



# *New Hope News*

## *March 2015*



### **2015 WATCHWORD**

**Everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.  
Matthew 7:8**

## *New Hope Moravian Church*

Brothers and Sisters,

Well, its official...on February 22, 2015 this year's Season of Lent journey started. How are you doing so far? Did you start this year's Season of Lent with great hopes of some spiritual changes in your life like the changes spring brings? Did you know the word Lent means spring, which for many is a time of hope? After all the cold and dreary days of winter, we look forward to the new life and beauty Spring promises to unfold before us; year after year. Like the newness of spring, Lent calls us to experience new life in our spiritual journey. Lent also, calls us to remember the forty days in which Jesus remained in the desert faithful in prayer and fasting. These days in the wilderness prepared Christ Jesus to face, with courage, the future ministry set before Him.

Sadly, this past year due to the inclement weather, we did not do our annual Ash Wednesday Service. Yet, this did not stop us from taking the opportunity to start our Lenten observance on the "First Sunday in Lent" with the imposition of ashes and the Service of Holy Communion. As a refresher course, (regarding the Imposition of Ashes); when I applied the ashes (the burned palms made into a paste from last year's Palm Sunday Service). You heard these words, "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return." These words are not a put down, but rather to remind us of a very often overlooked fact of life. The ashes remind us of our immortality, that our body is limited, it is finite. It will one day return to dust. Just as, we entered this world, we one day will leave this world. Lent reminds us, this world is not our permanent home. Our life here is not it...there is so much more to come. As Christians, we look forward to our heavenly home. This earthly home is not our home. Therefore, we need to daily keep our eyes fixed on Christ Jesus our Chief Elder, who reigns in Heaven.

Lent reminds us life is not made up of the possessions we collect here on this earth, but the riches Christ has stored for us for all eternity. Lent reminds us of our need to be firmly rooted in the practicality of human life, as we journey toward our heavenly home. I've heard it said, "We can be so heavenly minded, that we are no earthly good." Therefore, Lent repeatedly reminds us that our spiritual eyes must be fixed and rooted in the Precepts of God, not ourselves. This comes through our charitable concern for needs of others; the poor and needy.

The Season of Lent gives us the opportunity to focus on three key principles:

**Praying:** A renewed life of prayer requires commitment and time. Set time aside to pray during Lent. Don't listen to the radio while driving to work; pray -- meditate!

**Fasting:** Fasting or the giving-up of something we desire can bring about a greater spiritual hunger for God. Fasting doesn't have to be about giving-up something; it can be a time to (gain something) by giving sacrificially to others with your time, talents and resources. Perhaps, reaching out to and giving to others does not come easy for you. This is why, Lent is the perfect time to start... We can for example give more time to an ailing friend or Church member who needs our friendship. You could commit to spend more time together as a family, or give of your time, talents or resources to your New Hope family. There are always many wonderful needs to be met in the Church. This leads me into our final principle....

**Charity or alms-giving:** Have you ever thought how all of our spiritual activities or ministries have – the works of charity. This calls for us to develop a charitable heart toward both God and others. Our daily spiritual financial bank is more apt to fill more quickly, when we take our minds off our own needs and desires, and start giving from our heart for the needs of others. Our lives take a unique twist when our hearts are open to helping and giving to others. The result is reflected in all of our kind words and our charitable deeds and actions.

Friends, this year 2015, let's use Lent to refresh ourselves in our "Prayer life, our Fasting, and our Charity!" Let's use Lent this year to search out those things not pleasing to God... Let's use this time to not be deprived but to give of ourselves to both God and others. Let's allow this Season of Lent, be a time for us to grow more in our spiritual life together, as we grow in a more intimate and personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let's use this Season of Lent wisely.

In Christ Service,

*Pastor Betty*



# Chicken Chatter

A great many thanks to Mark Bumgarner who has once again been working on little projects to improve our church. If you haven't seen the choir room, take a peek. You will notice a new coat of paint and new shelving to hold instruments and to provide a safe place for the TV. The room looks clean and neat and just incredible.

I will update you later on our next chicken pie making. The committee is currently reviewing dates that were previously set.

The Valentine Chicken Pie Dinner was a great success. Everyone had a great time and we raised money to help with the heating unit. Thanks to all of you who helped with preparation and serving. A special thanks to the youth who came to help.

We currently have a little over \$16,000 in the Chicken Pie account. This is with all bills and updating expenses being paid. It also reflects the money raised with the dinner on February 14.

Hopefully, we will soon see signs of spring.

You know chickens love spring.

Cluck, Cluck!

*Pam Prevatte*



# Lenten Fair

## Help Needed

OUR LENTEN FAIR AND EGG HUNT WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 28. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP MAN A CRAFT/ACTIVITY TABLE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. I WILL HAVE WHAT IS NEEDED FOR EACH ACTIVITY BUT I NEED PEOPLE TO WORK THE DIFFERENT AREAS. I AM GATHERING IDEAS AND SUPPLIES FOR THE ACTIVITIES AND ANY SUGGESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

I HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

MARGARET SCHULTZ  
[TLSCHULTZ@EMBARQMAIL.COM](mailto:TLSCHULTZ@EMBARQMAIL.COM)



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

The Lenten Fair will be held on **Saturday, March 28 at 9:30 AM.**

We will have an egg hunt (for 2 age groups), crafts to complete, and a snack. All children are invited.



Plastic eggs will be handed-out Sunday, March 15th in preparation for the **Lenten Fair Egg Hunt** on Saturday, March 28th. Please consider helping fill these with goodies for the kiddos!

## The First Yadkin View RCC Women's Gathering

### **"Blooming Where You're Planted"**

**March 7, 2015**

It's almost here!! Can you believe it? Wow: A whole year of planning is about to come to fruition and we are so excited!!!

On March 7 New Hope will host over 66 women from 10 different churches. Most are from our RCC. This will be a big day in the life of New Hope. We have helped host events elsewhere which were very successful, but have not hosted ourselves. So look at us now, we are doing it and with style. We have the Provincial Women's Fellowship President and the Organizer of the Unity Women's Desk (Missions) coming to give us an update from their respective agencies. And of course our main speaker is the Executive Director of the BCM of the Southern Province.

There are many to thank after the event, but I would like to recognize a few key players in pulling this off: Nancy Miller has taken care of registrations & finances. Jane Bumgarner has covered food & catering & logistics & volunteers, etc. Jane has served with me on the subcommittee with the other churches and attended the meetings in W-S for almost a year and has been my right hand person. Same for Pastor Betty who has also given spiritual advice. There are several from the other churches that worked hard to make this happen: Sharon Bogar & Sheila Beamon of Unity Moravian, Martha Rowe of Clemmons Moravian, Lynn Huss of Unity Moravian and Jane Shore of New Philly. We are all looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labor.

So, Come on out to New Hope March 7 for a fun filled and enlightening day. Who knows you may make a new friend from one of our sister churches or even win a prize.

Malissa Bumgarner, Yadkin View RCC Chair



Thank you to those who purchased Holy Week Readers for the church.



Thank you for your support of the Valentine's Dinner.

Thank you for the monetary gifts and gift cards celebrating New Hope's 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary. They will be used for kitchen, office and cleaning supplies.

Thank you to the dieners, choirs, greeters, ushers and Pastor Betty for a wonderful Anniversary Lovefeast Service.

Thank you for your response in saving milk cartons. We have all that we need.



## CATAWBA COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Thursday, April 23rd, 2015 at J&S Cafeteria!  
More details to come.

### Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed!

We have a critical need for volunteers in the West Hickory Area. If you would like to take flyers to place in your church or around the community, please give us a call at 828-695-5610.

If you would like Vickie Redden to speak at your church or organization about Senior Nutrition Services and the need for volunteers please call Vickie at 828-695-6598.

Volunteers are also need to deliver frozen meals once per month to clients that are not on a route for Meals on Wheels. The pick-up location is at the SNS Office.

### JOIN US IN CELEBRATING MARCH FOR MEALS

All across America, in the month of March, communities are increasing awareness of the need for more volunteers to join Meals on Wheels to end senior hunger.

Help us celebrate March for Meals and refer a new volunteer!

# **ECCCM NEWS**

Registration for the 15th annual ECCCM Benefit Golf Tournament will begin on **March 1st**.

The tournament will be held at Glen Oaks Country Club in Maiden on **May 7, 2015 at 1:00 pm** with a catered lunch beforehand.

It is \$80 per person.

We have a maximum of 32 teams.

If your church is interested in forming a team you can sign up on our website ([www.ecccm.org](http://www.ecccm.org)) or contact Guynell Sears at [executiveassistant@ecccm.org](mailto:executiveassistant@ecccm.org) or **828-465-1702**.

## **Bazaar Preparations**

Several of the women of the church met on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at Cheryl Hendrix's house to begin planning for crafts. We plan to meet again on March 18. Time and location will be sent out later.

We did decide to go ahead with some of the ideas. We hope that future meetings will be intended to gather a group to help with different crafts. If you have an idea, let me know and we will plan a gathering to help you with the task if needed. If you have other questions about your craft ideas, please ask Cheryl or Pam and we will help if we can.

Remember, the bazaar depends on the members of the church to provide your ideas and crafting help and your abilities. We will try and vary the time and days of meetings so everyone can come at some time if they want to participate. We also have a great time working together.

Keep crafting!

Pam Prevatte

# DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD!

**Set your clocks ahead one hour at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 8th.**

Twice a year, when Daylight Saving Time begins or ends, make it a habit to not only change your clocks, but do a few other semi-annual tasks that will improve safety in your home.

Replace batteries in smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms and all flashlights.

