



# 2017 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 22, 2017**

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 12:10 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, and (2) to hear about the 2017 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. Dr. James left the meeting and Elder Gibbs presented the Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James for the 2017 calendar year.

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.

Dr. James returned 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 2017 budget with the congregation. He advised that the budget is balanced for 2017. Mr. Pettit also advised that New Hope ended 2016 in the black, even after placing \$10,000 in the building maintenance fund and a spending a little over \$5000 for carpet that is to be installed in 2017. In addition, Mr. Pettit reported that New Hope received 100.7% of all revenues budgeted to be received in 2016. He further noted that all committees spent less than they were budgeted. Money has been set aside in 2017 to have an outside auditing firm review our money handling and bank reconciliation procedures. Mr. Pettit briefly explained the changes to the Board of Pensions for non-clergy employees. He noted that 2017 is the third year in a row that the budget has been balanced. A question and answer session was held.

There being no further business, Linda Judd made a **motion** to adjourn. Lindy Stacey seconded the motion. Motion approved. Dr. James closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OCTOBER 8, 2017**

The Congregation of New Hope Presbyterian Church met in the Sanctuary on October 8, 2017 for the **purpose of hearing and voting on the 2017 Nominating Committee Report**. The Rev. Dr. James served as Moderator, and opened the meeting with prayer at 12:11 p.m. A **quorum was declared** as stipulated in the Book of Order (G10.0202).

Rev. Dr. James began the meeting by noting that when the Congregational Meeting was called, the Nominating committee believed they had a full slate of officers. However, just that morning, the Committee was notified that they were one Deacon short. If a Deacon was not nominated during the Congregational Meeting, then another Congregational Meeting would be called to elect the one remaining Deacon. Rev. Dr. James introduced Bryan Eikmann, the Chairman of the 2017 Nominating Committee. Elder Eikmann explained the criteria used in nominating members for the offices of Elder and Deacon for the Class of 2020, and to serve on the 2018 Nominating Committee.

Elder Eikmann presented the slate of nominees for Deacon for the Class of 2020. They were Sue Dittmar, Barbara Lynn, Todd Rasche and Joe Seidler. Greg Marshall is being nominated to serve a one year unexpired term for the Class of 2018. 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 2020 and Mr. Marshall for the Class of 2018.

Elder Eikmann next presented the slate of nominees for Ruling Elder for the Class of 2020. They were Paul Hacker, Lynn Harmon, Terry Martinez, Julie Nowakowski and Jim Phillips. 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 2020.

Elder Eikmann then presented the Nominees for election to the Congregational Nominating Committee, Class of 2018. They were Jane Cox, Mike Dame, Randy Malta and Kathy Mudrovic. 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 2018.

There being no further business, Sylvia Bane Malta made a **motion** to adjourn. Linda Dencker seconded the motion. **Motion** approved. The Rev. Dr. James closed the meeting with prayer at 12:18 p.m.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 26, 2017**

The Congregation of New Hope Presbyterian Church met in the Sanctuary on November 26, 2017 for the **purpose of hearing and voting on the final Deacon nomination for the class of 2020**. The Rev. Dr. James served as Moderator, and opened the meeting with prayer at 12:11 p.m. A **quorum was declared** as stipulated in the Book of Order (G10.0202).

Rev. Dr. James introduced Bryan Eikmann, the Chairman of the 2017 Nominating Committee. Elder Eikmann stated the Nominating Committee had found someone to fill the remaining deacon position for the class of 2020. The Nominating Committee put forth Robin Murphy to fill this position. Rev. Dr. James asked for any nominations from the floor. There being none, a vote was taken. Robin Murphy was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, Sylvia Bane Malta made a **motion** to adjourn. Linda Dencker seconded the motion. **Motion** approved. The Rev. Dr. James closed the meeting with prayer at 12:15 p.m.

## REPORT OF THE PASTOR

*“Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.”*  
(“Let Us Build a House,” *Glory to God*, 301)

The above text is the first verse of a hymn that is new to most of us, appearing for the first time to Presbyterians in our new hymnal, *Glory to God*. (Our hymnal will be five years old this year. Can we still call it new?) Composed by Marty Haugen, the hymn was originally written in 1994 for a church dedication, but the words do not speak so much of a physical structure as they do a spiritual one. All five verses begin the same way:

*“Let us build a house where...,”* then each verse describes something particular about what is hoped might happen there: (v.1) *“...love can dwell...,”* (v.2) *“...prophets speak...,”* (v.3) *“...love is found...,”* (v.4) *“...hands will reach...,”* and (v.5) *“...all are named...”* Just as each verse begins with the same words, each also ends with the same words: *“...all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.”* The full text of the hymn is poetic. It entreats us to live into who we are as God’s covenant community, called together for worship, truth-telling, and daring to live the dream of God’s reign. As I read the words and hum the tune, I see so many of the ways we have “built a house” through our ministries in 2017.

*The Journey* has continued to make space for people to ask questions and consider how God has been present in their lives and to what God might be calling them just now. Whether people come to us never having darkened the door of a church, or having been committed Christians their whole lives, this is a place of hospitality and openness through which we engage people in exploring the Christian faith—for the first time, or all over again. *The Journey* makes no presumptions, other than that God is present with us always, regardless of whether we are paying any attention. Leading people into the community of the church takes time and intentionality, but doing so does indeed honor all people and ensures that we can live into our conviction that *“...all are welcome in this place.”*

Our commitment as an *Earth Care Congregation* has continued to teach us about the stewardship of creation and our responsibilities of caring for the earth entrusted to our care. Much has been done this year in that regard and there is, of course, much yet to learn and do. But this commitment has opened our eyes to all the ways we are so inextricably linked to the earth and its resources, and it has served as a reminder that our stewardship of the environment doesn’t just happen without thoughtful and faithful planning on our part. It has been a pleasure to work with our Earth Care Team this year and witness all the ways they continue to lead our congregation in ensuring that the earth itself can remain a place where “all are welcome.”

Our Ministry, Mission, & Evangelism Committee has worked closely with our Micah 6:8 Team this past year in working for social justice in the areas of race and poverty. Building on the efforts of our *Sacred Conversations on Race + Action* of years’ past, we have continued the small steps toward understanding how we might best be a part of addressing the problem of race in America and the plight of the poor among us. I challenge all of us to step out of our comfort zones, however that might look for each of us, to help address these issues so our larger community might truly proclaim that “all are welcome in this place.”

Our Church Family Gatherings continued to bring us together across generations to share in fellowship and fun. Some were scheduled around different occasions or themes than the previous year, but they have continued to strengthen our community by calling us to share a meal around stories of faith that form who we are together. Indeed, they have helped us greatly live into our hope that “all are welcome in this place.”

All this is to say nothing of our weekly worship centered around Word, Water, Bread and Wine, the work of our Presbyterian Women, Sunday morning education and formation classes, Bible studies, adult and youth mission trips, the OASIS Food Pantry, and countless other ministries that not only form us more fully into the sort of people God calls us to be, but also enlivens our hope that “all are welcome in this place.”

In my work with the Presbytery, I have continued my service on the Pastoral Transitions & Care Commission, which works with congregations who are experiencing transitions in pastoral leadership. Much of this work involves leading Pastor Nominating Committees through the process of calling a new pastor, but also helping smaller-membership churches, who can no longer afford a full-time installed pastor, identify options for leadership that might serve them best. In addition, I serve on the Sunday Morning Worship Subcommittee of the Events Committee of the Committee on Local Arrangements of our Presbytery. (It absolutely doesn't get any more Presbyterian than this!) As you may have heard, from June 16-23, 2018, our Presbytery is hosting the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in St. Louis. My committee is working with individual congregations of our Presbytery to host General Assembly Commissioners for worship and lunch on the Sunday they are in town (June 17<sup>th</sup>).

I remain grateful for the privilege of working with our great staff. Laurie Meinert keeps our office running smoothly with grace and professionalism, going above and beyond the call of duty time and time again. Gay Spears completed her first year as our new Director of Music Ministries and we are blessed by her experience, education, faithfulness and good cheer. She has brought so much to our music ministries. Vickie Moore diligently keeps our facilities clean and readily usable by the all the groups that meet and minister here. We are grateful for Cassie Allen, Marion Hamilton, Kelley Brueggeman, Janet Lewis, Sharon Lukes and Melissa Lukes, who continue to provide loving and consistent care to infants and toddlers on Sunday mornings and at other times when called upon.

As always, my greatest thanks, 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.

Oh, and, look up the hymn. By God's Spirit, may we be a part of making it happen.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Q. James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Christopher Q. James, Pastor

## CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

Once again God showered his love on New Hope Presbyterian Church in 2017. The year was full of blessings for New Hope and its congregation. These blessings and successes are described in the different sections of the Annual Report. I urge you to read each section and contemplate how we were all allowed to be God's hands and feet in his world. New Hope offers many opportunities to serve God through its various ministries. I urge you to consider the talents God gave you, and use it to serve God in his world and at New Hope.

The Clerk's report for 2017 shows we started the year with 245 members and ended with 222. Unfortunately, we had no gains in membership. Average weekly attendance was 165, which is up from 2016. First time visitors numbered 153 for the year. Return visitors averaged about 17 each week. We celebrated 6 child/infant baptisms. We mourned 2 deaths.

We look forward to 2018, the many opportunities before us, and all the various ways we will be called to serve God.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Gibbs  
Clerk of Session

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

It was a busy year in music ministry at New Hope during 2017. The choir presented anthems at 38 services. The choir led congregational singing on most of the Sundays when they were not singing an anthem. They participated in the Presbyterian Women's hymn festival and sang several pieces in the "Christmas Around the World" program. The choir's broadening repertoire included arrangements of well-known hymns, choral classics, and pieces based upon spirituals, gospel, and folk music, and they continued to develop greater artistry in choral singing. They sang in Latin, German, Spanish, and a little French this year. In addition to regular rehearsals, choir members began the fall season with a Saturday choral workshop, and they enjoyed fellowship times both on and off church property. I commend them for their faithfulness and esprit de corps.

Tracy Grundy directed the children's choir. They sang at the "Birthday Party for Jesus" and on Easter. Thank you, Tracy, and Sunday school teachers. Children also sang in worship at the conclusion of Vacation Bible School.

Lynne Snyder, Mike Dame, Bob Dencker, Kathy Kuehnle, Mary Powers, Ruth Irvine, Jared Spears, and Connie Pettit shared their gifts as vocal soloists or in small vocal ensembles. Guest singers included Yolanda Mortimer, Cameron White, and the Alegria ensemble.

The handbell choir rehearsed regularly and contributed pieces for many services during the year. They rang for Advent by Candlelight and for the "Christmas Around the World" program. Thank you, ringers, and Terry Martinez, director, for your beautiful musical offerings.

We were blessed by the talents of several instrumental musicians this year. They included Tracy Grundy, flute; Tucker Jones, oboe; Terry Martinez, saxophone; and Jared Spears, Linda Judd, Terry Martinez, and Aleuria Alderson, percussion. Guest instrumentalists included Chris Torretta, violin; Cathy Woelbling-Paul, oboe; James Hopkins, bagpipes; A Fifth Above Woodwind Quintet; and an ensemble of brass musicians for Easter. Thank you to Terry also for contracting, rehearsing, and directing the brass ensemble.

Thank you to Mike Dame and the sound system volunteers for making sure the music is heard!

Pastor Chris, Laurie, and Vickie continue to be a blessing as my colleagues in ministry, and members of the congregation have been very kind and encouraging. Your support allowed me to attend the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music week at Montreat and the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts convention in Little Rock. Thank you to Kathy Kuehnle for leading the music while I was away.

We have many exciting plans for the music ministry in 2018. May the music ministry bless you in your discipleship journey.

Soli Deo gloria,  
Gay Spears

# **WORSHIP, MUSIC & THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

**Members:** Jerry Dyer, Lindy Stacy, Linda Dencker, Sue White, and Lynne Snyder, chair

## **Worship Services**

We continued our two services at 8:45 and 11:00 every Sunday, with the exception of one service at 10:00 on Reformation Sunday, and one service at 10:15 on Christmas Eve morning, New Year's Eve morning, and throughout the summer months.

## **Special Services**

Growing out of our Strategic Plan, the Journey led us to Celebrations of Welcome, Enrollment, Baptism/ Reaffirmation, and Discipleship during our regular worship services in 2017. These allowed the congregation to join and support those participants who were exploring their faith journeys.

We celebrated the traditional Lenten services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, 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. The Easter services included music from the chancel choir, handbell choir, children's choir and a brass ensemble.

During the Advent season, several families led us in worship by lighting the Advent candles. The Chancel and Handbell choirs hosted an afternoon program of "Christmas Around the World," with additional music being supplied by instrumental soloists. The choir also lead the congregation each week to plead, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and Christmas Eve was celebrated with two lovely candlelight services.

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 Deacon's 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 Alan 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. Special thanks to Jerry Dyer for coordinating the servers and liturgists.

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

## **Music**

Gay Spears has completed her first full year as Choir Director and accompanist, and we are delighted to have her lead us in her music ministry. She has added to our tradition of musical excellence by offering "special" music to many services. These include many invited soloists and ensembles from both within and outside of the congregation to share their talents with us. Gay also added choral music to certain summer services, along with some hymn sings before

worship. She also led a very successful choir workshop at the end of summer. An added benefit is the musical gift of her husband, Jared, and his engaging percussion! A special thanks also goes to Kathy Kuehnle who fills in as accompanist when Gay is absent.

Of course, we also give thanks to our wonderful Chancel Choir for their gift of music, to the Bell Choir and their director Terry Martinez, and to Tracy Grundy who has been working with the children's choir. Tracy often shares her beautiful flute playing with us in services, as well.

### **Sound**

Thank you to Mike Dame and his band of 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, and the coming of the Christ Child during advent. So many people contributed to these projects that it's impossible to list them all, but we are especially thankful for the beautiful artwork created by Bob Dencker, the artful eye of Linda Dencker, and the help of Tom Wilson. In addition, Holly Martinez acquired various colored tablecloths for the handbell tables to coordinate with the colors of the liturgical calendar, new Christmas wreaths were made by Sue White and Lindy Stacy to adorn the outside doors, luminaries were added in the circle to help light the way, and the advent wreath in the sanctuary as well as the Christmas tree in the Narthex were given makeovers, courtesy of Laura Eikmann and Deborah Phillips.

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,  
Lynne Snyder

# 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 2017 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 2 childcare worker as teachers), Three – Five Years Old (teachers Julie Gaffney, Marilyn Pavia, Jennifer James and child care worker, Cassie Allen), Kindergarten – Grade 2 (teachers Kathy Mudrovic, Laurie Meinert, and Barb Griffith), 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 met most of last year, and used a mix of studies and curriculum. This past fall Pastor James offered a new class called: “This We Believe: Eight Truths Presbyterians Affirm”. Presently the “Reflecting on Faith” class is not meeting while the “This We Believe...” meets. In Oct. there was one mid-week bible study offered, “Galatians”. This was facilitated by Anne Finks.

## **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, and Sharon Lukes. Childcare subs are Marion Hamilton and Kelly Brueggemann. Each week one Safe Sanctuary volunteer from the congregation also helps in the nursery. Nursery volunteers may sign up through New Hope's website or contact Shelley Geiger.

## **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 worship 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 story and prayer, learning how to calm themselves and open their minds to hear God's voice. The remainder of Worship Feast time is spent in centers focused on mission, prayer, bible stories and liturgy. 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 Shelley Geiger.

### **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. There are also worship bags for visiting children.

### **VBS**

We had great cause for celebration on the success of this year's VBS program, *Hero Central, Discover Your Strength in God!* Seventy-eight children (two year olds through grade 5) attended VBS this year, 51 were from the community, and some children were repeat attendees from the previous year. This was a 32% increase in VBS enrollment over 2016! VBS Co-Directors, Deb Garten, Jenn Everly, and Nancy Seals expressed their great appreciation for all the volunteers (51) who helped and everyone agreed this year's group of children were super!! Once again there was "VBS Night School", about 20 folks (adults and children) attended the VBS evening session in June. The VBS Mission Project this year aimed to help families in our community and featured a successful collection of kid friendly food items for Oasis Food Pantry. On VBS Picnic Day, VBS 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 *Rolling River Rampage, Experience a ride of a lifetime with God!* Watch for more information on VBS 2018 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, emo Ball, winter tubing at Hidden Valley, the annual fall hayride, bowling and pizza, going to "Swing-a-round" in Fenton, the Mission Trip Rummage Sale fundraiser, Mission Trip car wash and bake sale, 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 Aleuria Alderson, Maggie Cox, Quinn Barbee, Tucker Jones, Cole Nowakowski, Will and Grace James. Many thanks to our Mission Trip chaperones: Chris James, Bryan Eikmann, Jennifer Everly, and Ruth Conner. 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 2018! 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 the FfD Committee 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. Parents and individuals who are not Safe Sanctuary trained can request training at any time, please contact the church office or Shelley Geiger 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**

The FFD childcare volunteers continue to be managed via an online child care volunteer sign up on the church's website. New Hope volunteers can conveniently sign up online to help weekly in New Hope's Worship Feast Room or upstairs nursery. Three 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 visit the church website – [www.nhpres.org](http://www.nhpres.org), or contact Shelley Geiger 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 one of the Church Family Gatherings and Christmas Eve Worship service. We are grateful for Tracy's leadership for this ministry!

### **Church Family Gatherings**

In 2017 Formation for Discipleship helped co-sponsor three "Church Family Gatherings". The "Church Family Gatherings" were 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 CFGs were: Earth Day Celebration, A Sunday School kick off pancake and sausage gravy and biscuits breakfast, 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. Many thanks to the Men's Fellowship and all the planners and volunteers who contributed their time, talents, muscles and cooking skills for the good of our wonderful church family!

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*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 2017!*

Respectfully submitted,  
Jen Everly and Shelley Geiger

## **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Members: Martha Lamey, Laurie Meinert, and Margo VanMill, chair

The Hospitality Committee organized and scheduled members to act as “hosts” on the first, third and fourth Sunday of each month. These hosts prepare coffee and hospitality bar snacks, as well as greet and welcome members and visitors. Members of the committee were responsible for purchasing snacks for the hospitality bar on these Sundays.

We hosted a successful Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on March 1<sup>st</sup>, with 10 soups being provided for dinner before our Ash Wednesday worship service. The committee set-up and prepared drinks as well as sandwiches and cleaned up after the event. Elaine Barbee provided her delicious homemade bread. We had one of our largest attendances ever for the Soup Supper.

The committee members provided hot dogs, gold fish and drinks for the Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. There were 10 cars present and we had approximately 120 visitors.

In addition to the above, the committee provided sheet cakes for the Blessing of the Backpacks (September), Pastor Appreciation (October), and Reformation Sunday (October).

We also provided support to the Formation for Discipleship during the Congregational Gatherings.

The Hospitality Committee is responsible for stocking the kitchen with paper products and supplies, as well as maintaining supplies for the hospitality bar.

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. There are literally dozens of services and projects taking place at New Hope and with the members. Mary Powers, Jim Cox, Alyssa Murray, and Kirk Garten make up the MME Committee, but dozens of other members volunteer their time and talents for a wide variety of causes. The following provides a comprehensive (but not necessarily a complete) list of our initiatives...

The adult mission trip was another big success, with New Hope members helping to build housing in Pensacola, Florida, with Habitat for Humanity there. The hard-working and dedicated members are considering another trip in 2018.

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 to enhance coastal habitat with Project GreenShores.

Mary Powers coordinated collection and delivery of snacks, school supplies, and some needed clothing to Harvest Ridge Elementary School for underprivileged students through the school year. The project was so successful there were some snacks available to the children through the summer as well.

In June, several members of the congregation volunteered to work at Gateway Greening, a community/teaching garden in St. Louis. We did some weeding outside and some cleanup inside. At the end of the year, MME designated some money to help replace power tools stolen from the site.

Our newer social justice outreach group - Micah 6:8 continued in 2017. 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. A new outreach connection has been established with the Anti-Racism Collective. The team is also 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 youth 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. This year, MME budgeted funding to sponsor a family in need for the coming year.

We participated in the ShareFest in Ferguson. Shoeman Water Project is an ongoing ministry for third world countries. Deacons hosted a successful blood drive.

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.

The Presbyterian Women of New Hope have had a very busy year. In addition to the many programs, mission opportunities and fundraisers, PW supports two Bible Study Circles. The Circles continue to nurture the spiritual growth of its participants

PW supports the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank with a month-long diaper drive, and donations throughout the year. Parishioners collected 4800 diapers and donated \$840 to the Diaper Bank. The PW Coordinating Team decided to donate \$100 to Gateway Greening to help defray the cost of new tools, after theirs were stolen. The women of the church also support the Navigators program with a monetary donation every year. We also support Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy Mission Fund. PW assists with church-wide events and programs that help fund the mission trips, and designated funds for the church.

In August, the Scholarship Committee announced the winners of the PW scholarship. The application process was changed this year to include multiple students. \$500 was awarded to both Kayla Martinez and Sam Connor.

The Fall Gathering of PWGL was held at New Hope on September 23. The theme was “Cloud of Witnesses,” which is the Horizons Bible study for this year. Approximately 70 women were in attendance, representing 19 churches from across the Presbytery. The special collection went to the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank (75 percent) and the PW-GL Scholarship Fund (25 percent). \$613 was collected, along with 2249 diapers. Janice McMillen led a breakout session where women created their own “Blessing Bracelets,” and Karen Wilson shared a presentation entitled, “Restorative Justice,” specifically discussing the school to prison pipeline and what we can do to change it.

December was a busy month for PW. We collected 125 toys for the Marines’ Toys for Tots program, and held a fair-trade market for two consecutive Sundays. Fair trade items provide artisans in developing countries with a living and sustainable wage.

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.

### **Mission Priorities for 2018**

MME and Micah 6:8 teams have decided to focus primarily on a few of our several related ongoing activities in the coming year, providing more focused communication to increase awareness and engagement. We are not ceasing any existing program, but rather will direct attention to a few activities in order to more effectively drive their benefits. Our highest-visibility programs will be those directed at fragile families and children and our social justice engagements.

- Fragile Families and Children
  - Francis Howell School District identified Harvest Ridge Elementary School as “greatest need” and as having a significant number of homeless or near homeless families. The school’s counselors work with families to help them stabilize their housing, health and employment situations, and to keep students in school.

- In 2016, the Community Council of St. Charles County identified 2,350 households (4,550 children and adults) that received services related to homelessness or the risk of being homeless. Beginning January 23, 2018, A Coordinated Entry program will provide an efficient way for people who experience housing insecurity to access services.
- Social Justice
  - The Sacred Conversations + Action group works for racial justice in Saint Charles County. It is made up of three task forces that have identified areas of racial disparity and now work for change by developing relationships with community leaders.
    - The Education Task Force has identified three areas of disparity within the Saint Charles County schools. These issues include: the rate of out of school suspensions (OSS) for African American students versus white students, percentage of non-white students enrolled in AP courses versus percentage of white students enrolled in AP courses, and lack of diversity among staff.
    - The Public Safety Task Force has been focusing on the unequal rate at which non-whites are stopped by police and lack of diversity in our fire and police departments when compared to general population.
    - The Housing Task Force is exploring discriminatory housing practices and lack of affordable housing in the County.
  - The Anti-Racism Collective (ARC) is a project of the Justice Institute. It is group of white anti-racism activists who come together to further anti-racism organizing among progressive white activists in the St. Louis area.
- Mission Trips: These efforts provide several benefits both for the participants and the communities they assist. They provide focus on service outside the participants' day-to-day routines.
- O.A.S.I.S. serves families in St. Charles County who face food insecurity. Food intended to last seven to ten days is provided to over 600 families monthly. O.A.S.I.S also supports a children's summer food program and an employment-readiness program.
- The Journey: Our premier spiritual-growth program will continue to have specific communication and explicit congregational engagement.
- Earth Care: Our environmental stewardship program will see increased communication and, hopefully, congregational involvement.

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. Thanks for everyone's support. Please prayerfully consider how you can help in these ministries. Looking forward to a productive 2018!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kirk Garten, 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 2017 our committee elders were Kathy Gibbs, Rick Waldo and Clark Hurrell.

In 2017 we were able to complete several new projects and react to unplanned events, a summary is noted below:

### **Unplanned event:**

1. Because of a sprinkler head breaking and causing major water damage in late 2016, we hired a fire sprinkler installation company to inspect the condition of our sprinkler system. The inspection found approximately ten additional weak spots all located on the main level of the church. Session approved the repair and replacement of all weak pipes and quarterly proactive inspections.

### **Planned Projects:**

1. We replaced the carpeting in the offices and conference room with commercial grade carpet.
2. We completed two landscaping projects –
  - a. We had a professional landscaper remove all the plants from the front circle drive then replace the mulch with rock and add new shrubs and bushes.
  - b. We purchased several tons of rock and added them next to the playground along the parking lot.
3. To improve safety and lessen the chance of a church member falling, we added a hand rail to the choir loft.
4. As a green project and to reduce electrical usage, we replaced all of the bathroom light switches to motion-detecting switches.
5. All nine toilets on the main level were removed and replaced with ADA compliant taller toilets.
6. Two new visitor chairs were purchased for the office waiting area.

Regular maintenance of the facility was completed as required with the help of many church members. If anyone sees anything that is in need of repair, please let any member of the 2018 Admin and Support committee know. We will be glad to take care of any small problem immediately, before it becomes a big problem.

In addition to the facility projects, Session approved an independent review of New Hope's money handling procedures. The firm Showalter and Jabouri was hired to review our books. They found that we are in better shape than most entities of our size. They did make a few suggestions for improvement that Session is working to implement.

An internal review of our financial practices revealed that New Hope could afford to pay off one of our loan obligations. Session approved paying off the loan with the higher interest rate. This was paid in December 2017. New Hope is now in debt by less than \$92,000.00.

Respectively Submitted

Kathy Gibbs

Clark Hurrell

Rick Waldo

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

New Hope's financial posture remained strong throughout 2017. The Session began the year by adopting a balanced budget, for the third year in a row. The membership contributed 98.6% of the estimates of giving, and with the Elders keeping a close watch on expenses, the church finished the year in the black.

We were able, in December, to pay off a loan that had been taken out in 2014 to replace the roof, repair damage to the narthex from the leaking roof, and to set aside monies for future major repair needs.

The Session hired an outside CPA firm during 2017 to review our financial policy, analyze our collections process, cash handling, and bank reconciliation procedures. The firm's report found no major issues, but did make some recommendations for further strengthening our cash security, and we are in the process of implementing them.

During its final meeting in 2017, the Session decided to not only adopt a balanced budget for 2018, but to plan for a surplus, to provide an orderly accumulation of additional reserves to offset potential reductions in contributions as our congregation ages.

Finally, a few words about our mortgage on the building. Thanks to everyone in the church, it has been reduced from \$2.1 million in October of 2009, to \$91,632 as of the end of 2017. The Treasurer will be working with the Session during 2018 to develop a plan for paying it off. A remarkable achievement.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Pettit

## BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

New Hope Presbyterian Church - St Charles MO		
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2017		
Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
<b>Assets</b>		
1.100.025	US Bank Business Checking	193,956.31
1.100.030	US Bank - Chris James	5,000.00
1.100.080	US Bank Investment Account	0.00
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>198,956.31</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
3.103.001	Building Fund Balance	14,666.46
3.103.002	Roof Fund Balance	14,000.00
3.103.003	Narthex Renovation Balance	421.58
3.103.004	Office Carpet Fund	0.00
3.103.003	Nursery Insurance Claim Balance	0.00
3.203.002	Senior High Mission Trip Balance	8,610.73
3.401.001	Benevolence Fund Balance	5,252.52
3.401.002	Adult Mission Trip Balance	6,120.06
3.401.002	Coins for Concern Balance	0.00
3.401.003	Christmas Joy Offering Balance	529.00
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	50.00
3.402.008	Festival of Sharing Fund Balance	20.00
3.501.004	Worship Flowers Balance	1,834.50
3.501.013	Pulpit Bible Fund	250.00
3.601.001	Memorial Fund Balance	7,949.58
3.601.002	Memorial - Cathy Skinn Balance	9,439.52
3.601.003	Great Lake Scrip Fund Balance	2,838.20
3.601.005	Men's Fellowship Fund Balance	1,998.11
3.601.006	Presbyterian Women Fund Balance	5,547.48
2.140.160	Taxes Payable	1,627.30
	<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>81,155.04</b>
	<b>Net Surplus Cash Position</b>	<b>117,801.27</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>198,956.31</b>
	<b>Current Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>91,632.03</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017**

<b>Committees/Ministries</b>							
	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>Monthly Budget</b>	<b>Monthly Over/Under</b>	<b>Total through December 2017</b>	<b>Budget through December 2017</b>	<b>Over/Under Budget 2017</b>
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>423,325.00</b>	<b>45,900.73</b>	<b>35,277.08</b>	<b>10,623.65</b>	<b>417,926.07</b>	<b>423,325.00</b>	<b>-5,398.93</b>
<b>Worship, Music &amp; the Arts</b>	<b>8,192.00</b>	<b>1,988.92</b>	<b>682.67</b>	<b>1,306.25</b>	<b>6,664.70</b>	<b>8,192.00</b>	<b>-1,527.30</b>
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>3,830.00</b>	<b>180.90</b>	<b>319.17</b>	<b>-138.27</b>	<b>2,902.70</b>	<b>3,830.00</b>	<b>-927.30</b>
<b>Formation for Discipleship</b>	<b>11,654.00</b>	<b>775.70</b>	<b>971.17</b>	<b>-195.47</b>	<b>7,836.63</b>	<b>11,654.00</b>	<b>-3,817.37</b>
<b>Ministry, Mission &amp; Evangelism</b>	<b>18,331.60</b>	<b>1,582.00</b>	<b>1,527.63</b>	<b>54.37</b>	<b>17,294.23</b>	<b>18,331.60</b>	<b>-1,037.37</b>
<b>Administration &amp; Support</b>	<b>372,067.83</b>	<b>31,510.22</b>	<b>31,005.65</b>	<b>504.57</b>	<b>347,783.69</b>	<b>372,067.83</b>	<b>-24,284.14</b>
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	<b>9,250.00</b>	<b>587.94</b>	<b>770.83</b>	<b>-182.89</b>	<b>2,088.53</b>	<b>9,250.00</b>	<b>-7,161.47</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>423,325.43</b>	<b>36,625.68</b>	<b>35,277.12</b>	<b>1,348.56</b>	<b>384,570.48</b>	<b>423,325.43</b>	<b>-38,754.95</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		<b>9,275.05</b>			<b>33,355.59</b>		<b>33,356.02</b>

# BOARD OF DEACONS

Board members: Bill Irvine (moderator), Kelley Hurrell (vice moderator), Laurie Eikmann, Martha Lamey, Kay McCarthy, Stan Whiteley, Donna Huffman, Bob Denker, Linda Judd, Carolyn Doerr, Sharon Barnes, Mark Besselman, Jennifer Bommarito  
Members Kurt Romkey (work schedule conflict) and Chris Truett (moved out of town) both resigned.

## **Benevolence Fund:**

January 1: \$3,296.82

December 31: \$5,252.52

## Credits to Benevolence:

Tom Wilson (\$70.00), Jim White father memorial (\$2,075.07), Lilies/poinsettia's (\$299.00), Harvest of Talents (\$955.00), Giving Tree fund (\$125.00), Cookies Santa (\$438.00), Puerto Rican Family (\$225.00)

## Debits from Benevolence:

Therapy (\$180.00), Car Repair (\$304.09), Puerto Rican family (\$225.00), Mother and family (\$489.28), Peter & Paul Communities (\$438.00), Crisis Nursery & Giving Tree Families (\$390.00)

Financial assistance by the Deacons to the community included a Puerto Rican family (with meal), medical bills, Crisis Nursery, Harvester Christian church food pantry, church employee car repair, a homeless family with 2 children. Funds were given in the form of checks and gift cards.

**Congregational Care:** Transportation was coordinated to those needing a ride for Worship, Church Family Gatherings, and other events. Meals were prepared and delivered to those who were sick, injured or recovering from surgery. Two luncheons were hosted for funerals. Birthday, anniversary and sympathy cards were signed and mailed to church members. Care Boxes were sent to college students and those serving in the military. Gifts were given on Mothers, Fathers and Veterans Day. A gift was given to Chris James in honor of Pastor Appreciation.

**Deacons Annual Picnic** was hosted in September with deacons providing main course and games and activities. Church members provided pot luck side dishes, salad and desert. Approximately 100 members attended.

**Harvest of Talents** was held in November. Church members provided handmade decorations, gifts, and food for free-will donations.

Deacons provided **hospitality** on the second Sunday of the month following both services. Consisted of cookies/bakery, coffee, lemonade and other beverages.

Community Out-reach/In-reach: **Blood drives** were held in February and September. 8-10 church members donated.

**Cookies with Santa** was hosted in December. Activities included a picture with Santa, cookies, milk, hot chocolate, candy canes, crafts and fellowship were provided. One of the more popular activities was story telling from Mrs. Claus.

Wrapping up the year was the **Christmas Giving Tree** event with the Deacons and the congregation sponsoring 3 local families thru the St Charles Crisis Nursery. Gifts with financial assistance was provided.

Deacons meet monthly on the first Monday, with a break in July when no meeting is held. An agenda is provided with meeting minutes recorded and sent to session. Discussions are opened with prayer followed by details covering membership care, events to be sponsored and those members with special needs.

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,  
William Irvine - Moderator

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

## THE JOURNEY

*The Journey* began its second year in the spring with fifteen parents who were committed to having their children baptized or to reaffirming their own baptismal vows. They met every Sunday morning during the Christian Formation hour between January and Pentecost in June. The Travelers established relationships and a level of trust that allowed them to speak from the heart and soul. They laughed, supported, and challenged each other. They studied Biblical scriptures – generally, a gospel reading from the lectionary. They delved deeply into how the passage touched them and what meaning it had for their lives as parents raising children in a Christian environment. The last several weeks of *The Journey* were all about living into their baptism through service within and outside the congregation and community. It was not about fulfilling themselves, but it was all about choosing to serve in some way as a faithful response to a loving God who sacrificed everything for us.

This fall, for the first time, all the Travelers are visitors who have made a commitment to *The Journey*. It is also the first time that the Travelers and Companions will be involved in *The Journey* for a whole year. Altogether, six Travelers and their Companions are pursuing their journeys along the path to deepening their faith and being more intentional disciples of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

A huge thank you goes to the Session and the congregation for your dedication to our church's disciple-making process. Your commitment is indicative of the transformative nature of what we hope to achieve for our church.

Respectfully submitted,  
*The Journey* Leadership Team

Linda Dencker  
Terry Martinez

Lynn Harmon  
Del Phillips

Ruth Irvine  
Nancy Seals

Chris James  
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

### 2017 Highlights:

#### January 22, 2017

First year Earth Care Congregation application submitted to the Environmental Ministries Division of the PC (USA).

#### February 5, 2017

The congregation was asked to complete a Valentine to the Earth. Cindy Martin spoke to the congregation at both services. Members were encouraged to tell what they love about this God given planet we call home and what **you can** do to care for it for future generations. A green circle was provided for members to write down their thoughts. The completed circles were posted in the gallery and used for the Earth Day celebration.

#### April 6, 2017

New Hope was notified we have been certified as a First Year Earth Care Congregation for 2017. Earth Care Congregation certificate and letter of notification was framed and placed in church front office.

#### April 23, 2017 Earth Day church Family Gathering

The congregation was invited to a continental breakfast and an Earth Day celebration with song, scripture and fun activities for all ages.

Breakfast: Flat bread, pita bread, vanilla yogurt – bulk, Honey, berries, grapes, sliced apples, coffee, orange juice, water

Scripture reading Genesis 1: 1-31

Activities:

- New Hope Earth Care pledge to the World collage was created by Shelley Geiger and Bob Dencker with past pledges/prayers made by members. Participants completed wall collage. The collage will be displayed throughout the year.
- Park passport: “Passport” with local parks to be marked when attended over the year
- Seedling project: 100 Red bud seedlings distributed to be planted everywhere
- Family Earth Care Banner: burlap banners families could draw their family earth care banner
- Earth Care Headband: construction paper global headbands
- Sanctuary procession:  
For the Beauty of the Earth hymn; What a Wonderful World – Jared Spears solo

Coordination of event made possible with help of Shelley Geiger and her experience with past Church Family Gathering events and her extreme willingness to help make things work. There were many, many volunteers that helped with set up, food service, reading scripture, helping with crafts, singing and cleanup. Everyone's help was much appreciated and all were thanked for their service.

A form called New Hope Earth Care Congregation Activity was developed to track earth care activities. The form was given to session members at the May meeting and is available in the Narthex outside the church office. The form can be used by any church member to document earth care events.

### **August, 2017**

Rachel Steele provided Earth Impact Facts that have been printed in the News and Opportunities bulletin and placed on the video screens in the Narthex. Rachel adds the source of her information for transparency and to avoid any bias.

Deb Garten provided an Earth Care information display for the lower level. Cleaning Product safety from the PCUSA website is featured as well as Fair Trade items such as coffee, tea and chocolate.

### **October 14, 2017**

Earth Care trip to Gateway Greening and Missouri Botanical Gardens. Six participants from New Hope attended. Gateway Greening staff shared their Community Garden growing and participation techniques. Most of the gardens were finished for the season. It was a beautiful day to walk around the Botanical Garden. The group finished their day with lunch at Zia's on the Hill.

Fair Trade coffee has been served in the Hospitality station during church times for three Sundays - October 29 (Consecration Sunday, one service), November 26, and December 24, 2017 (one service). Fair Trade coffee was purchased from the Presbyterian coffee project. An information sheet and tabs stating Fair Trade Coffee are placed at the coffee station. There have been positive responses about the coffee. For 2018 Fair Trade coffee will be served on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Tom Wilson was interviewed by Cindy Martin about his efforts helping in the Houston area after Hurricane Harvey. The interview was included in the December newsletter.

Earth Care emphasis occurred in worship services through hymns, devotions, eco-palms and minute for mission. Education curriculum included earth care themes and activities during the year. The Facilities Committee updated late switches and toilets to be more energy efficient. Outreach included the youth mission trip to the Florida coast to help rebuild coral beds, a stay mission at Gateway Greening and a donation to Gateway Greening. Presbyterian Women sold flower bulbs, had a sale that included fair trade products and food items and made a donation to Gateway Greening.

Plans for 2018 include an electronic device turn in project, roadway clean up, Earth Day celebration and a church family garden.

Earth Care Team members:

Bob Dencker

Deb Garten

Ruth Irvine

Chris James

Cindy Martin

Rachel Steele

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Martin



## New Hope Earth Care Congregation Activity

We report our Earth Care Activities to record our congregation's efforts and their positive impact. The report gives us opportunity to evaluate how we are responding to our call to serve and the earth. Use this form to document any event or activity that may impact our Earth Care Congregation mission.

### New Hope Group Information:

**Group Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Event/Activity Information:

**Event Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

**Held:** \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

How Many: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you partner with any other New Hope group or community organization for this event?

If yes, please list that group: \_\_\_\_\_

### Expenses:

Paid staff hour (work spent in event/activity) \_\_\_\_\_ #  
hours \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenses** (from a budget – supplies, materials, food, etc)

Expense item 1: \_\_\_\_\_ \$

Expense item 2: \_\_\_\_\_ \$

Expense item 3: \_\_\_\_\_ \$

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Funding/Revenue:

Did you receive any funding or generate any revenue from this event? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes complete the following:

Funding: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fund Raising \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grants: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plead return completed form to the church office. Thank You!

# 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 two Bible Study Circles. The Jubilee Circle was dissolved in April, due to low attendance. The Joy Circle meets in the evening and the Agape Circle meets during the day. The Circles conclude their studies in May and resume in September. 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 February, PW assisted with the Chili Cook-off to help fund the mission trips. The event was well-attended and many middle and high school students were in attendance.

In March, PW worked with Dr. Gay Spears and the choir to present a Festival of Hymns and potluck dinner. Members of the congregation were treated to a wonderful musical journey through the ages. Thank you to Gay and the choir for a terrific program.

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 4800 diapers and donated \$840 to the Diaper Bank. It was suggested that next year we encourage others outside of New Hope to donate. PW also assisted with the Annual Trivia Night.

On April 25, the Spring Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of Giddings-Lovejoy met in Perryville. During that meeting, it was decided that the offering for the Fall Gathering, which was held on September 23 at New Hope will go to the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank.

In May, Donna Huffman held a Pampered Chef party, assisted by Kathy Medrovic and Nancy Seals. Both men and women were encouraged to attend. This is a fundraiser for PW, and it raised \$218.33.

June was a busy month for PW. The annual birthday luncheon was held on June 25. Cindy Feig, the PW-GL Moderator, presented an informative and interesting report on the purpose of PW and highlighted the important activities PW participates in locally and globally. She also discussed the next Horizons bible study, "Cloud of Witnesses," based on Hebrews. She also told the women about the "Big Tent" experience held at Washington University, July 6-8, and that St. Louis will host the General Assembly in 2018.

In August, the Scholarship Committee announced the winners of the PW scholarship. The application process was changed this year to include multiple students. \$500 was awarded to both Kayla Martinez and Sam Connor. They were made during Worship on August 7, during the back-to-school celebration.

In September, the forms for the fall bulb sales were distributed. PW receives 50% of the profits from this sale. PW received approximately \$250 from the sales. The PW Monthly, a

monthly newsletter designed to keep the women of the church up-to-date on PW happenings, was created and distributed to church members. The Coordinating Team also decided to donate \$100 to Gateway Greening, a mission of the church, to help defray the costs of their stolen tools.

The Fall Gathering of PWGL was held at New Hope on September 23. The theme was “Cloud of Witnesses,” which is the Horizons Bible study for this year. Approximately 70 women were in attendance, representing 19 churches from across the Presbytery. The special collection went to the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank (75 percent) and the PW-GL Scholarship Fund (25 percent). \$613 was collected, along with 2249 diapers. There were two breakout sessions that were offered. Janice McMillen led a session where women created their own “Blessing Bracelets,” and Karen Wilson shared a presentation entitled, “Restorative Justice,” specifically discussing the school to prison pipeline and what we can do to change it. Lunch was also served.

In October, PW helped with Trunk-or-Treat by helping with games and supplying the prizes for “scariest” and “most creative” trunks.

In November, The Coordinating Team also donated \$200 to the Presbyterian Women of Giddings- Lovejoy for their Mission Fund, and \$200 to Sara Martin for the Navigators campus ministry program.

In December, PW hosted a Fair Trade Market and Cookie Walk. Members of the congregation donated many varieties of cookies. PW raised \$206, which will fund upcoming projects and the Scholarship Fund. The Fair Trade Market was held December 10 and 17 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 several thousand dollars for Plowsharing Crafts, which provided the fair trade items for the market. PW will receive 10 percent of the profit.

PW also served refreshments for the December 17 choir concert, and cleaned up after.

Additionally, PW assists the Hospitality Committee by hosting the hospitality hour every 5th Sunday.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alyssa Murray  
Moderator

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Men's Fellowship continued to serve New Hope in 2017 as it has in the past. Our main focus has been to support the Facilities Committee on building and grounds projects and other church programs.

Our group continues to meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM for breakfast. Breakfast is cooked by our group members and served buffet style. It's a good time for fellowship with each other and to catch up on what's happening in their lives. Often, it's the springboard for work days of help in setting up for other groups. We held 10 breakfasts in 2017 and 2 work days.

Some of the things we were involved with in 2017 included:

1. Financial support for the Circle landscaping
2. Purchase and replacement of rock in the playground area.
3. Purchase of snacks for VBS.
4. Purchase of food for the VBS picnic.
5. Provided scholarships for five VBS participants.
6. Served biscuits and gravy at the fall kickoff Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Formation for Discipleship Committee.
7. Provide financial support to Tom & Cindy Wilson's mission trip to Houston, Texas, concerning Hurricane Harvey.
8. Had a Christmas breakfast that included all the wives, children and friends. We even had the Hand Bell Choir join us before their practice.
9. Provided all of the funding for the upgrades of the toilets in the two upper level restrooms.

**COME JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Allen Rudolph