

News of New Hope

New Hope Presbyterian Church, 17930 Bowie Mill Rd., Derwood, MD 20855, 301-987-8989

Volume 24

Issue 03

March/April 2011

A Lenten Letter

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you! I can hardly believe that February is past and that Spring is rushing toward us like the lion of March. College basketball tournament games are beginning to be played, Spring sports lie on the horizon, and the colorful bulbs are starting to poke their heads above ground. As the seasons change, as daylight hours get longer, we seem to fill those hours more quickly than they come.

Friends, so begins the season of Lent. It greets us where we are. We have not counted down the days, as with Christmas, or even eagerly anticipated the mark of Ashes upon our foreheads. Lent meets us in the midst of cold, rainy, dark days. Indeed, Lent comes from an old word for Spring – a season of change.

Aside from the ball games, the bulbs springing from the earth, and the calendar shifts, how do we mark the passing of Spring and of Lent?

As a congregation we will mark the time as we sup and worship together. Our Lenten dinners offer a way to mark the passing of Lent – to draw closer to God and enjoy the fellowship of one another. Join us as we gather on March 16th, March 30th, and April 13th. In addition to our weekly worship, our

Lenten Spring culminates with multiple worship services. During Holy Week, come join us in the darkness on Maundy Thursday (7:00pm), stop in for meditation and prayer on Good Friday (11:00am-1:00pm and 5:00-8:00pm), and then dance for joy with us on Easter morning (Sunrise at 6:15am, Traditional at 11:00am)!

Yet beyond the marking of time with supper and worship, there is a deeper calling in this Lenten season. In a reading for Ash Wednesday, the prophet Joel calls to us -- “Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the aged, gather the children, even infants at the breast and why -- so people will not ask “where is their God?”

Joel calls that we might answer - let us show forth the holiness of our creator, so people will know that we are a holy people - committed to God and followers of Jesus Christ.

And how might we do this? Maybe, in the past, you’ve fasted from chocolate, coffee, or some other delight (or tried to) - many of us have. Yet maybe we need to move beyond a physical fast from chocolate and declare our own fast, to set aside something that takes us away from the glory of God and to revel in what draws us closer to God.

The Episcopal priest Ann Fontaine poetically asks us if we might -

Fast from judgment, Feast on compassion
Fast from greed, Feast on sharing
Fast from scarcity, Feast on abundance
Fast from fear, Feast on peace
Fast from lies, Feast on truth
Fast from gossip, Feast on praise
Fast from anxiety, Feast on patience
Fast from evil, Feast on kindness
Fast from apathy, Feast on engagement
Fast from discontent, Feast on gratitude
Fast from noise, Feast on silence
Fast from discouragement, Feast on hope
Fast from hatred, Feast on love

Friends, this Lenten season, what will be your fast? What will be your feast?

In Christ,
Andrew

Andrew Goes Back to School

Friends, it is with excitement that I share with you a new adventure in my life as your minister. In January of 2012 I will begin a Doctor of Ministry program at Louisville Seminary (a PCUSA seminary). The program is specifically designed for training in pastoral counseling and offers coursework for licensure in counseling and marriage and family therapy. My interest in the program stems from what I believe is the core of ministry - healthy relationships with one another and with God. I firmly believe that the coursework and experience of the program will be beneficial to my abilities as your pastor, preacher, and teacher. I look forward to the time of study but also to

bringing my experiences and knowledge back to our beloved community.

The nuts and bolts of the program are very practical for an active minister. The coursework will have me traveling to Louisville in January and June for a total of four weeks away, probably only two Sundays away. The program is three years long and will involve practicum and ongoing work throughout the year, but is designed to work with my calling at New Hope (not to take me away from it). Session already knows of my plans to engage in this doctoral program and I hope that you share their, and my, excitement at this chapter in our lives together! - Andrew

Adult Education in Lent

Have you ever felt removed from the passion story and Holy Week? Felt that the story didn't hit home until Maundy Thursday, darkness, and solemnity? Wondered why Catholics have the Stations of the Cross but we don't? Thought that there must be more to this story that we hear year after year?

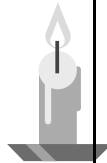
Come explore the depths of the passion story with us through art, music, poetry, film, and scholarship. Find new ways to hear, see, or feel the story of Jesus' passion. We all learn and experience God in different ways, and experiencing Jesus' walk to the cross is no different. Join us Sunday mornings in our exploration of the passion from many different perspectives! We begin March 13th with an exploration of the history of the passion.

Lenten Dinners

March 16th, March 30th &
April 13th; 6:00 p.m.



Join us for fellowship, supper, and learning together on several Wednesdays during Lent! We will start the evening with dinner together at 6:00 p.m., followed by devotion/discussion. The menus and sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex. Please try to make the time to join us! Lent is a time of reflection, a time to make space for our faith and our Lord, and this is a great way to pause during the week and make a bit of that space. If you have any questions, please see Roy Canagarajah or Paula Wood.



Theology on Tap

April 7th at 7:30 p.m., the Olney Ale House Join us this month as we discuss atonement. You need not know anything about it, just come and dive into the fray of conversation with us! It's a time to enjoy fellowship over a pint of good local brew, supper if you'd like, and some down-to-earth theological conversation. We hope you'll come and join us!

Easter Egg Hunt

April 16th, 10:00 a.m.



Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 16th. As always, it's BYOB (bring your own basket) and we'll sponsor crafts and light munchies. Please pick up flyers in the narthex to share with

friends. If you'd like to help with the festivities, keep your eyes open for a sign-up sheet or just let Andrew know. Thanks for making this such a wonderful and energetic tradition!

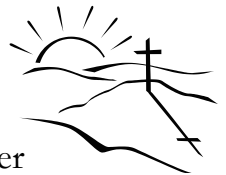
Holy Week Worship Services

Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7:00 pm on April 21st. It is a candlelight service with communion.

Good Friday, April 22nd, the church will be open for meditation and prayer: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and again 5:00 – 8:00 pm.

Easter Sunrise Service

Our sunrise worship service on Easter Sunday, April 24th will be at 6:15 a.m. We will gather around the foot of the cross, and then join in a simple continental breakfast indoors. We are blessed to have Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church (our one-time mother church) joining us for this service! Hope you can brave the early morning and join us!



Traditional Service

Our traditional Easter service will be at the normal worship time of 11:00 a.m.



Mission Ministry News

Our congregation continues to be a generous and loving community that is willing to share time and money to help others. Our **Christmas Joy Offering** collection totaled

\$730. On February 6, we again participated in the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. We collected \$55 and 41 cans of food. We used the money to purchase cereal for the Home Builders Care Assessment Center (HBCAC) (formerly known as the Men’s Emergency Shelter) on Gude Drive in Rockville and the food was donated to Olney Help. On Sunday, Feb. 21, the children, with some adult help, put together 75 bag lunches (with 2 sandwiches each!) for the HBCAC.



On Tuesday, Feb. 22, participating restaurants in Montgomery County donated a portion of their receipts to **Thanksgiving in February**. Funds raised support Montgomery County agencies that provide food and grocery money to those in need. If

you were unable to dine out on the 22nd, but would like to support this great cause, you can help by sending a tax-deductible contribution to THANKSGIVING IN FEBRUARY, c/o Interfaith Works, 114 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. For more information about the agency visit their web site at www.iworksmc.org.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 17. Coin boxes (actually they are fish) and a Sharing Calendar with suggestions for putting coins in the fish will be distributed on Sunday, March 20. Money from this collection goes directly to PCUSA to support their many outreach projects.

The annual **Rebuilding Together Montgomery County** home repair project day will be held on Saturday, April 30. We will not be putting a team together this year, but if you are interested in participating on your own, you can go to the website at



www.rebuildingtogethermc.org to find out about signing up as a volunteer.

Our next meeting is on **Monday, March 7** at 7:30 pm. Please join us!

- Kathy Marcy & Yolanda Carrera



MARCH 13TH – DAYLIGHT SAVING SAVING

DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD - ONE HOUR!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Lenten Dinners – March 16th, March 30th & April 13th @ 6:00 p.m.

Theology on Tap – April 7th @ 7:30 p.m. at the Olney Ale House

Easter Egg Hunt – April 16th at 10:00 a.m.

One Great Hour of Sharing – Palm Sunday, April 17th

Maundy Thursday Service - April 21st Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 22nd – Church will be open 11:00 am - 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service –April 24th Sunrise service at 6:15 a.m.

Rebuilding Together Montgomery County – Saturday, April 30th



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Danforth	3/28
Cathy Ehrhardt	3/6
Trent Emery	3/24
Bonnie Howell	3/10
Sophia Kluska	3/28
Kenneth Wood	3/27

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Brian Dettling	4/16
Emma Elmgren	4/1
Kevin Gebicke	4/2
Peggy Gust	4/1
Jim Marcy	4/29
Brady Welch	4/27



Dave & Peggy Gust	3/08
Fred Teal	3/31
Kim & Kelly Welch	3/20

If we have lost track of your birthday or anniversary please email office.newhope@verizon.net with the update.

Sunday School Schedule 2011

Children's SS (Ages 4 – 9)
2/7-3/13: Cheryl/Jim
3/20-4/24: Frank/Trent
5/1-6/5: Nancy/Kurt



Youth SS (Ages 10-15)
Paula Wood will continue to lead with interactive tools. Donna and Darlene will assist Paula when needed.

WORSHIP SETUP SCHEDULE

MARCH

Liturgist: Nancy Elmgren 3-13; Youth 3-20; Darlene Kranz 3-27
Children's Talk: Rev. Andrew 3-13; Puppets 3-20; Rev. Andrew 3-27
Youth Readers: Sydney & Trent



APRIL

Communion Set-up: Shelley
Liturgist: Anna Z. 4-3; S. Kluska 4-10; Youth 4-17; Darlene Kranz 4-24
Children's Talk: Rev. Andrew 4-3; D. Dettling 4-10; Puppets 4-17; Rev. Andrew 4-24
Youth Readers: Jessica & Steffani

If for some reason you cannot make it, please feel free to switch with anyone who is willing and let them know the materials that should be used for that Sunday. Please also notify Ana (office@new-hope-pc.org) of the change. Thank You!



Volunteer Schedule – March 2011

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Sunday School K -4	Cheryl/Jim	Cheryl/Jim	Frank/Trent	Frank/Trent
Sunday School 4th grade and older	Paula Wood	Paula Wood	Paula Wood	Paula Wood
Children's Talk	Donna Dettling	Rev. Andrew	Puppets	Rev. Andrew
Greeters	Kluska	Marcy	Rahn	Welch
Acolytes	Joshua Kluska	Sydney Wood	Rachel Shaw	Kendall Welch
Children's Worship	Carrera	Canagarajah	Kluska	Shaw
Liturgist	Brian Dettling	Nancy Elmgren	Sydney/Trent	Darlene Kranz
Regular Counters	Donna Dettling Dave Gust	Jim Marcy Cheryl Shaw	Kurt Elmgren Doug Hillmuth	Eileen Hillmuth Nancy Elmgren
Coffee Hour Hosts	<i>*BIRTHDAYS*</i>	Jeyasunder/Tagore		Haldane-Anderson
Communion Set-up	Nancy			
Hospitality	Roy Canagarajah/Paula Wood			
Building Closer	Kenny Wood	Jim Marcy	Doug Hillmuth	Dave gust

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