



GRAD

Ryan Long was presented with the Weider Scholarship for Seniors. We celebrated his graduation with snacks and cake during fellowship.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- [Page 1](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Page 2](#)
- [Pastor's Message](#)
- [Page 3](#)
- [Mission Outreach](#)
- [Page 4.](#)
- [Your Session at Work](#)
- [Page 5](#)
- [Words of Worship](#)
- [Pages 6](#)
- [Congregational Vitality](#)
- [Page 7](#)
- [Coming Events](#)



DADS

A big thank you to Terry Owens for cooking a delicious breakfast to celebrate Father's Day!

GLAD!



Iris Hymel was the winner of Presbyterian Womens'

PASTOR'S CORNER

by Rev. Brian Long

I was driving through a parking lot the other day and noticed that Bed, Bath, and Beyond was closing. Apparently, they are going the way of Toys R Us, Blockbuster and Borders Books. Apparently, they have failed to change and adjust to the world. They are not alone. We, in general, avoid change. People cringe when they have to move from one city to another. Changing jobs is frightening. Changing habits is a pain in the proverbial backside. Change requires us to face the challenge of the unknown, or to go through a lot of work. Change brings us face to face with that which is not over that which we know.

The church has gone through changes over its history. Christianity, at its outset, was a faith in the minority. Its followers hid in shadows, meeting in houses in secret. They were often persecuted, tortured, and killed. Then, in 325, Constantine will make Christianity legal, and the religion of the empire.

As time has progressed, the church has gone through the schism, the reformation, and today the church is going through a different period. As the church in the United States continues to drop in attendance and membership, there are rampant questions about integrity, transparency, and even morality. All of these questions are leading to changes.

Pastors used to be, mostly, universally trusted. There is a window on my office door not just to protect the people I talk to, but also to protect me. With that window there, there is a safety measure that protects those I meet with and myself. There is no doubt that what takes place in my office is professional and appropriate. In days past, that window was not necessary or expected.

Some congregations are now worshipping on other days besides Sunday. Gatherings are taking place in a wide variety of venues that include homes, parks, bars, restaurants, schools, community centers, and more. Worship formats are in constant flux from traditional liturgies to unplanned sessions where it seems more like a party and less a formal worship service.

There is good news though. There is something that does not, and will never, change. The message of the love of God, and the call for us to love one another. While the format, the medium, and the practice of that message are and must change, the message is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

I recently read that a couple of years ago, over 4,500 protestant churches closed in the United States. Another study showed that while less than half of the country was attending a worship service, well over 60% still believed in Jesus. And just for fun, still another study reported that less than 3 out of 10 people who do not belong to a church or denomination had been approached to hear the word of God or to be shown the love of Christ. Here is my conclusion. We, the church, have to change. We have to change how we live. We have to change how we deliver the message of God. We have to change how we embrace our neighbors. We have to open ourselves to the new life and the new way of being the church that God is offering us.

We can certainly not change if we so choose. However, if we don't change, we can be assured that the message of Jesus will be communicated to the world. God's word will never die. We can remain as we are in our communities, living and doing as we have for over a hundred years and more. Or, we can turn on the light, push away our fears, and grow closer to both Christ, and our neighbors. If we do not change, we will go the way of the dinosaur.

Friends, change is hard. Growing up from children into adulthood is hard. Graduating from school and taking on responsibility is hard. Raising children seems impossible sometimes. And yet, we do all these things, sometimes without even thinking or pausing. We can take comfort in Gods infinite love, while at the same time breaking out of our church building shell in order to grow God's Kingdom.

Friends, in a world full of fear and trepidation, let us step out with courage, generosity, and the will to be better, do more, and a desire to accomplish wonderful things. Amen.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

By Debra Caldwell

Fire ants, leaf-footed bugs, mockingbirds, oh my! The pests have been enjoying our tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers that are ripening in the Garden of Grace. The relentless heat and lack of water has been a challenge for our Garden and gardeners.

Thanks to Terry Owens for taking \$90 worth of food from our store to Katy Christian Ministry. Jo Ann also gave about \$20-30 worth of food to a homeless family.

Red Apple School Supplies and Happy Feet Program 2023

New Hope is partnering with Katy Christian Ministries to collect funds for school supplies to give Katy ISD students a new pair of shoes, a backpack and school supplies. Last year KCM helped 998 children and anticipate an even greater need this year as our community continues to grow. Look for the Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall, pick an apple, and attach your check made out to New Hope Presbyterian Church.



\$60 provides funds for one student, but any amount is appreciated!
YOUR SESSION AT WORK

NEW HOPE NEWS

by Linda Owens, Clerk to
Session



New Hope's session met on June 25, 2023 and we discussed the following:

Rev. Brian Long is looking at taking two weeks of study leave in the near future.

A report from the personnel committee, which met at Brian's request, to look at staffing for 2024 in light of possible budget constraints.

The possibility of renting out the parlor and/or Schulenberg Hall

Re-establishing the Little Angels program

Having a back to school service August 20, 2023

Planning a fall worship service in a local park

Calendar items:

July 9, 2023 Congregational meeting to elect a new elder

July 15, 2023, Presbytery meeting at Spring Branch Presbyterian.

July 16, 2023 - Christmas in July and installation of a new elder followed by potluck lunch

July 23, 2023 – next session meeting

July 30, 2023 Rev. Brian Long will be out recuperating from surgery. Elder Linda Owens will provide pulpit supply

August 20, 2023 – August session meeting

And we took the following actions:

Voted to have Ron Day be our ruling elder commissioner for the Presbytery meeting July 15, 2023 at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church in Houston.

Voted, with regret but understanding, to accept Cindy Pfeifer-Hill's resignation from session.

Voted to approve chartering a Cub Scout den at New Hope Voted to remove 17 inactive members from our rolls.

Voted to ratify three email votes:

Transfer \$6,000.00 from the special account to the operating account

To not meet as a session in March due to Rev. Brian Long's illness and conflicts with after worship fellowship

To set up a Door-Dash account for Cindy Pfeifer-Hill and Norm Pfeifer

Voted to have Rev. Brian Long set up dinner meetings at New Hope with groups of 6-10 members to discuss the future of New Hope due to declining income and membership.

Voted to apply for a Krause Grant from the Presbytery in the amount of \$2800.00 to repair the lighted sign at the road and move the original New Hope sign out to the opposite side of the driveway.

Words of Worship

By Lavita Golightly



Only 12 more shopping days until Christmas . . . In July! The best news yet is that shopping is completely unnecessary for this celebration. But please join us on July 12th for Christmas in July! We'll be singing Christmas hymns, hearing the familiar story, wearing our Christmas red and greens and perhaps there will even be a Santa hat sighting! We are NOT expecting a visit from jolly old St. Nick, but worship will be followed by a Christmas potluck. Please bring your neighbors, friends and family while we think "cold" and try to "beat the heat".

In August, we will be getting back to earth and back to school. Look for flyers about a school supply drive and red apples for donations for teachers and students. August 20th will be "Back to School Sunday". Donate a backpack full of school supplies, multiples of notebook paper, markers, pencils, pens, etc., or a monetary donation that can be used for supplies by a student in need.

Communion Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. If you would be willing to help with the preparation of the elements of communion, contact Lavita Golightly or Jerry Petit. We'll show you how it is done. No one will be asked to do it every month.

We look forward to seeing you all here for these special Sundays, as well as all of the other Sundays in July and August.





The

Building Congregational Vitality



Congregational Vitality Committee is continuing to examine interactions between Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to New Hope to allow us to answer questions and help us plan. Our major focus has been on increasing visibility both on site and virtually.

Have you seen the new sign above the sanctuary door? Thank you, Ron Day, Bruce Hymel, and Jerry Pettit, for creating and installing the sign.

Committee members created a brochure, Outreach cards, Connect cards for visitors, and New Hope T-shirts. There are still a few T-shirts available (\$20 each). We are also working with a website developer to update New Hope's website.

We ask each of you to join us in praying for God's wisdom and guidance to give us direction for New Hope's future. You can pause wherever you are each day at 10 am to say a prayer for New Hope. We meet at 10 am on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. We hope you will join us!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 3 & 4 Office closed for 4th of July Holiday**
- July 9 Congregation Meeting to elect new elder**
- July 10 Book Club**
- July 16 Christmas in July—Pot Luck**
- July 23 Session Meeting**
- July 26 Brian's surgery**

