

The Hilltopper

August 2024

From Pastor HK

Hello everyone!

I pray all is well with everyone. My first month here at New Hope went by fast by the grace of God. I believe the Lord has been moving in our midst and will continue to guide us closer to His heart as we delight in Him daily. We are halfway through our ongoing sermon series, Behold. As we continue to behold our Savior, let's actively remember to make Him known wherever we go and whoever we meet. We have some outreach events coming up, so make sure to scroll down and see what's around the corner! If you're able to volunteer, please contact our point of contact for the events. We also have our weekly Saturday morning prayer meeting, SHOP taking place at 8am at the church. Join us if you're able!

Let's continue to behold the Lamb of God faithfully.

Blessings,

Pastor HK Kim



New Hope United Methodist Church

55 Round Hill School Road

**On Friday, August 23rd,
we will be hosting a BBQ Sandwich Fundraiser,
from 4:30pm-6:30pm.**

Only \$12 - Eat-in or Carry-out

**You will get a Pork BBQ Sandwich,
cole slaw, mac and cheese, green beans and a dessert,
(and a drink for eat-in only).**

Make plans now to join us and you won't have to cook dinner!



The following are the minutes from the **JULY** meeting of the Administrative Church Council.

The minutes are available to help the entire church family *stay in the know* about how this group is caring for New Hope UMC!

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes - July 25, 2024

Present: Becky Breeding, Alicia Copeland, Cindy Deavers, Wanda Harding, Pastor HK, Beth Howdyshell, Linda Howdyshell, Corey Johnson, Bill Lalla, Susan Mehler, Bruce Rogers, Cindy Sheets, Karen Whitmer and Sandy Wyrick

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Becky Breeding, and Corey read a devotion on Mark 10:45 and prayed.

The minutes to the June council meeting were accepted with one correction: the last bullet point under the Treasurer's section of the June meeting minutes: "It was agreed that we should pay \$1,767 for one month's worth of Conference Apportionments." – This should be corrected to read that it was for the Active and Retired Clergy Healthcare portion only, not the full conference apportionments. Alicia made a motion to make that change, Karen seconded and it was passed by all.

Finance: *(Bruce Rogers reported)*

- Recently met with Cindy Deavers about the church finances.
- We are where we normally have been - month over month.
- We will be having a bbq fundraiser in August, hoping we can make some money there.
- As far as the propane goes, we are working on getting the old propane tank out and also working on stopping the next propane gas fillup of that tank.

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- We are on track, as we usually are over the past few months.
- Paid \$815.19 for Pastor HK's moving expenses - that money came out of the Minister's Moving Fund.
- Paid \$2,400 towards parsonage renovations and duct work cleaning.
- We got a couple more donations for the Building Fund. We currently have \$1,005 in there now. We had \$410 in the fund before the donations came in. Cindy will move that money from the Building Fund over to the General Fund. And that \$1,005 will go towards the \$2,400 from the parsonage renovations. The United Methodist Men will pay the difference.
- The insurance has been paid for the first quarter of the fiscal year that starts on July 1st.
- The payroll has not been paid yet for this month.

- We are keeping a consistent amount in the General Fund.
- Cindy D. recommended that we pay the same apportionments again this month as we did last month - \$1,767 for the Active and Retired Clergy Healthcare.

Finance Secretary: *(Becky Breeding reported)*

- No report. Everything is going well.

Trustees: *(report from Corey Johnson)*

- The HVAC that has been leaking in the hallway by the nursery has been fixed, but the ceiling tile can not be replaced yet.
- The thermostats have been reprogrammed. Currently, Corey Johnson, Pastor HK and Mike Breeding are the ones who have remote control of the thermostats. If you are planning an upcoming event and need A/C, please contact one of these three people to make sure the A/C is running. If possible, please give them at least 6 hours lead time.
- Tentatively in September they will remove the buried propane tank.
- There is no timeframe for this, but the trustees plan to repaint the lines in the parking lot.
- Stanley Steamer recommended that they come every six months to keep the carpets in the Narthex and Sanctuary looking clean and not letting them get so dirty before we call them. If we do this, it would be \$275 each time they come to clean.
- The dehumidifier in the downstairs kitchen is still not draining properly. The machine is from 2012. Darryl Deavers and Sandy Wyrick have looked at it and tried to fix it. Bruce Rogers will look at it also.

United Methodist Women: *(Wanda Harding reported)*

- The next women's meeting for the Circle of Hope and Love will be on Monday, August 5th at 6pm, for their Family Picnic.

Lay Leader: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

- We have averaged 53 people the last few weeks at church.

United Methodist Men: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

- The UMM have agreed to pay the remainder of the parsonage bills and also for the new stove in the kitchen.
- As of July 24th, the UMM have \$9,600 in their account, and they should still have \$8,000 after all the bills have been paid.
- The UMM recently had a workday for a local resident that they have been helping in the past. This person had been so generous previously, that they were not going to take any money from him this time. But, that person insisted they take the money and the UMM collected another \$600 donation.
- The next UMM meeting will be held in September.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer reported)*

- Jerry Coffman has withdrawn his membership from New Hope United Methodist Church as of July 2024.

Communications: *(Cindy Sheets reported)*

- Discussed whether we still need to utilize the church text chain, only about half of the church is currently on it.
- The a/v room has instructions in it for the procedures on how to get the equipment up and running to use for Sunday worship or other services.
- The website, facebook, the newsletter and bulletin have been updated and all of Pastor HK's information has been added to these media. If you would happen to still see any outdated information anywhere please let Cindy Sheets know.
- Pastor HK has had the parsonage phone discounted. Cindy Deavers is working to confirm that that takes place.
- Cindy Sheets will meet with someone from John's computer on July 26th to work on getting the internet connected back to that computer.

Unfinished Business:

- We revisited the discussion on if we are able to and if so, how best to remove people from our membership list who have not been active members over at least the past 2 years.
- As far as the kitchen gas stove replacement goes, Bruce and Beth have looked at several options. The old stove currently in the kitchen was donated by John and Helen Morse - it is a Double Oven Industrial 10 burner stove. It is difficult to light and we are wondering now, based on the amount of events that we currently do, do we need a commercial stove currently? Bruce looked into it and one commercial stove with 6 burners is around \$6,000. It was recommended that we get two residential stoves in place of the industrial stove that we have now. If we get residential stoves, they would each have four burners, a convection oven, they would be LP gas, plus they would have an electric starter which is safer than what is on our old stove; and they would fit in the space we have available. The cost for two residential stoves are approximately \$1,800 each. A second gas line would need to be installed to accommodate the second stove. We would try to work on getting the new stoves delivered and installed between the upcoming events. If not, we have contingency plans to accommodate if we do not have the new stoves in by the time our events come around. Bruce is looking for someplace to donate the old stove to. He went to the Valley Mission, they would have taken it, but just recently purchased a new industrial stove themselves. The New Hope Grocery may be interested in having the old stove. So, if anyone knows of anyone else who may want the old industrial stove, please talk with Bruce Rogers. Wanda made a motion to purchase the two new residential stoves, Sandy seconded it and it was passed by all. The United Methodist Men will pay for one of the stoves and the Circle of Hope & Love will pay for the second stove. Everyone thanked Bruce for doing the legwork for this.

Programming:

- The Birthday Bash was a great event! Everyone had a lot of fun and we appreciate the effort that was put into it.
- The next Community Meal will be September 4th at 5:30pm.
- The 50's Drive-In will be September 28th from 4pm-6pm
- We will have another Community Meal on October 23rd.
- The United Methodist Men will have meetings on September 19th and October 17th.
- We are thinking about trying to bring back HOTS on November 9th from 4pm-6pm. Currently we are thinking about pre-selling 200 tickets at \$30 each - although this is subject to change. Currently we would plan for a limited number of oysters, ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, sauerkraut, a dinner roll, a dessert and a drink. Oysters are currently running about \$125-\$175 per gallon. There was some discussion about how that \$30 per plate price would be accepted and even if it was, could we do more than break even. It was decided that we table the discussion on HOTS for now.
- Our Community Christmas Meal will be December 18th.

Pastor HK:

- Pastor HK had suggested that we try to go to a 'one committee' plan, but that was discussed and agreed that it probably would not work here at our church, so that idea was tabled.
- Pastor HK introduced ideas for updating our current order of service to make it flow better. His ideas were discussed and we will revisit any final recommendations at our next meeting.
- Pastor HK asked us if it is still important that we take part in the Community Thanksgiving Service and the Community Good Friday Service. We talked about how it is important that we continue to be seen as an active and strong church presence within our community, willing to come together with other denominations and groups of people to worship the Lord. It was agreed that we will continue to take part in these services.
- Pastor HK is working to plan a bible study. Tentatively he is looking that it may run concurrently with the school year - having something of a Fall and Spring semester, and then breaking during the summer months. The details are still to be worked out and it probably would not start until 2025.
- As far as Pastor HK's paternity leave goes: When Sarah goes into labor - Pastor HK will start his 6 week paternity leave. During this time: Monday-Friday evenings, Pastor HK will be in Northern VA with Sarah and their family. And then Friday evenings through Monday at noon, he will be here in New Hope with us, to preach on Sundays. Then for two weeks in January, Pastor HK will go on leave and on Sunday, January 19th, he will be off and we will have a guest speaker that Sunday. Pastor HK will be available throughout this entire time via phone and email, if anyone needs to reach him about anything.

Becky Breeding dismissed us, and Pastor HK ended the meeting with prayer. The meeting went from 6:30pm-8:47pm

Respectfully submitted by: Cynthia Sheets- Recording Secretary

The next council meeting will be Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 6:30pm



Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

Saturday, August 3rd ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, August 4th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship and Holy Communion @ 10:30am

Monday, August 5th ~ Circle of Hope & Love Family Picnic @ 6:00pm

Saturday, August 10th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, August 11th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Saturday, August 17th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, August 18th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Thursday, August 22nd ~ Administrative Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

Friday, August 23rd ~ Pork BBQ Fundraiser from 4:30pm-6:30pm

Saturday, August 24th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, August 25th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Saturday, August 31st ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



1 - Taylor Meier

2 - Amye and Tim
Bergman

3 - Lewis Whitmer

5 - Michael Harner

6 - Melanie Aldhizer

7 - Susan Mehler

7 - John DeJong

8 - Charles Powers

9 - Monique Houser

11 - Carolyn Fretwell

11- Weston Powell

12 - Greg Killough

12 - Savannah Ritchie

13 - Mary Taylor

13 - Linda

Wheatley

14 - Mike Stout

15 - Judith Howard

17 - Hunter Black,

17 - Isaac Via

18 - Vanessa Harner

19 - Mitch Brensinger

19 - Glenwood and Kerri
Fretwell

20 - Stoney Caricofe

21 - Bianca Brensinger

22 - Randall Hinebaugh

23 - Nathan Kutz

23 - George and Mary
Taylor

25 - Harry Fisher

26 - Julia Miller

27 - Michael Kelly

27 - Karen Maugans

Birthday Bash 2024



Linda Wren

by: Cynthia Sheets

It is possible that you've heard the story of our new neighbor, Linda Wren.

My dad put up a birdhouse earlier this summer and within a few days a little chirpy bird had moved right in. That was the chirpiest little bird I think I have ever heard.

We later discovered that the bird was a wren. There are 88 different kinds of wrens in the world. It's a very vocal bird that loves to make its presence known to all in earshot.

About a week after the bird made its appearance, we received a piece of mail in our mailbox, marked with our correct address, but with the name of someone we had ever heard of - Linda Wren.

The only thing that I could think of about that piece of mail was - Return To Sender! But, my dad, with a better imagination than I have, quickly said he knew who Linda Wren was! He stated that the address was correct, because Linda Wren was our new neighbor! What?! I thought... he is talking about?! I was confused!

Then joking he announced that Linda Wren was our new neighbor that had just moved into the birdhouse in our backyard.

Linda, he exclaimed, was the apparent name of the wren in our birdhouse!

All jokes of course, but still, from that point on the wren in our birdhouse was affectionately known as Linda.

Linda stayed with us, chirping merrily along day-after day-after day, for weeks and weeks and weeks. We often thought that she was waiting for some eggs to hatch. Maybe, maybe not, as we never saw any sign of any baby birds.

Linda stayed with us, loudly chirping, and chirping and chirping outside our windows day-after-day-after-day, week-after-week-after-week

Then one day, it was quiet outside. And Linda Wren was gone.

We don't know where she went, but we hope she is okay.

When she was here, her loud, constant chirping got on my nerves at times. But, since she went away, I wish now that she would return.

I miss Linda Wren so much that I started to research more about wrens. And I found that in Celtic culture, the wren symbolizes 'some beautiful and affirming things.' The wren's song is a reminder to stay joyful. There is always a reason to rejoice, even in the darkest times. Which reminds me of the day when we had an awful storm at my house, the sky blackened and it grew dark, with 60mph winds, several neighbors' trees blew down around us, with lightning and thunder and rain coming down so hard it stung your skin when it hit you. I looked out the window several times and wondered if little Linda Wren would survive the storm. She did. And when the storm had passed, she was back out there loudly singing her song!

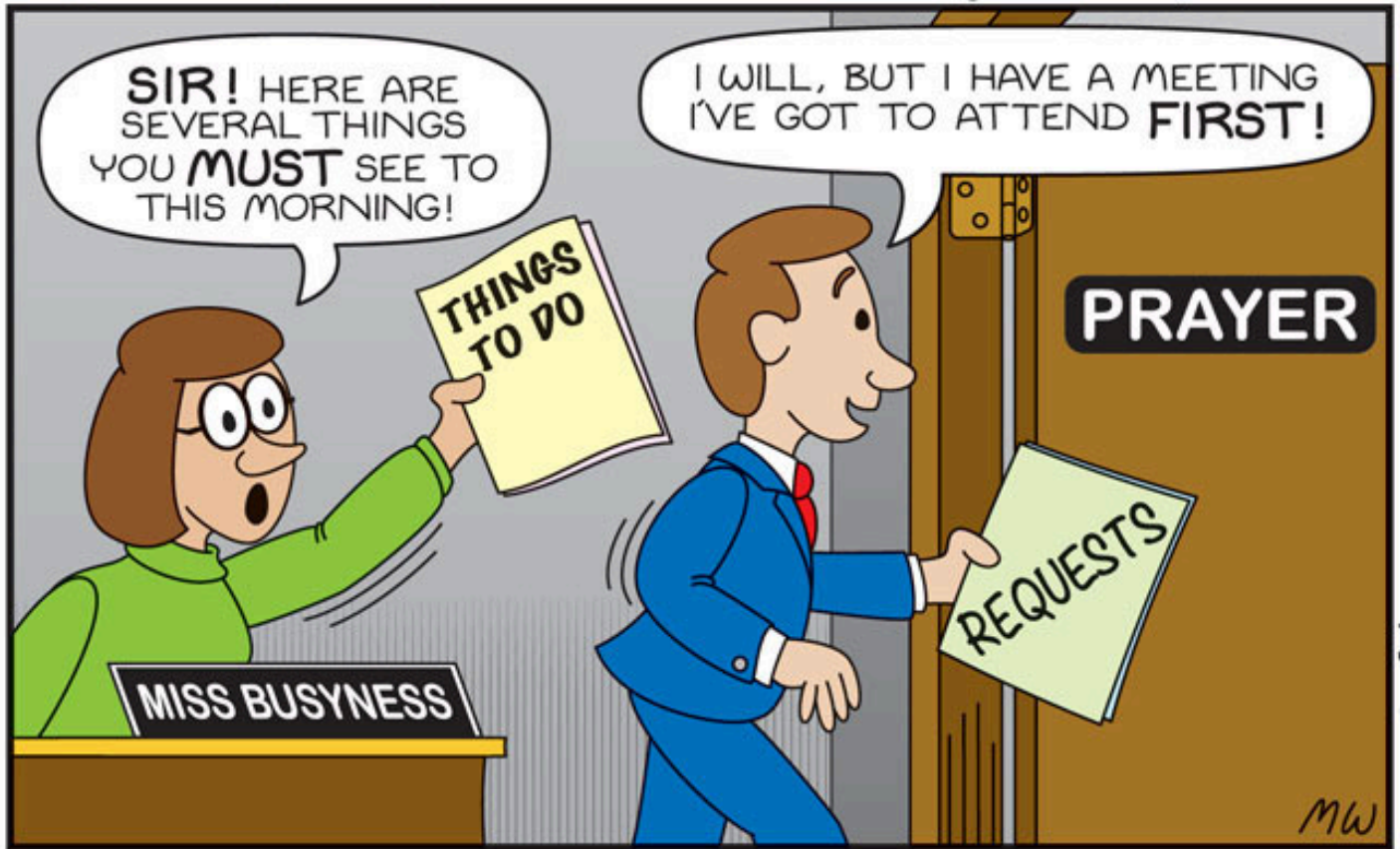
There is always a reason to rejoice, even in the darkest times. What a beautiful reminder this noisy little bird brings with it. Always stay joyful - even in the dark times!

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." *1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18*

Always stay joyful little bird and you are always welcome at our house anytime Linda Wren.

MORNING PRIORITY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.

– PSALM 5:3 NIV

*If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper,
please contact us! Call/Text: (540) 280-1860 or email
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