

# NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Good News  
Late Summer / 2010  
*Special Edition*



September 2010 marks twenty years of New Hope United Methodist Church, and we are blessed to have a beautiful building for our worship and other activities. Visitors who come through the building for one reason or another often remark "What a beautiful church you have." I always thank them, because I understand their meaning, while at the same time recognizing that they are wrong in two ways. One, I do not have the church; two, although the building is wonderful, it is not the church. The church is the people of New Hope gathered to worship and to serve God.

We have the early church at Jerusalem as our God-given example of what it means to be a church. The people there got in touch with heaven, and received from Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, their orders and the power to carry them out in a way that pleased God. Several factors stand out about that church, and serve as examples for us.

First, they had great power, the same power used at creation, to part the Red Sea, and to keep Daniel safe in the lions' den. It was also the same power that Jesus used to turn water to wine, heal the sick, fed the five thousand, give sight to the blind man and raise Lazarus from the dead. This great power is available to all Christians who will seek God through prayer, and accept God's will in their lives.

Second, they had a great purpose, to obey the Savior. Obedience is always a vital link to receiving blessing from God. Their purpose was to spread the Gospel, to offer the Good News to others. They were to be witnesses not only there in Jerusalem, but throughout the world. And their purpose was to help those other people get to Heaven.

Third, they had great praise. They were witnesses to the miracles that continued to be performed in Jesus' name, and they certainly caught the spirit from this. They continued on a daily basis to praise God for his goodness and for his Good News.

Fourth, they had great promises. They had the promise of Heaven, and so do we. They had the promise of the Holy Spirit, and so do we. They had the promise of eternal life, and so do we. So much of what we read in the Bible is not just for those early Christians, but also for your benefit and mine.

Fifth, they had great people, who were willing to give up not just their life's work, but their very lives to pursue God's work. Peter, James and John left their fishing businesses to become fishers of men. Barnabas sold his house and laid his money before the disciples to be used for the work of God. Stephen laid down his life and offered up his soul to the Lord.

It takes great people to make a great church. New Hope is blessed with many faithful people who work tirelessly, and sacrifice every week, day after day, to see God's church here succeed. A church is people, not a building. We have a great people, and that makes us a great church.

This is a great church, in which God is doing great things. But there are greater things still to come. This church needs to continue to grow, and to lead others to the grace and mercy of God in their lives. My hope for New Hope UMC is that we will continue to apply the principles that we have learned from the church in Jerusalem, so that we will never be content to just to go to church, but will always seek to be the church for our great and marvelous God.

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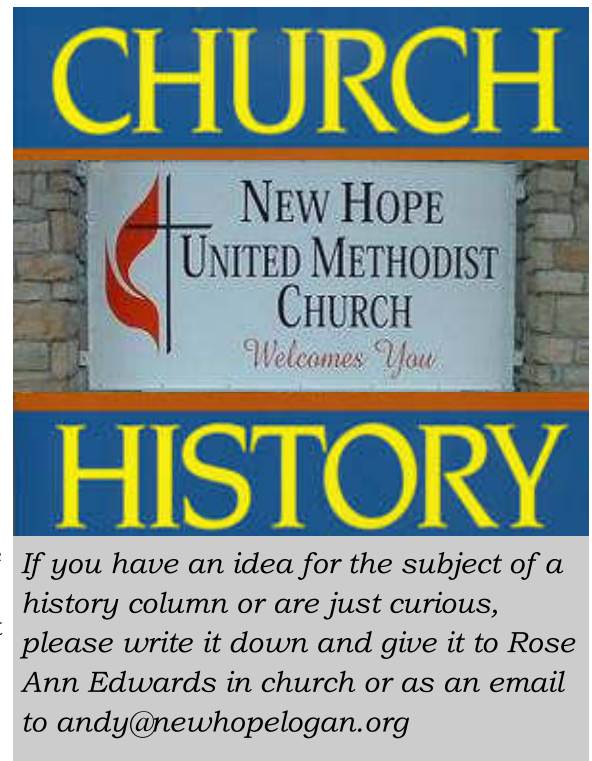
## New Hope...a rich history

By Rose Ann Edwards

I find it rather difficult to begin the task of creating a history column. That is, I believe because it is a subject that encompasses many facets. For instance, if a person is deeply interested in the judicial realm, then he must consider that Moses appointed judges when he brought God's fussing folks out of Egypt. And you know that recently proof was discovered that Noah's Ark is truly resting on Mt. Ararat, where Noah left it to begin a fresh new world. We are in that history.

If the subject of your own family history is very interesting to you and you begin researching your family's past, the possibility is you may find a man four generations past who donated the land on which your church was built. Many have found castles and ancient barons in their lineage. Interesting to find that some of our folks come out of Sweden, Ireland or Germany, way back in the those great old good days. So when the kids complain that History class is objectionable to them remind them that there is bound to be fun in it. My father used to tell me, when I growled about the history teacher and "all those dates" that I should be nice to her because then she would be nice to me. So I learned the date Queen Elizabeth was crowned and who the Kaiser was, and that tended to create curiosity in me.

I would suggest that if you have questions about our church history, perhaps stories about a great revival, a homecoming, weddings or anything of interest concerning our church, I would like for you to jot it down and give it to me. I hope that together we are able to bring out the colorful history that surely must be surrounding the little church on the hill in Gore.



**CHURCH**

NEW HOPE  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
*Welcomes You*

**HISTORY**

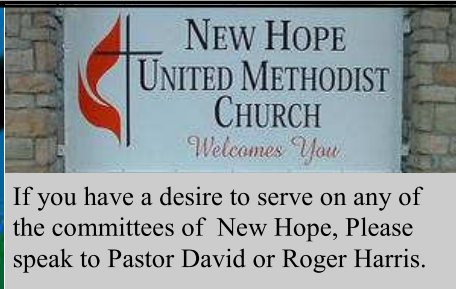
*If you have an idea for the subject of a history column or are just curious, please write it down and give it to Rose Ann Edwards in church or as an email to [andy@newhopelogan.org](mailto:andy@newhopelogan.org)*



Rena Alexander 8/19	Debbie Daubenmier 8/16	Bob Emerick 8/24	Anna Goss 8/10	Krina Hay 8/27
Madison Hughes 8/8	Paul Nutter 8/11	Evan Rogers 8/15	Heidi Starr 8/27	Millie Tucker 8/9

*The Birthday List is a work in progress, please let me know if you were omitted or included erroneously.*

# New Hope Committees Explained: Lay Leadership



## Introduction to the Lay Leadership Committee

The charge conference elects members for the committee on lay leadership (formerly nominations and personnel). It is a committee or team that serves throughout the year to guide the church council or alternative structure on matters regarding the lay leadership (other than employed staff) of the congregation to:

- engage in growth and development as disciples of Jesus Christ
- focus on mission and ministry as service
- guide the development and training of Christian spiritual leaders
- recruit, nurture, and support persons in their elected roles
- assist the church council (or alternative structure) in assessing changing leadership needs.

## Primary Tasks and Responsibilities of the Committee

- get to know members of the congregation and identify (and help them to discern) their skills, gifts, knowledge, and level of commitment
- identify leadership and service opportunities in your congregation
- prepare job descriptions for leadership positions match potential leaders with leadership positions and invite persons to serve in those positions, making sure that these persons represent the makeup of your congregation
- present recommendations to the charge conference
- equip leaders through training and support

## Organization and Relationships

The committee has no more than eleven members. No more than nine are elected by the charge conference on recommendation of the committee or by nomination from the floor. In addition, the pastor and lay leader are members. All lay members must be full members of the local church.

Of the nine elected members, one must be a young adult (aged 18-30), and one may be a youth (aged 12-18). The pastor shall be the chairperson. In keeping with the needed gifts of the position, a layperson shall be elected vice-chairperson of the committee and represent the committee on the church council. A member of the committee can be designated as the secretary. The committee is responsible to the church council and to the charge conference. In a charge of more than one church, a separate committee on lay leadership is to be elected for each church. A charge-wide committee may also be elected if desired.

From *Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation: Leader Selection and Development, 2005-2008* (Cokesbury, 2004), pp. 6.

## ....A Place for Bible Study

### **Wednesday Evenings @ 7:30 pm.**

This weekly study of the Bible aims not only to increase one's spiritual knowledge, but through discussions of life applications to nurture Christians to become better disciples.

***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

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HE WAS NOT A FAN OF THIS EMERGING CHURCH, WHAT WITH THEIR WEIRD OUTFITS, LACK OF CATTLE, AND THOSE NON-SCROLL BIBLES

01-25-2010

## Finding Hope in Any Situation

When life is going well for you, it's easy to feel hopeful. But when this fallen world brings trouble into your life, feelings of hopelessness can come in, too. Thankfully, the hope that God offers is much more than a feeling: It's the reality of His presence with you. You can experience that hope in any situation - even if your health fails, you lose your job, your spouse leaves, or some other tragedy hits you. Here's how to find hope in any situation:



**Stop simply surviving and start thriving.** Don't let difficult circumstances stop you from making the most of each day you're alive. Realize that even when times are tough, you can do much more than just endure your current situation. You can actually enjoy life to the fullest - even in the middle of the worst circumstances - when you remember that life is a gift from God and decide to embrace it. Ask God to help you notice His presence with you in every situation, and rejoice when you sense Him nearby. Pray for the Holy Spirit to renew your mind each day so you can have the positive attitudes you need to thrive no matter what is going on in your life.

**Learn and grow from your struggles.** God allows you to experience challenging circumstances so you can learn to love and trust Him in deeper ways, and so you can grow more mature, developing a strong character to become more like Jesus. Keep in mind that God is more interested in your lasting holiness than your temporary happiness, because holiness will help you learn to choose what's best for you. Ask God to help you see your struggles from His perspective. Let your struggles teach you whatever God wants you to learn from them. As you deal with the difficulties in your life, stay focused on what matters most - eternal values - so you can grow into a stronger person in the process.

**Resist temptations to sin.** Don't turn to sinful behaviors to try to escape the pain of the tough circumstances you experience; doing so will only make your pain worse. Instead, pray for the strength you need to resist temptation, and pour out your feelings to God. God will respond by giving you comfort that you can't find from any other source.

**Attract others to faith as they watch you.** Other people are watching you as you deal with difficult situations. If you respond by being faithful to Jesus, they'll be drawn to Him themselves because you'll show them what real faith in action looks like, and that's attractive. So rather than complaining about your struggles or compromising your values as you try to deal with them, invite Jesus to shine His light through your life, and reflect His character qualities so other people can see how a relationship with Him can help them when they face their own struggles.

**Want what God wants for you.** Don't make the mistake of thinking that God doesn't care about you if He doesn't give you whatever you ask Him for. Realize that God loves you so much that He gives you what you need, even when it's not what you want. Keep in mind that, because of your limited perspective on life compared to God's unlimited perspective, sometimes you ask God for something that seems good but can actually harm you. Trust in the fact that God knows what you need to have the life that brings you the greatest good.

**Overcome fear.** No matter what kind of situation you may find yourself facing, don't be afraid, because God will always be with you and have your best interests in mind since He loves you. Whenever feelings of fear creep into your life, turn to God for the help you need to overcome them and successfully navigate your circumstances. Whenever you sense God calling you to do something that requires taking a risk, move forward without fear because God will empower you to do whatever He calls you to do.

**Keep heaven in mind.** Remember all that awaits you in heaven at the end of your life here on Earth. Let the anticipation of the wonderful experiences you'll have in heaven motivate you to meet your current challenges with the hope, which will lead to the strength you'll need to get through any situation.

**Don't give up.** Whenever your sense of hope starts running out, ask God to renew you with a fresh dose of hope so you can continue to faithfully deal with the difficult situations that come your way. Count on God to give you more hope whenever you ask Him for it.

*Adapted from Hope is Contagious: Trusting God in the Face of Any Obstacle, copyright 2010 by Dr. Kenneth Hutcherson.*

**New Hope  
Worship**

Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Church Service: 10:30 am

Parsonage (740) 394-2705  
Church (740) 934-2580  
[www.newhopelogan.org](http://www.newhopelogan.org)

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***We would love to include your contributions so please submit any comments, articles or photos if you would like to have them included in the next newsletter.***

***Email: [andy@newhopelogan.org](mailto:andy@newhopelogan.org)  
(or just hand it to Andy Ellinger at church)***