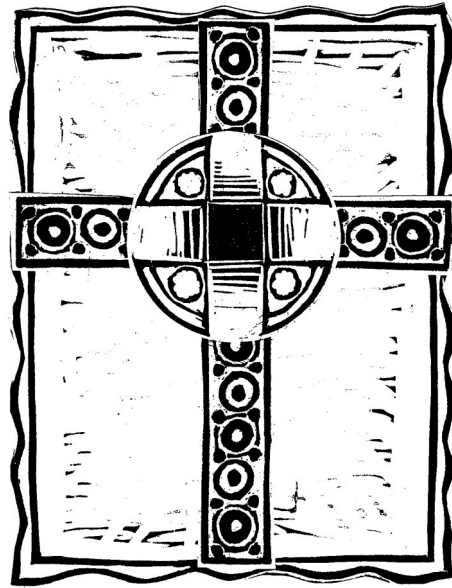


# New Hope Presbyterian Church



Advent Cross, Kelly Rider (kellyrider.com)

November 30, 2014

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT NEW HOPE**

*We are grateful you have joined us today and invite you to participate fully in the worship, education, and mission life of our church.*

### **During Today's Worship**

***Large-print bulletins and hearing enhancement equipment are available*** for ease of worship. An usher will be happy to assist you. At the close of worship, please return the unit to the sound booth at the rear of the sanctuary.

***Children are especially welcome in our worship services***, because faith is formed by the practices that shape it. Red worship bags for young children (non-readers) and blue bags for older children (readers) may be found on the wall outside the sanctuary. An usher will help you locate one. If you would like a worship bag with your child's name on it, you may fill out a request form on the Welcome Table or call the church office (936.2200). Parents who prefer child care will find the infant nursery on the first floor and the Pre-K nursery on the lower-level.

***Worship Feast***, an experience to help elementary-age children develop awareness of God's presence and openness to mystery through a variety of prayer practices, is available during the 11:00 service. Children who wish to participate will be dismissed after the Gospel Reading.

***Preparing for worship...***Please silence cell phones upon entering the sanctuary. The need may arise for you to exit the service early. If so, please refrain from exiting during prayers, reading of scripture and choral anthems. Natural and appropriate exit points are during congregational hymns or sung responses. Your courtesy is appreciated. Also, as a kindness to fellow worshippers, please do not take flash photos during the worship service.

***Ushering for today's worship:*** Mid- & Sr. High Youth

***Liturgist:*** (11:00) Elder Ruth Irvine

***Sound Booth Technician:*** (8:45) Neal Powers                      (11:00) Bill Irvine

***Last Sunday's Attendance:*** 187

### **If You Are New to New Hope**

***Information about our church*** can be found at the Welcome Table in the foyer.

### **New Hope Cares**

***For pastoral care*** and to notify the church of illness, hospitalization, or death, please contact the church office at 636/936.2200 (lbrown@nhpres.org). To arrange for home bound Communion, contact Pastor James at cqjames@nhpres.org or 936.2200 x.11.

# ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## *First Sunday of Advent*

November 30, 2014

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

### **THE GATHERING**

*As the people gather, worshipers greet one another, welcoming newcomers.  
Please silence cell phones and pagers.*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

(11:00) INTROIT

*The Advent Chorale*

Felix Mendelssohn

+ GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prayer of Preparation

*The start of the Prelude signals the time to cease talking and enter a period of quiet reflection.  
This prayer is offered as an aid to help worshipers center the heart and mind for worship.*

Holy One, though the earth trembles  
and the stars shake like leaves,  
your word will stand forever.  
Keep us watchful for the day  
when you will gather the faithful  
from all the ends of the earth,  
so that we may greet you in glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ \*DOXOLOGY (*Glory to God* 607)

OLD HUNDRETH LM

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE †

(8:45) Ken Pinkley

God of hope,  
out of death you bring life.  
Renew us in hope,  
so that we may be alert  
to the dawning of Christ's advent among us.

Rick & Jackie Etling, Tyler & Kelsey

(11:00) Michael & Ann Ray

John & Kristen Moore, Benjamin

**God of promise, God of hope,  
into our darkness come. Amen.**

+ \*HYMN 100

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

\*THE CONFESSION

God our Maker, we confess  
that we are not ready to meet you.  
We study the trends of our times  
and ignore the signs of your reign.  
We trust in things that pass away  
and forget your eternal promise.  
Forgive us, God of grace.  
Strengthen us, by your hand,  
so that we may be ready for that day  
when you come to reign in glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Worshippers may reflect on this prayer and offer personal confession in silence.*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

THE PEACE

*Greet those around you with: "The peace of Christ be with you," responding, "And also with you."*

RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Glory Be to the Father (Glory to God 581)*

GLORIA PATRI

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

***THE WORD***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64: 1-9

PSALTER

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19, cantor/choir

*O Hear Our Cry, O Lord (Glory to God 355)*

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

\*THE GOSPEL

ACCLAMATION *Prepare the Way of the Lord (Glory to God 95)*

PREPARE THE WAY

***Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.***

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13: 24-37

THE ALLELUIA *(Glory to God 586)*

ALLELUIA 7

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

SERMON

(11:00) A SERVICE FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS *(see insert)*

***THE EUCHARIST***

OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER<sup>†</sup>

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you, living and loving God,  
that you have sent your Son to this world.  
Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation,  
our Lawgiver, burning with justice,  
the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots,  
the Key of David, opening our prison doors.  
And let the people cry,  
O come and save us:

**O come and save us.**

We praise you, serving and saving God,  
that you send your Son also to this table,  
who on the night in which he was betrayed took bread...

And let the people cry,  
O come and save us.

**O come and save us.**

We beg you, mighty and merciful God:  
send us the Spirit of your Son.  
Bless this food and all who share it,  
that the earth may rejoice in your presence.  
In Christ, the Dawning Day,

enlighten a darkened world,  
reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples,  
and dwell among us, Emmanuel,  
our deepest desire now and forever.  
And let the people cry,  
O come and save us.  
**O come and save us.**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.  
And let the people pray:

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
and let these gifts to us be blessed.  
Blest be God, who is our Bread;  
may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

*Gail Ramshaw, 2013*

Gathered into one by your Spirit, O God, we pray as Jesus taught us.

***Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.***

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*☞ Coming to the Table—Ushers will invite worshipers to the Lord's Table by rows. All the baptized may come to the Table at the center and return by the outside aisles.*  
*☞ Receiving the elements—You may take the bread, dip it into the chalice and partake of both together (intinction), or you may partake of the bread first, and then proceed to partake of the juice separately from the tray of individual cups. Gluten-free bread is available at the station to the left as you approach the Table (with Pastor James).*

#### PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

**THE SENDING**  
*Christ Is Coming!*

\*HYMN 360

UNSER HERRSCHER

\*BLESSING & CHARGE

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.

+ Those arriving may be seated.



† *In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that great day, we watch and wait in the Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, and remembering the promises of God with prayer.*

‡ *The Eucharistic Prayer is based on the O Antiphons, which used Old Testament images as descriptors of Christ and were sung from December 17 through 23 before and after the chanting of the Magnificat. The first letters of the key Latin words—Sapientia (Wisdom), Adonai (Lord), Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), Clavis David (Key of David), Oriens (Sunrise), Rex Gentium (King of Nations), and Emmanuel (God with us)—when read backward, spell "Ero cras," "I will be tomorrow," that is, on December 24. The centuries-old hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" has made the O Antiphons ecumenically popular. You are encouraged to use the blessing at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer ("Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,") as a prayer at mealtime.*

(11:00) A SERVICE FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES TO GOD

*Romans 12:1*

*✠ Worshipers are invited to ponder in silence all that is happening in their lives, and may, with renewed commitment, offer themselves and their gifts for ministry to the service of Jesus Christ in the world.*

INTERCESSION FOR HEALING

God, our creator,  
your will for us and for all your people  
is health and salvation:

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
you came that we might have life  
and have it in abundance:

**have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit,  
dwelling within us,  
you make us temples of your presence:

**have mercy on us.**

To the triune God,  
the source of all love and all life,  
let us offer our prayers.

*✠ Prayers are offered for the needs of those present and on behalf of those who are absent. A time of silence provides opportunity for individual prayer. The petitions conclude with the words:*

*...Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS & ANOINTING WITH OIL

*✠ All who wish to come forward may do so on their own or on behalf of another unable to attend. As you come forward, sit in one of the chairs placed between the baptismal font and the Lord's Table. The pastor will ask privately if there is a request for specific prayer. An elder will join in the laying on of hands and then proceed with the anointing with oil. Following the anointing, you may return to your seat. As individuals come forward for the laying on of hands and anointing with oil, the congregation will sing, Give Us Light, Glory to God 467.*

PRAYER



## A COMMENTARY ON A SERVICE FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS

### *A Reformed Understanding for the Service for Healing & Wholeness*

All healing comes from God. Sometimes miraculous healing occurs. Generally, God works through human skill, knowledge, and training to bring about healing. Highly trained medical professionals, technology, and medicine aid in the healing process. All are direct gifts from God.

Healing was an integral part of the ministry of Jesus. Jesus healed from a distance (Luke 7:1-10), but he more typically used touch in the process of healing (Matt. 9:18; Mark 16:18; Luke 4:40). In Jesus' day many who were ill had become social outcasts. He reached out and brought healing and wholeness to those isolated in illness. As Jesus acted, so must his church. The Service for Healing & Wholeness reaches out and touches those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit.

The Service for Healing & Wholeness may include the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil. This is mystical and mysterious, but not magic. No tricks, gimmicks, or magical incantations are used to invoke the Holy Spirit. In this service, the church acknowledges the constant and abiding presence of God. The Service for Healing & Wholeness affirms that even in the midst of bodily illness, pain and suffering, our relationship with God in Christ sustains us. The service also recognizes that confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation are essential to wholeness.

The centerpiece of the Service for Healing & Wholeness is prayer. Prayer may be spoken, sung, and enacted. Enacted prayer is words combined with specific actions: laying on of hands, anointing with oil. Prayer begins with a thanksgiving for God's promise of wholeness, intercessions, and supplications. Time is granted for silent prayer. In the laying on of hands, an outward sign of the prayer is given through touch. The touch of human hands is able to convey the grace-filled touch of Christ in a unique and tangible manner. Anointing with oil may also be included in this service as a sign of God's grace and healing mercy. The anointing of the sick has been part of pastoral ministry since New Testament times (Mark 6:13; James 5:14-15). It is to be understood in terms of its spiritual effect as an external sign of the presence of Christ, who continues his ministry of salvation and healing.

Why use oil? Oil is something tangible that engages the senses. It aids in the communication of God's loving care and compassion for the person in need of healing and wholeness. Olive oil was the medicine of the ancients, used to soften and clean wounds. Olive oil was used to anoint prophets and kings, thereby signifying the blessing and call-

ing of God. Jesus is referred to as the anointed Messiah.

The specific oil used is traditionally the finest grade of olive oil or chrism that is available. Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and aromatic oils...Chrism is etymologically related to the name of Christ, the anointed One or Messiah. Chrismation can be a helpful sign of the individual's life in Christ.

#### *Expectations for the Service for Wholeness*

Healing is a gift not a right. When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane he prayed, "Not what I want but what you want" (Matt. 26:39). His most faithful prayer did not take away his suffering and death, but instead provided him with strength for the journey.

Prayer spoken and enacted cannot guarantee healing in the sense of cure. Cure may not come. Cancer may not go into remission. The divorce may take place. An alienated child may not return home. Nevertheless, God is sovereign. We do not control God or God's action. By God's invitation, we pray trusting in God's mercy and grace to grant wholeness.

A relationship with Jesus Christ will be reestablished or deepened and strengthened. The service may breach the barrier between the person and Christ, that is, serve a reconciling function, and help the person to be open to Christ's healing, reconciling love. Healing is to be understood as the gift of God through the power of the Holy Spirit not as the result of the faith of the ones seeking healing nor the holiness, earnestness, or skill of those offering the prayers.



# New Hope Presbyterian Church

1580 Kisker Road  
Saint Charles, MO 63304  
Church Office 636/936.2200



www.newhopepc.org  
CCLI#1228421  
Preschool Office 636/922.9900

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Q. James, *Pastor*  
Barbara Smith, *Director of Christian Education & Spiritual Formation*  
Stacy Pearson, *Director of the Preschool*  
Brian Parrish, *Director of Music Ministries*  
Mike Greene, *Pianist*  
Laura Brown, *Office Manager*  
Monica Schrautemeier, *Child Care Provider*  
Audrey Chipley, *Child Care Provider*  
Marion Hamilton, *Child Care Provider*  
Vickie Moore, *Sexton*  
Cecilia Poma, *Sexton*

## ***Session***

<i>Fellowship</i>	<i>Formation for Discipleship</i>	<i>Ministry, Mission &amp; Evangelism</i>
Jim Pettit (2014)	Susan Phillips (2014)	Ruth Irvine, Clerk (2014)
Katie Harmon (2015)	Lauren Martinez (2014)	Neal Powers (2015)
Craig Graber (2016)	Deb Garten (2015)	Jim Salter (2016)
	Shelley Geiger (2016)	

*Worship, Music & the Arts*  
Kristin Judd (2014)  
Michael Ray (2015)  
Linda Dencker (2016)

*Administration & Support*  
Kathy Gibbs (2015)  
Bill Pires (2016)

## ***Deacons***

2014  
Kimm Besgrove  
Jennifer Everly  
Don Higgason  
Pat Murphy  
Laura Eikmann

2015  
Jerry Dyer  
Jackie Etling  
Bill Judd  
Kristen Moore  
Jim Phillips

2016  
Earl Bostic  
Ruth Connor  
Marion Hamilton  
Stan Whiteley  
Jan Parker

**CALENDAR**

<b>Sunday, November 30th</b>	<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	
8:45 a.m.	Word & Sacrament	Worship Space
9:45 a.m.	Christian Formation	Various Locations
11:00 a.m.	Word & Sacrament	Worship Space
<b>Monday, December 1st</b>		
7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting	Conference Room
<b>Tuesday, December 2nd</b>		
7:00 p.m.	Advent by Candlelight	Worship Space
<b>Wednesday, December 3rd</b>		
10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting	Conference Room
7:15 p.m.	Choir Practice	Worship Space
<b>Thursday, December 4th</b>		
10:00 a.m.	Jubilee Circle	Youth Room
1:00 p.m.	Agape Circle	Youth Room
5:50 p.m.	Employment Ministry Committee	Worship Space
7:00 p.m.	Employment Ministry	Worship Space
<b>Friday, December 5th</b>		
6:00 p.m.	Cookies & Milk with Santa	Worship Space
<b>Sunday, December 7th</b>	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	
8:45 a.m.	Word & Sacrament	Worship Space
9:45 a.m.	Christian Formation	Various Locations
11:00 a.m.	Word & Sacrament	Worship Space
12:30 p.m.	Focus Groups	Various Locations
3:00 p.m.	Kids Fellowship Club	Sunshine Room
3:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Progressive Dinner
6:30 p.m.	"Twelve Words of Christmas"	Worship Space

*News & Opportunities*, which is distributed during Sunday worship, is also available on the Welcome Table in the narthex and at [www.nhpres.org](http://www.nhpres.org).

The New Hope Presbyterian Church • Christopher Q. James, Pastor  
Church office: 1580 Kisker Road, St. Charles, MO 63304; 636.936.2200

**NEW HOPE**  
Presbyterian  
**CHURCH**  
[www.nhpres.org](http://www.nhpres.org)

November 30, 2014

# News & Opportunities

**NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES**

2015 Giving Envelopes will be available beginning December 7th by the Information Table. Please make sure to stop by and pick up your giving envelopes for next year!

**2015 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**

To date, a total of 112 giving units completed an "Estimate of Giving" card and committed a total of \$346,159.00 for the work of the church in 2015. Of those cards received, 60 members increased their giving over 2014.

Our anticipated, non-pledged income for 2015 is \$77,551.00, which brings our total anticipated income for 2015 to \$423,710.00. If nothing else changed, our expenditures for 2015 are expected to be \$459,326. This means that we currently need to cut \$35,616 from our operating budget for 2015.

If you haven't completed an "Estimate of Giving" card for 2015, please consider doing so as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

**FINANCIAL CORNER**

October Contributions	37,196.00
Monthly Budget	<u>37,821.25</u>
	- 625.25
Year-to-date Contributions	366,902.80
Year-to-date Budget	<u>378,212.50</u>
	-11,309.70

**"THE TWELVE WORDS OF CHRISTMAS"**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 7 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. for a special holiday event, A Dessert Potluck and "The Twelve Words of Christmas," a dvd presentation of the twelve words that changed history. Activities for elementary age children will be provided as well as childcare for younger children if requested. Plan to bring a dessert to share and enjoy an inspiring program and great fellowship. Please let us know you are planning to come by adding your name to the sign up on the Information Table or emailing Barbi Smith at [bsmith@nhpres.org](mailto:bsmith@nhpres.org).

**WISHING TREE**

You are invited to take an ornament from the wishing tree for items for the pre-school rooms. The tree will be up on November 23rd and November 30th. Please return item with ornament attached and place it under the tree by December 1st.

## CHILDREN

**Today, November 30th** **December 7th**  
*Infant Nursery*

Katharine Harmon      Barb Griffith

*Pre-K Nursery*

Jennifer James      Deb Garten

**The infant nursery** is for babies & toddlers up to age two and is located in the Turtle Room upstairs. The Pre-K nursery is for ages 3-5 and is located in the Butterfly Room downstairs.

**Worship Feast**, for elementary aged children, is a special program that is designed to help children develop their innate connection to God and their natural openness to mystery through a variety of prayer practices.

Worship Feast Volunteers

November 30th - Barbi Smith & Sue Dittmar

December 7th - No Worship Feast

To sign up to volunteer in the infant nursery, pre-k nursery, or Worship Feast, go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4fa9a829a7fa7-child>

**Kids Fellowship Club** is a fun-filled fellowship club for boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We will meet two Sunday afternoons each month in the Sunshine Room on the lower level.

December 7th - Painted Pot! We will travel to the Painted Pot in O'Fallon where boys & girls will make two fused glass ornaments. Snacks/drinks will be provided. Drivers will be needed please!

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir will be practicing on December 7th and December 14th from 2:30 pm until 3:00 pm. They will be singing at the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service. If you know of a child between the ages of three years-old through fifth grade, please invite them to join us!

## WORSHIP

**New Hope worships** each Sunday at 8:45 am and 11:00 am

**Lectionary for Sunday, December 7, 2014**

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3: 8-15

Mark 1: 1-8

## COOKIES & MILK WITH SANTA

Join us on December 5th from 6-8 PM for Cookies and Milk with Santa event! Kick off the holiday season with a fun-filled evening! Enjoy stories with Mrs. Claus, create special Christmas crafts, and of course, sit on Santa's lap and share your wish list! Face painting, professional photos with Santa, and a unique children's only shopping experience (the Emporium) are also part of the festivities (at an additional charge).

Tickets can be purchased from the education office (located in the lower level of the church), or pick up an order form from the table in the narthex and drop off in the church office or the education office with your payment.

You may also visit the preschool website for more information about Cookies and Milk with Santa at [www.newhopepreschool.org](http://www.newhopepreschool.org)

## DEACONS GIVING TREE

The Deacons' Giving Tree is back up in the Narthex! Please take a moment to stop by and check out the ornaments, which contain wish lists of the family members the Deacons are sponsoring for Christmas. Pick an ornament, buy the appropriate gift, and return the gift to the tree to help make a family's Christmas a little brighter! Giving Tree gifts are due back to the church on or before December 15th. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

## YOUTH HAPPENINGS

December 7th is our Progressive Dinner! This is a very popular event and we would love to see all of our youth on this fun-filled evening. Watch for more information to be coming soon!

December 13th - OASIS Food Pantry

December 14th - Christmas Party at church

## FEMALE CONNECTIONS

Every Saturday Christmas Traditions comes alive with the life and spirit of the holiday season. It's time for Christmas shopping on Historic Main Street. We are going to start at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 6 at Cracker Barrel at 901 Veterans Memorial Parkway (next to St. Charles Convention Center) for brunch before we shop. We will then proceed down to Main Street. If you want to join us later, locate us by calling Deb Mackin on her cell phone at 636-734-5618. We will enjoy shopping along with the characters and events (Santa Parade is at 1:30). For more information or questions, please contact Deb or you can also check out [www.stcharleschristmas.com](http://www.stcharleschristmas.com).

## DECEMBER MEAL-A-MONTH

2 cans chicken, 1 box Chicken Helper, 1 can vegetables, 1 can fruit, 1 box/bag cookies.

## SCRIP CARDS

The Christmas holidays are coming! Let scrip help with all of your shopping! Purchase scrip cards from your favorite stores and then use the cards to pay for groceries, clothing, home improvement items, eating-out and more! Scrip cards also make the perfect gift for that hard to buy for person. New Hope earns a percentage of every card we sell!

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

**Christmas Poinsettias** You may order a "live" poinsettia to adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Eve and take it home with you after the 11:00 pm service that night. You may also purchase a "virtual" poinsettia, the cost of which will go to the Deacon's Benevolence Fund. Whichever you choose, you may still dedicate your gift in memory, honor or gratitude to someone. The list will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please use the envelope provided on the Information Table for your order. The cost of either the live or "virtual" poinsettia is \$11.00 each. Checks can be written to NHPC. Orders must be received by December 14th.

## 2015 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2015 Flower Calendar is available in the Narthex. Sign up for flowers to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or to remember a loved one. Flowers are \$30.00 and may be taken home after the second service each week.

## JOY OFFERING

Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC (USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to shine the One True Light of Christ's love on the poor in circumstance or spirit.

Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.