



News of New Hope

New Hope United Methodist Church
200 E New Hope Road
Goldsboro, NC 27534-7642



ADVENT

“O come, O come, Emmanuel,
“And ransom captive Israel,
“That mourns in lonely exile here
“Until the Son of God appear.
“Rejoice! rejoice! Immanuel
“Shall come to thee, O Israel!”



The Advent season begins this year on December 2nd, the Sunday nearest November 30th. The traditional service of preparation for Christ’s coming includes the Hanging of the Greens, following the old English custom of decorating with evergreens. Greenery is traditionally associated with everlasting life. Greens such as cedar for royalty, fir and pine boughs for everlasting life, holly symbolizing Jesus’ death and ivy representing the resurrection are used. New Hope also hangs chrismons, hand-made religious symbols, on the large tree.

Adopt-a-Grandparent program, with the leadership of Rebecca Lancaster, has begun again this year. Individuals, families, and groups may participate to provide visits, cards, and small gifts to residents of a nursing home who have no remaining family members.

Sunday, Dec. 16, will be a time of a hayride with caroling through the neighborhoods. Then Dec. 18th is the annual Christmas party for the families in Parents Anonymous. Be sure to pick up the information about one of the children to help make their Christmas special. Cooks and other workers for the dinner are always welcome.

The United Methodist Men began a tradition last year. Prior to their annual Christmas party they visit local nursing homes for caroling and to bring homemade cookies to the

residents. Bakers as well as vocalists are welcome. The date is Dec. 20th.

During the morning worship service on December 23rd, the chancel choir will be joined by some of the youth to present the cantata.

Communion will be observed twice on Christmas Eve—at 7 pm and again at 11 pm during Candle-light services.

Christmas Day may you celebrate the birth of Jesus with family and friends and keep the spirit of Christmas throughout the coming year.

Memory Verse for December

Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

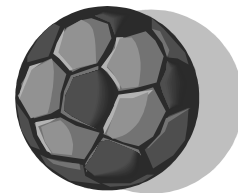
—Luke 2:14

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- Dec. 1** – Adm. Coun. / Trans. Team Presentation 10-12
- Dec. 2** – First Sunday in Advent – Hanging of the Greens @ 11
Upward® Kick-off luncheon @ 12
- Dec. 3** – Disciple 1 & 2 @ 7pm
- Dec. 6** – Administrative Council @ 7
- Dec. 9** – Dinner Theatre – Advanced ticket required
- Dec. 10** – Disciple 1 & 2 @ 7pm
- Dec. 11** – Court of Honor 7pm
- Dec. 11** – Upward® Soccer Commissioner Training 7pm
- Dec. 15** – Friends & Family Breakfast 7:30-10 am
- Dec. 16** – Caroling & Hayride 5:00 pm
- Dec. 17** – Disciple 1 & 2 @ 7pm
- Dec. 18** – Parents Anonymous Christmas Party- Fellowship Hall 7 pm
- Dec. 20** – UMM Caroling @ 6
UMW/UMM @ 7
- Dec. 21** – Newsletter deadline
- Dec. 23** – Cantata @ 11
- Dec. 24** – Communion 7pm
- Dec. 24** – Communion 11pm
- Dec. 25** – Christmas Day
- Dec. 30** – 5th Sunday Hymn Sing and Covered Dish Luncheon

Church Teams



United Methodist Men

Big dates for December for the UMM are the 15th and the 20th.

Saturday, the 15th we welcome all to join us for **Friends and Family Breakfast** before your shopping day begins.

At 6 pm on Thursday, the 20th, the UMM will be making our annual **Christmas Caroling** trip to sing and deliver cookies to nursing home residents and shut-ins. Following the caroling we will join the women at the church for refreshments and fellowship.

All men of the church, including visitors, are welcome to join in the activities.

—Mike Acree, President

United Methodist Women

Thank you all for the success of the Fall Bazaar. Profits will go towards missions and outreach of the New Hope UMW.

During the December meeting we will celebrate the joys of Christmas with the UMM on December 20th.

—Iris Cox, Treasurer
Jane Fields, President

Trustees

Well, we really had a good yard-sale, thanks to a lot of people. The church wide yard sale overflowed the Fellowship Hall and spilled out into the hallways and even to the front porch.

Thank you to all who contributed items—and to the numerous workers, including Scouts. It looks like we made over \$2,000! Thanks to everyone for all your help and sup-

port as we take one step at a time to maintain our church property.

God be with you,
—Dan Cox, Chair

UMYF

Anna Jacobs, Ian Jacobs, Austin Harr, Lainey Jacobs, Eleanor Armstrong, and Martin Armstrong were the delegation from New Hope to Pilgrimage last month. They returned with re-charged energy, enthusiasm, and spirit.

UMYF meets at 5:30 on Sunday Evenings and continues the study in *Rings of Fellowship*.

Outreach

The popularity of the **Adopt-a-Grandparent** program last year has brought it back again for this Christmas season. Names of ten residents of a local nursing home are available. These individuals have no family to share in the excitement of wonder of Christmas. Cards, visits, and small gifts are always welcome.

Contact Rebecca Lancaster to learn how you can spread the meaning of Christmas with a special person this season.

—Rebecca Lancaster,
Outreach and Visitation

Upward® Soccer Comes to New Hope!

The kick off for the Upward® soccer sports ministry will be a luncheon after church on December 2nd. This fund raiser will provide the seed money to begin the effort to get information out to the children and parents in the neighborhood and prepare the field.

A short video about the program will be shown and commissioners will be introduced.

- **Lead Director:** Mike Acree
- **Advertising Commissioners:** Doris and Dewey Offield
- **Devotions Commissioner:** Ed Porter
- **Referees Commissioner:** Mike Smith
- **Division Commissioner:** Steve Jack
- **Prayer Commissioner:** TBA
- **Follow-up Commissioner:** TBA

Commissioner Training is scheduled for December 11th at 7 pm.

Boys and girls in kindergarten through 4th grade may participate in the program. Registration forms are now available. Early registration fee cost per child is \$55. After January 31 the cost is \$65.

Evaluation for team placement will begin on January 14 and continue through February 8th. The Evaluation schedule for age groups is in the brochure.

Practices begin the week of February 18th with the first game is scheduled for March 15th.

The conclusion of the season will be an awards celebration on May 30th.

“Upward defines winning as learning and/or teaching lessons in the game of life. The emphasis is on having fun and good sportsmanship.”

Date	Soccer Activity
Dec. 2	Kick-off luncheon
Dec. 11	Commissioner training
Dec.-Jan	Early registration
Jan 14-2/ 8	Evaluation
Feb. 8	Registration Deadline
Feb. 18	Practices begin
Mar. 15	First game
May 30	Awards Celebration

Show Me the Way

By
Jessica Dearth

Before we try anything new, whether it is a sport, a musical instrument, working on a vehicle, a dance routine, whatever it may be, we first need direction. This direction comes in many forms: from people, reading, and even trial and error. If we do not receive help when attempting something new, chances are we become frustrated, disappointed, or we completely give up. The chances of us just 'getting it' are slim and unrealistic. The reality is, if we want to stick with something we need guidance, reassurance, and encouragement. The same is true with how we approach God.

We are all at different stages in our spiritual life. Some are advanced, others are just starting, and there are some who are lost. They don't know what to do to get closer to God. It isn't their fault that they are not progressing, it is ours. We are so concerned with ourselves and our own spiritual life that we forget about other peoples needs especially when it concerns their spiritual well being. Spiritual growth does not just happen on Sunday morning and it isn't something that people 'just get'. This is something we must be taught and in turn teach others.

You can't base how long you have been a Christian on how close you are to the Lord. There are some who have been a Christian for 30 years and have never read the entire Bible and yet there are others who have read the Bible front to back and back to front 30 times. Your spiritual age does not match

your numerical age in this life and it is up to each of us to see to it that we continually grow towards God. One aspect of growing closer to God is to read the Bible, pray, and be active in church. Unfortunately these activities are left to the individual to accomplish. However, the sad truth is that many of us do not know how to pray or how to read the Bible in a practical, effective way. Also, many people don't know where they fit in church. Again, whose problem is this? It isn't the fault of the people who do not know, it is the fault of the people who *do* know but are not willing to guide, reassure, and encourage.

We need to show and teach each other how to love and relate with God. People of all ages need to have a place where they feel safe to ask real questions about themselves spiritually. We need to love them unconditionally, and recognize that we don't become Disciples of Christ overnight. It is a life-long commitment and we will all, at one time or another, have doubts and questions that need to be answered. We need to be open first with ourselves and then with each other. We need to hold each other accountable. We need to ensure that we are a part of weekly worship, Sunday school, and small group studies. Our expectations, hopes, and dreams for one another should be that we all become more spiritually mature.

By being accountable to one another we will learn

how to have a personal and private walk with the Lord. We will become faithful in our everyday service to the Lord, we will learn how to serve the Lord within the church, and we will learn how to teach others because we have been taught ourselves. Every believer needs help and encouragement in gaining victory. Paul wrote to Timothy, "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:6-7). Paul was, through God's will, ensuring one of His children had guidance, reassurance, and encouragement.

In a recent sermon, Martin asked if we were the same person that we were yesterday or even last week. I certainly hope each of us is closer to God than we were last week. Whether you are the teacher or the disciple, both are conformed to God's image when the Holy Spirit instructs and guides your life. Be a part of God's will and instruct others in His ways.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20



December 2007



*Sunday Schedule

8:45 First Hope
 9:30 Fellowship
 9:45 Sunday School
 11:00 Worship
 5:00 Hand bells
 5:30-7 UMYF (Rings of Fellowship)
 6:00-7:00 Praise Team Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10-noon-Adm/Trans. Presentation III Century Concert
*2 11am-Hanging Greens 12 upward@ Luncheon 4pm III Cen. Concert	3 6:30pm-Cub Scouts	4 7pm-Boy Scouts	5 7pm-Choir practice	6	7	8
*9 6pm-Dinner Theater	10 6:30pm-Cub Scouts	11 7pm Upward@ Com-missioner Training 7pm-Boy Scouts Court of Honor	12 7pm-Choir practice	13	14	15 7:30-10am~Friends & Family Breakfast
*16  Hayride Caroling	17 6:30pm-Cub Scouts 7pm-Disciple 1 & 2	18 Parents Anon. Christ-mas dinner & party	19 7pm-Choir practice	20 6pm-UMM Caroling 7pm-UMM/UMW	21	22
*23 11am - Cantata	24 Office closed 7pm-Communion 11pm-Communion	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Office closed 7pm-Choir practice	27	28	29
*30 5th Sunday Hymn Sing and luncheon	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>					



*Our Savior
is Born*

Remember your church in your will.

Additions to the calendar of events may be found in Sunday's bulletin or posted on the church bulletin board.



Prayer for Healing

† Will Davies

- † Aline Lavin
- † Alma Andrews
- † Anne Anderson
- † Audrey Scott
- † Bob Jennette
- † Brandon Vinson
- † Brandy Huntress
- † David Herring
- † Dee Meadows
- † Douglas Corbett
- † E l e a n o r
- † Eleanor Porter
- † Ethel Boyette
- † Frank Beach
- † Harold Coltrane
- † Joe Turner
- † Keith Reed
- † Larry Collins
- † Lois Capps
- † Lynny Coltrane
- † Mac Yates
- † Margaret Wells
- † Mary Ellen Merritt
- † Preddy Yates
- † Ray Hicks, Sr.
- † Rebecca Lancaster
- † Rob Withey
- † Sue Wallace
- † Tammy Brandish

Prayer for Bereavement

- † Family of Ms Jonken
- † Family of Olga Ivey
- † Family of Lois Smith

Prayer for Thanksgiving

- † Sue Coltrane (a loving, nurturing supporter)
- † Our church family
- † Our Pastor & His Family
- † Our Youth at New Hope
- † Christian friends

Prayer for Intercessions

- † Members of our armed forces
- † Rings of Fellowship
- † Students and leaders of Disciple 1 & 2 Bible Study
- † Upward® Soccer
- † Our sister church in Pascagoula, MS



A Note From the Keys

The Ringers of New Hope brought the prelude and offertory for Thanksgiving Sunday. They will be playing during Advent and again on Dec. 23.

The 23rd is also the date for the chancel choir to present the cantata, *Born to You This Day* by Dennis and Nan Allen. Come worship together and hear, once again, the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

- Hope Hicks,
Director of Music Ministries

News of New Hope

The News of New Hope is published by New Hope United Methodist Church for members, visitors, and others interested in the activities and mission of the church. For submissions of articles, announcements, or interviews, you may email nhumc2@bellsouth.net or drop them by the church office.

Church: (919) 778-1124

Parsonage:
(919) 778-3801

[http://www.gbgm-umc.org/
NewHopeNC/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/NewHopeNC/)

District Web Site:

<http://goldsborodistrictumc.org>

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **Glory to God in the highest**, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

—Luke 2:9-14

**Remember your church in
your will.**

Administrative Council Meeting

November 1, 2007

Highlights from the November meeting:

- † The treasurer's report was distributed.
 - Apportionment remittance is behind \$19,614
 - The yard maintenance and flower funds are lagging behind
- † Dan Cox reported for the Trustees.
 - A Yard sale - Dec. 10th.
 - Dorothy and Joseph Burn Memorial Fund used to purchase new front entrance door
- † Poinsettias have been ordered from the Eastern Wayne High School Horticulture Club.
- † Jane Fields reported for the UMW.
 - Fall Bazaar - Dec. 3rd
 - Operation Christmas Child information will be available in the narthex.
- † United Methodist Men's Family and Friends Saturday Breakfasts have resumed.
- † Adopt-a-Grandparent program for Christmas will be held again this year
- † Scouting Eagle project continues to raise funds to fence in and prepare the Upward® Soccer fields.
- † Pastor's Report
 - Safe Sanctuary policy adopted
 - Lay Leadership team for 2008 was presented
 - Transformers to be purchased to broadcast sanctuary service into the nursery

Celebrate

Birthdays

12/1 Corey Ginn
 12/4 Janis Kester
 12/5 David Kester
 12/6 Wesley Kaye
 12/8 Josh Coltrane
 12/8 Ben Miller
 12/12 Rodney Miller
 12/13 Faith Dotter
 12/14 Grace Tackett
 12/17 Erin Acree
 12/17 Holly Sutton
 12/25 Anna Miller
 12/28 Dan Kester
 12/31 Pam Magliochetti



12/27 Becky & Doug Davis
 12/31 Marjorie & Al Smith

Eagle Scout Projects

Two Eagle projects are underway. One project is raising the money and will install fencing for the fields for Upward® Soccer. Fund raisers are being held along with seeking sponsors to include a sign on the fencing.

The second project includes the design and layout of two soccer fields for the program. In the church narthex is a model of the fields—and a soccer ball bank ready to accept donations, especially loose pocket change.

The brochures for the soccer program have arrived and the Scouts of Troop 8 and Pack 8 will be helping distribute the registration forms to area families.

Church Leadership for 2008

Each fall, in preparation for Charge Conference, the Lay Leadership Team convenes to draft nominations to fill the leadership positions of the church. The slate is presented to the Charge Conference for voting. The following were elected and begin duties for 2008.

Lay Leader	Tom Potter
Music Ministries Dir.	Hope Hicks
Administrative Council Chair	Jim Harr
Recording Secretary	Rebecca Lancaster
Financial Secretary	Randy Dearth
Treasurer	Diane Kester
UMW President	Jane Fields
UMM President	Mike Acree
Nurture & Membership	
Care Team	Lainey Jacobs, chair
Older Adult Ministries	Gina Harr/ Becky Davis
Sunday School Super.	Al Smith
Christian Education	Eleanor Armstrong
Children's ministries	Jessica Dearth
Youth Ministries	TBA
Outreach & Missions Team	
	Dawn Potter, Chair
Visitation	Rebecca Lancaster
Work Teams	Tom Potter
Upward	Mike Acree
Special Ministries	
Scouting	Dewey & Doris Offield
Prayer Ministries	Cyndi Acree
Communications	Greg Forrester
Historians	Dan & Iris Cox
Memorials	Mary Ellen Merritt
Tape Ministries	Sandra Lewis
Worship Team	
Pastor	Janie Woodard, Chair
	Martin Armstrong
Music	hope Hicks
Altar Guild	Eugenia Brooks
Head Usher	Frankie Sutton
At Large	Elsie Turner
	Janet Reed
	Becky Davis

Finance Team
 Roger Lewis, chair
 Financial Sec. Randy Dearth
 Treasurer Diane Kester
 Lay Leader Tom Potter
 Trustee Dan Cox
 Admin. Co. Chair Jim Harr
 Pastor Martin Armstrong
 At large Lois Capps
 Margaret Wells

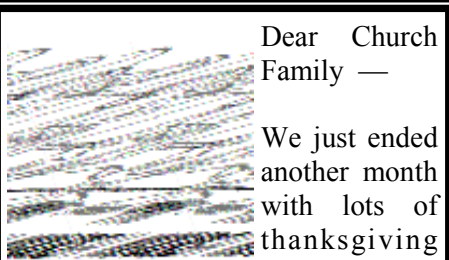
Parsonage Team
 Linda Potter,
 Chair
 Shorty Lewis Lynny Coltrane
 Jerry Wells Janie Woodard
 Howard Gerken Renate
 Bransington

Eleanor Armstrong
Staff Parish Relations Team
 Class of 2008 Mike Acree
 Tom Potter
 Jessica Dearth
 Class of 2009 Millie Smith
 Becky Davis
 Peggy Gerken
 Class of 2010 Doris Offield
 Stephen Miller
 Frankie Sutton

Lay Leadership Team
 Martin Armstrong,
 Chair
 Class of 2008 Joanne Gray
 Jane Fields
 Iris Cox
 Class of 2009 Greg Forrester
 Jennifer Bowen
 Doug Davis
 Class of 2010 Gina Harr
 Glenn Coltrane
 Terry Hampton

Trustees Team
 Class of 2008 Mike Smith
 Frankie Sutton
 Kevin Lancaster
 Class of 2009 Dan Cox
 Jerry Wells
 Jim Ivey
 Class of 2010 Jane Fields
 Howard Gerken
 Barbara Chesson

Transformation Team
 Dewey Offield Doris Offield
 Tom Potter Dawn Potter
 Mike Acree Cyndi Acree
 Joseph Wade Mandee Wade
 Jim Harr Gina Harr
 Rebecca Lancaster Doug Davis
 Greg Forrester Jane Fields
 Diane Kester



Dear Church Family —

We just ended another month with lots of thanksgiving for so many things in our lives. Our church family is right up there on top. Watching everyone work together for selling yards and yards of things, listening to the ding-a-lings get ready for worship service, hearing the choir getting ready for the coming season—yes, even, the church mouse can find so many things to give thanks to God for providing.

Pastor Martin showed the children one morning, how soap is used to clean our hands. It the same with God when he tells us to ask forgiveness for going wrong things—he wipes away our sins.

That morning he talked about ACTS— a way to talk to God. Can you remember adoration, confessing, thanksgiving, and supplication?

The folks all sang along with Pastor Martin when he told the story of a little man call Zac Key Us. Seems this fellow changed his life around when Jesus went to his house one day. It changed the way he thought about giving. Pastor Martin says tithing is a faith that God will take care of us.

One morning we had a visitor speak to us on Sunday. He told us about a boy named David who had to face a giant. Then he said we all face giants. What are we going to do? We must be brave like David and face our giants—with God.

And then, the cup overflowed with water! The children watched as Pastor Martin showed what it means to be filled and spill over—like the cup. Thank God for his blessings overflowing our lives.

—I'll see ya' in church Sunday.

A. Churchmouse

(Continued from page 8)

making the spiritual needs of others a priority of ministry.

Let us not be afraid to ask ourselves hard questions that cause us all prayerfully to seek God's priorities, purpose, and plans for the mission and ministry of New Hope United Methodist. Let us pray, with thanksgiving, for God's priorities, purpose and plans to be our priorities, purpose, and plans for mission and ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

priorities
 purpose
 plans

~ Martin

A NOTE OF



.... to the Scouts (youth and adults) who lead the drive to re-fill the food pantry. Not only did they collect the non-perishable goods, but they also helped bag it in preparation for requests that come into the office.

And a note of thanks, too, to those who remember the needy and continue to give to this ongoing mission. A box is always available in the narthex for donations.

Martin's Musings

Centered in Christ

To be centered is to be focused on an ideal in one's mind and heart where everything of importance has its origin. The center then has major if not total influence over a person's priorities, purpose, and personal plans. In considering what a healthy congregation might look like, what the congregation is centered on is of highest importance. Some may ask, what else could we be centered on, we are a Christian body. It is truly amazing what churches, as well as other organizations of human beings, can get focused on instead of the idea or cause that they originally were organized to address. Organizations get off center because its individual members get off center.

A healthy congregation is centered in Christ and is asking itself questions that reflect that orientation while it develops its priorities, purpose, and plans. One question might be: Does this ministry glorify Christ and move persons on the outside of the Church to seek to establish a relationship with Christ? Another question might be: Is this ministry or program just meeting our perceived needs within the walls of this church or is it addressing a community spiritual need as well? Christ came to the needy world from the Father to bring a fallen world back to a whole and healthy relationship with God. Christ came to spiritually reclaim human beings with the sacrifice of Himself. To be centered in Christ is to be

(Continued on page 7 Column 3)



The News of New Hope

New Hope United Methodist Church
200 East New Hope Road
Goldsboro, NC 27534-7642

Pastor: Rev. Martin Armstrong
Music Director: Hope Hicks
Secretary: Janice Rouse
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nhumc@bellsouth.net

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas Eve
Candlelight and Communion Services
at 7 and at 11 pm