



YOUR SESSION AT WORK

Session met on August 25, 2024

we celebrated:

- making an offer on a new worship site
- starting the process of searching for a new minister
- a successful blood drive

And we passed motions to:

- purchase of new office equipment for JoAnn Franklin
- pay for the Owens' housekeeper while we worship at their home

The session welcomes your prayers of support as we work to sell the building and build awareness of our church.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1

Your Session at Work

Page 2

Page 3

Mission / Outreach

Page 4 & 5

Congregation Vitality

Pages 6

Financial Reports

Page 7

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Coming Events

Congregational Life

What can I say about New Hope that you don't know? Higher Dimension purchased our building for our asking price. We are now in the process of finding a new building. Session has entered into a contract for a new location following a unanimous approval from the congregation. Feasibility studies have started. Please continue praying that we, the church, have made the decision God included in his plan as we begin this new chapter in New Hope's life. The address is 1539 Avenue A in Old Town Katy.

Our last day at our beloved church building was a great success. An amazing service followed by some wonderful fellowship and lots of good food. Many visitors attended and thankfully, Rev. Lynn Hargrove attended. Judy became ill and was unable to attend and serve us communion. I know she was heartbroken, but the Lord provided for us. Lynn was more than happy to do this for us. It was a glorious day and a delightful way to say goodbye to a building we have called home for many years.

Now on to new things.

Faithfully,

Iris Hymel



MISSION AND OUTREACH

By Debra Caldwell



Thank you, New Hope! You donated \$860 to the Katy Christian Ministries **Red Apple School Supplies and Happy Feet Program 2024** to give students a new pair of shoes, a backpack and school supplies.



Please join the New Hope Garden Club at 7 pm, Tuesday, September 24 for a presentation on **Growing Bulbs in Texas** by Harris County Master Gardener Debra Caldwell followed by refreshments and a short business meeting. Contact Debra debicaldwell33@gmail.com for more information.

“



Every fall, the Presbyterian Church's Peacemaking Program extends an invitation to join with people of faith from around the country and the world for A Season of Peace, a month-long pilgrimage designed

to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education which invites you to consider your own relationship to peacemaking and justice." The season will culminate in our Peace and Global Witness offering on October 6th. You can access reflections as a devotional resource [HERE](#).

Building Congregational Vitality

Building Congregational Vitality

The Congregational Vitality Committee is working with Session to do a Mission Study in preparation for seeking a new pastor. A mission study is a process that a congregation goes through during times of transition. It is a look at our past, present, and future to seek discernment about God's plan for our church.



Thank you for completing our Survey! It will be an important part of our Mission Study. Here are some of the insights from your responses:

Our congregation has worshiped together and shared life experiences for decades. Originally, many people were drawn to New Hope because of the pastor, the music program, the worship style, denominational ties, and the fact that they had friends here. Two thirds said that the warmth of the New Hope community attracted them initially. Friendships, denominational ties, and the warmth of our community continue to keep people at New Hope. Our worship style, music program, and small groups are also major factors.



(continued on next page)

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY (CONTINUED)

We want to stay together in the coming years by purchasing a new building and finding a new pastor. Most of us are satisfied with the current worship, programs, music, groups, and ways of making decisions, sharing information, and developing resources. Many people agreed that members are well informed about what the various committees and groups in the church are doing and that every member who is capable and interested has an equal opportunity to hold key leadership positions. They felt that members and groups get a lot of support and encouragement for trying something new in the congregation, members are encouraged to discover their gifts for ministry and service, cooperative programs with churches of other denominations are highly valued in our church and that members and friends help each other out in times of trouble.

Many respondents do not think that activities taking place in the congregation are well publicized to the surrounding community indicating the need for more advertising and communication. Almost half of the people who completed the survey think we need more training for lay leaders to fulfill their committee and task assignments. There needs to be more discussion of theological and biblical implications of important decisions. We need to study the needs of the congregation and community to a greater extent as we do church planning. We hope that our survey is a step in this direction.

Respondents were asked to indicate their top three priorities for new areas of ministry that New Hope should be considering for the future. The top two priorities are attracting younger generations and hiring a pastor.

Tasks that the majority felt needed more emphasis included providing Christian education for all ages. In addition, many thought greater emphasis should be put on providing a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins, and the bereaved, fellowship opportunities for single, widowed, and divorced adults, and pastoral counseling to help members dealing with personal problems. Having a new or revised Worship Service, more outreach to senior or retirement communities, and additional community outreach were also frequently mentioned.



When asked about desirable skills, experiences, and/or qualities of a new pastor the top priority was leadership ability with pastoring skills a close second. Preaching skills, passion for visiting, and empathy were ranked next.

Your responses will help inform our Pastor Nominating Committee about the type of pastor we seek.

Please join us for our next Congregational Vitality committee meeting, tentatively scheduled for 10 AM, Wednesday, September 10. Please contact Debra Caldwell debicaldwell33@gmail.com for more information.



Bank Balances: as of August 27, 2024

Operating Account	\$22,934.09
Special Account	\$9,020.08

Our income to date is \$96,502.50 and our total expense is \$79,350.84 which give us \$17,151.84 income over expense.

As you can see from the balance in the operating account, finances are looking much better. Pledged giving and non-pledged giving is holding steady and even with moving expenses we are increasing the balance in the Operating Account. Thank you to all members who are supporting us during this transition period.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jo Ann Franklin 8/14
 Wendy Pettit 8/22
 Bruce Hymel 8/23
 Linda Owens 8/23
 Don Feucht 825

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Stacie Nugent 9/1
 Georgene Rosato 9/8
 Ken Rosato 9/25'
 Edna Saenz 9/30

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Cliff & Charlene Chatham 8/27
 69 years
 Debra and Stephen Caldwell 8/30
 10 years

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Gordon & Cathy van Dijk 9/2
 52 Years



COMING EVENTS

8/18 Rev. Dr. Judy Pistole Preaching
 8/25 Elder Linda Owens Preaching
 9/1 Rev. Dr. Judy Pistole Preaching
 9/2 Labor Day Holiday—Office Closed
 9/8 Elder Linda Owens Preaching
 9/15 Rev. Dr. Judy Pistole Preaching
 9/22 Elder Linda Owens Preching
 9/29 Video Presentation

September 2024

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					