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## When Christians Love

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”  
*John 13:34–35, NLT*

**Ok – So we were set up.** And you enjoyed every minute of it. As Jean and I came to church August 19<sup>th</sup> we were suffering from jet lag and trying to recover from trip. Vacations are to be a time of rest and relaxation. Nope! While this trip was a lot of fun, it was also exhausting. So there we were, sitting in church listening to Gary preach and about 8 minutes into his sermon he says, “Ok, I’m done.” I’m thinking that Gary needs to brush up on his preaching. Jean’s thinking, “oh, dear.” Then kids start walking down the aisle with balloons and I see Deacon and Delaney (our grandkids) leading the parade. Chairs are placed on the platform and Jean and I are asked to come up front to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary pastoring at NHCC.




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### The Next Day We Come Home to You and Your Love. There Could Not Have Been A Greater Contrast

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For all of you who have asked, “Were you and Jean surprised?” The answer is YES! We did not see it coming; although I blame the jet lag for missing the set up :-). The video presentation and your kind words

were very meaningful to us. Your gifts to each of us were thoughtful, perfect, and greatly appreciated. I understand that it took about 4 months or so to prepare and plan it all out. We felt and experienced your love for us. Jean and I want you to know how much all your work means to us.

Now let me tell you something you don’t know. The day before our celebration Jean and I went to a funeral of a former church member. This family were members when we first came to New Hope, except the church at that time was named First Southern Baptist Church, Apple Valley. I was 33 years old, our girls were 3 and 7, and I’ll let you guess Jean’s age. To condense this story, let’s just say that the first 8 years pastoring here was a horrible experience. Jean and I were deeply wounded and scarred. Why didn’t we leave and go somewhere

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Church Is A Place Where  
 I Am to Meet Other  
 People Who Love Jesus  
 and Can Help Me  
 Grow in My Relationship  
 with Him



## *New Hope Praise* Kari Collins

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Hello Church Family,

Fall arrives this month. With the cooler air and the coming of more perfect weather, the Collins family is hoping to schedule a s'more night and fire pit sing for the members of New Hope Praise. We did this over summertime and really enjoyed it and I want to do it again this fall. I will be keeping an eye on the coming forecast and will schedule our date 2 week's prior. We want that great fall weather!

In the coming months we will be getting our terrific men singing harmony parts during our worship songs. They are so capable and so talented and we are delighted seeing them achieve this potential. I'm so proud of their work and determination. They are doing a fine job.

We started having the women sing the alto part awhile back and it has produced some solid part singing members in our group! The ears of our ladies have been the most tuned ears we've had on the praise team since I started leading the music ministry. In all 14 years, these harmonizing gals are the top! I'm so impressed with their growing abilities! I have no doubt our men will do the same!

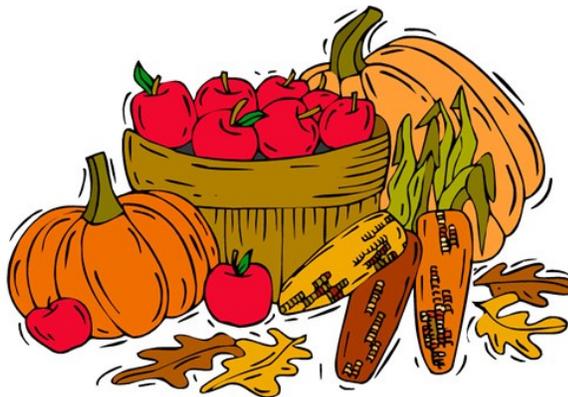


One other thing I'm LOVING about this current crop of dedicated worshippers we have on New Hope Praise is the diversity of age! We have senior adults on down to members 12 years of age!!! It's perfect. This group has everything. It reminds me of this special-to-me verse about the temple duties assigned in the Old Testament:

***"The musicians were appointed to their term of service by means of sacred lots, without regard to whether they were young or old, teacher or student."***  
**1 Chronicles 25:8**

How cool is that?!? What a terrific team of worshippers we have at New Hope!

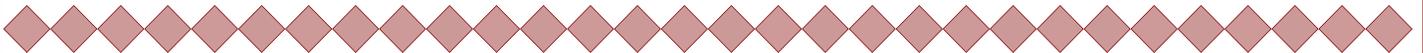
Happy Fall!  
-Kari





**Find a group that is right for you OR start one of your own ....  
Just ask us how**

<u>DAY &amp; TIME</u>	<u>LEADER(S)</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
Sun. 8:45 am	Jean Bracy & Erin Kirk	NHCC	Mixed
Sun. 8:45 am	Kari Collins	NHCC	Men & Women
Mon. 5:00 pm	John Grace & Matt Briggs	Apple Valley	Veterans
Mon. 5:15 pm	Debee Steinhouse	One of Life's Perks Coffee House	Women
Tues. 7:00 pm	Fay Masters	NHCC	Mixed
Wed. 6:30 pm	Jean Bracy	NHCC	New Believers
Wed. 6:30 pm	Pastor Jack	NHCC	Men
Wed. 6:30 pm	Anja Powers	NHCC	Women
Thur. 7:00 pm	Paul Harvey & John Crisanti	Apple Valley	Men
Fri. 6:00 pm	Terrell Dotson & Darlene Russell	Apple Valley	Women
Fri. 6:30 pm	Paul & Gracie Cowley	Apple Valley	YA



**Mark Your Calendar**

- ◆ Lord's Supper: Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ All Church Family Conference & Election for Board of Directors: Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> following worship service.
- ◆ Trunk Or Treat: Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Project Hope: December 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.





# Student Ministries

Jenny Bussee

## Milestones

Just like parenthood, Youth ministry has its milestones. I've been working with the youth of New Hope for five years now and have recently experienced a new milestone. It's always such a joy for me to watch the students come into youth as fresh 7<sup>th</sup> graders. I can feel the eagerness in the room and how excited they are to finally be with the other students. For the next few years I watch them grow taller, speak with cracked voices, and learn what it is to navigate the waters of teenagerism (yes I made that up). High school follows with it's own set of obstacles. Something happens during this time that leads students away from the church, and for some away from the faith. I watched this happen repeatedly and it breaks my heart every time. However, recently I got to experience what it was like when students kept their faith all the way through high school graduation.

This past summer Crystal Hoyt, Cyrus Martinez, and Sam Sooter all graduated from high school. This alone is a tremendous accomplishment! But to top it off, I have had the pleasure of having them in youth through all of junior high and high school. As I was reliving some of my favorite memories of these three I couldn't help but wonder what made them so different from other students that have cycled through youth. While I haven't got this down to an exact pinpoint answer here's three things they have in common:

**Family Involvement** – Families rooted in the church who are consistently encouraging them to continue growing in their relationship with Jesus **and** the church family.

**Transparency**- These students learned that to really grow in Christ, they must be honest in their struggles, and allow the church to walk beside them through it.

**Consistency**- Prioritizing time at church was essential to keeping them connected to Gods family. Some of these students even scheduled their extra curricular activities around church time.

Life in college land is going to come with it's own learning curve. But I believe that if these three commonalities stay in tact so will their faith. God has awesome plans for these students and I'm thrilled to be a part of their church family! Please join me in praying for these students as they transition to the next chapter of their journey. See you Sunday! Jenny

**Campfire Fellowship**  
**September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**8-10:30pm**  
**10878 Aster Ln, Apple Valley**  
**Bring snacks to share!**





## Children's Ministry Sandy Sooter

Hello families,  
The children have been doing a great job learning about the Bible in all of our ministry groups. Here is a brief update of what they have been working on.

Our children's church group has just finished a 25 week survey of the Old Testament and are now moving into the New Testament. We recently had a prize week and it is my hope to see these kids regularly on Sundays. We always love having visitors so feel free to bring kids to come and learn about Jesus with us!

Our TeamKid class will be finishing up a full year of curriculum this week. "Going Vertical" was focused on their vertical connection to God and learning about Missions work around the world. We will begin a new year of lessons this month. Our theme will be "Character Challenge" and we will study the Bible while looking at the character of God and talk about what our character should look like. Any 1-6th grade student can join us. We meet from 6:30pm-8:00pm on Wednesday nights in the Children's classroom. TeamKid always includes a strong missions emphasis and I encourage families to try and come. Wednesday nights at church has a bible study group for every age (nursery-adult).

Our Sunday School kids are beginning to learn how to study the Bible independently at home. I sent all of the students home with a SOAP journal. The kids have been asked to read a chapter of the Bible and pick out a verse that stood out to them. After they read the chapter they **S.O.A.P.** the verse. **S - stands for scripture.** The students write the scripture out. **O - stands for observation.** What did they observe about the scripture? **A - stands for application.** How can they apply the scripture to their life? **P - stands for prayer.** Write a prayer to God. It has been a slow start but I am confident that this will allow the children some time at home with God.

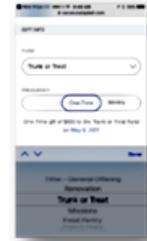
Parents, please encourage your children to be reading their Bibles at home. Journaling is a great way to build in Bible study habits and build their faith in God. If you want to do the journal with them - please do. Your spiritual guidance is so important. If you have questions or are new to the Bible that is OK! We can show our kids how to search for answers using prayer, speaking to a Pastor or even looking through internet resources. Our example does not need to be the parent who is all knowing. Our example should be that we are continually growing, loving and learning so be encouraged!

# Trunk or Treat



Our next children's outreach will be **Trunk or Treat 2018!** Our church hosts a large community event with free candy, bounce house, food and live worship music. Our event is on October 31st at 6:30pm-8:00pm. We will need lots of volunteers for this community outreach. Each year we have over 1,000 people in attendance! Keep checking the bulletin for more information.

Thank you for all of your support,  
Sandy Sooter  
Children's Ministry Director



**Our Goal: \$4,000.00** Please write “Trunk or Treat” on your offering envelope or select “Trunk or Treat” Fund on the bottom of church App. **Fund raised to date: \$3,511.00**

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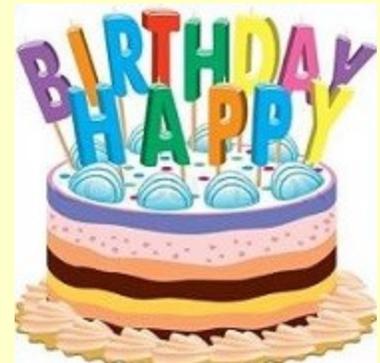
else? I had made a promise to God when we came here that I would not seek to leave or put out resumes. If God wanted me to move, it would have to be all His work, not mine.

Ok, back to the funeral. At this funeral are a bunch of people who were former members of our church from that time and it brought back a lot of memories that I wished would have remained hidden. I had long ago given all this to God and I had no desire to take it back up again. Then, the next day we come home

to you and your love. There could not have been a greater contrast or a sweeter conclusion.

So, here's the thing: If I had quit all those years ago, *we would never have known your love, care, and acceptance.* What you have given us over the years more than makes up for those early dark years. And on that Sunday you reminded us of every sweet moment that's made it worth it all. You know, 30 years is a long time and we all go through dark experiences. But our dark experiences do not have to define us. In fact, Jesus makes it pretty clear that the parts we are to emulate and to hold onto the tightest are those filled with the people who have loved us the most.

It is amazing how often Christians talk, preach and teach about love without being very loving in their real lives. At New Hope, our brightest moments are when we love not with just words but with our actions. Your love for Jean and I, and the ways you have sought to love us tangibly will always be our greatest memories of you. See you next Sunday – Pastor Jack



### September

Michael Powers	9/4
Mark Kirk	9/4
Coby Ward	9/11
Phillip Powers	9/11
Anja Dyer	9/13
Owen Bussee	9/17
Carol Smillie	9/21
Darline Russell	9/24
Jean Odum	9/26
Breanna Harvey	9/30