

New Hope News

September 2009

New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church

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Pastor's Ponderings...

Sitting down to dinner last night with one of the Stryker soldiers just returned from Iraq I became acutely aware of how precious the simple things in life are. Through his eyes I saw; the sweetness of a warm embrace, the joy of an extravagance like a mocha, the quiet of savoring flavors that have been missed for over a year, the peace of simply being together and the gratitude of joining a family at table in safety and laughter.

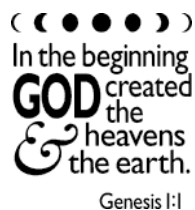
I also saw the edges of a soul being challenged by the trauma of having been at war for three of the last three and a half years. I saw the weariness of battle fatigue and a sense of being a bit lost without his battalion around; the clumsiness with utensils because they have had to make do with fingers or one utensil for the whole meal. We heard stories of meals served up that many people here would turn their nose up to in belief a 'better option' was right at hand. I said it was good to have him safe and I pray soundly back home. It opened a brief conversation about the 'sound' part. His soul is tormented for what he has seen and been a part of and so I pray.

I pray that the storm within may find peace and healing, and soon. That he may know the gentleness of relationship and much opportunity to play, to simply enjoy life without worry of warring. To sleep and find more restful nights than restless ones. I pray that he and all the soldiers may find quiet a lovely time rather than the precursor to tumult, whether inside or out. I pray they all find a warm and loving welcome home, gratitude from those of us who rest easy from their protection and willingness to fight on our behalf,

and a future that no longer needs to be at war. Rather that we can celebrate the glory of God's beautiful kingdom here and everywhere because we have all finally given our wills over to God's will and have become one through Christ and his saving sacrifice; through the Holy Spirit who busily interprets with sighs too deep for words. As we all 'reintegrate' into life together, (with more traffic on the roads, more people standing in line, more noise in the neighborhoods, more opinions being voiced), let us hear the wise counsel of the writer to the Philippians: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (4:6-7) Let us remember that it is to God we need to turn when the stressors of life begin to become too much. Let us remember that each one of us who profess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior have at every turn the opportunity to be his hands and feet, his heart and lips with those around us. When we step out on faith we can find a courage and strength that is beyond us that will make all the difference in our rebuilding community, in our patience with one another and with our hope and dreams for the future that is one of our gifts from God.

So the next time you see one of our soldiers, please welcome them home kindly, thoughtfully and warmly so that they can begin to heal and find their sure footing in home life, civilian life once again. And remember to take joy in the simple things of life so that yours and other's lives may be enriched.

*May God continue to be the rich blessing that connects us all,
Pastor Karen*



A JOURNEY TO THE BEGINNING

I would like to invite you to join me in rediscovering our beginnings, through a short term Disciple bible study on Genesis. We will begin Wednesday, September 16, at 7p.m. in the church. This is the beginning of our bible, our world and human history as recorded by the bible and of our Christian walk. It is also the opening to our year of our weekly Disciple bible study series. This study on Genesis will set the stage for our next study of the Old Testament as a whole. So get those bibles out, mark your calendars and join me in an in depth study of our beginnings through the book of Genesis. See you there! *Pastor Karen*

Welcome Back to Sunday School!

It has done my heart good to see people returning as fall wraps its familiar smells and cozy colors around us. Doesn't it just go together, Fall and Sunday School? The familiar return to routines that sustain us brings joy and satisfaction. We reluctantly stow away the busy-ness of summer, but find grace in coming back together. Deep inside we know how desperately we need to return.

And so, I welcome you. If you have been gone for weeks, even months, I welcome you back. You are never outside of our welcome. When someone is away they are missed. Even in the church there is a deep grieving for those who are gone, whether by moving, by a change in life's circumstances, by life's busy-ness, by attending elsewhere, or by the finality of death. Every one is important, and every one counts. Probably this longing for one another is most clearly pictured in the Apostle Paul's description of the Church as a Body. It takes every part to make the whole work. If one part hurts, so does the whole.

If you are a regular attender, how about looking around and seeing who is not here? Could they use a call from you? When you pass them in your errands, will you mention that they are missed? Even if they have been gone a very long time, tell them you think of them often and miss their presence with us.

In Sunday School last week, a grandma returned with her grandchild who had said, "Grandma, let's go to that church with the good food." What a great physical symbol for all of us. Good food, not just the vital spiritual food, but the physical food of being enveloped with a warm welcome is what draws us back week after week to where we know we need to be. That's where our souls are fed.

Warmly;
Linda File
Christian Education Chair

Back to School - Back to Sunday School



before and

Our Sunday School begins at 9:30 am in the sanctuary with fun music, scripture and prayer by our young liturgists, birthday recognition and class announcements.

Please join us for one of five adult class options. For the children and youth, we are now offering six classes, from Baby and Wobbler through Youth.



New Hope Church School / New Hope Open Arms Reality and Vision
New Hope Church School officially opened Sept. 1 with full-time preschool and after-school programs in our remodeled Christian Education Wing. What a journey it

has been over the summer to arrive at this place. Under Director and Teacher Nicole Pugh and the New Hope Church School Board of Directors, the school has for the past weeks been welcoming parents and students as they have come to register, mostly by word of mouth.

Because the Church School is a recent development, people have asked, "What is the difference between the New Hope Church School and the much discussed and anticipated New Hope Open Arms Child Development Center? Is the Church School replacing the original vision for the Child Development Center? And, what about fund raising and contributions for the future New Hope Open Arms Center?"

The answer to these questions goes back to early May when the congregation decided to postpone the building of the New Hope Open Arms Center due to fund raising shortfalls, and to use building funds on hand to remodel the ATCO unit, preparing it for a smaller version of the Child Development Center to open Fall, 2009. This would allow a program to begin to allow us to open our doors to the community, provide a need for quality preschool and before and after-school programs, and would provide the church with a much needed remodel of the old facility. Missions teams, already scheduled to come, would be utilized along with many volunteers from the congregation. Labor costs would be minimal.

Little did we know that the community would also come alongside, with local sub-contractors offering their services at no-cost or at greatly reduced rates. Some donated all of their labor. Materials for major jobs were given to the church at cost. Many people came alongside to help us remodel the wing in record time. Missions teams and church members worked together, building relationships and forging friendships over crowbars, hammers, nails and saws. What began as tear-down June 5 is nearing completion just 90 days later, with the dedication scheduled for Sunday, September 13th.

Now that the New Hope Church School is open in a fully remodeled and paid for facility, it will be self-sustaining from tuitions received. The school will allow us to continue to build our reputation for providing quality programs for children and help us to fund the operation and maintenance of the building by wisely using it for more than just a few hours a week. It will help us to work toward the goal we have set to welcome and meet the needs of younger families in our community.

Meanwhile, the vision for the future New Hope Open Arms Center continues. While the Open Arms (comprehensive child care center) concept is not possible in the remodeled C.E. Wing, a church operated (non day-care) religious education program for children is. For this reason, the current program is not affiliated with Open Arms. It is under the umbrella of New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church, operated with a Board of Directors from the church.

The original concept of New Hope Open Arms remains a future vision. Its mission of reaching out to encompass a full spectrum of child care needs in our community remains our goal. It is time to continue fund raising for the eventual building of this facility. Some contributions given in the past have gone toward the remodel of the existing facility to launch the current program. The balance of those funds remains in our building fund for the future New Hope Open Arms Child Development Center.

Please mark contributions for this project as either "Building Fund" or "CDC".

Dan File, Board of Directors, New Hope Church School Volunteer Project Manager, C.E. Wing Remodel



Church School Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 8th 6:30pm at the church

Christian

Education Wing Dedication



Sunday, September 13th



Worship services are back to our fall schedule, with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 11:00 a.m. There has been a lot going on this summer here at New Hope – check out the remodeled education area, and in all our lives as we enjoyed the beautiful, warm (though sometimes smoky) summer we were blessed with.

Our worship services need you! We encourage people of all ages to serve as readers, greeters, ushers, communion servers, and candle lighters. We can hold brief training sessions for any who would be interested in serving. Please see Patsy Bickmeier, Marji Illingworth, Lori Buzby, or Jackie Pananen for information.

Musicians – We have plenty of ways to share your love of music. New Hope Church has a Contemporary Choir that opens our worship services, a bell choir, a traditional choir, and there are always opportunities for solos, duets, etc. as special music. Again, we would like to see people of all ages be involved. Practice times are on Thursdays for bells and traditional choir. Contemporary Choir meets during Sunday School. Check your bulletins for times and start-up dates.

Children are given a special opportunity during worship as Marji Illingworth leads the Children's Active Worship with activities relating to the sermon topic, which they share as a special offering during the service.

For those with infants and toddlers, there is a cry room in the back of the sanctuary, as well as a staffed nursery in the education wing.

Welcome newcomers, those returning from vacations, and those who never left! It is so good to see everyone in the family that is New Hope Church.



The Parish Staff Relations Committee wishes to welcome our newest staff member, Kristen Magann, our new Sunday nursery attendant. She comes to us with experience as a nanny and having worked with young children in a preschool setting. Stop by the nursery to welcome her and her two year old daughter Brooklyn.

PSR Committee members are Francie Cork, Jim Anderson, Cathy Johnson, Jeannette Gaul and Committee Chair, Ingrid Clauson, Please see any of these folks if you have questions or concerns about any of our staff positions.



COME JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
HARVEST FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH at 6:00p.m.
NEW HOPE METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Best "Salmon, Moose, Halibut and Other Harvest Dishes" Contest

Spectacular food from New Hope's finest chefs. Please enter your favorite dish(s). Everyone votes to determine the best in each category. Prizes awarded to all.

Lily Vale Farm Market

An annual gift from the Illingworth and Beks' families...fresh veggies, homemade baked goods, jellies, syrups, etc. Do some early Christmas shopping. Proceeds will be donated to the Child Development Center at their request.

"Most Awesome" Squash Creatures

The children and adults of New Hope are invited to create a squash (at least 8" long) creature using at least 3 other garden vegetables and any other items you'd like... We'll have divisions for 5 and under, 6 to 11, teenage and adult divisions. Prizes will be awarded.

Couples Pie Eating Contest for All Ages

Get ready to feed your partner from behind them. Prizes awarded to all contestants!

New Hope Quilters Donate Items for Harvest Festival

Take a peek at some of their beautiful work!

Come! Bring the Family and Ask A Few Friends to Join You!

Cost: Donation basket will be available for your gift.

*A salad, vegetable or dessert if you are not entering the Harvest Dish Contest.

*A gift from your garden or pantry for the North Pole Food Bank.

I/We will.....

- ____ 1. Enter a ____ moose, ____ salmon, ____ halibut ____ dish for dinner
____ 2. Create a Squash Creature
____ 3. Bring ____ a salad, ____ dessert or ____ vegetable/fresh fruit for dinner

Name _____ Home Phone _____

We're bringing ____ adults ____ kiddos.

Place in the offering plate, give to Brenda or drop off at the church office by Sept. 6th.

The Women's Group will meet Saturday September 12th at 10am to help set up for the Harvest Festival and plan for the upcoming year. Bring a brunch dish to share.



[Christ the Lord Out of Egypt by Anne Rice](#)

Discussion group will meet Monday, September 14th 6:00pm
at Irma Gallagher's Home (488-0580)

Contact Ingrid Clauson (488-1533) or Marit Vick (488-1391) for questions.



- 1st ~ Rita Trometter
- Jimmy & Danae Rice
- 4th ~ Brenda Sadler, Linda File
- 5th ~ Jim Cavanaugh
- 8th ~ Jim & Brenda Wolverton
- 9th ~ Lucille Reese, Cathy Miller
- 13th ~ Tim Bengs
- 14th ~ Ellen Koenen
- 17th ~ Brent Koenen
- 19th ~ Mason Wolverton
- 20th ~ Matt Sadler
- 21st ~ Lenny & Diane Jewkes
- 25th ~ Victoria Genter



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

Operating Budget Status as of 8/31/2009
Income:

Expenses: \$145,584.61
\$ -

10,568.17

Building Fund Status as of 8/31/2009
12/31/2008 Balance: \$ 76,696.89
Income: \$164,167.58
Expenses: \$208,150.64



Sorry No Aluminum Recycle at the Church...Since there are now many places in the community to leave aluminum and aluminum cans, our youth are no longer collecting. It hasn't been cost feasible, and collecting is a problem since birds have been getting into bags left here in the woods, causing a need for regular clean-up. We would appreciate you taking recycled aluminum into the new Rescue Mission Recycle Program or to another worthy cause. Many thanks!

September 2009

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 Bells 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am | 7 | 8 Church School Board Meeting 6:30pm | 9 | 10 Bells 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm | 11 | 12 Women's Group 10am Harvest Festival 6:00pm |
| 13 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am CE Dedication | 14 Book Club @ Irma's 6:00pm | 15 | 16 Bible Study 7:00pm | 17 Bells 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm | 18 Young Adults @ AK Coffee Co. on Geist 6:30pm | 19 |
| 20 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am | 21 Council Meeting 6:30 | 22 | 23 Bible Study 7:00pm | 24 Bells 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am | 28 Trustee Meeting | 29 | 30 Bible Study 7:00pm | | | |