



*Boldly Sharing God's Word*

When I first came to New Hope, Jim Altman introduced me to ChristCare groups. It was the first time I had experienced this type of small group and I really liked the idea of a group where someone can find a place to belong, where people grow in Christ, and where people receive care. Just imagine knowing that people are praying for you as you go through difficulty!

I read many statistics on the changes in the church and one really bothered me:

People who attend religious services regularly and build friendships within their congregation indicator higher levels of satisfaction with their lives. What seems to matter is a strong sense of religious identity and belonging and the forging of friendships within one's faith community. For life satisfaction, praying together seems to be better than either bowling together or praying alone. (*Christian Century*, March 8, 2011)

**Luke 18:1** Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

It bothered me because I realized that there were only a few such groups in New Hope. I also have found that people at New Hope, and those visiting, are looking for the same thing:

**A church that would pray for them**

**More Bible Studies**

**A wish to know how to make Christ Lord of their lives**

**Many expressed the wish to know the other members of New Hope better**

**A wish for more people to become active in the church.**

There is nothing more intimidating than trying to get connected into the new surroundings of a church. Meeting people and establishing relationships can be challenging for anyone. New Hope's Small Group Ministry, however, offers a way to build relationships as well as maintain "connectability" with others so individuals will not feel lost in the midst of growth.

In addition to creating a "small church" feel, New **Hope's Small Group Ministry also creates circles of care.** Group members care for one another with the love of Christ. As a group member, you never have to go through a tough time alone, be it a major crisis or just the bumps and bruises of daily life. Your fellow group members are always there for you.

**Ephesians 6:23** *Peace be to the whole community,*

*and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Each group is unique and focuses on different aspects of *Community, Spiritual Development and Service* activities:

**In Community** — Small groups make it possible for members to connect personally with others, establish strong bonds of friendship, and be part of the life and mission of the congregation. Groups build a bond/connection between individuals that cannot be built before or after services.

**In Spiritual Development** — Christians grow spiritually when they regularly encounter God through conversation, through individual testimonies and more importantly, through God's Word. Each group member grows in their relationship with Christ and encourages one another to trust God more completely.

**In Service** — Each group uses their collective gifts to reach out with Christ's love to meet the needs of people outside their groups. Group members help one another to live as obedient disciples, holding one another accountable to serve as Jesus served.

As Jim will tell you, ChristCare is a ministry of small groups, usually 3-12 people, with a trained group leader. Groups meet regularly, in homes or at church. ChristCare Groups provide an environment to be in small community, to share with and care for others and to experience the love of Christ in a personal way. The groups are generally formed around a topic, but stress care and community, prayer and worship, bible study and service to others.

All groups create a covenant that includes promises members make to each other. The covenant includes the purpose of the group, time, location and duration of meetings, some restrictions on discussions (no politics, no gossip), and a pledge to be respectful and courteous of others' feelings and opinions. Lastly the covenants include a promise of confidentiality, wherein "what is said in the room, stays in the room."

The ChristCare groups offer all of us rich opportunities to deepen our faith and share with other Christians. Come and join us!

Interested in joining a current group or starting a new one, call Jim Altman or the church office where his wife, Jill, can give you some information.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Kathryn*



**Growth-** A ChristCare Group will help you grow in a deeper devoted relationship with Jesus through prayer and worship.

**Care-** In a ChristCare Group, you will have the opportunity to develop mature Christian caring skills and put them to use. You will develop the kind of love Jesus called us to when he said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

**Biblical Equipping-** With Biblical Equipping you apply God's word to your daily life. You use lessons and resources that connect you with the Scriptures in a more formal way than most bible studies you probably have experienced.

**Mission-** Your group exists to serve God.

*ChristCare groups are for everyone desiring a stronger personal relationship with Christ from the mature Christian to the new believer. They are Circles of Care with Christ at the Center.*

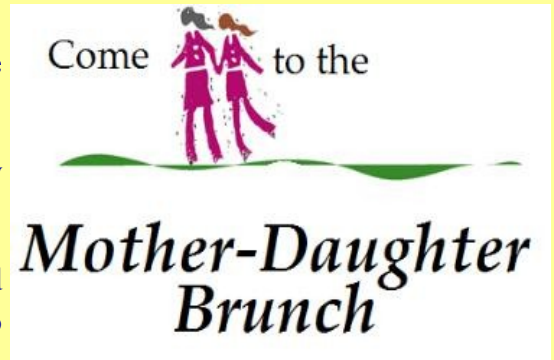
*To find out how you can join a ChristCare group see Jim Altman*

## **Saturday, May 7th from 10:30 to Noon**

The meal will be prepared and served by our own New Hope men!

Tickets will be \$7.00 per person and can be purchased on Sunday mornings.

There is a need for men and boys to help set-up, cook, serve and clean up. See Jim Altman and Paul Elkmann if you can help or to purchase tickets. All New Hope women are invited.



**This will take the place of the regular women's breakfast**

### **Men's Breakfast**

Join the men on **Saturday, May 14th** at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast at ***Our Place*** 7420 N Beach Street, Fort Worth (northeast corner of N Beach/Basswood).

### **Women's Bunco**

**Monday, May 23rd at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Carolyn Kendall.

Directions will be posted on the Women's Board. New comers are welcome

### **Family Movie Night**

Join us on **Friday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m.** for New Hope Family Movie Night.

***Nanny McPhee Returns***

Popcorn and great fellowship will be provided!

### **PIT Crew (Parents of Infants to Tweens)**

Join us for our next fellowship night on **Friday, May 13th at 7:00 pm.** We will be meeting at the church with the kids upstairs with the babysitters. Please bring a dish to share and your favorite board game! Call Sandy Kostecky at 940-627-1124 with any questions.

### **Adult 4th Saturday**

This group will meet on **Saturday, May 28th at *Cracker Barrel*** in Fort Worth at 5:30 pm. Cracker Barrel is located off of I35W going south, take the Meacham exit.

***This restaurant is a Scrips opportunity!***

Click on the [link](#); see for yourself! You'll see many of our New Hope family on the website.

The new website was designed with the following key objectives:

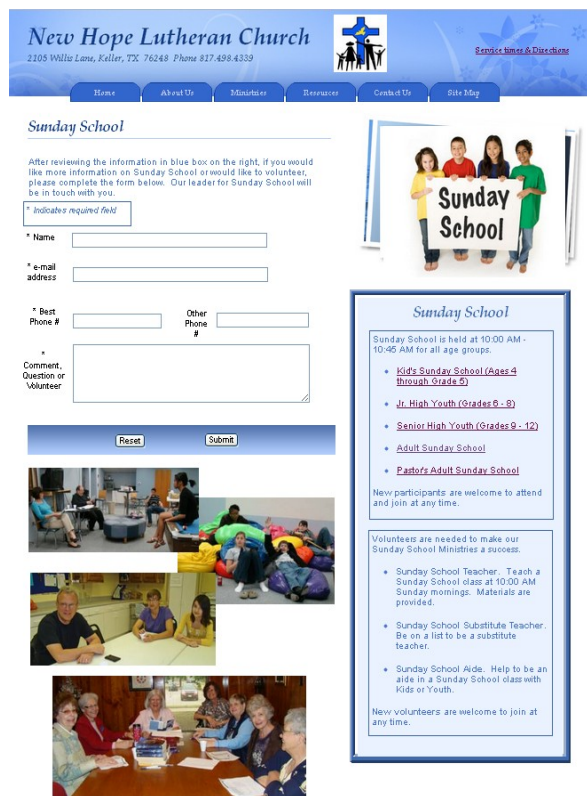
- Provide meaningful information for those who are looking for a church home.
- Keep our membership informed of what is happening with the church and its members.
- Make it easy for users and visitors to ask questions, make a comment, sign up for events or to volunteer.



Another useful tab is [Site Map](#) where you easily find a subject & click to link to the web page.

The website's home page banner welcomes new users with an invitation to visit us at New Hope and to explore the website to get to know us better. [Come as you are.](#) [Come to belong.](#) [Come to make a difference.](#)

The [Ministries tab](#) provides a comprehensive list of ministry and fellowship programs we have at New Hope. Existing members are encouraged to take a few minutes, explore the [Ministries section](#) and find something new in which to participate.



On pages that explain a ministry or fellowship program, you will see a blue-framed information box that includes

- A description about what the program is.
- What's involved to participate.
- What's needed if you want to volunteer.

If a person wants to ask questions, make comments, sign up for events or to volunteer, the user can easily submit an inquiry or request. The comment will be routed to the appropriate church leader for response or handling.

We'll be holding short orientation sessions in May to re-view highlights of the new website. We'll also have occasional items in the newsletter focusing on what's new.

Lastly, many thanks to those of you who provided info or who posed endlessly for website pictures.

**Mai Thompson**, the New Hope Lutheran Webber



*Congratulations to the following youth who will graduate high school. God Speed on your new life adventure!*

*Danielle Needham, Zachary Sollecito,  
Zander Sollecito and Robert Wooley*

*New Hope will recognize these youth on Sunday, May 15th*

**We celebrate the baptism of *Sean Robert Jolley*  
son of Thomas and Janice Jolley on April 24th.**

*God bless this child*



Rite of



Confirmation

**After two years of instruction the following youth will be confirmed on**

**Sunday, May 22nd at the 11:00 a.m. service.**

***Jarred Goddard and Jacob Narnajo***

**Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study** Tuesday's at **10:00 a.m.** The group is currently studying a series on "*Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith*". Each lesson is on a different religion and compared to our Lutheran beliefs. Meetings are every Tuesday and newcomers welcome. See Carolyn Kendall for more info.

**W.E.B.S (Women's Evening Bible Study)** will meet on **Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m.** Beth Moore's "Breaking Free". We will focus on the definition of captivity which is "A Christian is held captive by anything that hinders the abundant and effective Spirit-filled life God planned for her. See Linda Milini for the home they will meet at.

**Adult Sunday School** meets at **10:00 a.m.** in conference room 2. They are studying *Crazy Love*, by Francis Chan (also wrote *The Forgotten God*, which we previously studied). It will begin May 1st

**Embracing An Adult Faith (New)**

Join Pastor Kathy for an exciting 5 week study on Thursday's from **May 19 to June 16** at 7:00 p.m. ***Embracing an Adult Faith*** is an adult-formation for those seeking a richer understanding of issues in contemporary Christian practice and theology.



**LOOKinG foR A  
BibLe Study?**

## Friendship Company Wins at Houston Regional Festival

New Hope Lutheran's Friendship Company competed at the Regional Puppet Ministry Festival in Houston on March 25-26. The Friendship Company received the following recognition:

***Gold Award in the Puppet Song category***

***Silver Award in the Human Video & Stick Ministry competition.***

***This was the Friendship Company's first time doing a human video competition.***

***Special festival recognition for Outstanding Puppet Choreography.***



Congratulations to directors Margaret Thompson and Jessica Brewer and to the performers: Nicole Needham, Rosie Thompson, Cierra Sollecito, Christina Buttram, Darrin Buttram, Satasha Kostelecky, Hannah Buttram, Grace Castens Sullivan, Sienna Kostelecky and Nicholas Buttram. We are very proud of all of you!

The Friendship Company also performed at New Life Lutheran Church in Pearland, TX. New Life provided overnight accommodations and Sunday morning breakfast for the Friendship Company.

A special thank you goes to Sandy & Scott Kostelecky, Lynn Buttram and Debra Castens who transported and chaperoned the Friendship Company over the long weekend.



## FRIENDSHIP COMPANY & MAX

During the month of May, Friendship Company will be holding two fundraisers. The funds raised will help send four of our teenage FC kids to MAX (Ministry Arts Xtra) this summer in Columbus, OH.

- (MAX) is a four-day conference featuring classes in a wide variety of creative ministry techniques.
- Skills like puppetry, ventriloquism, gospel magic, stick ministry, human video, hand mime and many others will be covered.

Friendship Company is acquiring in-depth training that will help move our ministry to a higher level



July 19-22, 2011  
Columbus, Ohio

### Is That an Oink or a Bark?



The first fundraiser will be Sunday, May 15 where the FC kids will be making and selling **Pigs-in-a-Blanket (aka mini-Crescent Dogs)** right from the oven. Be ready for some great finger food after you come out of first worship service or before you head into the second service.

### Wearing the Message



The second fundraiser is spreading the Good News with **Christian T-shirts**. The FC kids will be selling these to family and friends. We'll also have a table set up to sell the T-shirts during Sunday Fellowship time.

Please help the Friendship Company teens get to the MAX by supporting our fundraisers. Contact Mai Thompson if you have questions.

### New Hope Bowling

Bowling is going to start up again on

**May 15th thru July 31st.**

**Brunswick Bowl on Rufe Snow at**

**5:00 pm each Sunday.**

Cost is \$12 per week per person.

Everyone is welcome. See Greg Carter to sign up!



## Scripts Program

New Hope offers the *Scripts* program. You purchase a dollar value gift card from a participating merchant through New Hope, you receive the full value of the card and New Hope receives a percent of the value.

*There is a list in the narthex of participating retailers.*  
**Mother's Day is Coming!**



## Have you signed up for the Concession Venue Ministry?

If not, contact Greg Carter (817-428-6228)  
for the opportunity to earn additional income for New Hope  
in order to expand New Hope's various ministries.

**New Hope earned \$1250.00 working concessions at the Texas Motor Speedway on April 9th.**

Contact Greg for details about training.



## Adult Pool Party

Join us for the Annual Adult Pool Party on **Saturday, June 18th at 5:00pm** at the home of Dave and Marie Klym. Catering from Up-In-Smoke will be provided for a cost of \$5 person.

Tea, soda, water and place settings will be provided. Bring lawn chairs, swim suits and other preferred libations.

**Sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.**

For the month of May, New Hope will collect  
Household and food items to be given to:

***Grace***

*(Grapevine Relief & Community Exchange)*

Bring your donations and place by the  
Mission Tree.



**Mission of the Month**  
***GRACE***

## News from Seminary.....

### God Surprises Us Sometimes

*Last month, I had numerous moments where I wanted to give-up on this journey at seminary. Earlier this month I got an e-mail from our Synod Office. At first I thought, "Oh great. What do I need to do now?" Let me explain my thought for a second. For those of you who do not know, to become a minister for the ELCA Church one must go through the candidacy process where a committee reviews you every once and awhile to see if you are truly called to be a minister. Many times the committee will request you do something to help prepare you for the journey ahead.*

*My most recent one was getting my finances in order by creating a budget and preparing a plan for the repayment of my student loans. So of course, I could not help but question why I was getting this e-mail. I opened the e-mail and all it said was, "I thought you might like to see this. Congratulations. Stan" Hmmm.... very strange until I noticed there was also an attachment to the e-mail. I opened the attachment and there in simple wording was a letter addressed to me announcing that I was to receive the Fund for Leaders Scholarship this year.*

*God has a way of surprising us sometimes, especially in times when we question ourselves the most. I believe this is God's way of telling us that we are not walking this journey alone.*

*Blessings everyone!*

*Michelle, Jason, and Rory Greenwald*

**New Hope has a fund established for the Greenwald's if you would like to help them during their seminary.**

**Please denote on the check**

**"Milini-Greenwald Fund"**



Another preschool year is coming to a close here at New Hope Christian School. **On May 26th at 6:30 pm we will hold our graduation program for 21 children that will move on to kindergarten.**

But until then, we have so many fun and exciting things to look forward to! On May 1st, several of our classes will enjoy "May Day" activities.

***Teacher appreciation week is the first week of May.***

The school board will provide lunch for our teachers on Wednesday, May 4th. **May 5th and 6th we will host our annual "Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad" days.** Parents and grandparents are invited to come and eat breakfast with their children in honor of Mother's and Father's Day.

***Our school year will end on May 27th with splash day activities and hot dog lunches!***



***Happy Birthday***

- Satasha Kostecky 5-2
- Dorothy Wooley
- Jon Koons 5-4
- Dane Kunkler
- Cayla Soles 5-7
- Rebecca Steen 5-9
- Jan Carter
- Christina Buttram 5-10
- Janice Needham 5-13
- Oscar Sherman
- Matiah Dennis 5-14
- Tara Sollecito 5-16
- Marisa Milini 5-17
- Matthew Melvin 5-21
- Kyle Markestad 5-23
- Sean Jolley 5-28

*Join us on Sunday, May 1st during the Fellowship Hour to celebrate all the Birthday's in May.*

*There will be goodies for all to share*

*Sponsored by the*

*ChristCare Empty Nesters I group.*



**Check out happenings in the NT-NL Synod**

<http://www.ntnl.org/>

***Happy Anniversary***

Greg & Jan Carter 5-18



*NHCS and the church office will be closed on*

*Monday, May 30th in*

*Observance of Memorial Day.*

2 Timothy 4:7,8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, The righteous Judge, will award to me on that day".



June 20th-24th from 6:30-8:30pm.

For ages 3 thru 5th grade.

Your child will learn basic soccer skills that also coincide with scripture from the Bible.

Cost is \$30.00 per child and will include a water bottle and soccer ball to take home at the end of camp.

Volunteers needed:

Rally Coach

Music Coach

Huddle Coaches

Head Coach

Safety Coach

Snack Coaches



Prayer Coach



Pick up descriptions of the different "Coaching Opportunities" in the narthex.  
There will be an information meeting on Sunday, May 1 after the 11:00 a.m. service.

For more information see Stacy Naranjo

Camp registration will begin soon!



## **New Hope Staff and Council**

*Ministers, People of New Hope*

### **Staff**

Rev. Kathryn Cox, Pastor

Rawlianne Campos, Minister of Music

Jill Altman, Parish Assistant

Administration

### **New Hope Christian School**

Debbie Starbuck, NHCS Director

Elizabeth Kunkler, NHCS Asst. Director

### **Parish Lay Minister**

Scott Martin

### **Council Officers**

Dave Klym, President

Dave Sanders Vice-President

Gary Markestad, Secretary

Craig Williamson, Treasurer

### **Council Committee Liaisons**

Bill Chase, Outreach

Sharon Hutchison, Membership

Dave Klym, Worship & Music

Gary Markestad, Ministry

Dave Sanders, Maturity

Pat Strobel, Facilities

Karin Urbanczyk, Missions

**Council Meets on**

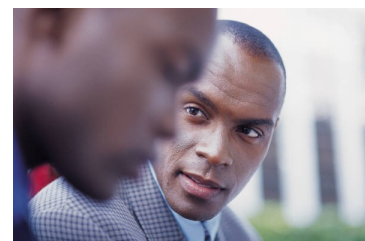
**Sunday, May 15th at  
12:30 p.m.**

## **Stephen Ministers Are Care-Givers, God Is the Cure-Giver**

The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists.

God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders Jill Altman, Jan Carter or Tina Williamson to learn more about Stephen Ministry.

***Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!***



# Worship Assistants

<b>Date and Service</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>AV</b>	<b>Nursery</b>
<b>May 1 8:30 a.m.</b>		<b>No communion</b>	<b>Kelly Buttram Christina Buttram</b>	<b>Paul Elkmann</b>	<b>Elizabeth &amp; Katie Kunkler</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Bianca Brechler</b>	<b>No communion</b>	<b>Scott Kotelecky Dave Sanders</b>		<b>Elizabeth &amp; Katie Kunkler</b>
<b>May 8 8:30 a.m.</b>		<b>Carolyn Kendall</b>	<b>Gary Markestad Kyle Markestad</b>	<b>Kelly Buttram</b>	<b>Amber Downes</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Bianca Brechler</b>	<b>Susan Cooper</b>	<b>Bob Wooley Dorothy Wooley</b>		<b>Open</b>
<b>May 15 8:30 a.m.</b>		<b>Sharon Hutchison</b>	<b>Jeff Hutchison Sharon Hutchison</b>	<b>Greg Carter</b>	<b>Amber Downes</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Bianca Brechler</b>	<b>Cora Sanders</b>	<b>Paul Elkmann Maurcie Stanglin</b>		<b>Christina Brechler</b>
<b>May 22 8:30 a.m.</b>		<b>Mary Cooper</b>	<b>Dave Klym Marie Klym</b>	<b>Dakota Cherry</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Bianca Brechler</b>	<b>Dorothy Wooley</b>	<b>Dave Melvin Arthur Momo</b>		<b>Johanna &amp; Jill Chase</b>
<b>May 29 8:30 a.m.</b>		<b>Mona Garner</b>	<b>Craig Williamson Ron Hultberg</b>	<b>Tim Carter</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Bianca Brechler</b>	<b>Merrily Stanglin</b>	<b>Christina Brechler</b>		<b>Open</b>