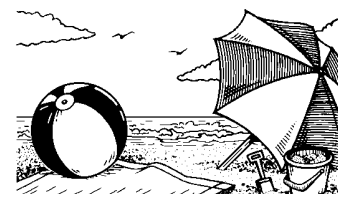


# HOPE reNEWS

A publication from the people of  
New Hope Presbyterian Church  
North Huntingdon Pennsylvania



**Summer 2008**

## SUMMER SERMONS AND SERVICE INFORMATION

- 7/6 9:30am Worship** "My Yoke Is Easy"  
OT Genesis 24:34-38 NT Matthew 11:16-30  
*14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
- 7/13 9:30am Worship** "Given More"  
OT Genesis 25:21-23 NT Matthew 13:1-23  
*15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
- 7/20 9:30am Worship** "May Root up the Wheat"  
OT Genesis 28:10-19a NT Matthew 13:24-43  
*16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
- 7/27 9:30am Worship** "Been Instructed"  
OT Genesis 29:15-28 NT Matthew 13:31-52  
*17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
- 8/3 9:30am Worship** "Compassion"  
OT Genesis 32:22-31 NT Matthew 14:13-21  
*18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
- 8/10 9:30am Worship** "Courage"  
OT Genesis 37:1-28 NT Matthew 14:22-33  
*19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
- 8/17 9:30am Worship w/Communion (A)** "Faith"  
OT Genesis 45:1-15 NT Matthew 15:21-28  
*20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
- 8/24 9:30am Worship** "Who Do You Say I Am?"  
OT Exodus 1:8 - 2:10 NT Matthew 16:13-20  
*21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*  
*Youth in the Church and World*
- 8/31 9:30am Worship** "What Good if Forfeits Soul?"  
OT Exodus 3:1-15 NT Matthew 16:21-28  
*22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
- 9/7 10:30am Worship**  
OT Exodus 12:1-14 NT Matthew 18:15-20  
*23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*  
*Commissioning Teachers; Coffee & Conversation*

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*\*Listed in mailed copy*

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North Huntingdon PA 15642

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## NEW HOPE CHURCH

Dear Givers of New Hope,

As followers of Christ and as the church is named, we should give new hope. Here's the question of the year. Do we? Unfortunately Matthew 15:21-28 illustrates that we do not always do so.

When I was ordained as a pastor, Victor Van Allen asked if I ever preached on the above, known as one of the most difficult Bible pericopes. I answered that I did a sermon in seminary and would again when the Scripture came up in the lectionary. Although a sermon is scheduled August 15, I preach one early here in writing.

First please read the passage and imagine if we heard with the disciples the shrill voice cry out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."

Picture all eyes turned to Jesus, waiting to hear his response, but looking stunned that <sup>22a</sup>"Jesus did not answer a word." Like Jesus we tried to ignore the woman's pitiful plea, but unable to take it anymore we cried out in a voice of begging much like the woman, <sup>23b</sup>"Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

Now Jesus' sad eyes turned to look at us, since we showed no mercy for this poor woman. With his look we realized how awful we responded. We hoped that Jesus would make amends for us, but instead he tried to

send her away as we requested. <sup>24</sup>He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

Instead of going away though, <sup>25</sup>"the woman came and knelt before him. 'Lord, help me!' she said." Still looking at us Jesus spoke with words even more harsh. <sup>26</sup>"He replied, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs.'" Can you imagine Jesus saying such a thing? Yet he did

Now picture a different scene. This time when the woman cries out, we ask, "We know that she is not part of the flock and is from a foreign land, but please, Jesus, how can we help her?" Just imagine his look, his answer, and his smile now.

Once there were disciples who rewrote the scene as above. The name of one the disciples' was Victor Van Allen. Victor and others heard the cries of the terrible suffering in Sudan and responded in compassion. Victor has now been called to be with the Lord, but the Sudan is still crying out. Will we ignore her and ask that she be sent away with needs unmet? Just as the twelve instead of our helping, we will rely on Jesus and others to show mercy?

No, thank God. When Victor's friend, Daniel Hamad, comes to be in fellowship with us on Monday July 14 at 7pm we are giving a gift in memory of Victor. That's good.

Will compassion also move us to ask, "Jesus how we can

continue to help those who cry out?" As in the Bible story, Jesus wants us to listen for opportunities to reach out to the Sudan and elsewhere. Other opportunities now and in the near future are: recording stories of residents at Redstone Highlands, volunteering with Norwin Area Meals on Wheels, participation in the Relay for Life walk for cancer on July 19 and 20 (so the pastor can sleep some that night since I've vowed to walk every slot where no one signs up), and various upcoming service projects through Vacation Bible School from August 4 through 8. We also need to keep our ears open for the cries of those who suffer terribly and be ready to respond in compassion. We cannot rely on others to reach out for us. As Christians, we are all called by Christ to proclaim the Good News through missions of love. May we faithfully heed the call to reach out with New Hope.

In Christ's Name,

*The Reverend Ms. Janet Reid*

Janet, the Pastor of  
New Hope Presbyterian Church

## NEW HOPE CHURCH

**FROM THE  
CLERK OF SESSION**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
Part 2 of the 2007-8 Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation was held on June 1, 2008. The Moderator, the Rev. Ms. Janet Reid, called the meeting to order at 11:31am in the sanctuary of the church and opened the meeting with prayer.

The Clerk of Session confirmed that a quorum of greater than one tenth of the active members was present. Rev. Reid pointed out that the reports, which were made available in printed form to the congregation prior to the meeting, are filled with good news of God's work at New Hope Church. She invited individuals to add comment to the printed reports and invited questions. Comments are provided after each report. There were no questions. The Congregation/Corporation VOTED to receive the following reports as submitted: Pastor – Janet Reid; Clerk of Session – Bill S.; Nominating Committee – Dawn L.; Board of Deacons – Nancy K. (Nancy thanked everyone for their support of the Deacons and their multiple projects); Deacons' Treasurer – Joann G.; Worship Committee – Donna VA (report was not contained in the packet but will be submitted at a later date); Chancel Choir – Faith S.; Handbell Choir – Dawn L.; Children's Choirs – Dawn L.; Sound/Projection Team – Bud G.; Education Committee – Jerilyn J.; Parish Nurse/Caring Church Visitors – Eleanor SC; Library – Joan W.; Property Committee –

Howard S. and Earl K.; So All May Worship Team – Rich Z.; Garden Ministry – Jackie H.; Finance Committee – Betty Z.; Church Treasurer – Bud Gilbert (Bud notified the congregation that we are collecting less than last year and spending more. We are close to budget in expenditures but receipts are down); Special Funds Treasurer – John C.; and Audit Committee – Lois B., Herb P., and Bill M.

There was no new business. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am and closed in prayer by Rev. Ms. Janet Reid.

**INFORMATION**

If anyone is interested in receiving a copy of the church by-laws or the committee empowerment, guidelines, and expectations document, please notify John Cherepko. In the next few months, sections of the latter document will be highlighted for the information. This will also summarize many of the duties of each committee. The first committee to be highlighted is the **Worship Committee**.

The Worship Committee is empowered to approve the arrangement of and make purchases within budget for the worship and music room, the narthex, the sanctuary, and all worship space and elements of worship. The Worship Committee will also approve the time of Lord's Day worship and designate alternative and special worship events such as baptisms, communion, weddings, funerals, new member receptions, ordination and

installation of officers, worship for Holy Week, Christmas Eve, prayer services, etc. Further, the Worship Committee is authorized to approve expenditures from the Music Memorial Fund, consistent with the purpose of the fund. The **Worship Committee** is expected to:

- a. Keep the church grounded in the habits of focusing on Bible basics, praying with power, maturing spiritually, and reaching out to all people.
- b. In consultation with the Pastor, determine and approve, on behalf of the Session, the times and occasions for all worship services and for celebration of the Sacraments.
- c. Encourage regular participation of the congregation in worship services. In consultation with the Pastor, plan and prepare for all worship services. This includes enlisting and training acolytes and liturgists to assist at each worship service and enlisting people to light the Advent candles.
- d. Supervise the total music program of the church, including maintenance of musical instruments such as the church organ and church pianos.
- e. Design and assemble packets for visitors and follow up on new member prospects.

*(cont'd on page 8)*

# NEW HOPE CHURCH



## July Birthdays:

Twenty-seven members celebrate July birthdays. Their names are listed in the mailed copy of this newsletter.

## August Birthdays:

Twenty-seven members celebrate August birthdays. Their names are listed in the mailed copy of this newsletter.



Ten couples celebrate July anniversaries. Their names are listed in the mailed copy of this newsletter.

Seven couples celebrate August anniversaries. Their names are listed in the mailed copy of this newsletter.



### WELCOME TO THE WORLD:

Kylie Elizabeth, daughter of Bob & Kellie R., born on May 30, 2008.

Gabriella Rose, daughter of Mark & Blythe S., born on June 29, 2008. Proud grandparents are Bill & Marion S., and great-grandmother is Doris W.

Congratulations to these happy families!



Our thoughts and prayers for the families and friends of:

John L., brother of Prudy (Merle) W., who passed away on Wednesday, May 28.

Brother-in-law of Marlin & Mary Lou T., who passed away on Tuesday, June 3.

Keith U., son of Jack & Louise, who passed away on Thursday, June 5.

Norma Jean McH., sister of David (Vonda) M., who passed away on Tuesday, June 17.

Irene M., former longtime member of Covenant Church, who passed away on Friday, June 27.

### WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION



We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and remembrances for our son Keith's death. It was all very much appreciated.

Jack, Louise, and extended U. Family.



I would like to say thank you to everyone at church for the birthday and anniversary cards for George and I. Because I miss so much church, I never see the proper persons to say thank you and say how much we appreciate the cards, prayers, and visits.

Thank you, Ellen W.

### OUR MILITARY FAMILY:



Please continue to pray for our church family serving in the military: Sean B., Vincent B., Matthew H., Jake Johnson, David K., George K., Neil M., Dane Perlinger, Ed T., Jason W.

*\*Note: Stephen S. is HOME!*

### OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS ARE:

Willis & Margie B., Georgia H., Helen 'Gram' H., Mary Lou M., Ralph & Marian M., Mary Lou R., Dot S..

*(If you would like to send a greeting, please contact the church office for assistance.)*

### WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

The schedule of Worship Service Volunteers is listed in the mailed copy of this Hope ReNews.

**\*REMINDER:** If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please arrange for your own replacement, and leave a message at the church office so the bulletin information can be updated accordingly (liturgists, call Janet to change). Thank you!

# NEW HOPE CHURCH

## MALACHI 3:3

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study, and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time. The man answered that, yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy. When I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

*source: internet*

## ELDER COVERAGE

During Janet's upcoming vacation, the following elders will provide pastoral coverage for the dates listed:

August 8-12: Dawn L.

August 18-20: Lois H.

## NEW HOPE DEACONS

### RELAY FOR LIFE

On July 19-20, a team of volunteers from New Hope Church will take turns walking the track at the Norwin High School Stadium for the Relay for Life event. Our motto is "New Hope For Life." Each team is required to have a team member on the track at all times for a period of 24 hours. We really need walkers, so please sign the yellow and blue chart in the narthex! Luminaries are available for a donation of \$5 each. An inspirational candlelight ceremony will be held on Saturday at 9:00pm. Also, you may sponsor a walker or just make a donation. All checks are to be made out to 'American Cancer Society.'

If you, or a loved one, are a cancer survivor, the Deacons encourage you to register with Team New Hope for the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" as a Cancer Survivor Team Member (walking for the team is optional). All survivors are invited to attend a dinner on July 19<sup>th</sup>, and participate in a cancer survivor victory lap at the Norwin High School track. To obtain a reservation form, please contact the church office.

Our hope is that someday cancer will be eliminated. We appreciate your support

### PICNIC AND CORN ROAST

Plan to spend some quality time with your church family this August, when we enjoy a Picnic and Corn Roast on Sunday, August 24! Complete and return the insert in this issue to sign up.

### COFFEE & CONVERSATION

We invite you to join us after worship on Sunday, September 7, for Coffee & Conversation in the Hospitality Room.

### CRAFT SHOW

The Harvest Time Craft Show is scheduled this year for Saturday, October 18, and, due to last year's success, will once again be held at Circleville VFD. Tables may be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis by completing an application and returning it to the church with the required deposit. Please call the office for the necessary paperwork (if you were one of our crafters last year, you will receive an application by mail).

# NEW HOPE CHURCH

## A POEM FOR TODAY

I may never see tomorrow,  
 There's no written guarantee;  
 And things that happened yesterday  
 Belong to history.

I cannot predict the future,  
 I cannot change the past;  
 I have just the present moment,  
 I must treat it as my last.

I must use the moment wisely,  
 For it soon will pass away;  
 And be lost to me forever  
 As part of yesterday.

I must exercise compassion,  
 Help the fallen to their feet;  
 for being a friend to the friendless  
 Makes an empty life complete.

The unkind things I do today  
 May never be undone;  
 Any friendship that I fail to win  
 May nevermore be won.

I may not have another chance  
 On bended knee to pray;  
 And thank God with a humble heart  
 For giving me this day.

*submitted by Bunny M.; source: internet*

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2008  
 August 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:00pm

Welcome to God's Big Backyard. Get ready for an outdoor adventure that starts in your own backyard and gets bigger each day as kids take the love of Jesus into their neighborhoods and communities! This backyard adventure will take place daily right here at New Hope Church beginning on Monday, August 4, through Friday, August 8, from 6:30-9:00pm.



Each day begins at Backyard Bash with large-group music, a skit, and fun, where kids will be introduced to a Bible story and Life Focus. Then after kids experience the other activities of the day, they gather back to Backyard Bash to review, to be encouraged, and to be motivated to serve others! Other sites include Backyard Bible Club, where we'll explore the Bible story in a variety of interactive ways and apply the story by completing the "It's Your Serve" service challenges; Backyard Food & Fun, with time to move around, have fun, and fill up; Clothesline Creations, a time to create crafts that are service- and lesson-oriented; and Community Corner, with stories about community servants that will motivate them to be involved in community projects! And all these fun activities connect to the Bible story, Bible Memory, and the Life Focus of serving! An Adult class, taught by Dave T. and Rich Z. is also offered and will meet each evening at 7:00pm.

Stanley, Alex, Cooper (the dog), and Nick (the squirrel), are waiting for some backyard crews to join them in serving and having a blast! Encourage your friends and neighbors to sign up by completing and returning the registration form in this newsletter.

Can't wait to see you in God's Big Backyard!



OUR NEWEST COMMITTEE MEMBER, CHICKEN LITTLE, HAS SOME RADICAL NEW CONCEPTS FOR A NEW FEAR-BASED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH CAMPAIGN  
 CCLI License #1577309

## NEW HOPE CHURCH

*(cont'd from page 3)*

- f. Keep the church grounded in the habits of focusing on Bible basics, praying with power, maturing spiritually, and reaching out to all people.
- g. In consultation with the Pastor, determine and approve, on behalf of the Session, the times and occasions for all worship services and for celebration of the Sacraments.
- h. Encourage regular participation of the congregation in worship services. In consultation with the Pastor, plan and prepare for all worship services. This includes enlisting and training acolytes and liturgists to assist at each worship service and enlisting people to light the Advent candles.
- i. Supervise the total music program of the church, including maintenance of musical instruments such as the church organ and church pianos.
- j. Design and assemble packets for visitors and follow up on new member prospects.
- k. Supervise decoration of the church and removal of decorations for special occasions such as Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter, etc.
- l. Plan for church anniversaries.
- m. Administer church policies for weddings, recommend changes as needed for Session approval, and supervise the wedding coordinator.
- n. Coordinate the annual community Advent service hosted by our church.
- o. Approve, on behalf of the Session, the arrangement of and make purchases within budget for the worship and music room, the narthex, the sanctuary, and all worship space and elements of worship.
- p. Approve, on behalf of the Session, expenditures from the Music Memorial Fund, consistent with the purpose of the fund.
- q. Keep the brass implements (cross, vases, candle holders, offering plates, etc.) used in worship polished.

John C., Clerk of Session

**FROM THE PARISH NURSE****CANCER SCREENING**

Cancer, The Big C., The C-Word!! All of these describe the way most people talk about cancer, frequently in hushed tones. Many cancers can be prevented, or caught early, with screening. Screening is an examination or testing for these early signs even though you have no symptoms of the disease. The purpose of today's information is to encourage you to take advantage of cancer screening. If your doctor suggests you have certain screening tests, it does not mean the doctor thinks you have cancer. Screening tests have been developed by scientists based on studies about what we do in our lives or what things around us might cause us to develop cancer. This could also reflect your family history. If you have signs or symptoms of cancer, your doctor will order other tests called diagnostic tests.

Screening includes mammograms for breast cancer. Also, there is a home test to check for blood in the stool. Most adults are familiar with colonoscopy tests. Nobody likes them, but this also is a very necessary test to screen for colon cancer.

There are blood tests and exams for prostate cancer, and men should examine their testicles for cancer. Speak with your physician about these tests. Women need screenings for the HPV virus and pap smears for cervical and uterine cancer.

I cannot stress enough how very important it is to be examined for skin cancer. This is one kind of cancer that is becoming more widely diagnosed, and is the most rapidly growing form of cancer in the U. S. In fact, 1 in 5 Americans have skin cancer. Skin cancer can be basal cell, squamous cell, and, the most deadly form, melanoma. I encourage all of you to see a dermatologist for a skin cancer check. Any suspicious lesions should at least be shown to your family doctor.

This information about cancer screening is not intended to include all tests. I want to encourage all of you to ask your doctor about these tests.

It seems very timely to be talking about cancer right now, as I hope to see as many of you as possible at the "Race for the Cure". It is a really fun time with lots to do. Don't worry if you are not able to walk, just come and enjoy! Let us all bring New Hope to the "RACE."

Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." Matthew 15:30

## NEW HOPE CHURCH



## NEW HOPE BLOOMS THROUGH GARDENING MINISTRY

by Jackie H.

The highlight of many July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations is watching fireworks. We look into the night sky at the brilliant display of different patterns, colors, and sounds. We “oooh” and “aaah” at each new sight.

God gives us opportunity to look up and around us in “awe” every day. Vivid colors burst onto the horizon and fill the sky at sunrise and sunset. A thunderstorm booms and the dark clouds are split by jagged lightning bolts. A rainbow curves across the sky after the storm. A full moon lights up the night and a star shoots across the sky.

Consider a green tree that turns fiery red, orange, and yellow in the fall; a small green bud that bursts into a beautifully colored flower. Think of the iridescent wings of a dragonfly; the varied colors and patterns on a butterfly’s wings. See the bright red of a cardinal, the yellow of a goldfinch, or the brilliant blue of a bluebird or indigo bunting as they fly by.

“Awe” isn’t just for fireworks. “Awe” is everywhere we look. It is God’s gift to us.

### THANK YOU TO:

Howard S., for weed-whacking the waterfall hillside;

Marlene S., church neighbor and good friend, for interrupting her evening walk to help me clean up shrub clippings and mulch;

Nancy K., for a hat for me to wear while I’m working in the gardens;

An unidentified MOW volunteer, who gave me a flat of red begonias that I planted at the church entrance;

The Landscape ladies, Sib and Donna, for bringing in supplies for the pond.

### ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

A happy belated birthday to Charlie Schultz, the handsome brown lab and my best garden buddy, who turned 10 years old on June 3, 2008. He celebrated with a trip to PetSmart with his mom, Marlene, where he picked out a toy for himself.

A Carolina wren chose an evergreen tree outside of MOW as her nesting site. The wren eggs are small with brown spots. Under the watchful eye of the mother, it was possible to observe the progress of the two tiny birds that hatched.

I found a nest with two BIG baby bunnies in it on the waterfall hillside. When I went back the next day, they were out and about on their own.

*Monarch Recovery Program:* The monarch butterflies have not made it back from Mexico yet, but in preparation for their arrival, I’ve made some additions to the gardens. Near each of the butterfly bushes around the property, I’ve also planted milkweed. The adult monarchs lay their eggs on the milkweed plant, and as the caterpillars appear, they feed on the leaves of the milkweed plant. They then go into their chrysalis. As the new butterflies emerge, they begin their journey back to Mexico. By providing food for the adults and food for the caterpillars next to each other, I’m hoping to improve their odds for survival. As I see the caterpillars emerge this year, I plan on protecting them by placing bird netting over their feeding site. This will also help to follow them through their life cycle. It should be fascinating! I saw the first caterpillars last year around the end of August. I never saw a chrysalis (I didn’t know what I was looking for), but I did see one butterfly that was newly emerged - it was fresh and dewy-looking, and the wings were in perfect condition. This should provide an excellent learning situation for our children coming back to Sunday school in the fall, and any interested adults.

### IN OTHER GARDEN NEWS

The memorial markers for donated trees are in. I need to mount them and out them in place.

Vacation Bible School this year will be titled, “God’s Big Backyard.” VBS will run from August 4-8. The last evening, they will have a campfire in front of the pavilion, in the center of the blue and white garden. It sounds exciting, and we certainly have the location for it!

The Garden Ministry is about so much more than putting in new beds and planting flowers, trees and shrubs. It is a place where people can come and be still, visit the waterfall, bring their children to visit

## NEW HOPE CHURCH

our playground, walk their dogs, or come and sit in their vehicles and have lunch (our Verizon people do this almost daily). It is a beautiful place, away from noise and traffic, and people appreciate that. Having his permission, I would like to introduce you to one of our recent visitors to the gardens. I mentioned him last month, but I'd like to share a bit more about him. Mr. Jon Schroeder is the man who delivered the mulch for our property workday in May. His sons own Lincoln Way Landscape Supply, and Jon (everyone calls him "Dad") comes out several times a week to make deliveries for them.

It was a chilly, damp morning, and after the mulch was dumped, we started to talk gardening. Jon works one day each week at his church in Penn Hills, with several other volunteers, to plant, weed, and tend to the landscaping needs at the church. I was able to share a few flowers with him, and also a milkweed plant to put near his butterfly bush at his home. We had a nice visit. As Jon was preparing to leave, I noticed a ribbon on the side of his truck and asked him about it. With tears in his eyes, he told me about his son, also named Jon, a police officer in Cleveland, Ohio, who was fatally shot in the line of duty on August 30, 2006. He then shared the story of his grandson, Eric.

I saw Jon "Dad" Schroeder several weeks later; he was in the truck, coming out of the church parking lot as I was coming in. We stopped our vehicles and exchanged pleasantries, he said he was coming to church to check out the progress in the gardens, which I had encouraged him to do. As we said our goodbyes, and with tears in his eyes Jon handed me a folded piece of paper. He apologized because it was a bit rumbled; he had been carrying it around for a while. It was an article about his son, Jon, daughter-in-law Amy, and grandson Eric. I asked if I could share it with our church members, and he said yes. Enclosed in this newsletter is the story of Officer Jon Schroeder, son of my garden friend Jon "Dad" Schroeder.

There is comfort to be found in the gardens of New Hope. Please come and experience it for yourself. I expect Jon to become a regular visitor to New Hope Gardens, so if you see the Lincoln Way Landscape Supply truck on the property, please give Jon a smile and a wave!

### EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER RETIRES

*From Doug Holben as seen in the June 25<sup>th</sup> Redstone Presbytery eNews:*

There have been a lot of "lasts" lately as I close in on my June 30, 2008 retirement. Last meetings, last visits, last sermons, last phone calls, last lunches! I have been reflecting on "fruit which lasts" (John 16:16) and hope that my 3 three point sermons may last in our mutual memories as I enter my new life, honorably retired: 1.) "Know that you are loved, appreciated, and prayed for," 2.) "Pray first, think before you speak, talk less and say more," and 3.) "Remember who you are, whose you are, and why you are here." May God richly bless you with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your mission of our Savior Jesus Christ. Doug

Monetary gifts in honor of the ministry of newly retired Executive Presbyter Doug Holben and his wife, Joyce, are currently being collected. The total amount received will be given to further the mission and ministry of Pine Springs Camp as per the Holbens' request. Gifts may be marked "Holben Gift" and sent to the Presbytery office at:

1004 Mt. Pleasant Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601

### LOST AND FOUND

#### LOST:

- large-size gold hoop pierced earring; possibly in kitchen/Fellowship Hall or lower parking lot area.

#### FOUND:

- woman's pin (bouquet of pink roses), in sanctuary on Sunday, June 22.
- pierced earring (slender pink-gold wire hoop w/flower)
- Slim gold key, in 'Pennies for Paving' can.
- pierced earring (Steelers), in January on front sidewalk of church.
- shiny gold medium-size hoop pierced earring, in Fellowship Hall in early February.

*For help, or to claim an item, call the church office.*

# NEW HOPE CHURCH

## 1. LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- ◆ Cultivating a Missional Culture
- ◆ Loving the Congregation
- ◆ Responding to the Community
- ◆ Leading Change

September 25 (noon) through September 26 (4pm)

Crestfield Camp & Conf.Ctr.

195 Taggart Road

Slippery Rock, PA 16057

[www.crestfield.net](http://www.crestfield.net)

724-794-4022

## 2. ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS

- ◆ Decision Making
- ◆ Delegating and Empowering
- ◆ Planning and Organizing

November 20 (noon) through November 21 (4pm)

Antiochian Village (Ligonier)

140 Church Camp Trail

Bolivar, PA 15923

[www.antiochianvillage.org](http://www.antiochianvillage.org)

724-238-3677

## 3. PERSONAL CHARACTER

- ◆ Resilience
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Emotional Maturity

February 12, 2009 (noon) through February 13, 2009 (4pm)

Antiochian Village (address above)

## 4. RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

- ◆ Building relationships
- ◆ Engaging Conflict
- ◆ Communicating with Impact

April 23, 2009 (noon) through April 24, 2009 (4pm)

Crestfield Camp & Conf. Ctr.

195 Taggart Road,

Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Cost per event is \$40 plus transportation (includes overnight accommodations and three meals). Make checks payable to:

Beaver-Butler Presbytery

P.O. Box 279, Zelienople, PA 16063

Attn: Barbara Paff

Phone: 724-452-7515

Fax: 724-452-7522

Email: [office@beaverbutler.org](mailto:office@beaverbutler.org)

## WE ARE PRAYING FOR:

The list of people for whom we are praying can be found in the mailed copy of this newsletter.

## VOLUNTEER DRIVER NEEDED

Norwin Area Meals on Wheels is in need of a volunteer driver to help deliver meals. The schedule is flexible; you may drive whenever you are able. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated! To help or for more information, please call Pat Simmers, Program Director, at 724-861-9202.

## NEW HOPE CHURCH


**SUMMER  
DEVOTIONS**

7/7	OT Genesis 25; <i>NT Matthew 12:1-14</i>	7/28	OT Genesis 29:15-30; <i>NT Matthew 13:53-56</i>	8/15	OT Genesis 42; <i>NT Matthew 15:21-28</i>
7/8	OT Genesis 25; <i>NT Matthew 12:15-21</i>	7/29	OT Genesis 29:31-35; <i>NT Matthew 14:1-12</i>	8/16	OT Genesis 43-44; <i>NT Matthew 15:21-28</i>
7/9	OT Genesis 25; <i>NT Matthew 12:22-27</i>	7/30	OT Genesis 30:1-24; <i>NT Matthew 14:13-21</i>	8/17	OT Genesis 45:1-15; <i>NT Matthew 15:21-28</i>
7/10	OT Genesis 25; <i>NT Matthew 12:28-45</i>	7/31	OT Genesis 30:25-43 <i>NT Matthew 14:13-21</i>	8/18	OT Genesis 45:1-15; <i>NT Matthew 15:29-39</i>
7/11	OT Genesis 25; <i>NT Matthew 12:46-50</i>	8/1	OT Genesis 31; <i>NT Matthew 14:13-21</i>	8/19	OT Genesis 46; <i>NT Matthew 16:1-4</i>
7/12	OT Genesis 25; <i>NT Matthew 12</i>	8/2	OT Genesis 32:1-21; <i>NT Matthew 14:13-21</i>	8/20	OT Genesis 47; <i>NT Matthew 16:5-12</i>
7/13	OT Genesis 25:19-34; <i>NT Matthew 13:1-23</i>	8/3	OT Genesis 32:22-31; <i>NT Matthew 14:13-21</i>	8/21	OT Genesis 48-49; <i>NT Matthew 16:13-20</i>
7/14	OT Genesis 26; <i>NT Matthew 13:24-43</i>	8/4	OT Genesis 32:22-31; <i>NT Matthew 14:22-33</i>	8/22	OT Genesis 50; <i>NT Matthew 16:13-20</i>
7/15	OT Genesis 27:1-40; <i>NT Matthew 13:24-43</i>	8/5	OT Genesis 33; <i>NT Matthew 14:22-33</i>	8/23	OT Exodus 1:1-7; <i>NT Matthew 16:13-20</i>
7/16	OT Genesis 27:41-46; <i>NT Matthew 13:24-43</i>	8/6	OT Genesis 34; <i>NT Matthew 14:22-33</i>	8/24	OT Exodus 1:8-2:10; <i>NT Matthew 16:13-20</i>
7/17	OT Genesis 28:1-9; <i>NT Matthew 13:24-43</i>	8/7	OT Genesis 35:1-15; <i>NT Matthew 14:22-33</i>	8/25	OT Exodus 2:11-25; <i>NT Matthew 16:21-28</i>
7/18 - 7/20	OT Genesis 28:10-19a; <i>NT Matthew 13:24-43</i>	8/8	OT Genesis 35:16-29; <i>NT Matthew 14:22-33</i>	8/26	OT Exodus 3:1-15; <i>NT Matthew 16:21-28</i>
7/21	OT Genesis 28:10-22; <i>NT Matthew 13:31-52</i>	8/9	OT Genesis 36; <i>NT Matthew 14:22-33</i>	8/27 – 8/31	OT Exodus 3:1-15; <i>NT Matthew 16:21-28</i>
7/22	OT Genesis 28; <i>NT Matthew 13:31-52</i>	8/10	OT Genesis 37:1-28; <i>NT Matthew 14:22-33</i>	9/1	OT Exodus 3; <i>NT Matthew 17:1-13</i>
7/23	OT Genesis 29:1-15; <i>NT Matthew 13:31-52</i>	8/11	OT Genesis 37; <i>NT Matthew 14:34-36</i>	9/2	OT Exodus 4; <i>NT Matthew 17:14-23</i>
7/24 – 7/27	OT Genesis 29:15-28; <i>NT Matthew 13:31-52</i>	8/12	OT Genesis 38; <i>NT Matthew 14:22-36</i>	9/3	OT Exodus 5; <i>NT Matthew 17:24-27</i>
		8/13	OT Genesis 39; <i>NT Matthew 14</i>		
		8/14	OT Genesis 40-41; <i>NT Matthew 15:1-20</i>		

*New Hope's monthly devotions may also be found on the web-site at [www.newhope15642.org](http://www.newhope15642.org).*