

NEW HOPE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2015
ISSUE 9, VOLUME 15

ANNA BAKER CELEBRATES 99TH



IN THIS ISSUE

Anna Baker's Birthday	1
Pastor's Corner	2
Music Notes	3
Your Session at Work	4
Presbytery News	5
CDC /Financials	6
Building & Grounds	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8

NEW HOPE HAPPENINGS

We're looking forward to a very busy October. Our friends in the Houston Korean Community Church are beginning a Bible study on Monday afternoon at 2:30 pm in the Parlor. Two different Cub Scout Packs will be using our building – one on the 2nd and 4th Monday from 6 to 8 pm and one on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 7 to 8 pm.

Fellowship is beginning to plan for the Trunk or Treat event that will take place on October 24 from 6-8 pm. They need candy and small toys or trinkets donated to use for prizes for the games. They also need volunteers to set up and run games and provide car trunks. Last year we had wonderfully spooky trunks and people dressed in costumes to greet the children.

The Child Development Center fundraiser is now under way. Come to Schulenberg Hall after worship this Sunday and next Sunday and shop from the fundraiser catalogs. They feature candles, soup and dessert mixes, candy, kitchen gadgets, and Christmas items and giftwrap.

Don't forget to turn in your favorite recipes for our New Hope Cookbook. Patricia Cole and the Fellowship Ministry are receiving these and working on putting the cookbook together.

PASTOR'S CORNER

It's the beginning of a new school year. By now, most of the pre-schools, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges, and other education centers have begun a new year. Students, teacher, and parents are all back to academic work. Everyone is adjusting to new routines while focusing on letters, numbers, and laws of physics.

It's a mad scramble to just get through one day anymore, let alone a full week. There are lunches to be made, gym clothes to be washed, and don't forget the numerous checks to all the PTA's, school organizations, and the new t-shirts. Everyone is busy making time for homework, football, and band. This is all just the tip of the iceberg. (Let us not forget that it was the tip of an iceberg that sank the Titanic.) It's a struggle to stay afloat. Have I covered it all? No. Have I covered some of it? Maybe.

In the midst of all this, let me offer one more piece of the puzzle to squeeze in. Don't forget the theological education. Don't forget to study about God.

I know that reading the Bible can be a challenge. It's not always easy to read, and sometimes, many times, it's even harder to understand. However, the Bible is just one piece. It's a big piece to be sure. When I was in seminary, we studied a lot more than just the Scriptures. There was church history, philosophy, ethics, pastoral care, education, as well as the languages, theology, and preaching. The point is there are many ways to study God.

Here are some ideas to ponder. A family might ask around the dinner table what were the 'God moments' in everyone's day. Where did you see God as you went to school, work, or play?

Another possibility is a morning or evening devotional. There are numerous devotional books available in stores or online that can be done in 5-10 minute segments. These are varied in their approach, but usually tie a small piece of Scripture with a short story, usually a page, not more than two.

There are many types of Bibles if that is your preference. There are children's Bibles that are good for children, and the whole family. There are teen Bibles that emphasize teen issues. There are also a variety of study Bibles for everyone to explore.

Remember that no matter what is going on, God is in our lives. God goes to school, is in the teacher's lounge, and is with us on the practice fields and at the dinner table. So be sure to make time, (I know you are laughing at that.) between working on the A,B,C's and the 1,2,3's, to contemplate the Alpha and the Omega. After all, God is a lot busier than any of us, and still, Jesus gives us his full attention.

MUSIC NOTES

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ORGAN

My last article concerned the importance of Music Ministry. I would like to share with you the importance of the Organ in a Worship Service.

From the softest pianissimo to the most dramatic swells of sound, the organs range and capacity to lift the voice and spirit accord it a place of pride in any church worship service. Among other instruments used in any Christian liturgy, the organ is accorded a "pride of place".

It gives resonance to the fullness of human sentiments from joy to sadness and from praise to lamentation. The many possibilities of the organ in some way remind us of the immensity and the magnificence of God.

The church has many important responsibilities to fulfill and New Hope is very fortunate to have a very good and adequate instrument already in place in the sanctuary. It is my pleasure to play such a fine instrument. Many thanks to the people and the donors. This organ is to be given a place of pride in the community of New Hope Presbyterian Church.

In quoting a statement from The American Guild of Organists, "The organ can provide the contrast between the raw power and quietness in its ability to lead people in song, community and worship." Unlike any other instrument, the organ has the ability to lead a congregation in song and of all other instruments the organ is most tied to the liturgy as it draws the people into the Service.

For each Service that I play at New Hope, I am aware the organ is the voice of the church and I am reminded of the wonderful scripture "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

In the work.....Priscilla

YOUR SESSION AT WORK BY JANET RAINEY, CLERK OF SESSION

Summary of Business Conducted During July & August 2015

- Granted permission to the Fellowship Committee to enter into a contract with Morrison Press Cookbooks to create cookbooks to be sold as a fundraiser.
- Approved the use of the parking lot by the HOPE Impacts community organization, for multiple three-month periods, as needed, (on the first Saturday of each month) beginning January 2016.
- Approved the setting up of a long-term “Clothing for the Homeless” collection container, with the donated items to be passed on to “Clothed By Faith,” one of the groups involved in the HOPE Impacts organization.
- Granted permission to the Houston Korean Community Church to hold prayer sessions on weekday mornings from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. (in the sanctuary) and on Monday afternoons from about 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (in the parlor).
- Approved working with LifeTouch to produce a new pictorial church directory. Scheduled dates for photographs to be taken are Tuesday, September 22 and Wednesday, September 23 (2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day).
- Approved the baptism of baby Eleanor Rose Gray during worship on August 23.
- Approved the use of the new PC (USA) children’s Sunday school curriculum – “Growing in Grace and Gratitude.”
- Received three new members: Mrs. Dorothy Frazee, Mrs. Mary Ann Bakken, and Mrs. Lydia Njome (Stephen’s mother).
- Received word that John & Judy Murphy have joined St Thomas Presbyterian Church in Houston.
- Received word that Charles Feazell has left New Hope and is looking for a non-PC (USA) church to attend.

*The next Stated Session Meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 15** at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor.*

Other Information

- Patricia Cole will be responsible for opening and closing the building on the remaining Sundays in **September**, and for giving the devotion and opening prayer at the September stated session meeting.
- New Hope’s clerk of session will be hosting a regional review of clerk records led by our presbytery’s stated clerk, Rev. Lynn Hargrove in Schulenburg Hall on Saturday, November 7, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

If you would like more details, or have questions, about any of these items please feel free to contact me by telephone (281 579 3368) or email (dandjraine@mac.com).

PRESBYTERY NEWS BY JANET RAINEY, CLERK OF SESSION

The following information has been taken from the latest editions of our presbytery's bimonthly newsletter ("Connections") and weekly e-newsletter ("Tuesday Connect"). Both communications can be accessed on the Presbytery's website: www.pbyofnewcovenant.org (listed in the "Stay Connected" box on the home page).

JULY MEETING OF NEW COVENANT PRESBYTERY

The commissioners approved (a) the dismissal of Peace, Pearland Presbyterian Church from the PC (USA) to The Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), (b) the presbytery's revised and amended Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure (GRDP), and (c) an overture from the Session of Pines Presbyterian Church to the 222nd (2016) General Assembly, asking for the removal of new language in the Book of Order regarding accused teaching elders (pastors) who renounce jurisdiction of the PC (USA) in the midst of disciplinary proceedings. The commissioners did not approve the Committee on Ministry's proposed "Teaching Elder Ethics" document that sought to clarify the appropriate role of the pastor during a period when a session was considering its relationship with the PC (USA).

Save the Date – FRESH ELASTIC

The next edition of Fresh Elastic for Stretched-Out Educators will take place **Thursday September 3**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Presbytery Center in Houston. Plan to be there for a time of fellowship, learning, and refreshment. The topic will be the Bible: - How do we choose the right Bible for our pews, our classes, for different ages and stages? - Does your congregation have a way of preparing children as they receive their Bibles from the congregation? - What advice do we give to those who ask us for recommendations for their personal Bible purchases? - Is it OK to read the Bible on your phone or tablet in a worship service?

Save the Date – FREE SEMINAR ON DISCIPLEMAKING

The presbytery's Congregational Resourcing Team is offering the seminar, "Engaging and Forming Disciples in a New Day" on **Thursday, September 24**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Community of the Servant Savior Church, Pearland. The only fee is a catering fee of \$15 to cover refreshments and lunch. Please help planners by making reservations no later than Monday, September 21. RSVP to Mary Marcotte (mmarcotte@pbyofnewcovenant.org) Details can be found on presbytery's website (www.pbyofnewcovenant.org).

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING

The next stated presbytery meeting is on **Saturday, November 21**, at St John's Presbyterian Church, in Houston. The Moderator of the General Assembly, Ruling Elder Heath Rada, will be preaching and giving the keynote address.

FAITH FORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Hope4CE.net is a new website launched by Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators (APCE) Educator of the Year and Columbia Theological Seminary Professor, Dr. Kathy Dawson. It is her gift to those of us passionate about Christian faith formation. Articles appear (mostly daily), written by a number of wise and thoughtful practitioners, and links are given frequently to helpful forms, book lists, and planning tools. Either follow the blog or "like" on Facebook.

Flamecreativekids.blogspot.com is a UK site full of wonderful ideas for crafts, storytelling, and prayer practices with preschool and young children in mind.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Child Development Center At New Hope is alive with the sounds of busy teachers and church members preparing our little school for another banner year under the direction of Julie Golden. Julie has worked tirelessly and her efforts have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. Thank you Julie!

Our teaching staff this year is comprised of familiar faces, returning friends and new friends rounding out our team.

In the Puppy class returning teacher Sarah Bolton welcomes Katy Murphy as her new assistant. The Ducks class has two new teachers Niayana Latchman and her assistant Victoria Mendez. The Teddy Bear class is headed up once again by Anne Salazar. Her new assistant is Shelley Galer. In the Ladybug class is Sherry Dotson who is an old friend and has returned to come and play with us! Missy Hill leads the Turtle class on Tuesday and Thursday with Jennifer Jackson as her new assistant. Cindy Lynch leads the Turtle Class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with Ellie Marcenaro by her side. Ellie is also a friend from way back when. Lynne Bulow makes another command performance as our Music teacher.

We are looking forward another year full of adventure and fun at our wonderful little school.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial results through August 31, 2015 are:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget Estimate</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$116,713.48	\$127,810.55	\$11,097.09 (Under Budget)
Expenses	\$129,834.92	\$136,786.97	\$ 8,952.05 (Under Budget)

Balance Sheet	Balance in Operating Account	\$12,762.92
	Balance in Special Checking Account (Designated funds)	\$44,041.40
	Total in bank accounts	

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The Building and Grounds Ministry Team along with other church members have been working hard to get classrooms, the building, and the playground ready for the new CDC year. We will be having “Workdays” throughout the year, too. If you can spray Clorox and wipe it off with a sponge, there is a way for you to support this important mission. If you have an extra \$10 or \$20 at the end of the month, you can donate it to New Hope for CDC repairs and improvements.

Many thanks to all of the following who showed up to help at one or both of the workdays: Bruce Hymel, Sean McCurly (friend of Gordon and New Hope), Jerry Pettit, Sam DeSantis, Kevin, Shelley, Ethan, and Caleb Galer, Ron and Fiona Day, Janet Rainey, Pat McConaughy, Hub and Jennye Giles, Lynn Schulenberg, Gordon van Dijk, and Dave Galer. I hope I didn’t miss anyone. Your time and skills are appreciated. You accomplished so much!

The Child Development Center is a mission/community outreach supported by the members and friends of New Hope Presbyterian Church. Take a few minutes to look around our building and inside those classrooms. As you do, think about whether or not we are providing the safest and most sanitary working and learning environment that we can for the teachers and young children. Our teachers do the best they can with what they have, and they don’t do it for the money.

As I drive around our West Houston/Katy area, I am struck by the beautifully landscaped freeway underpasses and huge concrete containers full of lovely blooming flowers. From my office building, I can see the new park under construction by the bridge on Kingsland. (I think some of the homeless in our area stay under that bridge.) I can’t help but feel a twinge of guilt when I recall driving in other areas of Houston where there are very badly damaged sidewalks, no sidewalks, graffiti, etc. marking those freeways and bridges. We are blessed to be able to live in this area. We are blessed to be a blessing to those less fortunate who live and work in this community with us. Please continue to support your Building & Grounds Ministry Team and the mission/community outreach work of the CDC.

Barry Bettes and Helen Galer
B&G Ministry Team Co-Moderators

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/4 Bob Ferguson
 9/6 Georgene Rosato
 9/9 Anna Baker
 9/10 Shelley Galer
 2/11 Joyce Johnston
 9/12 Robert Martinelli
 9/19 Evelyn Walsh
 9/24 Ken Rosato
 9/27 Matt Bliton
 9/28 Chris Pettit
 9/29 Loretta Martinelli
 9/30 Billie Ryall
 9/30 Edna Saenz

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/2 Gordon & Cathy van Dijk
 9/7 Bob & Lorraine Radke

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Fiona Day
 10/2 Katiesue Robinson
 10/6 Ethan Galer
 10/8 Clara Zaruba
 10/10 Christina Saenz
 10/18 John Ryall
 10/30 Helen Ray

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/1 Jack & Kelly Ferguson
 10/16 Steve & Julie Gray
 10/16 Ken & Georgene Rosato
 10/18 Ed & Pam Nicoletti



Upcoming Events

Friday, 10/9	Parents Night Out
Monday, 10/12	Holiday office closed
Monday 10/20	CDC Book Fair starts
Tuesday, 10/20	Session Meeting
Wed./Thurs. 21 & 22	CDC Open House 7-8 pm
Saturday, 10/24	Trunk or Treat 6-8 pm

November 3 & 4 Directory Photos 2-9 pm