

NEW HOPE PRESS

SUMMER 2016

Signs of (New Life) at New Hope

The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. During this Eastertide, we encourage you to look for signs of resurrection, of new life.

Take a photo, paint a picture, write what you see, and bring it here to share the new hope with our New Hope congregation. You may also email your photos to Linda Dencker at rldencker@att.net.

We'd like to display these signs of resurrection and new life throughout this Easter season as a reminder of God's presence with us now and always.

With gratitude for God's gifts,

The Journey Leadership Team



The Journey, Wrap Up and Review

As I reflect over the last four and a half months being one of the small group leaders of *The Journey*, I am struck by just how much I have grown during this time. The whole purpose of *The Journey* is to live into the promise of our baptism and what and how that might look for each of us. But, oh my goodness!! It is sooo much more!

Is *The Journey* about **fellowship**? You betcha!! And fellowship happens in so many different ways. We share a meal together and each of the small groups have taken turns providing for the large group. During lunch, we've had the chance to catch up with what's been happening with our small group folks over the week and an opportunity to get to know the rest of *The Journey's* participants, as well. In the small groups, we've established relationships and a level of trust that allows us to speak from the heart and soul. We laugh, we cry, we support, we challenge and, best of all, we care about one another. (Each small group has about eight participants – both travelers and companions. For the most part, each small group participant did not know a whole lot about the other participants prior to beginning *The Journey*, so it's been an opportunity to get to know and love people with whom we might not otherwise have gotten to know and care about.) It's developing and maintaining these amazing relationships that makes *The Journey* so powerful.

Is *The Journey* about **faith formation**? Oh, yeah!! With few exceptions, we have studied Biblical scriptures – generally, a gospel reading from the lectionary. We delve deeply into how the passage touches us and what meaning it has for our lives. And then, we explore what God is calling us to be or do as it applies to the scripture. Sometimes this is difficult, but with the encouragement and support of the small group, we are learning how to live as disciples each day and every moment of our lives. It's in the sharing of our faith and living into the gospel that we feel more comfortable telling the story of Christ in our own lives.

Is *The Journey* about **healing**? Certainly!! Healing takes many forms and comes in a variety of ways. It is interesting to notice that when 'I' is replaced by 'We', "illness" becomes "wellness." What we are learning to do is to share God's grace and healing love with each other. Sometimes, it's enough for us just to be there for each other. Each week we pray for one another and extend a hand of comfort.

Is *The Journey* about **mission and service**? Oh, most assuredly!! The last several weeks of *The Journey* have been all about living into our baptism through service within and outside the congregation and community. It's not about fulfilling ourselves, but it IS all about choosing to serve in some way as a faithful response to a loving God who has sacrificed everything for us. As we have begun to explore our individual gifts, we are finding ways to use them in service to others.

Is *The Journey* about **respect**? Absolutely!! As we have taken time to get to know and appreciate one another, we have developed trust and respect that far surpasses anything we've experienced before. We respect each other's faith journey; and, through really listening to each other, we have discovered that our journeys are so very different from one another. We have learned each other's differences and celebrated that our faith is manifested in many ways – different, yet faithful to the scripture and teachings of Christ. Open-mindedness not only allows us to accept each other's differences, but embrace those differences, as well.

As I reread this, I realize that words cannot express the depth and magnitude that this experience has afforded me. While each of the things I've mentioned above is accurate, *The Journey* is so much more than the sum of these parts. It's been an outstanding experience – one in which I hope each and every one of our

The Journey, Wrap Up and Review (Continued)

New Hope members and friends will share the experience when *The Journey* begins again this fall.

Finally, I am so appreciative of the Session's vision in allowing this part of the strategic plan to begin. And, I am ever thankful to the congregation for your trust in letting all of *The Journey* participants explore a new way toward faithful discipleship and living into our baptism – for letting us share our progress with you throughout *The Journey* in the form of new and different liturgy – and for your prayers for all the participants who struck out on *The Journey* in blind faith. What an amazing ride it's been!! What a gift New Hope is providing for each and every one of us.

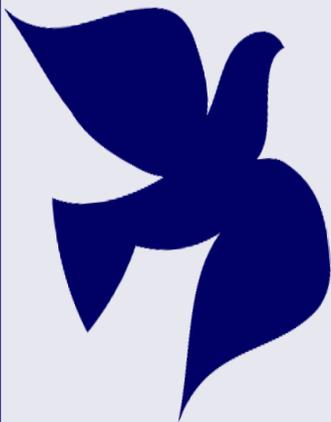
-Ruth Irvine, catechist (small group leader) and member of *The Journey* Leadership Team

Pentecost

Get your Sunday best red clothing out!! On Pentecost Sunday, May 15, at 9:30 am, New Hope's second **Church Family Gathering** for 2016 will take place between Worship Services to celebrate the Birthday of the Church - Pentecost! **You and your family are invited!** The Church Family Gathering will give us a chance for all ages and generations to come together for a festive Pentecost Sunday morning of fellowship, fun, and spiritual formation!

The **Pentecost Festival Church Family Gathering** will feature storytelling, five interactive Holy Spirit inspired project centers, and of course special Pentecost celebration food treats! (No Sunday School classes will be held.) Weather permitting, some of the festival will be held outdoors on the circle drive.

As you can imagine the **Pentecost Festival Church Family Gathering** event is a large project which involves many hands! The CFG Planning Team is looking for people to assist with baking, helping man the interactive centers, serving food, and general clean up afterwards. Look for CFG signup sheets in the Narthex starting this Sunday with ways you and your family can help. Anyone with the gift of language is encourage to see Linda Dencker or Shelley Geiger. Your special talent will be put to good use!



To help with coordinating the Pentecost Festival food fare, the planning team is asking families to RSVP by May 12. Watch for a CFG congregational letter coming soon with a RSVP form and other important details! RSVPs can be turned into the church office or the offering basket. Come join in and celebrate together God's great gift of the Holy Spirit, Sunday May 15!! Don't forget to wear RED!

The Church Family Planning Team,
Shelley Geiger, Nancy Seals, Bryan Eikmann, Cindy Martin and Bob & Linda Dencker

Church Wide Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee has some exciting events planned for the summer months! Please join us for one or all of the activities below and watch the weekly News & Opportunities for more details about each event!

Friday, June 10th—Join us for a “Drive-In movie! We’re hosting an outdoor movie in the pavilion by the lower parking lot around dusk. Bring your lawn chairs and coolers (no alcoholic beverages please) and we’ll provide the popcorn and movie. Sign up sheets will soon be available on the Information Table in the Narthex.



Saturday, July 9th—We’re going to have a blast at Wapelhorst Water Park. Reservations will be required and group rates are \$5.75 for adults and \$4.75 for children.

August—We’ll be rooting for the River City Rascals at the ball game! More information will be available soon, but transportation will be provided.

Director of Music Ministries Search

Earlier this spring, the Session approved the revised position description to be used in the search for our new Director of Music Ministries. While this is still a part-time position, this new description increases the hours from 10 to 20 per week and includes increasing the congregation’s exposure to a wider variety of musical styles, genres and instrumentation as a part of its responsibilities.

The Director of Music Ministries Search Committee is chaired by Tracy Grundy and includes Kathy Gibbs (elder), Lynne Snyder (elder/choir), Mike Dame (choir), Connie Pettit (choir), Terry Martinez (at-large), Bill Lamey (at-large) and Chris James (ex-officio). The Committee will post the position on the website of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, as well as the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, among other places.

Please keep the Search Committee in your prayers as it works to identify New Hope’s next Director of Music Ministries. If you would like to see the full position description, please contact the church office.

-Chris James

Female Connections

Ladies, it’s time for a little Putt-Putt. On Thursday, May 19, we’ll meet at 6:30 PM at the Swing-A-Round Golf Center on Veteran’s Parkway (that’s the south service road of I-70) between Zumbuhl and Cave

Springs. We’ll play a fun round of miniature golf and then we’ll swing over to Culver’s on Muegge for some frozen delights. Please join us; no signup is necessary, just show up. We always have a great time and we always enjoy the extra fellowship that a new person brings to our group. In case of rain, we’ll meet at Culver’s at 6:30. For more information or questions, please contact Deb Mackin. We hope to see you there!



2016 Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School 2016

G-Force: God's Love in Action

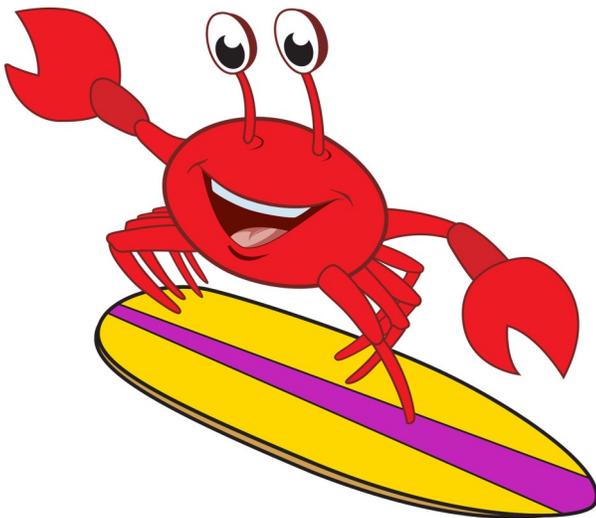
July 11 - July 15 ~ 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Throughout each session of this year's VBS program, children will participate in all of their favorite activities: Bible story time, music, crafts, snacks, recreation and science discoveries. Through this VBS program, it is our hope that your children will:

- Experience an active life with God through Christian services, mission and community
- Discover that a life with God is one of movement, both physically and spiritually
- Model their actions and faith after God
- Meet people from the Bible who are examples of living, moving and existing with God
- Live a life that honors God, by loving and helping others
- Strive to put their minds and bodies in motion to share God's love and experience the fullness of an active life in Christ



Vacation Bible School will be from 9 a.m. until noon and will include a special snack and ! Staff will work in teams, making the job a lot easier and much more fun!



Vacation Bible School is a great opportunity for us to share God's love with the children who attend and with each other. We are hoping that you will prayerfully consider helping this year. There are lots of places to help out, and child-care will be provided at both sessions. Sign up forms are available in the Narthex, or you may call the church office for more information.

We love children at NHPC! We try to be sensitive to any and all abilities, special needs, allergies, food sensitivities ... and even separation anxiety. If you have ANY questions or concerns, please contact the church office at (636) 936-2200. We do have an open door policy, so parents are welcome to stay and observe in the classroom so long as their presence is not disruptive to the class or your child's willingness to participate.

Deacon Pot Luck and Auction



The Deacons are sponsoring a church-wide pot-luck on June 5th, immediately following the worship service. The congregation will be asked to provide lunch items and dessert and the Deacons will provide drinks.

Please mark your calendars now for June 5th and plan on attending. More details will be coming during next few months, so be sure to check the weekly "News and Opportunities."

Presbyterian Women

We will have a box for you to bring diaper donations to the church from April 17-May 15. This month-long diaper drive will ensure that the Diaper Bank is well stocked. They especially need the large size diapers (size 4 and up). Need more information? You can visit their website at www.stldiaperbank.org or contact Alyssa Murray at amurray03@live.com.



PW Birthday Gathering

PW has many reasons to celebrate this year. In May, we will recognize our scholarship recipient, elect and install officers, and receive a birthday offering to support four organizations that minister to at-risk youth in Kansas and Florida, girls in South Sudan, and individuals in California who live in manufactured homes in dire need of updates. PW's national organization has chosen these projects as recipients of this year's Birthday Offering grants which total \$500,000. Additional information about the grant recipients is on the information table and on the PW bulletin board. Sign up at the information table to join PW for a salad lunch after church on May 22. Please bring a salad to share. To request child care, contact Mary Powers by May 16 at 314-277-5440 or marystahr@charter.net.

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to New Hope's 2016 graduating seniors! Please take a moment to offer your personal congratulations to the students below:

Emily Besgrove—graduated from Frances Howell High and plans to attend Mizzou
Eric Gibbs – graduated from Frances Howell Central and plans to attend Drury University in Springfield, MO majoring in architecture with a minor graphic design.
Kyle Graber -
Erik Isbell -
Lindsay Lamey -
Shannon Rera – graduated from Francis Howell and will be attending Mizzou with a major in International Business and a minor in Spanish.



May Birthdays

Rick Koonley	05/05	Robert Dencker	05/21
Danielle Ward	05/05	Grace James	05/21
Emily Hardee	05/07	Luke Hantack	05/23
David Howell	05/08	Sophia Bommarito	05/24
Edward Nowakowski	05/08	Carolyn Doerr	05/25
Bryan Yarde	05/09	Ken Pinkley	05/27
Maggie Cox	05/12	Juanita Bostic	05/28
Garry Clayton	05/14	Ruth Irvine	05/28
Ellyn Yarde	05/16	Maddy Snyder	05/29
Stacey Bordes	05/18	Jim Parker	05/30
Ryan Dittmar	05/18	Shannon Rera	05/30
Marissa Malta	05/18		

May Anniversaries

A.J. & Danielle Ward	05/05/2001
Cary & Margaret Lippert	05/06/1989
William & Ruth Reilly	05/12/1984
Kim & Linda Carr	05/16/1987
Kurt & Jody Romkey	05/19/1990
Rick & Jackie Etling	05/21/1994
Jay & Ann Rademan	05/21/2005
Paul & Martha Hacker	05/25/2013
William & Ruth Irvine	05/25/2002
Rick & Vicky Koonley	05/25/1985
Christopher & Jennifer James	05/27/1995
Bob & Arlene Lynch	05/27/1950

June Birthdays

Camellia Callahan	06/01	Aimee Calvin	06/19
Jane Cox	06/01	Chris Waldo	06/19
Kim Isbell	06/02	Mark Everly	06/20
Sharon Barnes	06/06	Anna Mae Richardson	06/20
Valery Cassetta	06/06	Anne Finks	06/22
Vicky Koonley	06/06	Lindsay Gonterman	06/23
Mackenzie Calvin	06/09	Lauren Garten	06/23
Andrew Newman	06/13	Joe Seidler	06/24
Matthew Hamilton	06/15	Max Barbee	06/25
Cole Nowakowski	06/15	Karen Yarde	06/26
Emily Besgrove	06/16	Alex Cassetta	06/29
Bill Pires	06/16	Tonia Cassetta	06/30
Sharon Martin	06/18	Holly Martinez	06/30
Olivia Besgrove	06/19		



June Anniversaries

Erik & Marion Hamilton	06/03/2006
Mark & Katie Besselman	06/04/2011
Bob & Kim Mocca	06/04/1977
Bob & Katherine Mudrovic	06/04/1988
Bill & Sally Pires	06/05/1971
Jim & Debbie Phillips	06/06/1970
Gary & Roberta Looman	06/07/1963
Mike & Susan Greene	06/09/1974
Dean & Kim Isbell	06/09/1990
Neal & Mary Powers	06/10/1979
Ed & Lynne Snyder	06/12/1982
Keith & Karen Yarde	06/18/1983
Del & Susan Phillips	06/22/1968
Joe & Susan Petrowsky	06/25/1971
Richard & Sharon Martin	06/26/1960
Jim & Connie Pettit	06/26/1966
Andrew & Emily Hardee	06/27/2009

July Birthdays

Sharon Leonard	07/01	Tom Wilson	07/19
Susan Petrowsky	07/01	Abby Martinez	07/21
Joann Laycock	07/02	Mike Greene	07/22
Jeanne Brown	07/05	Rachel Snyder	07/22
Sylvia Malta	07/05	David Besgrove	07/23
Randy Malta	07/06	Jackie Etling	07/24
Michael Black	07/07	Margo Van Mill	07/25
Richard Martin	07/07	Joseph Murphy	07/26
Julie Nowakowski	07/08	Martha Hacker	07/27
Linda Dencker	07/15	Danielle Carr	07/28
Kyle Graber	07/16	Sheri Clayton	07/29
William Irvine	07/17	Steve Gerke	07/29
Kayla Martinez	07/17	Hank Besselman	07/30
Chris Meinert	07/17	Bert Langford	07/30
William James	07/19	Aiden Schrautemeier	07/31
Debra Timperley	07/19		

July Anniversaries

Willie & Kelly Hantack	07/01/2000
Wynn & Katelynn Ward	07/18/1987
Rick & Tonia Cassetta	07/24/1999
Jean Pierre & Stacy Bordes	07/25



MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:20pm The Journey	2 7:00pm Deacon Meeting	3 7:00pm AA Meeting	4 9:30am PW Coordinating Team 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	5 1:00pm Agape Circle 7:00pm Joy Circle	6	7
8 Mothers' Day 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship	9 6:00pm Fellowship Committee 7:00pm Session Meeting	10 7:00pm AA Meeting	11 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	12 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13	14 9:45am Oasis Food Pantry
15 8:45am Worship 9:45am Church Family Gathering 11:00am Worship 12:20pm The Journey	16 7:00pm Ministry, Mission & Evangelism Committee	17 7:00pm A.A.	18 7:15pm Choir Practice	19 5:50pm Employment Ministry Committee 6:30pm Female Connection 7:00pm Employment Ministry	20	21 8:30am Men's Breakfast 4:00pm Boy Scouts
22 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:00 pm PW Birthday Gathering	23 7:00pm, Formation for Discipleship Committee	24 7:00pm A.A.	25 7:15pm Choir Practice	26	27	28

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