

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship ~ Fellowship ~ Discipleship ~ Ministry ~ Mission ~ Evangelism

2016 Annual Report

New Hope Presbyterian Church strives to...

Welcome and Include All

Worship God

Grow in Christian Faith

Serve Others

Be God's Love in the World

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**NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION
JANUARY 24, 2016**

The annual meeting of the congregation of New Hope Presbyterian Church, 1580 Kisker Road, St. Peters, Missouri was called to order by the moderator, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James, at 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A **quorum was declared** as stipulated in the Book of Order (G-7.0305). Dr. James opened the meeting with prayer.

The Purpose of the annual meeting was to (1) hear the report of the Administration and Support Committee and to act on changes in the terms of call for the pastor, (2) to hear the report of the Administration and Support Committee and act on the appreciation gift that had been previously approved by Session, and (3) to hear about the 2016 budget and have an opportunity to ask questions.

The moderator asked Elder Kathy Gibbs to moderate the portion of the meeting involving the pastor's Terms of Call and the Gift. Dr. James left the meeting and Elder Gibbs presented the following Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James for the 2016 calendar year.

**New Hope Presbyterian Church
2016 Terms of Call
Christopher Q. James, Pastor**

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES	<u>2016</u>
Pastoral Expenses (reimbursable up to)	\$1,500.00
Continuing Education Stipend	\$2,500.00
Continuing Education Leave	Two Weeks
Automobile Expense (reimbursable at current IRS rate)	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<i>Total Business & Professional Expenses</i>	\$6,000.00
 BENEFITS	
Denominational Board of Pensions	\$28,666.72
Medical (reimbursable up to and not to exceed 1/2 medical deductible maximum out of Pocket)	\$2,608.00
SECA Social Security tax (reimbursement of 50%)	\$6,008.23
Denomination Dental Plan	\$1,632.36
Vacation	<u>Four Weeks + Two Days</u>
<i>Total Benefits</i>	\$38,915.31
 CASH SALARY & HOUSING	
Salary	\$51,538.95
Housing	<u>\$27,000.00</u>
<i>Total Effective Salary (cash salary +housing)</i>	\$78,538.95
<hr/> Total Terms of Call	<hr/> \$123,454.26

A question and answer period was held following the presentation of the Terms of Call. A call for a vote on the Session **Motion** was made by Elder Gibbs. Motion carried unanimously.

Elder Gibbs reminded the Congregation that the Session had voted to give Dr. James a monetary appreciation gift in October 2014. However, pending a Congregational Vote, the gift was held in a special fund. The monetary amount of the gift was \$2992.00, plus the Board of Pensions dues on that gift equaled \$1092.08. Total gift amount was \$4084.08. Questions were entertained. There being none, a vote was called on the Session **Motion**. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. James returned to the meeting and resumed moderating the meeting. He thanked the Session and the Administration and Support Committee for their hard work.

Jim Pettit, treasurer, shared the state of the 2016 budget with the congregation. He advised that the budget is balanced for 2016, and is in the black by about \$2,000.00. He did caution that these funds might be needed to implement the various parts of the Strategic Plan that was approved in 2015. Mr. Pettit also advised that New Hope ended 2015 in the black, and has some funds to place in reserves. The majority of the funds left over from 2015 were budgeted for hiring a Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator. To date, no one has been found that meets the qualifications set forth in the Session approved position description. Money was set aside in the 2016 budget so that a person can be hired this year if possible. Other questions were answered.

There being no further business, Michael Ray made a **motion** to adjourn. Lynne Snyder seconded the motion. Motion approved. Dr. James closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 25, 2016**

The Congregation of New Hope Presbyterian Church met in the Sanctuary on September 25, 2016 for the **purpose of hearing and voting on the 2016 Nominating Committee Report**. The Rev. Dr. James served as Moderator, and opened the meeting with prayer at 12:05 p.m. A **quorum was declared** as stipulated in the Book of Order (G10.0202).

Elder Margo Van Mill introduced the members of the 2016 Nominating Committee. She explained the criteria used in nominating members for the offices of Elder and Deacon, and to serve on the 2017 Nominating Committee.

Elder Van Mill then presented the slate of nominees for Deacon for the Class of 2019. They were Sharon Barnes, Jennifer Bommarito, Robert Dencker, Carolyn Doerr and Linda Judd. Stan Whiteley was nominated to serve a one-year unexpired term in the class of 2017. Rev. Dr. James asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, a vote was called. All nominees were unanimously approved to serve as Deacons for the Class of 2019 and Mr. Whiteley for the Class of 2017.

Elder Van Mill next presented the slate of nominees for Ruling Elder for the Class of 2019. They were Jerry Dyer, Kirk Garten, Bill Lamey, Alyssa Murray and Sue White. Rev. Dr. James asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, a vote was called. All nominees were unanimously approved to serve as Elder for the Class of 2019.

Elder Van Mill then presented the Nominees for election to the Congregational Nominating Committee, Class of 2017. They were Jeff Connor, Jane Cox, Holly Martinez and Jim Pettit. Rev. Dr. James explained that upon ordination and installation of Deacons and Ruling Elders, the Diaconate would elect one of its members to serve on the committee and the Session would elect two of its members to serve, for a total of seven members. Rev. Dr. James asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, a vote was called. All nominees were unanimously approved to serve on the Nominating Committee for the class of 2017.

There being no further business, Sylvia Bane Malta made a **motion** to adjourn. Michael Ray seconded the motion. **Motion** approved. The Rev. Dr. James closed the meeting with prayer at 12:12 p.m.

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

*“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”* (Isaiah 43:18-19a)

In this passage from Isaiah, God is speaking to the Israelites in exile in Babylon, assuring them of their impending release from captivity. This will be the new exodus, so to speak, when God delivers the people again and gives them new life, new direction and new hope for a future with promise and potential.

We need this still. Time and again, we need this command (the first part) and this promise (the second part) as we work to let God’s light so shine through our life together that others see something life-giving enough in us to ask how they might be a part of it, too. During this past year, it’s not so much that we tried not to “remember the former things,” as much as we tried not to let them control our future. This past year was about us trusting God’s new thing among us, as envisioned in our strategic plan, enough to get out of the way and let it begin to spring up. This is what 2016 has been about.

We have embraced *The Journey* (our name for the ancient church’s practice of the catechumenate), as a model for faith formation and spiritual renewal. Rather than focus on making members of the church as an end in itself, we have directed our efforts at developing disciples of Jesus Christ, leading them to, through, and from the waters of baptism into our new identity in Christ. Membership in the church may be a part of that, but the larger focus is an intentional practice of faith formation through the practices of scripture reading, prayer, worship, and ministry in daily life. Ruth Irvine has a wonderful report on this and I commend it to you.

We have claimed our responsibility to care for God’s creation as the good gift that it is by carefully auditing our facilities and ministries as a way to raise our awareness of our need to become better stewards of our environment. That has been eye-opening. Soon, we will be submitting our application to become certified as an Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and continue to work at implementing plans to make the best use of our resources in caring for the creation entrusted to our care. Cindy Martin speaks to all this in her report.

We have stepped outside ourselves to begin to understand how we might help with racial reconciliation, justice and equality for all people. This began with the *Sacred Conversations on Race + Action* event(s) of the fall of 2015. It’s the “+ Action” part of that which prompted us to change the name of this initiative to the *Micah 6:8 Team*, which continues to work at leading us to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.” Thanks to Jane Cox and Mary Powers for paving the way for greater effectiveness in this area.

We have grown closer together through our Church Family Gatherings. These purposeful gatherings for fellowship and worship together around Palm Sunday, Pentecost, the return of the school year and at Christmas, have been so creatively imagined to lift up the seasons of the year and draw us closer to God and to one another. Thanks to Shelley Geiger and our Formation for Discipleship Committee for developing these gatherings in such a meaningful way. Shelley’s report surely tells more about this.

So 2016 has been about looking ahead to that new thing God is doing and moving in new directions so we might respond to God's call on our life together and truly live out the goals of our purpose statement, striving to "welcome and including all, worship God, grow in Christian faith, serve others, and be God's love in the world."

I am grateful for the privilege of working with such a talented staff. Laurie Meinert keeps our office running smoothly with grace and professionalism, going above and beyond the call of duty time and time again. We said goodbye to Mike Greene after 20-years of dedicated service as New Hope's accompanist. His retirement celebration in November was bitter-sweet, as we remember all that his music has led us through and wish him Godspeed, rest, and wonderful travel. We welcomed Gay Spears as our new Director of Music Ministries and are blessed by her experience, education, faithfulness and good cheer. Vickie Moore diligently keeps our facilities clean and readily usable by the all the groups that meet and minister here. We also said goodbye Monica Schrautemeier after seven years of caring for our children, yet remain blessed by her regular worship with us. And we are grateful that Marion Hamilton, Kelley Brueggeman, Cassie Allen, Janet Lewis, Sharon Lukes and Melissa Lukes continue to provide loving and consistent care to infants and toddlers on Sunday mornings and at other times when called upon.

My greatest thanks, as always, go to my wife, Jennifer, and my children, Grace and Will, who love me despite myself and support me during the difficult demands of ministry that pull at my time and attention. Their love and patience are what allow me to pursue God's calling in my life and for this particular gathering of God's people. For that, I am forever humbled and grateful.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Q. James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher Q. James, Pastor

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

God showered many blessings on New Hope Presbyterian church during 2016. During the joint Deacon/Session meeting in January 2017, we tried to name those many blessings. These are just a few of those blessings that we considered: Kids Against Hunger project, Cookies with Santa, Church Family Gatherings, Diaper Drive, Fair trade Market, Deacons helped several people with the Deacons' Benevolence fund, very successful VBS, great Christian Education program, Trunk or Treat, the Journey, good start with the Micah 6:8 group, positive changes in the Youth Group, formation of JET, completed work to apply to become a Earth Care Congregation, arrival of Gay Spears, beautiful Narthex renovation, lovely Advent decorations, and finally that New Hope was Solvent with a Balanced Budget. (I truly apologize if I have left out something that was very important to you and us as a Church family.) These were not our blessings alone, but also allowed us to reach out to our neighbors in friendship and sometimes to help meet their needs. We were blessed to be God's hands and feet in the World. Praise be to God.

As I did last year, I urge you to become involved in one of our many ministries. You can join or become a leader. Help our church family to vision what we would like to become and do during 2017.

The Clerk's Report for 2016 shows that we started the year with 261 members and ended with 245. We received 7 new members. Average weekly attendance was 160, with an average of 13 visitors each month. First time visitors numbered 109 for the year. We celebrated one infant and one adult baptism. (Many more members renewed their baptismal vows during their participation in the Journey.) We mourned 4 deaths.

Please continue to pray for New Hope, its staff and its leaders.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Gibbs
Clerk of Session

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

I began my work at New Hope the first Sunday of October. I want to thank everyone for your gracious welcome to my husband and me. Thank you especially to Pastor Chris, Laurie, and Vickie, who have been extraordinarily supportive and helpful.

Jan Parker served as Interim Music Director through the end of May 2016. Thank you, Jan.

Mike Greene ended his 20-year tenure as accompanist at New Hope in November. Mike's last service in November was a special event including a final song with the choir, congregation, and bell choir as well as a piano and organ duet played by Mike and Kathy Kuehnle. Thank you, Mike.

The adult choir has faithfully provided an anthem and leadership for the hymns and musical responses at the 11:00 service each Sunday, and they sang several anthems at the Lessons and Carols service in December. Bob Dencker, Connie Pettit, Ruth Irvine, Kathy Kuehnle, Lynne Synder, and Mike Dame shared their talents as soloists at Lessons and Carols.

The handbell choir under direction of Terry Martinez rang special music on one Sunday during October and November, at Advent by Candlelight, at Lessons and Carols, and they provided a bell peal on the tune VENI EMMANUEL each Sunday of Advent.

The children's choir sang at the "Birthday Party for Jesus" in December. Their director is Tracy Grundy.

Tracy Grundy, flutist, and Jared Spears, percussion, accompanied the choir and/or congregation on some occasions in the fall and at Lessons and Carols.

The guest ensemble Alegria sang at Advent by Candlelight and on one Sunday during December. Guest vocalist Samantha Stout led hymns and provided a solo on Christmas Eve, as did Chris Torretta, violinist.

Mike Dame has graciously shared his expertise with sound and technology each week.

I want to thank each person who has made a contribution to the music ministry. There are many plans for the music ministry in 2017, and we hope that our efforts in music-making will assist you as you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Gay Spears

WORSHIP, MUSIC & THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Members: Michael Ray, Lynne Snyder, Lindy Stacy, and Linda Dencker, chair

Worship Services

We continued our two services at 8:45 and 11:00 every Sunday, with the exception of our summer worship when we held one service at 10:15 and on Christmas Day at 10:00 am.

Special Services

Growing out of our 2015 Strategic Plan, the Journey led us to Celebrations of Welcome, Enrollment, Baptism/ Reaffirmation, and Discipleship during our regular worship services in 2016. These allowed the congregation to join and support those participants who were exploring their faith journeys.

We celebrated the traditional Lenten services, including our four-part Easter Vigil the night before Easter Sunday. This service reminds us of the stories of our Christian faith and welcomes new members into our church through baptism.

Our Pentecost worship was preceded by a wonderful church family gathering organized by the Formation for Discipleship Committee. We thank them for guiding us into a celebration of the Holy Spirit among us.

During the Advent season, several families led us in worship by lighting the Advent candles, and the choir hosted an afternoon of lessons and carols, in addition to leading us each week to plead, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Of course, Christmas Eve was celebrated with our two candlelight services, and Christmas Day on a Sunday called for a morning of lessons and carols.

Throughout the year, members of the congregation were invited to purchase flowers to brighten each service, and Easter and Christmas lilies and poinsettias (both live and 'virtual') were purchased by individuals and families to honor loved ones. Money collected from the holiday flowers went to the Deacons Benevolence Fund.

The Sacraments

New Hope celebrates Word and Sacrament at all worship services, and our committee oversees the organization and preparation for communion. We are so thankful for each of our bakers who take turns providing us with communion bread and for Allen Rudolph who keeps us supplied with juice. Thanks, too, for the many Elders and Deacons who have assisted with serving communion this year and for those who served as liturgists.

We also share in the joy of baptism, and we have been blessed by those we have witnessed this year.

Music

We were delighted this year to welcome Gay Spears as our new choir director. Not only has she helped the choir to produce some beautiful music, but she brought her husband with her! He sings AND plays percussion, and we have already benefitted from their talents. We also thank Jan Parker who graciously filled in as our interim director before Gay came.

One sad, yet happy, note from 2016: New Hope's longest employee, Mike Greene, closed the grand piano in November for the last time. The happy part is he is now enjoying his retirement with his family. After 20 years, he will be greatly missed, but we thank him for all the wonderful music and wish him the very best. We are grateful to Gay Spears who has agreed to serve double duty while the search for another pianist/organist continues.

Of course, we also give thanks to our wonderful Chancel Choir for their gift of music. Also, thanks to the Bell Choir and their director Terry Martinez, and to Tracy Grundy who has been working with the children's choir and played flute in worship.

Sound

Thank you to all of the sound booth volunteers for allowing us to HEAR worship each week and for recording the services.

The Arts

We worked to enhance the sanctuary this year to reflect the various aspects of the liturgical calendar. We were reminded of our journey through the wilderness at Lent, God's salvation of the Israelites in Egypt, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, the gift of Living Water, and the coming of the Christ Child. So many people contributed to these projects—including all of you in your blue heart prayers and promises—but we would especially like to thank Shelley Geiger, Stan Whiteley, Tom Wilson, and Bob Dencker.

Ushering

In 2016, New Hope ushers served at 92 worship services including: regular Sundays, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, Christmas Eve services. Our youth groups served as ushers for 7 of these services. Ushers arrived early to set up and recruit additional help when needed. Drinking water was placed in the pulpit for Pastor Chris James and the liturgist.

Bulletins and hymnals were passed to each person upon entering. Attendance books were passed and a headcount was taken at each service. Attendance sheets and the headcount number were placed in the office. The offering was collected and two ushers together, took the deposit to the office and placed it in the safe. Ushers orderly dismissed the congregation to go forward to receive the Sacraments, and notified the spotter server of those needing to be served in their seat.

We collected papers, bulletins, hymnals, and anything left behind and placed them in their proper places following each service. Ushers orderly returned the offering baskets and attendance books to the usher bookcases after each service.

We greeted members and visitors with a smile and assisted with finding the nursery, restrooms, classrooms, and worship/activity bags for the children. Ushers served in a friendly and courteous manner to ensure that each worship service ran smoothly according to the bulletin.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not offer a special thanks to **Laurie Meinert** for her help in absolutely everything, and to **Pastor Chris James**, whose sermons challenge and inspire us every week. We are so grateful for your leadership.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Dencker

FORMATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

Formation for Discipleship has continued to grow and support Christian education opportunities and provide fellowship for children, youth, and adults. Below is a recap of 2016 highlights of programming and special events, along with useful information related to Christian Education at New Hope.

Sunday School

The centerpiece of a church's education program is the Sunday morning education hour – or Sunday School! Our Sunday School offers classes for Birth – Two Years Olds (with a volunteer and childcare worker as teachers), Three – Five Years Old (teachers Jennifer Bommarito, Ann Rademann, Jennifer James and Cassie Allen), Kindergarten – Grade 2 (teachers Kathy Mudrovic, Laurie Meinert, and Barb Griffith, and Aimee Calvin), Grades 3 – 5 teachers Deb Garten, Shelley Geiger, and Stan Whiteley) and Youth (Senior Highs combined with Mid-Highs) (teachers Camellia Callahan, Linda Judd, Jennifer Everly and Michael Ray). The two adult Sunday School classes have shared leadership. Our Sunday school classes meet throughout the year.

Boys and girls in the Birth through two year olds and our Pre-K class hear a story and take part in a fun activity each week from the “Growing in Grace and Gratitude” curriculum. This curriculum nurtures the development of faith through age appropriate Bible stories and lots of repetition. Our elementary aged children through senior high students use the “Feasting on the Word” curriculum. This is a lectionary-based curriculum, which provides intentional connections between Sunday school and worship.

For adults, two classes are offered. The “Contemporary Issues” class discusses a variety of issues of interest to the participants in a Christian context. The “Reflecting on Faith” class uses a mix of studies and curriculum. A recent study was on the *Confessions of Belhar* (which originated in South Africa 30 years ago). The *Confessions of Belhar* was formally adopted by the PCUSA 2016 General Assembly making it the twelfth recognized confession in the *Book of Confessions*.

Nursery Programs

The upstairs Nursery is available during the 8:45 and 11 am Worship Service for babies and toddlers up to Pre-K age. Located in the Turtle Room, it is presently staffed by our childcare providers, Cassie Allen, Janet Lewis, Sharon Lukes and Kelly Brueggemann.

Worship Feast

Worship Feast is an experience to help elementary-age children develop an awareness of and openness to God's presence through a variety of prayer practices in a multi-sensory setting. Children can go downstairs to Worship Feast after the children's time during the 11 am service (the exception is on the first Sunday of every month). Once downstairs, the children spend a short time in a guided quiet time with prayer, learning how to calm themselves and open their minds to hear God's voice. New this year in Worship Feast was the introduction of the scripture based curriculum “An Illustrated Earth” by Illustrated Children's Ministry. Mini lessons from this series were used during the WF gathering and center time. Seasonal themed centers were also offered during Lent, Pentecost, and Advent. Worship Feast is staffed by two volunteers from

the New Hope community who are Safe Sanctuary trained. Volunteers may sign up to assist in Worship Feast through New Hope's website or contact Jane Cox.

Worship Bags

Children's worship bags are available for toddler, preschool and all elementary children for use during the worship service. Included in the bags are lectionary-based children's worship bulletins, crayons and a small bag of fruit snacks. Toddler's bags also have a "Jesus Loves Me" Teddy Bear and a Christian themed board book.

VBS

We had great cause for celebration on the success of this year's VBS program, *Surf Shack, Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love!* Fifty-nine children attended VBS this year, 50% were from the community, and some children were repeat attendees from the previous year. VBS Co-Directors, Holly Martinez, Deb Garten, and Jenn Everly expressed their great appreciation for all the volunteers (44) who helped and everyone agreed this year's group of children were super!! New this year was "VBS Night School", about 30 folks (adults and children) attended the two VBS evening sessions in June. The VBS Mission Project – Birthday Party supplies for Oasis Food pantry was very successful! About 400 items were collected to help low income families in our community give their own children a special birthday celebration. On VBS Picnic Day, 31 children sang their little hearts out in Worship to their families and the congregation, and everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch afterward. Next year's VBS theme is centered around super heroes in the Bible! Watch for more information on VBS 2017 this spring.

Youth (Mid-Highs/Senior Highs)

The Youth enjoyed a very busy year full of fellowship/activity events, special projects and a summer mission trip to Pensacola, FL! Elder Jennifer Everly, worked with students to coordinate plans and provide opportunities for students to build a Christian youth community within New Hope. Elder Bryan Eikmann, Bill Irvine, Pastor James, Laurie Meinert, youth parents and other volunteers also provided key support to the students. Some of the year's memorable moments were "the Great Cinnamon Roll Bake" and sleep over, winter tubing at Hidden Valley, the annual fall hayride, "Messy Games" at church, painting the Youth room, going to "Swing-a-round" in Fenton, the Mission Trip Rummage Sale fundraiser, Mission Trip car wash, and of course the week long mission in Florida working on landscaping for *Habitat for Humanity* and *Project Greenshores* (reinforcing the Pensacola shoreline with oyster shells to preserve the coastal shores for wildlife habitat and conservation). Mission Trip participants were: Sam Connor, Maggie Cox, Quinn Barbee, Will and Grace James. Our youth also brought friends with them to join in many of New Hope's Youth activities. Fund raising and plans are in the works for another Mission Trip in Summer 2017! The Youth and Formation for Discipleship wish to thank the congregation of New Hope for their steadfast support of the Youth community and their projects.

Safe Sanctuary

New Hope is a "Safe Sanctuary" Church. All volunteers who work with children and youth are trained in keeping young people safe in every New Hope environment. Over the course of the year FfD Elders conducted Safe Sanctuary training sessions to train and retrain Sunday School Teachers, VBS volunteers, child care volunteers and new childcare staff. Individuals who are Safe Sanctuary trained must renew their training every three years. As VBS time rolls around

more Safe Sanctuary sessions will be held. Parents and individuals who are not Safe Sanctuary trained can request training at any time, please contact Jennifer Everly for more information.

Scrip Program

The Scrip Program allows members to buy gift cards to popular stores and restaurants at face value and then New Hope receives a percentage of the value of each card. Profits from the Scrip program benefit the Youth of New Hope.

Child Care Volunteers

Jane Cox continues to manage an online child care volunteer system through SignupGenius.com where New Hope Church volunteers can conveniently sign up online to help weekly in New Hope's Worship Feast Room. Two volunteers are needed weekly during the 11 am Worship time. All volunteers must be Safe Sanctuary trained. The Formation for Discipleship Committee encourages parents of children, and other church members to sign up to ensure continuous coverage for this important children's ministry. Please contact Jane Cox for more information.

Children's Music Ministry

Every other week during Pre-K through Grade 5 Sunday School Classes, students were enriched with "Music Time with Miss Tracy". Volunteer Tracy Grundy taught children some classics in Christian Children's music along with movements. The children sang at two of the Church Family Gatherings. We are grateful for Tracy's service to this ministry!

Church Family Gatherings

In 2016 Formation for Discipleship implemented four liturgically based "Church Family Gatherings" from the 2015 New Hope Strategic Plan. The "Church Family Gatherings" was a way to have meaningful intergenerational time centered on fellowship and spiritual formation with an emphasis on relationship building within the New Hope Family. The CFGs happened between the early and late services and served as a wonderful bridge for all New Hope members to come together. This year's CFG were: Palm Sunday Lenten Breakfast Celebration, "Happy Birthday to the Church" Pentecost Celebration, A Pancake Breakfast and Formation Fair, and lastly "A Birthday Party for Jesus" Advent Celebration. Each CFG was unique and featured elements of fellowship, food, activities, short programs, music, storytelling, mission and prayer. Using an RSVP system, between 100-150 folks attended each event, making the CFG a successful family ministry. Many thanks to all the planners and volunteers who contributed their time, talents, muscles and cooking skills for the good of our wonderful church family!

Junior Earthcare Team (J.E.T.)

Another new initiative that came out of New Hope's Strategic Plan, to become an Earth Care Congregation, was the Junior Earthcare Team (J.E.T.). (*Forming a Junior Earthcare Team was the idea of a New Hope elementary aged student, Jhevin Faubert.*) This fall J.E.T. kids worked on planting mums on the church's grounds, and created terrariums for the Deacon's "Harvest of Talents" mission project. JET facilitators Deb Garten and Nicole Faubert, will be meeting in January to help students work on earth care projects they choose. J.E.T. is open to elementary age through youth.

In closing, it is with much gratitude Formation for Discipleship thanks Pastor James, Laurie Meinert, the many volunteers, teachers, leaders, and committee members and the congregation of New Hope who helped make the Formation for Discipleship ministries come alive for 2016!

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Geiger

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee has had an active agenda in 2017.

On January 15th, we hosted a movie night and provided popcorn, candy and soda to participants as they watch the movie, *Remember the Titans*.

We hosted a successful Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on February 10th, with 13 soups being provided for dinner before our Ash Wednesday worship service.

On Saturday, February 13th, we provided transportation for 26 church members and friends to visit the Great River Museum in Alton, Illinois. While there, participants got to experience a bird show, tour the museum, and watch for eagles nesting along the Mississippi River.

On Saturday, April 2nd, we provided transportation for church members and friends to Purina Farms, where participants were able to view the dog show, visit a petting farm and other animal related activities. We also provided lunch in the form of sub sandwiches and chips.

We elected Jim Pettit as our annual recipient for the Celebration of Aging and purchased tickets for Jim, Pastor Chris James and Jim's wife to attend the worship service and luncheon on May 4th.

Summer activities were cancelled due to low sign-ups.

The committee members provided food and drinks for the Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 29th. We changed the time and date of this event and had 13 cars participate, and well as a record number of families and children.

In addition to the above, the committee provided donut holes during coffee hours on the 2nd Sunday of each month and we provided Birthday cakes and cupcakes on the 4th Sunday of each month to celebrate members' birthdays.

We also provided dinner for the Journey participants in November.

With the new hospitality bar and with increased Journey meetings, we experienced a higher use of paper products during 2016. Our 2017 budget reflects that use. We also agreed to eliminate the cost of busses for outside activities to help balance the 2017 budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Margo VanMill, Chairperson

MINISTRY, MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The MME Committee is involved in a wide variety of services for New Hope and our surrounding local and even global communities.

In September, New Hope members raised money and came out to pack about 10,000 meals for starving children in Haiti. It was part of the Kids Against Hunger project. We had a great time for a few hours one Saturday morning pouring ingredients into bags, then sealing and packing them for shipment. The program has changed, increasing its minimum number of meals to pack and commensurately the cost, so the committee may seek to partner with another church or organization in future.

There are literally dozens of other services and projects taking place at New Hope and with the members. Mary Powers, Mark Everly, Jim Cox and Jim Salter make up the MME Committee, but dozens of other members volunteer their time and talents for a wide variety of causes.

The adult mission trip was another big success, with New Hope members helping to refurbish housing in Pensacola, Florida with Habitat for Humanity there. The hard-working and dedicated members plan another trip in 2017.

The youth also fund-raised and experienced a mission trip to Pensacola. While there, they did landscaping work with Habitat for Humanity as well as packing and placing oyster shells enhance coastal habitat with Project GreenShores.

The Presbyterian Women of New Hope were busy in 2016 with mission projects, fellowship opportunities and Bible study. PW hosted a Many Hands workshop, in which hygiene kits were assembled for Saints Peter and Paul Men's shelter in Soulard, The women continue to support the Sani-Panti project, which provides reusable sanitary pads for women in developing countries. New Hope hosted its first Diaper Awareness month in April to support the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank. The congregation collected almost 4000 diapers and raised \$855. During the holiday season, PW collected 56 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse and raised \$3850 through the fair trade market for Plowsharing, which provides artisans in developing countries with a sustainable and living wage. PW supports the greater community by donating to the mission projects of the Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery and supporting Sara Martin, who is in her second year in the Navigators program at the University of Nebraska. PW also provided one deserving senior with a \$1000 scholarship. This year's recipient was Eric Gibbs who is attending Drury College. The Presbyterian Women of New Hope strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and have many more mission opportunities in the upcoming year.

2016 saw the birth of a new outreach and missions group - Micah 6:8. This group seemed a natural outcome of the Sacred Conversations on Race. The mission of Micah 6:8 is found in the scripture for which it was named - "What does the Lord require of you but to DO JUSTICE, LOVE MERCY, and WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD." The Micah 6:8 group will educate the congregation about and encourage participation in community efforts to address social and economic injustice. To this end, the group continues to participate in St Charles Sacred Conversations +Action task forces and Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU)

#BreakthePipelineSTL as well as exploring opportunities to assist low-income families and the immigrant communities in St Charles through new programs.

Serving OASIS food pantry continues to be a significant mission for our church. Once a month, several New Hope members ranging from youths to the young at heart turn out to fill shopping carts with food for the needy of St. Charles County. We also packed summer food bags for children to offset some of the loss of school-based meals during those months.

We participated in the ShareFest in Ferguson. Shoeman Water Project is an ongoing ministry for third world countries. Deacons hosted a successful blood drive. Kathy Freeman continues to coordinate the effort toward hygiene kits for the homeless.

The prayer shawl ministry continues for our own membership and friends of the church. The employment ministry is a community outreach service we provide.

Deacons again sponsored their annual Harvest of Talents to earn money for their benevolence fund.

These are just a few of the many ways our church reaches out. It's a long-standing tradition at New Hope as we strive to serve God through giving a helping hand through a rich variety of ways and means.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Cox, MME Chairman

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Our committee is tasked with the general and physical upkeep of the church along with personnel and financial matters. In 2016 our committee elders were Kathy Gibbs, Bill Pires, Rick Waldo and Clark Hurrell.

The first project completed in 2016 was the installation of the new digital LED sign on Kisker road. The project was funded in December of 2015 and installed in the spring of 2016. In addition to the new sign, we upgraded the lighted sign on Central School Road from fluorescent bulbs to energy efficient LED bulbs.

Our spring cleanup day was again supported by a large number of members. All the normal landscaping projects were completed, including the planting of new bushes near the front entrance of the church.

Due to the generous donation of memorial funds by the Donna Hoffman family in memory of Donna's mother, we were able to install a new commercial grade ice maker in the kitchen. A special Thank You to Tom Wilson for his help with installing the ice maker at no charge to the church.

We try to be as proactive as possible by doing regularly scheduled preventive maintenance on both the HVAC and fire sprinkler system. Unfortunately, we still seem to incur annual pipe breaks and no heat or cool days at the church. In 2016 several large sprinkler pipes rusted through, thus causing repairs in excess of \$4,000. In the first quarter of 2017 we plan to have the entire sprinkler system inspected and a long-term pipe replacement program implemented.

The Narthex remodeling project was organized and executed by a special subcommittee, but it was brought to the session and sponsored by the Admin and Support Committee. The Narthex remodeling project took seven months to plan and cost approximately \$28,000 to implement. It was funded via private donations and completed on time. It truly transformed the entrance of the church into a much more welcoming and organized environment.

The painting and carpeting of the church offices and conference room started in the fall of 2016 and will be completed by February 2017. When complete, all the walls will be painted a new light grey and commercial grade carpeting installed which matches with the Narthex colors. Gay Spears was hired in 2016 and is an inspiring addition to our church staff and family. We are truly grateful for her talents.

Regular maintenance of the facility was completed. If anyone sees anything that is in need of repair, please let any member of the 2017 Admin and Support committee know. We will be glad to take care of any small problem immediately, before it becomes a big problem.

Respectively Submitted
Bill Pires
Kathy Gibbs
Clark Hurrell
Rick Waldo

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

New Hope Presbyterian Church - St Charles MO		
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2016		
Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
1.100.025	US Bank Business Checking	217,418.08
1.100.030	US Bank - Chris James	5,000.00
1.100.080	US Bank Investment Account	33,496.83
	Total Assets	255,914.91
Fund Balances		
3.103.001	Building Fund Balance	22,101.76
3.103.002	Building Fund Reserves Balance	14,000.00
3.103.003	Narthex Renovation Balance	1,628.10
3.103.004	Office Carpet Fund	5,635.00
3.203.002	Senior High Mission Trip Balance	6,140.85
3.301.001	Soup Supper Fund Balance	353.57
3.401.001	Benevolence Fund Balance	3,296.82
3.401.002	Adult Mission Trip Balance	3,973.92
3.401.002	Coins for Concern Balance	0.00
3.401.003	Christmas Joy Offering Balance	673.00
3.402.004	One Great Hour of Sharing Fund Balance	0.00
3.402.005	Pentecost Offering Balance	0.00
3.402.006	Peacemaking Offering Balance	90.00
3.402.008	Festival of Sharing Fund Balance	20.00
3.402.009	Community Garden Balance	66.00
3.501.001	Organ Fund Balance	185.00
3.501.002	Handbell Grant Balance	27.10
3.501.003	Hymnal Fund Balance	40.00
3.501.004	Worship Flowers 2016 Balance	739.50
3.501.012	Music Fund Balance	154.59
3.501.013	Pulpit Bible Fund	250.00
3.601.001	Memorial Fund Balance	6,442.41
3.601.002	Memorial - Cathy Skinn Balance	9,439.52
3.601.003	Great Lake Scrip Fund Balance	2,752.00
3.601.005	Men's Fellowship Fund Balance	2,021.25
3.601.006	Presbyterian Women Fund Balance	4,742.52
3.601.007	Prayer Shawl Ministry Fund Balance	65.00
2.140.160	Taxes Payable	822.90
	Total Fund Balances	85,660.81
	Net Surplus Cash Position	170,254.10
	Total	255,914.91
	Current Mortgage Balance	98,810.97
	Current Unsecured Loan Balance	80,545.36

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

Committees/Ministries							
	Annual Budget	Monthly Total	Monthly Budget	Monthly Over/Under	Total through December 2016	Budget through December 2016	Over/Under Budget 2016
TOTAL Income	429,109.00	48,195.08	35,759.08	12,436.00	433,468.89	429,109.00	4,359.89
Worship, Music & the Arts	4,100.00	1,177.51	341.67	835.84	2,336.33	4,100.00	-1,763.67
Fellowship	6,280.00	252.68	523.33	-270.65	3,998.75	6,280.00	-2,281.25
Formation for Discipleship	11,454.00	1,423.90	954.50	469.40	8,148.37	11,454.00	-3,305.63
Ministry, Mission & Evangelism	13,637.95	590.76	1,136.42	-545.66	12,193.66	13,637.00	-1,443.34
Administration & Support	392,012.41	31,820.29	32,667.72	-847.43	349,872.60	392,012.65	-42,140.05
Strategic Planning (Journey)	0.00	-182.00	0.00	-182.00	-74.63	0.00	-74.63
Building Fund	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Office Carpet Fund	0.00	5,235.00	0.00	5,235.00	5,235.00	0.00	5,235.00
Total Expenses	427,484.36	50,318.14	35,623.64	14,694.50	391,710.08	427,483.65	-35,773.57
Net Income (Loss)		-2,123.06			41,758.81		40,133.46

BOARD OF DEACONS

Board Members: Mark Besselman, Ruth Connor, Earl Bostic, Laura Eikmann, Steve Gerke, Marion Hamilton, Donna Huffman, Kelley Hurrell, Bill Irvine, Martha Lamey, Kay McCarthy, Kurt Romkey, Chris Truett, Stan Whiteley.

Earl Bostic thought he had completed his term in 2015, therefore didn't attend or participate in 2016 meetings or events. Steve Gerke resigned, Jan Parker took a leave of absence to serve as the interim choir director.

Moderator - Laura Eikmann

Vice Moderator - Bill Irvine

Secretary - Chris Truett, subs - Kelley Hurrell, Bill Irvine, Stan Whiteley

Benevolence Fund:

January 1, 2016 - \$6,238.00

December 31, 2016 - \$3,296.82

Credits to Benevolence Fund include -

Poinsettias, Easter Lilies, Harvest of Talents - \$991.00

Donations - \$160.00

Debits from Benevolence Fund include –

The Board of Deacons provided emergency financial assistance to several members of the community and family/friends of New Hope. Assistance included: medical payments, rent assistance, groceries, hotel lodging, utility payments, and coats for homeless children, and Crisis Nursery support. Assistance was paid directly to the creditor, when applicable, or given to the recipient in the form of gift cards. Deacons also provided assistance for youth and adult mission trips.

Congregational Care: Transportation was coordinated to those needing a ride for Worship, Church Family Gathering, and other events. Meals were prepared and delivered to those who were sick, injured or recovering from surgery. One funeral luncheon was provided. Birthday, anniversary, and sympathy cards were sent to members. Care boxes were sent to college students and those serving in the military. Gifts were given on Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Veteran's Day. A gift was given to Chris James in honor of Pastor Appreciation.

Deacon's Annual Picnic was in September. The picnic was held at the pavilion. Deacons power washed and cleaned the area, set up tables and canopies. The congregation generously provided side dishes/desserts and Deacons provided fried chicken and beverages. Several youth members volunteered to face paint at the event. The Fellowship Group organized games and provided a bounce house. Great food and fellowship was enjoyed by 90 attendees.

Harvest of Talents was held in November. The congregation generously provided handmade items, which were purchased through free will donations made to the Deacon's Benevolence Fund.

Deacons hosted monthly hospitality on the second Sunday of the month following both services. Cookies/bakery items, coffee, other beverages were served.

Community Outreach/Inreach: Blood Drives were held in February and September. Donations increased from previous years.

Cookies/Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus was held in December. Cookies, milk, hot cocoa, and coffee were provided and served. A visit/photo with Santa, storytelling with Mrs. Claus, crafts, and fellowship were enjoyed by many children and adults. Socks were collected and donated to St. Peter and Paul for the Homeless.

Christmas Giving Tree sponsored three local families and Crisis Nursery. The congregation generously provided clothing and other wish list gifts for these three families in need. Deacons made an additional donation to Crisis Nursery for ongoing necessities.

Additionally, we met each month on the first Monday, with the exception of July. The Agenda regularly consisted of updates regarding the congregation's joys and concerns. We discussed those in need of prayer, meals, transportation, etc. Together, we provided loving care to the congregation and the community.

Deacons lived up to, and were guided by, the promises made as we each were ordained, installed, and commissioned before the body of membership of New Hope Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Eikmann - Moderator

STRATEGIC PLANNING

THE JOURNEY

The Journey began with a single step. In 2015, the Session endorsed the Strategic Plan and commissioned a leadership team to make plans to begin *The Journey* in early 2016. On January 10th, 38 people began the inaugural voyage towards baptismal living, either as a Traveler or a Companion. During the fall, fifteen people participated. Everyone had the opportunity to join with others who were seeking to deepen their relationship with God and fellow Travelers and Companions.

For those of you who are still waiting to join *The Journey*, some explanation about *The Journey* is helpful. There was much fellowship each time we gathered together. There were meals to prepare and share. In small groups, we established relationships and a level of trust that allowed us to speak from the heart and soul. We laughed, cried, supported, and challenged each other. And, best of all, we cared about one another. You'll see people from both the spring and fall groups staying connected with one another and being supportive of their journeys of faith.

We studied Biblical scriptures – generally, a gospel reading from the lectionary. We delved deeply into how the passage touched us and what meaning it had for our lives. It was in the sharing of our faith and living into the gospel that we felt more comfortable telling the story of Christ in our own lives.

The last several weeks of *The Journey* were all about living into our baptism through service within and outside the congregation and community. It was not about fulfilling ourselves, but it was all about choosing to serve in some way as a faithful response to a loving God who sacrificed everything for us.

The first and second voyages of *The Journey* have now ended, but for our Travelers and Companions in both voyages, they continue their journey along the path to deepening their faith and being more intentional disciples of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We continue to be humbled by the outpouring of support *The Journey* has seen throughout this year. A big thank you goes to each and every one of you for your dedication to our church's disciple-making process. Your commitment to something so important certainly is indicative of the transformative nature of what we hope to achieve for the participants, and, just as importantly, for our church as a whole. What an amazing ride it's been!! What a gift New Hope is providing for each and every one of us. Here's to more *Journeys* in 2017!

Respectfully submitted,

The Journey Leadership Team

Linda Dencker	Lynn Harmon	Ruth Irvine	Chris James
Terry Martinez	Del Phillips	Nancy Seals	Margo Van Mill

EARTH CARE

The Earth Care Team was formed to help New Hope Presbyterian Church become an Earth Care Congregation. Earth Care Congregation was part of the Strategic Plan 2015 with the following purpose:

We will promote the stewardship of creation by becoming an “earth care congregation” of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Care for our environment is a prominent theme in scripture and a great concern for our time, especially our younger generation. By doing this, we hope to welcome and include all, serve others and be God’s love in the world.

In June, 2016 I was asked to lead the team as an elder of the session. I contacted all church members who indicated at the Strategic Planning meeting in November 2015 they had an interest in being involved with the Earth Care Congregation. Seven members were interested in being part of the Earth Care Team. The first meeting of the team was June 14, 2016.

Team members present were Cindy Martin, Chris James (advisor), Nicole Faubert, Deb Garten, Bob Dencker, Mark Phillips. Handouts from PCUSA –Earth Care Congregations (ECC)– A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches and ECC First Year Certification Application Materials were available to review. Part of the team’s work was to help complete the ECC audit. For the audit 25 points for each of the church categories will be needed. The church categories are Worship, Education, Facilities and Outreach/Mission. Applications are accepted by PCUSA January 1- February 15 each calendar year. Church activities must be completed in the calendar year before application is submitted. PCUSA has many resources online for completing the audit and planning for being an earth care congregation.

Team members volunteered to complete the ECC audits for each area:

- Facilities: Mark Phillips with the assistance of Laurie Meinert, Chris Meinert, Clark Hurrell and Chris James
- Education: Deb Garten, Nichole Faubert with the assistance of the Formation for Discipleship team
- Worship: Bob Dencker with the assistance of Linda Dencker, Chris James
- Outreach/Mission: Cindy Martin with the assistance of Mission committee

I met with the Formation for Discipleship team on June 27 to discuss the Earth Care Team initiatives as it could apply to Sunday School curriculum. Shelly Geiger purchased Earth Care curriculum, incorporated the Care theme into many Sunday School activities and invited the Earth Care Team to participate in the Formation Fair at the Church Family Gathering on September 11, 2016. I had a display board highlighting the Earth Care Audit at the fair for congregational awareness.

Nicole Faubert and Deb Garten developed the Junior Earth Care Team based on a suggestion from Nichole’s son. This group is for youth ages 5-12. They have had meetings with parents and youth on Sundays after church. The group is called JET (Junior Earthcare Team). JET met to make a terrarium craft for the Harvest of Talents. Recycled materials are being collected for an Earth Care Banner.

The Earth Care Team met on July 26, August 30 and September 20, 2016. A mock audit was prepared and entered into the revised application form. Pastor Chris James was able to enter the form into an Excel format. Each category had over 25 points. Worship - 32, Education – 64, Facilities – 69, Outreach – 48 for a total of 213 points. The audit and Earth Care Pledge were presented and approved by the session at the November 14 meeting.

In 2017 the Earth Care Team will be working to assist the church in activities that show our concern for the earth and praise for God who gave the gift of the earth through creation.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Martin

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women of New Hope have had a very busy year. In addition to the many programs, mission opportunities and fundraisers, PW supports three Circles. The Joy Circle meets in the evening and the Agape and Jubilee Circles meet during the day. Agape and Jubilee briefly merged during the latter part of their Horizons study (until May), due to conflicting schedules and low attendance among Jubilee Circle participants. The Circles conclude their studies in May and resume in September. Jubilee Circle is now held at Bemo's in Cottleville in the evening for dinner, study and fellowship. Joy Circle continues to meet in the evening and Agape meets in the early afternoon at New Hope. The Circles continue to nurture the spiritual growth of their participants.

In January, PW welcomed Ann Hazelwood who presented a program entitled, "100 years of Quilting." Everyone enjoyed the program and it was well attended. The event raised \$150 for the Scholarship Fund.

In February, PW assisted with the Valentine's Day Chili Cook-off to help fund the mission trips. A "free will offering" was collected and raised \$855. The event was well-attended and many middle and high school students were in attendance.

In March, PW hosted a luncheon and Many Hands Workshop. Hygiene kits were assembled for Saints Peter and Paul Men's shelter in Soulard, while the Sunday school youths filled Easter eggs for the the annual Easter Egg hunt. Kathy Freeman coordinated the hygiene kit project. Ongoing support of the Sani-Panti project continues as well.

In April, Jess Adams from the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank presented a program on how poverty affects diaper need. She spoke at both services and during the Sunday school hour. April was designated Diaper Awareness month at New Hope and diapers were collected throughout the month and into early May. Parishioners collected 4,000 diapers and donated \$855 to the Diaper Bank.

On April 30, the Spring Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy met in Ste. Genevieve. Ann Schmid and Vicky Koonley presented a brief skit encouraging women to participate in next year's Horizons Bible Study, "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" by Judy Yates Siker.

May was a busy month for PW. In addition to awarding the annual PW Scholarship to a deserving senior, PW celebrates its Birthday Luncheon and elects and installs its officers for the 2016-2017 term. Eric Gibbs received the \$1000 scholarship. He is attending Drury College in Springfield, MO. The Birthday Celebration Funds received were distributed to: Young People [Heartland 180], Kansas City, MO; Habitat for Humanity, East Bay/Silicon Valley, Oakland, CA; and DART [Direct Action and Research Training Center] in Miami, FL. PW Nominating Committee announced the new PW Officers. They are; Alyssa Murray (Moderator), Donna Huffman (Vice Moderator), Jennifer Everly (Treasurer) and Nancy Seals (Secretary). The new officers were elected and installed. Mary Powers also unveiled the Counted Cross Stitch of

Presbyterian Cross”, which was done by Ruth Reilly. This now hangs on the wall across from the conference room.

June was the first meeting of the new Coordinating Team (CT). The installed officers and a representative from each circle comprise members of the CT. They plan programs throughout the year, as well as determine which missions to support.

The Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy (PWGL) Planning Retreat was held at NHPC on Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30. Ann Schmid was in charge of this event. Barb Lynn suggested that PWGL donate \$300 to the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank as part of their St. Louis Mission projects. It was approved. A box of 52 Sani-Panties and colored panties were mailed for the mission project.

In September, PW hosted Linda Masterson, Master Gardener, who presented a program on fall gardening maintenance. She was very knowledgeable and everyone in attendance enjoyed her presentation. At the September meeting, the forms for the fall bulb sales were distributed. PW receives 50% of the profits from this sale.

The Fall Gathering of PWGL was held at John Knox in Florissant, MO on Saturday, September 24. The hygiene kits were collected from churches in the Presbytery and delivered to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, AR.

In October, PW CT furnished a dinner for the Journey. PW also was asked to cover the hospitality time the 3rd Sunday of each month. Additionally, we provided over \$700 toward the purchase of a new ice maker for the church. We agreed to donate \$200 to Sarah Martin, who is participating in her second year in the Navigators program at the University of Nebraska. Also in October, PW helped with Trunk-or-Treat by helping with games and supplying the prizes for best costume and best decorated trunk.

In November, the fall bulb sales ended. PW received \$381.50. The shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse were collected and brought to Grace Community Chapel for mailing on November 21. New Hope collected 56 shoeboxes. The Coordinating Team also donated \$200 to the Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy for their Mission Fund.

In December, PW hosted a Fair Trade Market and Cookie Walk. Members of the congregation donated many varieties of cookies. PW raised \$360, which will fund upcoming projects and the Scholarship Fund. The Fair Trade Market was held December 11 and 18 and was well received by the congregation. The handcrafted items help artisans in developing countries earn a fair and sustainable wage for their crafts. We raised \$3850 for Plowsharing, which provided the fair trade items for the market. PW will receive 10 percent of that total. Many members of the congregation asked if the Cookie Walk and Fair Trade Market could become an annual event.

PW also provided refreshments and cleanup for the December 11 Service of Lessons and Carols.

The Presbyterian Women of New Hope strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and have many more mission opportunities in the upcoming year

Alyssa Murray
PW Moderators

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship continued to serve New Hope in 2016 in many ways. Our main focus has always been on church facilities, programs and projects.

Our group continues to meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM for breakfast. It is a buffet style breakfast prepared and served by the group members. Not bragging, but they do a terrific job!!! Some call it their monthly food fix. We often enjoy the company of sons, daughters and wives. It's a good time to enjoy fellowship with each other and catch up on what's happening in their lives. Big bonus is the food isn't shabby. We held 12 breakfasts in 2016.

Some of the things we were involved with in 2016 included:

1. Financial support to the completion of the Kisker Road sign.
2. Work days on the property
3. Food for The Journey meeting
4. Purchase of food for the VBS Picnic.
5. Served Biscuits & Gravy at the fall kickoff Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Christian Formation Committee
6. Helped groups with setup and take-down of tables and chairs.
7. Held special Christmas breakfast for all of the family members of the group.

COME JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen Rudolph