Dinner

Monday, Jan 05

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

Tuesday, Dec 30

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

Wednesday, Jan 07

Annual Reports Due
7:00 Bldg. Comm. Mtg.
7:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Jan 08

10:00 Stay-at-Home-Moms
Circle

1:00 Agape Circle
6:00 Healthy Beginnings
7:00 Joy Circle

Saturday, Jan 10

9:45 Mid-Highs at Oasis
Food Pantry



Happy New Year,
New Hope!

Usher Schedule

Sunday, Jan 6th

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

Sunday, Jan 13th

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

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