



## *New Hope Praise* Kari Collins

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Hello Church Family,  
Fall is here and Trunk or Treat is this month, October 31st. (See Sandy's article for more details.) That means the band and I will start working on the evening's worship set for Trunk Or Treat.

What's funny is that every year, when it's just the band and me, I've called us "The skeleton crew". I call us that because we are the fewest amount of New Hope Praise members needed to create a full sound on the Trunk or

Treat stage. I just realized that- after all these years- there is a Halloween connotation made with that name, The Skeleton Crew! When paired with an event scheduled on Halloween it sounds punny! That was not at all my intent in naming our tiny ensemble. I have come to absolutely hate the idea of Halloween over the years. Don't get me wrong, I love Trunk or Treat - hate Halloween.

Trunk or Treat has been such a highly attended event that the entire church family is required to staff it! That is why I can only use a Skeleton crew for worship. I cannot use my entire team of singers. I have members of ReSet that need to be manning the food stand, other singers need to host trunks while others need to be in the prayer tent or registration. It is all hands on deck for this awesome event that has brought in several of our beloved families to New Hope. It is so worth it.

At Trunk or Treat we see countless loving families out having fun with their kids. It's beautiful. They are bonding and making memories together. But we also see those living in darkness, entertaining dark thoughts through evil or sultry costumes. They are attracted to the dark like we all were at one time. So here is scripture I have decided to make the anthem of my heart at this years Trunk or Treat.

"Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." *Ephesians 5:10-14 NLT*

<http://bible.com/116/eph.5.10-14.nlt>

I want for those in darkness to have what Christ has done for me. How blessed it is to be a Sleeper whom Christ has awakened to His light! I pray that happens for those who are walking in the darkness of Halloween.

I'm looking forward to worshipping Jesus with everyone at Trunk Or Treat and praying for more families to become apart of ours.

Happy Fall!  
-Kari

