



New Hope News

February 2008

Worship Opportunities

10:45 AM

Feb. 3 – Transfiguration of our Lord

Rev. Russell Mabry, Speaker

Feb. 10 – First Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "Tempting"

Genesis 2:15-17; Romans 5:12-19;

Matthew 4:1-11

Feb. 17 – Second Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "Go"

Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:13-17;

John 3:11-17

Feb. 24 – Third Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "The Wisdom of God"

Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42;

Wednesday night fellowship & Bible study at 6:00 PM!

This is a great opportunity to enjoy Presbyterian life at its finest as we enjoy fellowship together over great food and then dive into the Bible as we try and discover what God is speaking to us. Invite your friends!

Sunday School each week at 9:30 AM

FEBRUARY'S ELDER OF THE MONTH

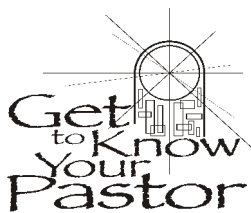
Rosie Sanislo

FINANCIAL CORNER

Report from our Treasurer

Please see the newsletter insert for a current financial summary for New Hope.

– Andy Sanislo



A warm New Hope welcome to The Rev. Keith Wood Jones who came on board January 1, 2008. We're happy and excited that God has called Keith to minister at our church. We all look forward to many

years of Keith's service and leadership here at New Hope. You're invited to stop by the office and visit with Keith. He's been very busy learning everyone's name & would enjoy a "get-acquainted" visit from you.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Thanks to all who have contributed financially to the P.W. mission projects & especially to those who have contributed even though they are not Circle members.

A special thanks to Circle 2 for hosting the Christmas Brunch on December 4. Those attending brought books for the 60 children at Newton Child Development Center. The P.W. hosted a party at Newton on December 17 when Santa handed out the books. Several ladies attended & provided refreshments for the party. We will host a Valentine Party at Newton on February 14. We invite you to come!

At Christmas, gifts were purchased for two young girls in foster care.

The P.W. continues to volunteer at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank filling Sack Packs & sorting canned goods. In addition to the ladies, Dr. Don Kaller, Walt Suber, and Rev. Keith Jones also helped. This project will continue on the 3rd Tuesday of each month with the next date being February 19. All are welcome and encouraged to participate from 9:00 'til 11:00 AM. Carpool from New Hope at 8:30.

Our soldier in Iraq received the Christmas packages from the P.W. and other individuals who sent them. We received an email from him in which he expressed thanks for the gifts and thanks for sharing.

The Presbyterian Women will meet on Monday, February 4, at 7:00 PM in the McMillan Building. Each of the Circles will meet on February 12 with Circle 1 meeting at 1:30 in the McMillan Building and Circle 2 meeting at the home of Teena Bledsoe at 10:00 AM. We will carpool from New Hope at 9:40.

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Please mark your calendar for the Family Night Supper at New Hope on March 9th @ 6 PM.

Check the weekly church bulletin for more information as it becomes available.

ORDER YOUR COFFEE TODAY!

New Hope's Coffee Project through Equal Exchange - Currently available is Organic Columbian Regular at \$5.25, Decaf at \$5.75; Cocoa Mix \$4.20; Sample Pack \$1.00. For more information or ordering, contact Beth Meulenberg at 893-7217.

Dear New Hope Family,

Greetings in name of our Lord and Savior! I am thrilled to greet you as the pastor of New Hope! I would like to thank the members of the PNC for their hard work and all the members of this church who have welcomed Rachel and me with open arms. We are so excited to be here and slowly learning everyone's names! We look forward to getting to know the church and taking the time to hear the stories, hopes and dreams of the people who worship, serve and fellowship as members of New Hope.

As I strive to discover how to serve this church in faithfulness and love, the words of Paul remind me to be intentional about studying the Word and spending time in prayer to seek the Spirit's guidance. "But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way." (1 Cor. 12:31) Rachel and I spent the summer reading the *Chronicles of Narnia* series, and C.S. Lewis' depiction of heaven in the final book, *The Last Battle*, is remarkable. As the children venture deeper into heaven, it continues to astound and amaze them, as each step seems to contain more wonder than the last. I have found that my Christian walk is similar; the more I study, the more I pray, the more time I spend in fellowship with my fellow believers, the more energy and joy I find in my life with each passing hour. When I take the time to pat myself on the back and stop striving for that more excellent way of which Paul speaks, those are the moments when I begin to feel lost and alone.

Eugene Peterson writes in *The Jesus Way*, "The way of Jesus is not a sequence of exceptions to the ordinary, but a way of living deeply and fully with the people here and now, in the place we find ourselves." Indeed, as Christians we are called to live our faith constantly, in all situations, and in living with integrity we witness to our faith. Being evangelists doesn't have to mean preaching on the street corners; in listening to a friend and giving cans to the food drive we are testifying to the love of our God and the truth of the Christian message. We must choose to be faithful to the Word and trust that the Spirit will guide us and those around us. It is not our job to convert; we must simply show up and be sure that our lives witness to the faith we proclaim.

Friends, I am excited to be among you as we worship and seek the way of Christ. May we be faithful to the Word, each of us striving to remember our baptisms and be confident in the presence and guidance of God. I look forward to getting to know each of you better as we continue on this exciting journey of faith!

In Christ, Keith

STEVE CURTIS CHAPMAN IN CONCERT

Steven Curtis Chapman will be at Memorial Auditorium on Friday, March 14 at 7:30 PM! We will try to go down to the concert as a group to enjoy this great artist as he sings contemporary Christian music on his "Live in This Moment Tour." If you want to attend, the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you need more info, please see Pastor Keith Jones.

AN EVENING OUT WITH FRIENDS

Casting Crowns will play at UTC McKenzie Arena Friday, April 18 at 7:30 PM. This is another opportunity to enjoy Christian events here in Chattanooga. Grab a friend to enjoy this great music!

NEW HOPE'S BUILDING FUND

In December, we made our final payment of \$500 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund for church property damages and rebuilding as a result of the devastation caused by the 2005 hurricanes. However, you are encouraged to continue to give to the building fund for our church using the pink envelopes in the back of each pew. This money is used strictly for the maintenance and upkeep of our building and grounds. Only \$3 per week from each of us will go a long way!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

During the months of February and March, the study of our Adult Sunday School Class will be entitled "Mandate to Difference: Invitation to the Contemporary Church." See the back of the February calendar for a complete week-by-week study list.

OUR COLLECTION FOR 2007

We have received New Hope's total figures for the 2007 *Souper Bowl of Caring* collection to the Chattanooga Food Bank. We donated \$374.75 and 50 food items. Let's all pitch in & make our 2008 collection even better than '07!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRACTICE

Each Sunday - Handbells @ 3:30; Youth @ 4:45

THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO.....

Bled for a wonderful cause! We had fifteen people show up to bleed for our Blood Assurance drive on January 19th. Thanks to those who came out to support this ministry. Thank you!

Contributed to the joy gift offering. We collected \$830.50, of which half will provide assistance to retired and active church workers and the other half will support Presbyterian related racial ethnic education through National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council. Thank you!

Donated to the Food Drive! The Chattanooga Area Food Bank serves 20 area counties and distributes food to over 120,000 needy families. Much of their ministry is made possible by local food drives. Thank you!

Gave two cents every time they sat down to eat. Through these donations we collected over \$110 to help combat hunger locally and nationwide! Thanks!

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Appreciation also.....

..... **from** Interfaith Homeless Network for our \$100 donation. They depend upon our generosity to continue the work of helping homeless families.

..... **from** Young America for the \$200 contribution to their ministry.

..... **from Renaissance Presbyterian** for our participation in the Christmas Sock Ministry. With all of us working together, about 70 children were served.

..... **from Mary McMillan to the church congregation** for making it possible thru contributions to New Hope for one of her neighbors to receive a food box from the Chattanooga Food Bank.

..... **from New Hope to our Task Force Team, John L. Wright, Dewey French, and Russell Mabry**, who worked long & hard on the doors in the dormitory at Camp John Knox on January 22. You guys are great!

..... **from all of us here at New Hope to John L., & Dewey** for their hard work stripping the wallpaper and painting the restroom in the McMillan Building. Thanks also are due **Rosie Sanislo** for adding the border after the painting was done.

..... **to all who were involved** in preparing for the Keith Jones' installation service on January 6.

Grave Sites for Sale

New Hope owns four grave sites at Greenwood Cemetery, 2013 Greenwood Road in Chattanooga. They are located in the beautiful Garden of Resurrection section. If interested, contact the church office or John L. Wright.

CAMP JOHN KNOX Summer Camp 2008 Registration Online NOW! www.johnknoxcenter.org

There is a \$25 discount if paperwork & fees are received in their office by May 5.

CENTS ABILITY

The 2 cents a meal collection boxes are located throughout the church. The amount of our last pickup was \$112. Of this amount, 25% goes to the Food Bank and 75% is sent to the Presbytery to be used for the hunger program. Thanks for helping those less fortunate!

ADDRESS CHANGE

Jennifer Elyse Krupp is moving back into a dorm. Her new address will be: Haus A 03.01.2, Eppelheimer Strasse 52, 69115 Heidelberg DE, Germany.

~~FROM THE STRENGTHENING COMMITTEE~~

Greetings! We recently met & you'll be pleased to know we agreed to continue our existing programs & add to the fun! (*We wouldn't dare tamper with our Wednesday Night Suppers & Bible Study.*) Thanks to our wonderful cooking teams & Keith's insights into "Acts," our Wednesday evening programming resumed full-tilt after the Christmas break, as did our Sunday School classes and PWOC Circle activities. We'll be adding Sunday Family Night Potluck Suppers back into the mix on a quarterly basis beginning March 9 at 6:00 PM.

Interested youth & adults will head out to hear Steven Curtis Chapman in concert on March 14.

We're also encouraging as many as can attend (tuition assistance & young adult scholarships are available) to take advantage of the Loaves & Fishes training event at Rivermont Presbyterian on Friday & Saturday, April 4-5, entitled "A New Vision for a New Day."

Please put **JUNE 9 THROUGH JUNE 13** on your calendar for **Vacation Bible School!**

Individual committee members are also working out the dates and logistics for a Seniors Spring Fling, singles-of-all-ages get-togethers, and some events expressly for the men of the church. We're negotiating the particulars of our annual fall Congregational Dinner & Meeting, but **just expect it to be enjoyable!!** It could even be in the form of a church-wide retreat, which we're also considering. We're open to your ideas, so please contact Linda Piatt to share them!!!