

## New Hope News

### Late Summer 2009 Newsletter

New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church  
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#### PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

*It is an amazing thing to watch a well known space be so totally transformed. As the renovations continue to advance upon the Education wing of the church and fond memories are revisited for what that space has been and provided, excitement is mounting for what will be. Imagine, a full kitchen that will allow us to do more of the work of feeding right there at church. Imagine, two nursery rooms filling up with young children. Imagine the youth room more spacious, habitable and inviting. Imagine a school for preschoolers with a before and after school program to include kindergarteners and up. Consider, reaching out into our community by offering a feeding program of some kind to our homeless. Consider, offering parenting classes and/or a respite time by providing childcare one evening a month. There are so many ways in which we of New Hope can reach out to our neighbors of North Pole through offerings that we make addressing their needs. What is God putting on your heart for our church's ministries? What brain storm have you had that would add excitement to our presence in the Valley? There are so many gifts and graces among us that the possibilities seem endless. So what do you see as needed ministries?*

*A truth that has been lived out time and again within churches is that as long as a faith community lives its faith looking outward to the larger community and thoughtfully addressing the needs that they see, that community grows. It grows because the church first grounds itself in strong relationship with God. It then lives for helping build up God's kingdom on earth. Then it grows because those touched by the church's care and work often want to join in*

*and be a part of such a caring, active group. I would love for our faith community to become that vibrant, outward looking/reaching community who grounded in faith makes a dramatic difference in our Valley and town. The school is a big step in that direction. But let's not stop there. Look around you and see with God's eyes what is needed in our neighbor's lives to further empower them in faith, in life, in love. Then let us come together to shape our ministry so that those needs are met, Christ is served and God's kingdom continues to grow.*

*In awe of this adventure of faith,  
Pastor Karen*



### **A FIFTH SUNDAY HYMN SING**

Will be happening August 30, 2009. So be thinking about what your favorite hymns/songs are for church and let's lift our voices in praise of our Triune God. To help with planning for that day, take some time and list your top five hymns/songs:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW YOUTH WORKERS**

To our delight the PSR Committee has been able to hire a couple as the new youth workers for New Hope. Danita and Troy Orr were hired July 15, 2009 to reawaken our youth program. Danita grew up in our church and has fond memories of a strong youth program in her teen years. Troy comes out of the Nazarene tradition, strong in its education and ministry to youth. He joins Danita in wanting to give back to God and the church by sharing their faith and helping our youth grow in theirs.

Danita also works for Design Alaska and is a Mary Kay representative. She brings a strong desire to be in active mission work. Troy works at Eielson AFB as an F16 Crew Chief. He brings a strong joy in Christian music and hopes to help the group get to the occasional concert in our Valley. Both are excited about doing activities with other youth groups in the valley as well. Danita and Troy also have a son,

Christian, who is the joy of their lives. Please help us welcome them into this new position within our church.



There will be a Back to School BBQ at the Illingworth's Farm on August 16<sup>th</sup> for the Jr. and Sr. High Youth, Families and Friends. The time is to be determined but it will be in the afternoon. It will be a fun time for the youth to get to know us and us to know them. There will be discussions on a few items before the start of school, so come ready to eat and have a great time.



## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE CHANGE BEGINNING AUGUST 23<sup>rd</sup>

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM  
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM



I took a look at our Profit & Loss sheet for January through June yesterday, using that document I've tried to determine our current financial situation.

First, I should explain that we divide our budget into three main sections; Building Fund, New Hope Church School (NHCS, formerly the New Hope Open Arms CDC), and Operating Fund. These have sub-groups under them. This note will not get into the subgroups, but should give all members a big-picture view of how our finances look right now.

We have raised \$154,867.33 for the Building Fund so far this year. \$77,250 of that is either bond or loan, all of which we will have to pay back. That leaves \$77,617.33 that we have raised free and clear. We had expected to raise \$50,000. To date we have spent \$113,167.70 from this category. This means that our heads are above water in this category.

In the NHCS category we expected to bring in \$97,484. We have not brought anything in yet. From what I can tell we have spent \$3,165.23 in this category so far. We are moving forward with a plan to offer Christian Education during the school year, (though it is different than when we set up the budget) so I see this category gaining more expenses as we get closer to the start of school.

We have raised \$103,955.41 in Operating Funds. We expected to raise \$133,800 by this point in the year. This puts us under the mark by about \$29,000. The main reason for this deficit appears to be a combination of things. Specifically, we haven't held our major fundraising events for the year (expected income of \$12,000), we are under the expected amount for Loose Offering giving (down by \$11,784.73 for this time of the year), and a "Step Up Faith Offering" has not happened yet (projected to raise \$11,500). Fortunately we've only spent \$68,520.27 from the Operating Fund at this time. However, what this means is that quite a few of our ministry area's are not spending money, even though they have a budget (the budget's only good if the money is there).

I know that many people are paying for things around the church out of pocket and not reporting the expense. Others are contributing much valued time and talents. Others are praying every day. Many are doing all three. This is admirable, and it increases my pride and sense of joy in belonging to the New Hope MP church family. It also worries me though. I am not advocating giving just to meet the budget. But I am advocating giving of time, talents, and/or money that meets our obligations and allows us to continue our work of furthering God's Kingdom here and now. I ask all of you to continue to pray for our church and how we can best serve Christ in our community.

Shalom,

Jim Wolverton

Trustee Representative

## Christian Education - Back to School, Back to Sunday School

With the start of school this August, our Sunday School calendar is coordinating with our school district calendar to make it easier to fit Sunday School into our week's routine.

Our New Hope Sunday School Year, 2009-2010, begins on August 23, the Sunday after public school begins. Start time will be 9:30 am, with a brief gathering in the sanctuary for music, birthday recognition, announcements and an opening prayer.

This year's C. E. Program will find our children's Sunday School expanding to five classes as we move into the newly remodeled wing. The general purpose area of the new wing will also have room for a large adult class.

Children's Classes we will offer include: a Nursery Class for our babies & toddlers up through age 2; a Preschool Class for 3's & 4's; the K-2nd Grades Class; and two Older Elementary Classes; Girls 3rd - 6th Grades and Boys 3rd - 6th Grades.

With our remodel we continue to press forward with the ministry of Sunday School, believing in its key mission to strengthen our faith through study and discussion in a manner that causes us to grow together as the Body of Christ. We will not let it drop off as is popular in many church movements today. We value Christian Education.

May I challenge you to set a new goal of adding Sunday School to your fall calendar and see what a difference it makes in your faith journey and in your satisfaction with your church experience?



John Calvin wrote in his commentary on Zechariah, "This is our wisdom, to be learners to the end." (Quoted in Presbyterian Outlook, May 11, 2009,

p. 5) Isn't that what we value in our mainline tradition, to add to our faith knowledge? Let us intentionally decide we will find opportunities to be learners to the end and teach our children to do the same.

What do you say we start by gathering for Sunday School, on August 23? Come and learn with us.

-Linda File  
Christian Education Chair

### Opportunities in Christian Education for Adults. . .

Adult Teachers' Meeting - August 9th, following the Worship Service. All who are able and willing to teach adult classes for the coming Sunday School year, please stay after the service to discuss topics, schedule, and help plan an overview of topics for the year. We have some excellent materials on hand for you to choose from and are open to ideas you may bring, including ongoing topics from past sessions, now ready for continuation. All are welcome!

### New Ministry Opportunity in the Sunday School!

The Baby and Toddler Class (Nursery) up through age 2 is in need of a teacher and assistant for the new Sunday School year. More than babysitting, there will be a curriculum and opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the littlest ones here at New Hope.

If this is the ministry for you, please contact Linda File ASAP. ([file@alaska.net](mailto:file@alaska.net))



**New Hope's Garage Sale, Craft Extravaganza and Bake Sale** will be held July 31st and August 1st from 9:00 to 4:00. Please bring your items (in good condition) to church July 26th to July 30th. **Set-up** will be on the 30th from 9:00-1:00...you are invited to help while searching for "pre-sale" bargains. Bake sale items are also welcomed. **Volunteers** are needed for the following shifts each sale day...9-11:30, 11:30-2:00 and 2:00-4:00. **PLEASE** contact Brenda at [bsadler05@hotmail.com](mailto:bsadler05@hotmail.com) or 488-0655 if you can help.

### SEARCHING FOR GRACIOUS COMMUNICATION

It is a truth that when a household goes through remodeling or building of living space, a great deal of stress is put upon them. This includes a church body. Nothing is where 'it should be', space is having to be used differently, the ease of getting around has gone. It takes a great deal of patience, understanding and compassion to stay present in that circumstance.

In recent months a disturbing behavior has been appearing here at New Hope. Out of stress about building and ministry changes that have been going on in these months, some people are making hurtful assumptions about others. Because you may have been challenged or made uncomfortable due to changes that are happening around our building and our ministry does not mean that those doing or leading the changing have done so thoughtlessly. In fact, the leadership of the church has been thinking and rethinking things through many times before it actually is implemented. Are these changes always smooth and without need of improvement? No. So how can comments / critiques be shared in a constructive way? By opening your comments with lines such as: "Can you tell me the plans that have been put into place for...?" "Tell me your thinking on..." "Help me understand why..." This kind of phrasing helps keep both parties in the conversation and fewer opportunities for defensiveness and/or hurt feelings to arise. Also, let's pay attention to the tone of our voice when we are asking these questions. To assume that the other has done no thinking about the situation including other possible solutions to it is to not listen when the response comes and it will bring up defensive behaviors in hope of not being hurt.

Please, be thoughtful in the future and when something is bothering you say a prayer, breathe deeply letting that breath out slowly, and listen for God's answer. Then consider how you need to approach the matter so that all parties can learn and grow. This is what being a part of the body of Christ is about. Whether we are in the church, our families or communities, these are basic guidelines to helping all people move forward in love and grace.

## TRUSTING GOD WITH ALL WE HAVE AND ARE

This time of year it can be pretty easy to think of how much we are given by God. Look around you: the beauty of our Valley, the warmth of the sunshine, time of respite and vacations, visiting friends and family. The mission teams. Our cup overflows. So what have you done lately to give thanks to God for that bounty? After all, it is all gifts from God out of God's love for us. So how are you being a good steward of these gifts?

Too often, we think of stewardship as only for the church and then in the church as being just once a year to raise money for the budget but it's not. "Stewardship is about our relationship with God. The question is: are we willing to fully submit ourselves to God with all that we have and all that we are? Are we willing to release all that God has given us to be used by God?" [AUMC Babylon pub., Leila Disburg, AUMC Director of Communication Ministries] This summer at VBS a child came in with her daily offering to go towards our mission project. She didn't want to lose it and wanted to make sure it went to the mission so much she came running up upon her arrival and handed the coins over to be put in the offering plate right away. Oh that you and I would grow such a heart for giving and giving back because we have been given so much.

Take a look around you. What do you see? Your home? Its furnishings? Food on your plate? Family? Friends? Toys? Memories/thoughts of a recent or coming vacation? A garden flourishing? All these and so much more are blessings, gifts from our creator. So how are you saying THANK YOU, GOD!? Do you volunteer to help around church, around the community, with those in need? Do you give of your time

and energy as well as your monies? What about prayer time? Answering a call to ministry? Random acts of kindness out in the world?

As we move into and through these next few weeks anticipating the beginning of the Fall schedule which will include the beginning of our own church school, prayerfully consider and then act upon opportunities to be in gracious stewardship. Come help out as we continue work on the new Education Wing. Make a commitment to take care of the yard at church. Be a teacher or teacher's assistant this year. Like to fund raise? Help the Trustees with fundraisers. The ways are endless as to how you can give back to God for all you have been so graciously given.

New Hope has shown its northern hospitality! The visiting teams met many people of the congregation and worked with some. Some had been to Alaska before, but realized that our Alaska is quite different from other areas. They were surprised that the weather got so hot! They were housed, fed and entertained by many. We may have over done the moose, halibut, and salmon bit, because both teams went out for steaks during the last week of their stay! Thanks to all of you who had a part in providing for these mission teams, including Ice Alaska for the use of their van and to all who helped with transportation and luggage. We faced barriers which we had not anticipated when we first agreed to have the teams come up. With the help of so many (to many to mention) we overcame the biggest portion of them and made their mission effective and made many new friends. Thanks to all. *Irma & Ethel (hospitality coordinators)*

*Kaktovik Presbyterian Church: submitted by Joe & Lynne Krizek*

After driving up the Dalton ('Haul Road') Highway in late June, we parked our truck and camper in the Frontier Airlines parking lot in Deadhorse and hopped a 30 minute flight to Kaktovik. We spent four fun-filled days at the manse of the Kaktovik Presbyterian Church and were escorted around town by Pastor Mary Ann Warden. With camcorder in hand, we filmed every inch of the church and manse to document the major and minor improvements that might be considered for a future work team. A DVD of this footage has been prepared and viewed by Pastor Karen and the Outreach Committee. Copies have also been sent to Rev. Curt Karns at the Alaska Presbytery office and to Rev. Warden. The Outreach Committee will hold an open meeting this fall of anyone interested in viewing the DVD and learning about the needs of our sister church.



OPENING THIS FALL - NEW HOPE CHURCH SCHOOL  
"A Caring Environment for Preschool and School-Age Children"

Nicole Pugh, Director of the New Hope Church School, has been

working all summer to prepare a program of Preschool for 2-4 yr. olds and Before and After School Classes for School-age children through 5th grade. Meeting in our newly remodeled C.E. Wing, the school is enrolling now for its August 17th opening (first day of public school). An Open House for interested parents will be held 8/2(1-4pm) & 8/3 (4-7pm).

New Hope Church School Now Hiring Teachers and Assistants, Full/Part Time  
Pay \$9-\$13/hr.

For New Hope Church School details contact Nicole at [jn6918@hotmail.com](mailto:jn6918@hotmail.com).



The next book club meeting will be Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm at Darcy Sharp's new house in Salcha. The reading list for the remainder of the year is listed below. We are seeking more readers and would love to have anyone interested join us. Call Marit @ 488-1391 or Ingrid @ 488-1533 for more information.

- August: The Soloist by Steve Lopez
- September: Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt by Anne Rice
- October: This Present Darkness by Frank Peretti
- November: The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
- December: Gift of Acabar by Og Mandino



### School Supplies Needed

It is that time of year again when the BACK TO SCHOOL SALES hit local merchants. As you shop, please consider putting into your shopping cart any of the items listed below\*. These items are given to students in the school district who are without the means to purchase new school supplies.

- Packs of notebook paper (wide ruled)
- Spiral notebooks
- Writer's composition notebooks
- Folders (without fasteners)
- 3-Ring binders
- Binder separation tabs
- Rulers (in inches and centimeters)
- Glue sticks (large size)
- Elmer's glue
- Fiskars scissors
- Protractors
- Calculator (four function)
- Pencils (#2)
- Pencil sharpener (with cover)
- Colored pencils
- Pencil boxes
- Pencil top erasers
- Zippered pencil pouches
- Erasers (pink pearl and gum)
- Ink pens (black, blue and red)
- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Highlighters
- Ziploc gallon & sandwich size bags

•Backpacks

•3x5 index cards

\* This is a composite supply list taken from Supply Lists posted on the school district website.

And remember, as you are doing your last garage sales for the summer; please be on the lookout for elastic waist athletic pants (children's sizes MEDIUM – LARGE – X-LARGE) to be donated to area school nurse offices.

## Hospice of the Tanana Valley

Hospice of the Tanana Valley has been providing hospice care since 1986 to those with terminal illness and who have suffered loss through death. Hospice care focuses on compassion, comfort and quality of life. Services included non-medical patient care, volunteer help, bereavement support, lending library, and loan closet. To make a referral for hospice services, call the office at 474-0311. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, training is offered two times a year, in spring and fall. Because of contributions from individuals, organizations and businesses, all services are provided at no cost to patients. When planning your charitable giving, please consider making a contribution to Hospice of the Tanana Valley.



## NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REMODEL

A very special thank you to Cliff and Jackie Pananen and Marit Vick for their exceptional dedication to the project, volunteering numerous hours. The stellar efforts of these fine people included remodeling the church office, completing the new roof, repainting the outside of the building, and other assorted tasks, including coordinating the use of our mission team volunteers.

Thanks to all who came to scheduled and unscheduled work days.

All continued help is welcome in lending a hand to get this project done by August 17th.

*-Dan File  
Volunteer / Project Manager*

## Summer Ministry Appreciation To:

-Our North Carolina teams who gave four weeks combined on the remodel of our C.E. Wing



- Westminster Presbyterian's Mission Team for their work among us in presenting "Adventure Camp" and working on the Church School playground out back.

-Irma Gallagher for her amazing work planning for lodging and hosting of the North Carolina teams.

-Ethel Stoneman for her assistance to Irma and for acquiring the use of the van from Ice Alaska for our teams' transportation. The Gauls for the use of their vehicle.

-All who so generously provided RV's and housing for our teams. The many avenues of housing provided so graciously and creatively is typical of the generosity of the congregation here at New Hope.

-All who donated food; New Hoppers do this so wonderfully and so well.

To claim a vision of God (to develop and run a Christian based school with before and after school programs) and move forward with that vision in the midst of economically challenging times has required of our community a strong, true-grit kind of steadfast faith and faithfulness that has not always been easy to hold onto. Out of the stress of being so bold and daring we have waxed and waned in our financial, spiritual and physical support of its development. This has been hard on everyone and...you need to know that in the midst of our boldness, God's Spirit has been very busy trying to encourage us to keep faithful in seeing it through. There is a wider community around us that believes in this vision we are holding and has been stepping up to help us make it a reality. Listen to this!

-The dirt contractor delivered four loads to our back playground, spread it, and said his charges to the church would be only \$100.

-The carpet layer came to look at the job and said he would be giving us a 50% discount on his labor.

-The taping contractor is not charging us his contractor's fee - no overhead or profit - hourly wages for his workers only. Plus, the taper on the job is going to go the extra mile and also texture the building at no additional cost. Our faithful painters will be happy to know that this means no taping off windows for them - it will all be done by him!

-A different church member has offered to paint the building's interior with their sprayer.

-Slayden Plumbing donated their labor and gave us a \$5000 donation towards our project.

This is all besides the two Volunteer In Mission teams from West North Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference who both donated not only their time and efforts to help us do a major part of the work needed to rebuild the ATCOs but also gave us sizeable donations towards its completion. Plus the youth mission team that came from Westminster Presbyterian Church

of Olympia, WA who helped with the playground and sidewalks when they weren't running the midsummer Adventure Camp for our neighborhood.

So many ways that the Spirit of God is reaching out to us to encourage us to continue with making this vision a reality. If you have found yourself a bit weary regarding this project, take the time to be in prayer, come help out some day, evening, weekend, walk through the renewed space and allow the Holy Spirit to lift you up and renew you and your willingness to be a part of this ministry that will be New Hope Church School, the first step towards the greater vision of New Hope Open Arms Child Development Center. Together it not only is possible but will be a real blessing to our neighborhood, to the Valley as we serve our community at a serious point of need. To God be all glory and praise as we live our faith and serve in Christ's name.

All of these efforts and a myriad of others too numerous to recall combined to make this a summer of fruitfulness here at New Hope.

*New Hope is proud to participate in the sale of Fair Trade coffee, tea, hot chocolate, baking chocolate, and candy bars. To purchase, please see Marit during Sunday Morning Fellowship time.*

#### FAMILY FAVORITES FOR AN ALASKA KIDS COOKBOOK REQUESTED

Earlier this summer I took an "awesome" class entitled "Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom". For my final project, I am writing a six week after-school cooking unit on COOKING ALASKAN FOR KIDS. Hopefully, the gathering of "kid focused" vegetable, berry, fish, dairy, breads, etc. recipes made by Alaska children and their families will become an Alaskan Kids Cookbook.....and a benefit for our children's programs!

Please e-mail me the "cherished and delightful" recipes that created such fun moments in your home. My e-mail is [bsadler05@hotmail.com](mailto:bsadler05@hotmail.com) or give them to me at church. I'd like to complete the after-school project before school begins. Thanks...Brenda Sadler

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**



July:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> ~Tim & Jenny Bengs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ~Hannah Wolverton
- 5<sup>th</sup> ~Robin Marshall  
~Chris & Liz Beks
- 6<sup>th</sup> ~Burgenne Illingworth
- 7<sup>th</sup> ~Ken Austin, Ron Illingworth
- 8<sup>th</sup> ~Winn & Gloria Johnson
- 9<sup>th</sup> ~Kathy Bird
- 10<sup>th</sup> ~Barbara O'Connor, Colten Bengs
- 13<sup>th</sup> ~Erin Hughes
- 20<sup>th</sup> ~Deb Beck, Merle Jantz, Donna Reese
- 22<sup>nd</sup> ~MariAna Beks
- 26<sup>th</sup> ~Arlene Cavanaugh
- 28<sup>th</sup> ~Darcey Sharp
- 31<sup>st</sup> ~Beverly Ross

August:

- 1<sup>st</sup> ~Tim Walton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ~Sherry Camarata
- 6<sup>th</sup> ~Mike & Pat Thurman
- 9<sup>th</sup> ~Brenda Wolverton, Jackie Pananen
- 11<sup>th</sup> ~Pat Wise
- 12<sup>th</sup> ~Chris Illingworth
- 13<sup>th</sup> ~Lori Buzby, Cliff Pananen
- 16<sup>th</sup> ~Adam & Jenney Hughes
- 19<sup>th</sup> ~Jenney Hughes
- 25<sup>th</sup> ~Willy & Francie Cork
- 28<sup>th</sup> ~Pam Hughes, Aaron Reese
- 31<sup>st</sup> ~Josh Callow

**OFFICE AND WORSHIP INFORMATION**

**Sunday Worship Service:** 9:30 am through August 16th  
11:00am beginning August 23rd

**Sunday School:** Resumes August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am

**Church Office Hours:** Tuesday - Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm

**Pastor Karen's Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
10:00am to 12:00pm or by appointment

# August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Garage Sale 9-4
2 Worship 9:30am Church School Open House 1-4	3  Church School Open House 4-8	4	5	6	<b>7</b>	8  CPR Class 10am
9 Worship 9:30am  Adult CE Meeting	10	11	12	13  Book Club @ Sharp's 6:30pm	14	15
16 Worship 9:30am Youth BBQ @ Illingworth's	17 Church School Opening  Council 6:30	18	19	20	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am	31  Trustees Meeting					