



# New Hope News

Early Spring 2011

New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church 2371 Bradway Road North Pole, Alaska 99705 (907)488-9191

## Pastor's Ponderings...

Crisis. It comes in so many forms. Earthquakes and tsunamis, cancer, illnesses, death, loss of jobs, divorce, abuse, loneliness. The list can be overwhelming. The emotions consuming. The outlook hopeless. Without faith. Without faith and the acceptance of Christ as our Lord and Savior, God as our Creator, we can become lost to fear, loneliness, anger, selfishness. We can lose awareness of just how much of God's power is in our midst, awareness of that inner strength and compassion that empowers us to not only help ourselves but help others.

So rather than live life in such fear and anxiety, overwhelmed in the face of each of our crises, our challenges and hardships, let us learn from the psalmist and call upon our God in all times of our lives. Recognizing the strength of our God as in Psalm 62:1-2: "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken." Let us like the psalmist, who knew those moments of "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" (Ps. 22:1) also, from spending time with our God, come to know those moments of "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, your rod and staff, they comfort me." (Ps. 23:4) to "For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever." (Ps. 117:2). The psalmist in putting God first came to realize that when "I lift up my eyes to the hills" his help "comes from the Lord." (Ps. 121:1a, 2a). He learned so intimate is God's knowledge and awareness of him that "You know when I sit down and when I rise up;" (Ps. 139:2a). He learned that through all of life, the good, the bad and the ugly, God is a true God and faithful companion, worthy of our praise; "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart." (Ps. 138:1) and "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" (Ps. 150:6).

As you face your challenges of life and the world has its challenges as well, turn to God, to Christ in prayer. And let the Psalms be a source of helping you in that prayer to through all your states of being, anger, joy, hope, fear, overwhelmed, persecuted, alone, elation, wonder, etc. God can handle it. God is waiting for it. For when we take all things to Christ, to God, we can do and face all things with his strength and goodness.

In courage through this blessed journey of faith,

*Pastor Karen*



### *Holy Week Celebrations*

*Maundy Thursday  
April 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm*

*Good Friday Service  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
At Lord of Life Church  
Fellowship 6:30pm  
Service 7:00pm*

*Easter Sunday  
April 24<sup>th</sup>  
Breakfast 9:30am  
Worship 11:00am*

## Lent, Easter and Children – Pass it On



**March 13<sup>th</sup> was the first Sunday of Lent. Palm Sunday and Easter are coming. What a great time to renew our faith and pass it to our children!**

- In **Sunday School opening at 9:30 am**, we will be **journeying to Jerusalem**. We will learn new songs about Jesus. We will find out what Lent means for us.
  - Our children will continue as scripture readers** and prayer leaders in the opening session. This is great practice toward becoming public speakers. Most importantly, they participate in reading scripture, an important ministry and one that deserves dignity and practice. Let me know when your child is ready to begin as a reader and they will be included. We are also scheduling older readers for the worship service; let me know if your young person is interested.
  - Our expert teachers prepare engaging lessons every week** from our new curriculum, “Walk With Me”, teaching children the major themes and stories of the Bible in their first six years of school. This curriculum recognizes and reaches all learning styles and includes lots of fun! To see its amazing scope, see the poster on the wall just outside our C.E. Wing.
- On Palm Sunday our children will lead the Hosanna Parade**. They will also be part of telling the events of the week ahead, showing that much came between the hosannas and the empty tomb. In fact, without the cross, there would be no victory on Easter morning. We want them to understand this and to be able to tell the whole story of Jesus’ saving love for them. **They will sing on Easter**; all will be invited to join.

Because you’ve chosen to bring your family **home to a traditional church**, I believe you recognize the strength and the beauty of the traditions we sometimes take for granted. Rich symbols surround us. For example, each week candles remind us of the light of Christ among us, and leaving show us that Christ goes in us out to the world. Children do the lighting. The children participate in an activity exploring the day’s theme in the sanctuary. **They are included in the worship service.**

I invite you to come regularly and nurture your family’s faith at New Hope. All ages are needed, all are wanted, and all are missed when away. **As we sing in Sunday School... “I am the church, you are the church, we are the church, together!”**

See you in church!

Linda File, Christian Education Chair, New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church

file@alaska.net (Please contact me with your ideas on how we can serve your family through Christian Education; your input is needed and welcomed!)



## Easter Egg Hunt 2011

Sponsored by **New Hope Church School**

**Saturday, April 23, 11 am**

**Santaland RV Park, (next to Santa Claus House)**

**Come early (for the big start); bring a small (so all can receive) gathering basket, and a \$1 donation per child to benefit our school.**

Prize eggs, a visit by the Easter bunny, photo opportunities, and complimentary cookies (courtesy of 17M Homemakers)!

**Join in the fun as kids swarm over the grounds gathering filled eggs!  
(designated age division areas)**

Thanks to New Hope Methodist-Presbyterian Church, Santa's Seniors and Santa Claus House for their generous support.



Come and join us around the piano following morning worship for Choir Practice. We are currently preparing music for the Easter Season. New voices welcome and wanted!

Prayer requests can be called in or emailed to Patsy Bickmeier at 488-2014 or [pdbick@gmail.com](mailto:pdbick@gmail.com)



## Lenten and Easter Services Schedule

### **April 10<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday**

Children will bake the Communion bread and serve it.

11:00am



### **April 17<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**

Children's Palm Parade and Special Worship Activity

11:00am



### **April 21<sup>st</sup> Maundy Thursday Service**

6:30pm

### **April 22<sup>nd</sup> Community Good Friday Service**

At Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
1005 St. Nicholas Drive North Pole  
6:30pm Fellowship 7:00pm Worship



### **April 24<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**

9:30am Breakfast

11:00am Worship Service

## New Hope Church School

*New Hope Church School is a non-profit preschool and before & after school ministry for young children and their families. It is our goal to support and assist parents in the North Pole community in the all-important task of raising children. We offer a religious education program to help children learn and thrive in a safe, healthy and Christ-centered environment.*

### From the Director...

March is filled with longer days, spring break, and more snow. Like the month of March, our preschool days are full, but full of laughter, crackers, stories, cutting, coloring, block building, pretend play, and letters of the alphabet. Actually, I think we're "fuller" than March!

Kindness is our attribute this month. As the teachers and I think about ways to demonstrate and teach this to our students, we realize that it fits into every aspect of our lives. This month with the children we are emphasizing doing kind acts toward each other. With the preschoolers this means offering to open a cheese wrapper for someone who is struggling or sharing a blue crayon with a friend. It is a delight to see these children take kindness to heart and act upon it.

The content theme is Zoo, so we're looking at zoos as a place where people care for and are kind to the animals. Watch for our own zoo to soon appear in the fellowship room.

I returned from my trip to Seattle to find delightful gifts in the school office and I heard that the school luncheon was very well attended. Every gift will be used with joy and with the recognition that it arrived at school from a special person. Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness toward the church school.

~Terri



**March Friendship Lunch**  
Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> (last Sunday of the month)  
**Ole! Taco Salad and Ice Cream Sundaes**  
Stay after the service for lunch and donate what you might spend going out to a restaurant to the support of our school.



**Easter Egg Hunt Candy Needed!**  
We need many bags of small wrapped candies (chocolate kisses, eggs, etc.) to fill dozens and dozens of plastic eggs.  
Would you add a few bags to your basket on your shopping trips in the next few weeks and bring them to the church office? Santa's Seniors will be filling the eggs (which they generously purchase for us).

**Egg Hunt Helpers:**  
If you would like to help with all the logistics of the egg hunt, including hiding eggs, crowd and parking management, pick up, etc., please see Dan File. With an able crew we are able to accomplish this task in just a few hours.



The Youth Group has been busy! We are currently getting ready for the 30 Hour Famine happening April 29th to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Fundraising will be starting shortly as part of the Famine Weekend.

New Hope's Youth Group holds regular meetings each Friday at the church from 6-8:30pm, unless announced otherwise.

For questions or more information contact Youth Directors Troy and Danita Orr at 372-3065.



Coming  
April  
29-30th

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On an empty stomach...

The 30 Hour Famine is an international youth movement to fight hunger. It will bring our group closer together, feed hungry children and change our world.

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## Music & Ministry

The Worship Committee is very concerned that our worship music groups have all but disappeared. We are working hard to revitalize these groups. We need your help.

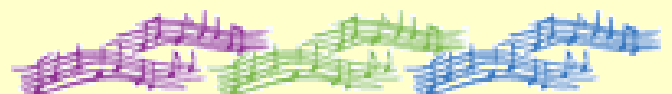
Bell Choir has a director – Kay Sanders and has begun practicing during the Sunday School hour Sunday Mornings from 9:30 – 10:30. Join them. If you have questions contact Kay at 488-3360

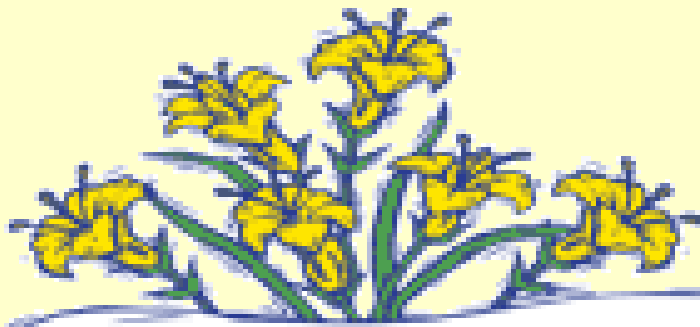
Contemporary Choir needs a guitar player and additional vocalists. Contact Chris or Elizabeth Beks at 488-0984.

Traditional Choir needs a director, but they are practicing Sundays at 12:15. Join them. If you have questions contact Linda File at 488- 2690

Special Music – If you can provide solo or small group pieces (piano, vocal, or other instruments) contact Marji Illingworth at 488-0446 or Linda File at 488-2690.

Please join the Worship Committee in their effort to bring these groups back as a regular part of our worship.



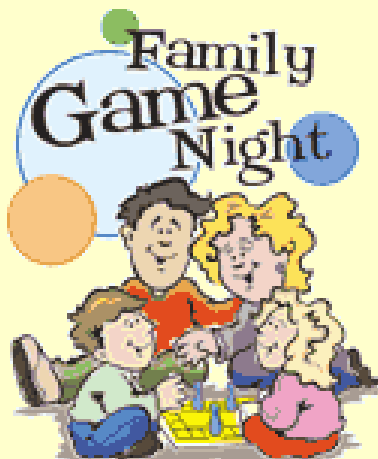


EASTER LILIES will be ordered to brighten the sanctuary on Easter morning. If you wish to purchase one, please see Marji Illingworth to sign up. Be sure to note on your check that \$12.00 (ea) is for lilies. If you pay by cash, mark an envelope or give it to Marji. The plant is yours to take home after the service.

**GAME NIGHT  
SATURDAY, MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00PM**

(at the church)

Bring snacks to share and come join us for a fun time.



**Spring Session  
of Sunday  
School!**

Please join us each Sunday Morning for Sunday School classes for all ages! We start at 9:30 am with an opening in the sanctuary. Then, pour yourself a cup of coffee and join one of our adult classes while the children meet with their teachers for classes for all age levels, from babies through youth.

-New Adult Classes:

1-Bible Study Class; Models of Discipleship from the New Testament. This week: A study in the gospel of Mark. Come and join teacher Dan File as we explore following Christ in a group study. In the large fellowship hall, C.E. Wing.

2-Pastor's Class; The Body of Christ. On being part of the body of Christ universal, and what it means to be part of the body here at New Hope Methodist Presbyterian, a union church. Taught by Pastor Karen. In the narthex, or foyer.

3-Bell Choir; Making Music! If you can count a beat and are willing to work hard, we're resurrecting the bell choir for the spring season. Our baby nursery & Sunday School is going on at the same time, so those with children who would like to join us at this new practice time are encouraged to attend. Led by Kay Sanders, in the sanctuary.



Friends and Family: Come!  
Join us in celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord!

Easter Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

We will begin with feasting and fellowship  
at 9:30am with an Easter Breakfast in our  
fellowship hall. There will be hot crossed buns  
and sweet rolls, egg casseroles, fruit and juices.

(please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex to bring a food item)

Then we will continue the celebration with Easter Morning Worship  
at 11am.

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Josef Galath Schruf
- 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Karl and Phyllis Reid
- 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Jeannette Gaul
- 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Dakota Sharp
- 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Terri Austin
- 15<sup>th</sup> ~ WinnJohnson  
Candace Albin
- 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Marjorie Illingworth
- 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Lindsey Elgin  
Danielle Beks
- 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Phyllis Reid
- Bob and Kathy Bird
- 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Pat Thurman
- 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Tim Beck



### April

- 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Dan and Linda File
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Caitlyn Elgin
- 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Garry and Brenda Keller
- 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Jay Samuel  
Babs Catt  
Lenny Jewkes
- 9<sup>th</sup> ~ John Miller
- 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Bob Bird
- 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Mike Thurman  
Sharron Hunter
- 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Corbin Sanders
- 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Vonda Brown
- 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Dick Rue
- 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Francie Cork  
Ben Hughes
- 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Nick Reid

## Congregational Ministries Announcements:

- Sundays March 27 and April 3 have been set for pictures to be taken to update our picture board. Cathy and Carl Johnson will be our photographers.
- There were a few who signed up for groups of eight that have not been activated yet. Plans are to still form a group of young women (with or without children) for sewing, knitting, crocheting or other skills, or just to get together. A leader is needed to jump start this program.
- Plans are also to reactivate the Women's Group before next year.
- The Men's Group has a good following and is currently working on a project building playhouses to auction off as a benefit for our church school.

Contact Irma Gallagher (488-0580) for questions concerning New Hope's Small Group Ministries as we have a group for you!



### OFFICE AND WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday Worship Service: 11:00am

Sunday School: 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

New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church

2371 Bradway Road

North Pole, Alaska 99705

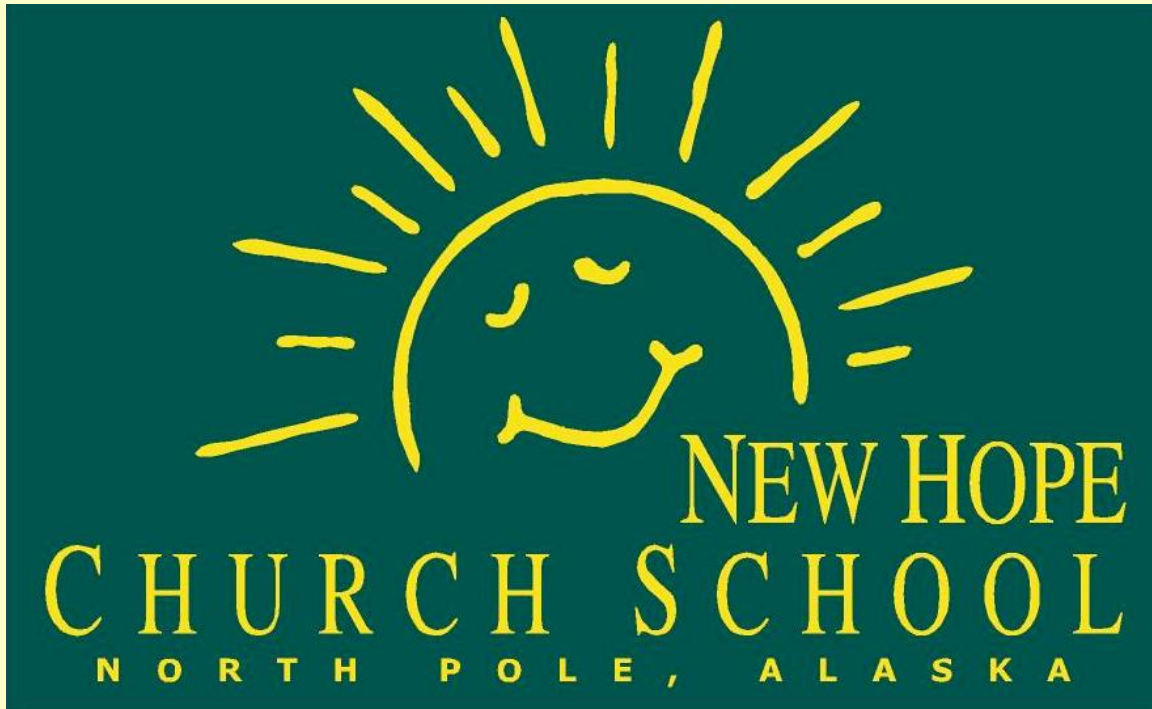
(907) 488-9191

[newhope@mosquitonet.com](mailto:newhope@mosquitonet.com)

[www.newhopempc.com](http://www.newhopempc.com)



Online Giving is a simple, easy, safe and secure means to make financial pledges or offerings to our church. Whether you want to submit a single donation or would like to set up scheduled giving, you can do it all online by using *Easy Tithe*. Click the link located on New Hope's website at [www.newhopempc.com](http://www.newhopempc.com) to set up or access your account.



## **Playhouses for Education**

As part of our fundraising efforts for New Hope Church School, the Men's Group is building playhouses to be auctioned off on April 30 at Santaland RV Park @ noon.

We are looking for materials on the list below. If you have materials you wish to donate, please contact: Dan File, chair; NHCS Board, 590-3747

### **Specific materials needed:**

100) 2x4x16	100) 2x6x12	2 sq) cedar shingles
10) 4x4x8	25) ½ CDX	25) 5/8 CDX
10) ½ or 5/8" T 1-11	6 sq) asphalt shingles	2 sq) cedar bv. siding
4 sq) vinyl siding	25) 2x2x8	fasteners: screws, nails
8) 4x6x12	paint	other similar materials

Thanks to Don Trometter for the use of his shop to build indoors.

**Join us at the Country Cafe in North Pole at 8 am Saturday mornings through April 16<sup>th</sup> for breakfast before we head over to work!**

Don's shop is located in the big blue building near the corner of Laurance Road and Richardson Highway.

# March Worship Schedule & Other Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Bible Study 6:30pm	3	4	5 Men's Breakfast 8am Country Cafe
6 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am	7 Quilters 10am	8 NHCS Board 6:30pm	9	10	11 Youth Group 6:00pm	12
13 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am Mustard Seed Club 4-6pm	14 Quilters 10am	15	16 Bible Study 6:30pm	17	18 Youth Group Lock-In 6:00pm  Young Adults @ AK Coffee Co 6:30pm	19
20 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am	21 Quilters 10am  Council Meeting 6:30	22	23 Bible Study 6:30pm	24	25 Youth Group 6:00pm	26 Family Game Night 6:00pm
27 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am Mustard Seed Club 4-6pm	28 Quilters 10am					

# April Worship Schedule & Other Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Youth Group 6:00pm	2 Men's Breakfast 8am Country Cafe
3 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am	4 Quilters 10am	5	6 Bible Study 6:30pm	7	8 Youth Group 6:00pm	9
10 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am Mustard Seed Club 4-6pm	11 Quilters 10am	12 Trustees 6pm	13 Bible Study 6:30pm	14	15 Youth Group 6:00pm  Young Adults @ AK Coffee Co 6:30pm	16
17 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am Mustard Seed Club 4-6pm	18 Quilters 10am  Council Meeting 6:30	19	20 Bible Study 6:30pm	21 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm	22 Good Friday Service @ Lord of Life 6:30 Fellowship 7:00 Worship	23 Community Egg Hunt @Santaland
24  <b>EASTER</b>  9:30am Breakfast 11am Worship	25 Quilters 10am	26	27 Bible Study 6:30pm	28	29  30 Hour Famine...	30  ...cont'd