February 2021 New Hope Moravian Church

New Hope Moravian Church - 2897 Sandy Ford Road - Newton, North Carolina 28658 828-294-4802 - website

2021 Watchword

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

(Ephesians 3:20-21 NRSV)



New Hope Moravian Church Celebrates 38th Anniversary

"On This Ground New Hope is Building"

On this ground new hope is building, Here upon this chosen knoll, Here Thy church is trusting, yielding Every effort, every soul.

Bless, O Lord, this congregation Come and chart this church's path; Give us daily Thy direction Fill us with new hope and faith.

Standing here, facing our future
With a new hope overspread
Cov'ring us with God's own pleasure
We the Body; Christ the Head.

E. Artis Weber (1989) ... Tune: Batty 16A

The inspiring words of "On This Ground New Hope is Building" were written for New Hope's groundbreaking service in 1989 by E. Artis Weber, the wife of our interim pastor at that time, Herbert Weber. This hymn is relevant for us in 2021 as we reflect on New Hope's thirty-eight year presence in Catawba County.

On December 12, 1973, eight people met at the home of Wayne and Emily Garrett with the Board of Homeland Missions and made a unanimous commitment to organize a Fellowship. The Homeland Missions record states "this is the first Fellowship where the initiative was taken by local people."

Formally organized as a fellowship in January 1974, the group met weekly at First Presbyterian, Hickory and then Holy Trinity Lutheran until early 1976 when Fellowship members reached a mutual decision to discontinue. This was not considered a failure as a feature of the Fellowship Program provides that a fellowship "can be renewed at any time in the future when the need arises again."

With renewed enthusiasm coming from a new group of displaced Moravians, the Hickory fellowship was reactivated in July 1980. Meetings were held on Sunday evenings at Holy Trinity Lutheran while members remained active in other congregations. In 1982, as the fellowship grew with Moravian and non-Moravian members, The Rev. Scott Venable was installed as organizing pastor, the name New Hope was selected and Sunday morning services were held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Soon after, New Hope was worshipping in its first "home" at the older Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hickory. "Bless, O Lord, this congregation, Come and chart this church's path".

Formally chartered with 44 members on February 13, 1983, "...Thy church is trusting, yielding every effort, every soul" and is filled with excitement about opportunities for worship, outreach and family fellowship. Yearly Candle Teas and Christmas Eve Lovefeasts with the community were especially meaningful. Blessed with new members with musical talent, New Hope's music program was launched which continues to thrive 30 years later and brings glory to God and joy to all who hear, sing and play. A strong foundation of lay leadership among the members was established in these formative years as well.

The dream of a permanent building was realized in 1989 with groundbreaking "upon this chosen knoll." Member-based construction crews led by Mark Bumgarner did major work on the building and our beautiful church was consecrated on June 3, 1990. In our new church home and "with a new hope overspread" we were more focused on our ministry in the broader Catawba Valley. ECCCM and Corner Table, Hospice, The Family Care Center involvement, our Vacation Bible School and CMO, Scouts, ball teams were each offering opportunities for serving, sharing God's love and raising awareness of who these Moravians are.

Our congregation has been shaped by the combined, unique gifts of the six called and six interim pastors who have served at New Hope. We have been joined together as a church family through our celebrations of worship, weddings, births, graduations, awards, new jobs, fund raising and fellowship as well as the trials of grief, illnesses, family crises and tragedies. In addition, each of us has special memories that define our personal New Hope history.

As we are "Standing here, facing our future", no one could have foreseen the challenges of 2020 as we watched our community and the world deal with the Corona virus. To keep us connected, our dedicated Task Force Worship Team designed weekly parking lot worship including creative ways for us to observe Communions and Lovefeasts. Our outdoor worship in a peaceful setting with gentle breezes and birdsong helped to ease the uncertainty of life with the virus.

As the weeks wore on, wearing masks, staying distanced, friendly greetings with "air" hugs, elbow bumps and waves became the norm. Our outreach through mission projects helped to meet local needs that were compounded by the virus. The community expressed disappointment at the absence of our annual traditions of chicken pies, Candle Tea and Christmas Eve Lovefeast. YouTube and Facebook videos as well as live radio broadcasts provided more options for members and the broader community to worship.

As we begin a new year with unknowns still ahead due to the virus, Pastor Betty Helms encourages us to live our faith every day as we answer God's call. In our continuing journey, whether with or without the virus, may we remember the timeless words of 1989 "Give us daily Thy direction, Fill us with new hope and faith."

Your sister in Christ, Ann Carr

References: Moravian Archives, <u>The Moravian</u> (Dec., 1995), *On This Ground New Hope is Building, hymn by E. Artis Weber, 1989.*

Through The Years ... A History of New Hope Moravian Church

1972 - 1976 - First Moravian Fellowship met at First Presbyterian Church then Holy Trinity Lutheran in Hickory - Fellowship became inactive and disbanded.

1980- The second "Hickory Moravian Fellowship" met at Holy Trinity Lutheran for Sunday evening worship services with different visiting pastors, particularly for communion. We followed the liturgical calendar as much as possible.

- 1981 Hickory Moravian Fellowship earned "Provisional Status" and qualified for a Moravian Pastor to be permanently sent. First Bazaar was held at Holy Trinity Lutheran.
- 1981-1989 The Rev. Scott Venable served as the Founding Pastor. The Venables started their young family while with us and lived in Hickory.
- 1981 Began daytime Sunday worship services including Sunday School at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hickory. Members held a church council and voted **New Hope Moravian** as its name.
- 1982 New Hope congregation moved and began worshiping at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hickory. The entire old church building was leased. One summer (Bishop) Lane Sapp did his Pastoral Internship under our Pastor Venable at New Hope. During his tenure Pastor Venable was Consecrated a Presbyter of the Moravian Church, a reception followed under the large shade trees. First Women's Fellowship began along with one Women's Circle. Men's Fellowship started and so did the famous overnight cooking of the BBQ as a fundraiser.

FEBRUARY 13, 1983 – NEW HOPE MORAVIAN CHURCH CHARTERED 44 members signed the Charter

- 1984- First Candle Tea & Bazaar- held at Bethlehem Lutheran
- 1985- New Hope purchased their first organ- used at Bethlehem Lutheran then moved it to the new church building.
- 1989- New Hope had a ground breaking ceremonial service at its current location complete with massed Moravian Band, dignitaries from Winston-Salem & a hymn written for the occasion by E. Artis Weber, "On This Ground New Hope Is Breaking"
- 1989 Campaign for Building Fund fervently promoted; The Rev. Scott Venable left for Park Road Moravian, Charlotte and the retired Rev. Herbert Weber served as interim during building phase 1989-1990. Mark Bumgarner served as Building Committee Chair, worked with Board of Evangelism and Homeland Missions (BEHM) & PEC in W-S to oversee all construction.
- 1990 Dedication of New Hope Church building, 2897 Sandy Ford Rd, Newton 28658.

On our cornerstone: "As For Me And My House We Will Serve The Lord" -- Joshua 24:15

1990- 1994 – The Rev. (Dr.) Neil Routh served as first pastor in the new building. The Routh's started their family with two little ones while at New Hope. The first Gemeinschaft Bible study groups began. New Hope was one of the first churches to use this Moravian bible study. During his last year, research started on opening a Children's Morning Out program as none in our area. Rev. Routh moved to pastor Grace Moravian in Mt. Airy, NC.

1994 – The Rev. Jon Peterson served as interim pastor for 6 months traveling twice a week from Winston-Salem while in the process of returning to the ministry. After 6 months he accepted a fulltime position at Clemmons Moravian as Associate Pastor. While with us he started family fun nights, ex movie night. Did "first person" sermons where he came in as a character of the bible or topic. He encouraged the trial run (after our year of research) of Children's Morning Out in the summer which opened for the public with volunteer staff from the congregation. A survey of the families showed they would return if we permanently opened.

1994 – Fall- New Hopes Children's Morning Out Program begins under the oversight of the

church's CMO Advisory Committee and the first Director, Malissa Bumgarner with Assistant, Margaret Schultz (both volunteers). Our Preschool/CMO continues uninterrupted today as a thriving four day a week program under the current direction of Jennifer Morris and paid staff.

1995-2002 – The Rev. Judith Justice served as pastor. A former social worker, being a Pastor was a second call and career. Increased youth involvement & dramas in worship, Home School Band & Tom Schultz began teaching the young ones to play brass. Wednesday night dinners & fellowship started for music department families. New blue Book of Worship replaces the 1960's red Moravian Hymnal. Our own Craig deBlois served on the Southern Provence New Hymnal Committee.

2002 – "God's Acre" was dedicated. At rest in our God's Acre are: Danny Tucker (2003), Debra McLauchlin (2010), Jim Hendrix and Bob Warren (2017). A memorial garden with bench was donated in memory of Debra McLauchlin by her sister, Paula Napoli & family in 2010.

2003 – The Rev. John Jackman served as interim traveling several days a week from Winston-Salem while returning to ministry. Started the "Joyful Noise Offering"- a collection of "noisy coins" once a month to help fund children's programming, such as VBS, Sunday school. Rev. Jackman accepted a call to Trinity Moravian in Winston.

2004- 2007 The Rev. John Rainey served as pastor. Lead the way to retire the debt of loan on the church building through a "Sampson & Goliath" Campaign. Rev. Rainey was very active with the youth. Started involvement with Youth Mission Camps at Laurel Ridge. Held Ladies Teas with the older ladies in the church with Deb McLaughlin's help. Rev. Rainey moved to pastor a Moravian church in Greensboro, NC.

2007-2008 The Rev. Bob Sawyer served as interim- PEC President who traveled from Winston-Salem for Sundays and sent other available pastors when he couldn't come.

2008 – 2011 – The Rev. Adam Spaugh served as pastor. As our first newlyweds, we held a

pounding/wedding shower for them. The Spaugh's started their family with two little ones while at New Hope. The original organ was on its last leg so a replacement fund raising challenge was accomplished very rapidly. The Spaugh's moved back to Pennsylvania to be near wife's family.

- 2010 New organ dedication September 5.
- 2011 The Rev. Bob Sawyer served as interim- Former PEC President who shared his leadership & pastoral experience through our transition. He joined our band.
- 2011 2012 Pastor Betty Helms supplied as pastor for 3 months traveling several days a week and as needed from Winston-Salem. She visited hospitals, met with most groups and stayed for Wednesday night dinners. She also assisted in our transition.
- 2012 The Rt. Rev. Dr. Wayne Burkette served as interim. Former PEC President who shared his leadership & pastoral experience through our transition. He assisted with The Call Process.

2012 to present - The Rev. Betty A. Helms installed & serves as current pastor.

Nurtures a family atmosphere within the congregation. Shows compassion & caring through visitation (until Covid-19 restrictions). Invites Lay leadership into worship. Enhanced Chicken Pie System to make & sell large quantities for the maintenance and edification of the church, which has funded many repairs and replacements.

Small groups expand, such as New Hopers. Church Window Replacement Campaign completed for fellowship hall & educational building. Development of New Hope website by Jim Helms which continues today. New storage room added to our Fellowship Hall for much needed space. Bench outside back double doors donated in memory of Jim Helms, Pastor Betty's husband who passed away unexpectedly in 2017. Red Cross blood mobile drives held biannually. New Hope assigned 1 day per month to volunteer at ECCCM. Mission Committee starts having collections for agencies almost every month.

- 2017 November 12 The Rev. Betty A. Helms consecrated as a Presbyter in the Moravian Church. Service held at New Hope with the Women's Fellowship hosting a formal reception.
- 2018- New Hope hosts the Catawba Valley Chorus for its spring concert and provided an excellent reception in the fellowship hall. Very well received. Plans made to host again in future.
- **2020- The Year of Coronavirus, Covid-19.** The year began as usual, but by mid-March the orders came from Government Agencies, Health Departments and

the PEC to close church buildings and Preschools. Travel was limited to essential only. Pastor Betty starts emailing daily devotions she has created and other important info. The Church Board stays in touch with their shepherding list. Building continues to be closed all of April.

By mid-April a group of 4 couples come forward to form a task force to investigate and plan outdoor worship when NC Phase 2 starts and with approval of PEC. Research is done on Parking Lot Worship, sound systems, service structure, layout of our grounds, etc.

May 17- First Parking Lot Worship Service, 11:00 AM. Pastor Betty conducted the service elevated from a trailer parked under a tree for shade next to the church. Rules for attendance: All wear masks, park every other space, stay distanced 6 ft or more apart, may sit in lawn chairs behind car with no mingling, no singing, building not open, drop offering off on way in to parking lot and receive bulletin from masked & gloved usher. Service modified and shortened with 1 reader to respond for the congregation for liturgies and recorded music played over loud speakers. Outdoor Worship Task Force was so thrilled to see car after car turn into the church driveway. What a joyful sight to see each other after months apart, even if we were masked and couldn't hug. There was some very vigorous waving and air hugs going on! Almost all our regular attenders came.

May 31- Worship moved to other side of parking lot next to Gods Acre under shade trees since the temperature had climbed rapidly. Pastor Betty now preaching from a platform built to provide a level place to stand. The members could sit in lawn chairs under the trees or in their cars facing her. Time of worship pushed back to 9:30 AM due to the heat. Continued the same safety rules. Added another reader to come to microphone for scripture reading. Graduates were recognized and given a "reception in a bag"- goodies/snacks in a gift bag since no reception allowed. Worship continued this way throughout the summer.

Nov.1- Sanctuary Reopened for Worship- NC moved into a phase that allowed return indoors with restrictions and PEC approval.

Requirements of Worshipers for Indoors: Do not come if sick or stay in your car. Must sign a onetime waiver. Temperatures taken and health questions asked each Sunday before entry, masks on at all times, hand sanitizer at entrance and exits, single use bulletins given, used and taken home.

Changes Inside for Safety: Windows and doors open with HVAC system turned on for circulation, Foot traffic one way, pews marked off, 6 ft or more apart, no mingling, only sit with family members or bubble, end of service pews are released 1 at a time starting in the front and exiting out front side exterior door.

The Service: Entire service is now recorded for posting on New Hope's YouTube channel. Continues as a shortened service and broadcast to parking lot by transmitter. A single singer is added at a microphone to assist with hymns. Organist returns to play preludes, hymns and postludes.

<u>Nov 22- Thanksgiving Lovefeast</u>. Worshipers received a bag on the way in to parking lot or into the sanctuary with wrapped bun, napkin and Lovefeast ode. Worshipers also picked up coffee in to-go cups.

Nov 27- Planned "No On-Site Worship Sunday" due to high risk of spread of COVID-19 from family gatherings at Thanksgiving. Pastor Betty presented a message on line. Soon reports of large increases of the spread through out the State and around New Hope spread.

December Though Today- No Open Interior Worship Services-

It was discovered some members had been exposed or had the virus. In our county the numbers of illness and death skyrocketed. The Board of Elders upon the advice of the Worship Task Force decides to return worshipers to the parking lot with transmission of the sanctuary service using part of the worship team and Pastor Betty. Will still record and offer YouTube services for those who can't come.

This process continues today. We at New Hope have learned to be flexible and resilient through this unusual time. Members and friends have pooled their talents and resources to find ways to be together in some format of worship as the virus and the powers that be dictate.

2021 – February 14 – New Hope celebrates 38 years of ministry (no reception due to Covid) as a regional congregation in the Catawba Valley serving Burke, Lincoln, Iredale and other surrounding counties of Catawba. Now with the unexpected addition of the YouTube services we are spreading the gospel to those who cannot be present and any actually anyone around the world who signs in to watch. With the complex issues of today's health crisis, New Hope has continued to reach out monthly to assist various charities and causes. May we continue to be a blessing in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for many more years to come. "To God be the Glory."



February 7, 2021

Once again, New Hope will be collecting monetary donations during the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign on Super Bowl Sunday (February 7,2021). All the funds donated will go directly to The Corner Table in Newton. Checks can be made payable to New Hope with Corner Table noted on memo line.

Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple prayer by a Presbyterian pastor in South Carolina: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

Souper Bowl of Caring is transforming the Big Game into a nation-wide movement inspiring people to give locally and make a collective impact on hunger. Mobilizing grassroots resources including churches, schools, civic groups and caring individuals, the Souper Bowl of Caring has created over \$160 million worth of support that stays completely local. Last year, over 5000 groups collected over \$10.6 million in dollars and food donations for hunger-relief charities across the country.

On Sunday February 7th, look for the soup pot as you enter and leave the parking lot and let's help the fight against hunger in Catawba County!

Thank you in advance for your generosity! Mission Committee



Cross stitchers, just a suggestion to work on those cross stitch squares while it's cold outside. We're stuck inside anyway (and probably watching too much TV), so take advantage of those long winter hours. You'll be glad you did when warm weather finally arrives.

Any questions, Pat 294-0404.

2897 Sandy Ford Road • Newton, North Carolina 28658 • 828-294-4802

38th Anniversary Celebration On Sunday, February 14th

Join New Hope as we celebrate 38 years of ministry by having a Lovefeast with beautiful music on February 14 at our Parking Lot Worship Service or on YouTube. The song that was commissioned and written just for us for New Hope's ground-breaking at our current location will be featured. The words will be printed in the bulletin and you may sing along in your cars or the comfort of your home.



It has been our custom to bring a gift to give to the Church for this special celebration.

Over the last several years we have found it best to receive GIFT CARDS to OFFICE DEPOT, SAMS, WALMART, and HOME DEPOT.

This way purchases can be made for supplies as needed for the church which helps alleviate spending out of our budget.

Our cart will be available to collect your greeting cards and gift cards, as you arrive for our Parking Lot Worship Service.

Sadly, due to COVID-19 we will NOT be able to have our customary reception after worship.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Pastor Betty Helms

Board of Elders

Mark Bumgarner- Stewardship Chair



- ** No Shrove Pancake Supper this year.
- ** No Holy Week Services in the church. However, we will have Holy Week readings each night on YouTube for people to view the video.

Observing Ash Wednesday, February 17th

Due to Covid-19, New Hope will not be having an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 17th. You will be given a bag Sunday, February 14th – our Celebration Sunday for New Hope's Birthday – that will contain a cup with consecrated ashes. Pastor Betty will send Ash Wednesday, February 17th, via email in her reflection a message about Ash Wednesday. Please watch for this special reflection.

Pastor Betty
The Worship Committee



New Hope will continue to only do Parking Lot Worship at 10:00 am. **Tune into FM 87.9** or watch on YouTube. No indoor worship due to rising numbers with COVID-19.

New Hope Service on



Click on the link below

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCagQSb0gw2QUC-UFiwe5ikg

This will take you directly to the homepage of our New Hope YouTube channel. Here you can choose from different videos that are available.

CHURCH PEW RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

Over the years the original fabric covering the pews in our beautiful sanctuary have frayed beyond the ability to patch anymore. Research began into what could be done at some point and the estimated cost. We were pleasantly surprised and blessed that an anonymous family came forward to cover the cost.

The pew renovation project is now complete. New fabric and foam padding have replaced the old. They look beautiful, are comfortable and should last for many years. If you have not had the opportunity to see them since our sanctuary is closed due to Covid-19, take a quick look after parking lot worship. Again, a big thank you to the family that made the contribution to have this project done.

Mark Bumgarner Stewardship Chair

Fourth Quarter/End of Year 2020 Stewardship Report

Monthly Budget: \$10,662

	Income	Expenses	
October	\$11,165	\$ 9,394	
November	\$ 9,962	\$11,875	
December	\$10,182	\$12,155	
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2020 End of Year	\$123,329	\$122,485	+ \$844

To say that 2020 was an unusual year might be an understatement. The good news is that our income actually exceeded our expenses. This was certainly because of our Winter Challenge fund raiser which brought in an additional \$11,000 at the beginning of the year. We also had a significant contribution from a family at the end of the year that was designated towards paying New Hope's provincial contribution to the Southern Provence. New Hope met its full annual financial commitment to the Provence for 2020. For 2021 it may be a big challenge to reach the income level to cover the trimmed new budget. Please prayerfully consider your giving ability for 2021.

Mark Bumgarner Stewardship Chair

Mark Your Calendar for February

Tuesday, February 2nd -



Thursday, February 4th – ECCCM Workday

Sunday, February 7th – Parking Lot Worship Service

Souper Bowl of Caring

Monday, February 8th - Board of Elders Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 pm

Sunday, February 14th – Parking Lot Worship Service

New Hope's 38th Anniversary Celebration



Monday, February 15th – No School for New Hope Preschool



Wednesday, February 17th – Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday message to be sent via Pastor Betty's daily reflection.



Sunday, February 21st – Parking Lot Worship Service

Tuesday, February 23rd – March Newsletter Articles Due

Sunday, February 28th - Parking Lot Worship Service



February Birthdays

2nd – Kaytlynn Noland (Cortes) 5th – Penny Miller 6th – Margaret Schultz & Glenda Hutto 13th – Kim Greaser 14th – Leslie Srail 24th – Bonnie Everhart

Pray Every Day February 2021

- 1. Is anything too difficult for the Lord? Pray that our country will turn back to God.
- 2. Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Pray for governments and leaders.
- 3. The Son of God has come and has given us understanding. Pray for police and fire fighters everywhere.
- 4. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted. Pray for all those suffering from the COVID-19 virus.
- 5. You have delivered my soul from death. Pray for school teachers and first line workers world-wide.
- 6. I had heard of you by ear, but now I see you. Pray for Adopt-A-Village in Tanzania.
- 7. Sunday. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power. Pray for Moravian volunteers and Missionaries.
- 8. May they who love you be like the sun when it rises. Pray for Dr. Benno and Teresa Marx.
- 9. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
- 10. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Pray for Jenna and Andrew Craver in Alaska.
- 11. God did not withhold His own son but gave Him up for us. Pray for Alan and DeeDee Iobst in France.
- 12. Each one should test his own actions. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx (MAF).
- 13. From His fullness, we have received grace upon grace. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
- 14. Sunday. The Lord will bless His people with peace. Pray for Unity Women's Desk.
- 15. There will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than ninety-nine righteous. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek InterVarsity.
- 16. All people on earth will know that the Lord is God. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx (MAF).
- 17. Ash Wednesday. Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Pray for Annie B Missions (Star Mountain).
- 18. My Lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass me by. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach
- 19. Oh Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness. Pray for Justin Rabbach (BWM).
- 20. When He has found the lost sheep, He lays it on His shoulders and rejoices. Pray for Armando Rusindo Foundation and Cuba.
- 21. 1st Sunday in Lent. Jesus Christ will strengthen you to end. Pray for the clinic in Ahaus, Honduras.
- 22. My spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Pray for Alas de Socorro in Honduras.
- 23. We are ambassadors for Christ, who makes His appeal through us. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya.
- 24.All ate and were filled. Pray for the Theisens in Mexico.
- 25. The Lord is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior. Pray for Moravians in Peru.
- 26. The Lord God of Hosts is His name. Pray for Safiatu Braima in Sierra Leone.
- 27. The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ. Pray for Charlie and Vickie Brent in Texas.
- 28. 2nd Sunday in Lent. Do not fear, for I am with you. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.



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