



NEW HOPE BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive at New Hope will be on Sunday, May, 28, 2023 from 9 AM until 1 PM in the churches Fellowship Hall. This drive is in the middle of the Memorial Day Weekend, hopefully we can still have a good turnout. Keep in mind that the life that is in need may be someone you have never met, a member of your family or a member of the church.

As the summer comes in the blood donors drop due to vacations, long weekends etc. BUT at the same time the need for blood may rise due to increased road travel for family vacations, all of this is while the usual need for blood due to all the everyday needs of the Houston Medical Center carry on.

If you can possibly give, we ask that you do so, if you are unable to give you could talk to a relative or neighbor if they could do so.

The drive will be in the Fellowship Hall and those that are able to give will get a T-Shirt.

Every donation can save up to 3 lives.

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PASTOR'S CORNER

by Rev. Brian Long

May has arrived. And with the changing from April showers to May flowers comes a lot to look forward to.

Within our own congregation there is Worship in the Park and May 7th, and our blood drive on May 28th. Mother's Day is May 14th. (Don't forget now.) So the month is full of celebrations and activities, but it is only the beginning.

May is also, for many and most, the end of the school year. For some, they will be moving onto middle school, while others will be looking forward to high school. I know in my house specifically, and all across the nation, many will be facing college, jobs, and a whole new life.

I have been talking to some about how to prepare young people for college. Imagine if you will an experienced mother trying to explain childbirth to a first-time mother. (I know Carol Burnett once said it is like pulling your lower lip over your forehead.) Another analogy is a combat veteran explaining combat to a new recruit. These are things that simply must be experienced. (For the record, I have personally not experienced either thankfully.)

A young person graduates high school and now has to begin life and/or college. All of a sudden, their parents are not in touch with their teachers or school administrators. Getting their meals and doing laundry are not automatic events. The word responsibility takes on new meaning. To say that this time is scary for many is no mild understatement. And the points I have made are just the beginning.

It seems like the family of the new high school graduate are simply letting go, stepping back, and watching the show. And to be clear, some do. This is not the necessary dynamic though.

While there are many life changes that begin to occur at the end of May, friends and family can and should play a huge role in these potentially scary situations. We can be coaches and cheerleaders to begin with. Then everybody can step in to help in some capacity. Care packages from home can be sent to help. An occasional phone call if appropriate. And do not forget the occasional advice. (It will be heard, and at some point, applied.)

While much of this seems to be aimed at the new college student, it can be applied to the new middle schooler or high schooler as well. (Graduate students are likely on their own by this point.) All these steps in growing up are challenging and frightening even if the young person does not admit it.

While May means a lot of graduations, it does not mean the end of relationships. Our communities, and our futures are stronger when we stay connected. I have personally known many a student who moved up and was left to their own devices. I have also known many with good friend and family connections. I can tell you the ones who were both more likely to succeed and find purpose in their daily lives as opposed to being overwhelmed to the point of giving up.

While you are at it though, do not forget to say some prayers for educators. The teachers and staff, at all levels, are tired. They have been challenged throughout the school year both inside the classrooms and in the public forum. They need our prayers and our help. Right with them is the parents. Raising young people truly does take a village, or a metropolis. Jesus says that whenever two or more are gathered in his name, he will be there. Well, we need Jesus, and we need strong, healthy, loving communities. Amen.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

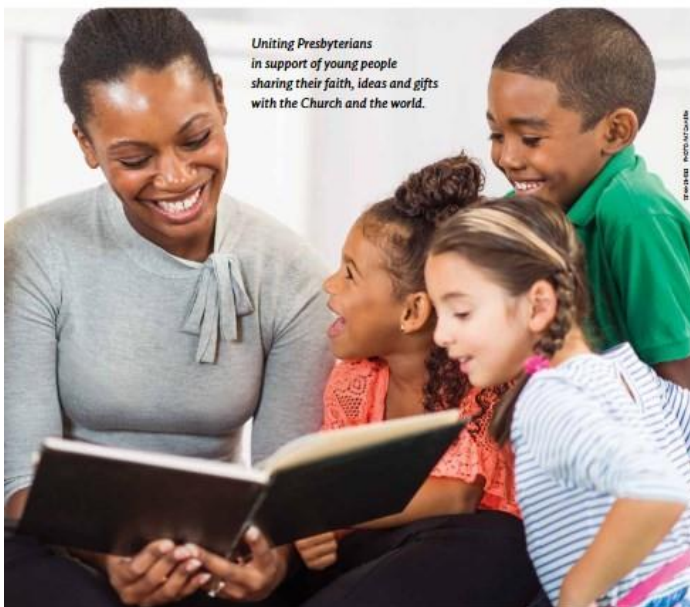
By Debra Caldwell

Our tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans, fruit trees and flowers are growing in the Garden of Grace. Join us for a Workday on Saturday, May 13th to help maintain the garden! The New Hope Garden Club will have a meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 25th, and a presentation on Herbs by Harris County Master Gardener, Chevvy Tang. Everyone is welcome!



BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST.

— EPH. 4:12, CEB



Mark your calendars—May 28th is a big day! We have a Blood Drive scheduled



and we will collect our Pentecost Special Offering to support young people and inspire them to share their faith,

Building Congregational Vitality



New Hope's vitality is primarily its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission. According to Presbyterian Mission, *"Congregational vitality is evident in our worshiping community when our structural systems, finances and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that we are actively engaged in the mission of God in our local community and the world."*

Our T-shirts have arrived! Pick up your shirts from Jo Ann. We ordered a few extra, so you can still buy one. She also has Outreach cards and brochures. You can be an ambassador for Christ and New Hope by wearing your New Hope T-shirt, giving folks Outreach cards and New Hope brochures, and spreading the Good News!

The Congregational Vitality committee is working to enhance our curb appeal with signage, cross wreaths, a new door color, and bright flowers. Thank you to Helen Galer and Ed Nicoletti for planting vincas by the front door to welcome visitors!

Rev. Heather Tolleson, pastor at First Christian Church, spoke to the committee about the journey her church has taken to become advocates for the LGBTQ+ community and others. Her church started with listening sessions in small groups to discover where God was calling them. They decided that they wanted to be truly welcoming and be present in the community. We hope to find opportunities to partner with and support them.

Jo Ann is collecting testimonials to be included on the website. The committee would love to hear your ideas for outreach to our community and revitalization of New Hope. We meet at 10 am on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. We hope you will join us!

News from the Child Development Center



April showers brought beautiful May flowers. The children filled containers with soil and flowers seeds generously donated by The Presbyterian Women's club not The New Hope Garden Club. Many thanks for their kindness. The Easter celebrations were exciting as the children gleefully hunted for eggs and enjoyed yummy treats as a special snack. We had a bit of rain so the Easter Bunny had to creative and work fast!

Family Dinner was a smashing success. Many thanks to everyone who helped in the Sweet shoppe, donated items for auction baskets, participated in the serving line and, a special thanks to the New Hope garden Club and the New Hope Presbyterian Women's Club for their contributions to the auction baskets. Many hands make the work go faster and we were grateful for the many hands. Congratulations to all the auction winners.

The month of May is filled with lots of activities as we celebrate the conclusion of another successful school year. The children will honor their mothers with a special Tea and presentation of made -with- love gifts. Wet and Messy day is just that, wet and messy! Shaving cream, paint, dirt, and water are all the perfect ingredients for kids of all ages!

Our finale will be the Graduation ceremony and Family picnic on the last day of school. Family picnic is the result of pure inspiration! "What if..." And the rest is history! Following the graduation program families bring lunch and blankets and gather on the playground under the shade of our beautiful trees and just relax. At this time every year we take a moment to look back and reflect, coming to the same conclusion saying the same thing, "that went by fast!" For myself and all the staff at our little school we feel so grateful and blessed to have had the opportunity to be a part of the lives of the children and their families in our care. For a brief moment in time, we were one big family sharing important milestones of loss, grief, new beginnings and change. And for that, we are eternally grateful. Thanks to allmwho have supported our little school with hearts and hands. Cheers to another great year

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| MAY 7 | Worship at the Owens |
| MAY 9 & 10 | CDC Mothers' Day Teas |
| MAY 14 | Mothers' Day |
| MAY 18 | Last Day of School for CDC |
| MAY 21 | Session Meeting |
| MAY28 | Blood Drive |
| MAY 29 | Memorial Day Holiday |

