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# *Great Expectations*

Newsletter of New Hope Lutheran Church Columbia, MD

June 2015

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## *NEXT STEPS*

The recent events in Baltimore were a jarring wake-up call for some about the challenging issues of poverty and race in our nation, in our neighborhood. For many others the protests and riots were no surprise, as they were informed by their own experiences of injustice. Religious leaders and community folk came together to protest Freddie Gray's death and the larger issues of injustice in Baltimore and other cities like it.

More than a month has passed. The protests have died down. Some people are hopeful that things 'could return to normal'. Others dread that thought, as again their personal experiences inform them 'normal' isn't good.

As many speak of their experiences of those days, a number of people have lifted up the spontaneous march of various religious leaders through the areas of unrest and how the power of their common witness and presence transformed the crowds, even being a positive factor in bringing rival gangs together in the march. It was a sign and an affirmation, many said, of the power of unity and a voice of hope. That's what the church needs to be in the world— a visible sign of hope, taking a risk, standing squarely (or kneeling as it were) in the midst of challenging situations, being a sign of love and reconciliation.

But now time has passed. Other stories are in the news taking our attention away from the stories we learned in and through Baltimore. How do we as the church not forget or just move on, but instead remain such a living sign of life, of justice, of hope as those religious leaders in the riots? To bring it closer to home, what are we as New Hope being called to do to love our neighbor, to work for justice in such a way as to make a real difference in people's lives?

As people of God we're called not to forget. Faith is not a passive affair, a mere assertion of belief. Rather, faith is an active response to the love which God continues to pour out upon us through the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gets us up out of our chairs, moves us from 'feigned concern today at the latest crisis then onto business as usual tomorrow', gives us courage to engage the community, to look for and listen to those people and communities that are suffering and have been left behind, to face tough questions about our values, to have those hard conversations about poverty, about color and culture. Then we listen to what the Spirit's guidance as to what more we can do to love our neighbor.

The book group studying *The New Jim Crow* (a study of mass incarceration in the U.S.) is coming to a close. What next? Studying the ELCA Social Statement on the Criminal Justice system? Perhaps. Our group is wondering where God is leading us. The Racial Justice Ministry Team met at New Hope in May and is imagining together some possible ways to respond to these issues. How shall we make a difference? We don't know the answers right now, but we won't stop asking the questions.

Cornel West reminds us, "Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public."

Holy Spirit, fill us, strengthen us, guide us!

Peace,  
Pastor Ginny



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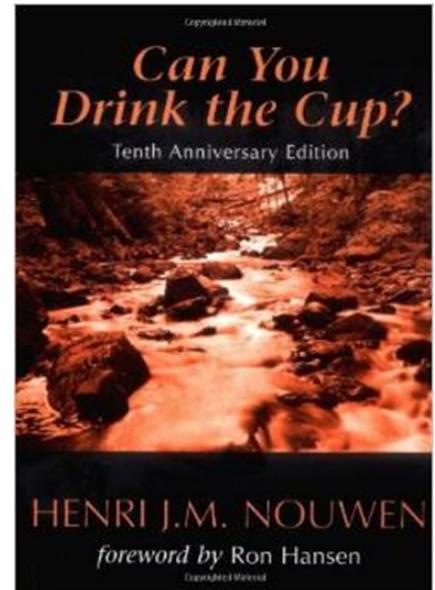
## Summer Sundays Study Sessions

During the summer New Hope is offering  
four study sessions  
each 3 weeks long (June 7- August)  
at 11:15am in the Fellowship Hall

Each 3 week session will feature a different topic of study and a different teacher. Some will be Bible study; others will be focused on growing disciples. Rather than lecture, the sessions will be highly participatory.

The first session begins June 7 and ends on June 21. Pastor Ginny will lead a book discussion on Henri Nouwen's classic introduction on the spiritual life, *Can You Drink the Cup?* This little book is available online for less than \$1 plus shipping.

The second session begins on June 28 and ends on July 12. Charles Nicholas will teach this series on *Putting Wisdom into Practice: Applying Proverbs to Contemporary Living*. This class will be a Bible Study that will introduce 'Proverbial Wisdom' in everyday life.



First Session to begin  
June 7 @ 11:15am

## Friends Helping Friends

### Help Wanted:

Seeking drivers to  
provide rides for people  
to get to doctor appointments  
and similar appointments.

If you can help,  
please contact Linda Yergey  
([Lcyergey@gmail.com](mailto:Lcyergey@gmail.com)).





## An Update on the BERT Process

### Allowing Us to Dream about What Could Be....

After thorough due diligence and many discussions with architectural firms and their prior clients, New Hope is moving forward to contract with a firm to work with us in an architectural planning process.

Your Building Expansion / Renovation Team (BERT) selected, and Council at its May 12 meeting endorsed moving forward to contract with Kerns Group Architects (KGA). Kerns has worked with more than 100 religious organizations, some multiple times, in optimizing buildings to enhance and support mission. Located in Northern Virginia, Kerns emphasizes direct engagement and communication with ministry teams, members, and staff to understand needs, issues, and ideas, and then to work these into a long-range plan which articulates how our buildings can best support our ministry.

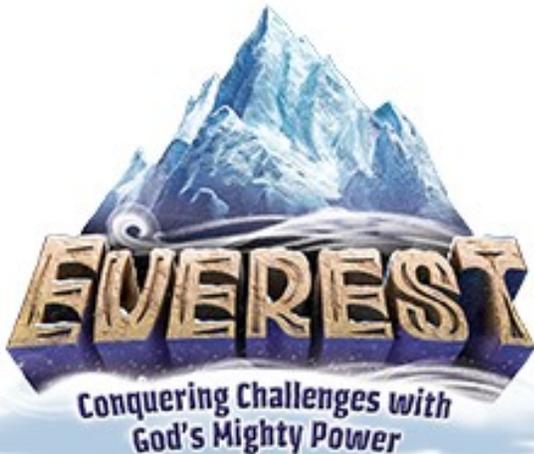
In short, Kerns will be working with us to discern our needs, vision, dreams...and then, utilizing their professional expertise, translating these into specific architectural plans. This study will focus on the Sanctuary, Narthex, offices and supporting spaces such as the Volunteer Room and restrooms, with particular focus on circulation from the Narthex to the Multipurpose Room (now Fellowship Hall).

The costs of this study will have no impact on our budget. They will be covered by a designated gift New Hope received 2.5 years ago for just such professional services.

Stay tuned, and keep your eyes and heart open to observing how our facilities work, don't work, and could work even better to support New Hope's ministries into the future!



## Vacation Bible School July 20 - 24, 9 am - 12 pm



### Registration has begun!

Children age 3 1/2 through rising 5th graders are eligible to attend.

Registration forms are available between services and online ([www.NewHopeLutheran.org](http://www.NewHopeLutheran.org)).

Take advantage of the lower fee now. Fee increases on June 15.

Please contact Lois Bailey if you have any questions or would like to volunteer. ([Loisbailey9598@gmail.com](mailto:Loisbailey9598@gmail.com))

## Oromo Church Appeal Update

We have received \$2,500 in donations from New Hope members to help support the Oromo Congregation here in our Baltimore West Conference. That is awesome! Faced with losing their place of worship, this contribution will allow our brothers and sisters in Christ the time and space to thoughtfully plan their path forward. What a great gift to be able to share. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

### THE BALTIMORE SUN



**The Oromo Congregation**

(Algerina Perna, Baltimore Sun)

The Oromo Congregation worships at the Second English Lutheran Church. Three churches worship at the Second English Lutheran Church at 5010 Briarcliff Road.

The Oromo Congregation worships at the Second English Lutheran Church. Three churches worship at the Second English Lutheran Church at 5010 Briarcliff Road.

Photo credit: Algerina Perna, Baltimore Sun, August 20, 2014

#### **GREAT EXPECTATIONS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

June 10

Send all articles and pictures to  
Carol Henderson  
(newsletter editor)  
[caroluna@comcast.net](mailto:caroluna@comcast.net).



## Service Weekend

September 2015

Here are some ideas that have been tossed around are:

- partner with FIRN for an international dinner/fair,
- have a concert/music event with Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Baltimore,
- hold food drives,
- doing a stream clean up project.

If you are interested in helping brainstorm and organize activities, contact the Outreach team ([Outreach@NewHopeLutheran.org](mailto:Outreach@NewHopeLutheran.org)) or Team chair, Kathy Piet.





## Growing In Faith Together A Great Year of GIFTs!

We've come to the end of our first year of Growing In Faith Together (GIFT), our monthly intergenerational faith formation event. Since October we've talked about the church year – from Reformation to Pentecost. We ate, prayed, played and learned together about the seasons of the church year and our faith. We made Resurrection Gardens, played Christmas Family Feud, helped to make a Last Supper mural, produced a video, and much more! It has truly been a very busy, prolific and fulfilling year.

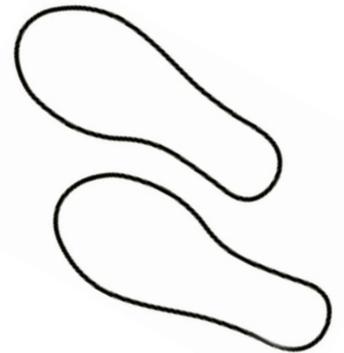
If you remember, we began this year as part of a pilot project with four other congregations of the Delaware-Maryland Synod. We are still meeting and sharing resources with those congregations and with Leif Kehrwald from Vibrant Faith Ministries. As part of that project, our congregation is asked to complete a survey for the synod – everyone is invited to fill it out, even if you never attended a GIFT event. A link to the survey can be found on our website, [www.newhopelutheran.org](http://www.newhopelutheran.org). Please take a minute to complete it.

Already we are looking forward to next year (starting in October 2015). If you are starting to put together your fall calendars, be sure to mark the **SECOND Fridays** as GIFT nights! Yes, we're moving GIFT to the second Friday of the month starting with the second Friday in October: October 9. Look for more information during the summer months about our theme for next year (we're very excited about it)!

Thank you to all who have attended and helped with monthly events. It has truly been a team effort, and there is always room for more! If you'd like to join in on planning and/or helping at the monthly events, please contact Erin Myers, Lois Bailey, Cindy Patterson, Cindy Ranker or Pastor Ginny.

**Next GIFT - Friday, October 2  
@ 6 pm**

Everyone is invited:  
enjoy dinner, fellowship and learning!



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## Adult Bible Camp 2015

We spent a week “Honoring Our Neighbor’s Faith” where we learned from our guest speakers how God is revealed to the world and what our faith tells us about living with people of other faiths. Additionally, we had devotions every day and, of course, our wonderful homemade lunches and fellowship.



**Ayman Nassar** (Chairman of the Islamic Leadership Institute of America) is presented with a token of appreciation after discussing common foundations of Christianity and Islam, beginning with Abraham. He addressed some of the misunderstandings between the two religions as confusion of faith versus culture.



Pr. Ginny lead devotions and a Communion service

Rabbi Craig Axler (Temple Isaiah) shown here with Marla Stahl who invited him, began by presenting our common background from the Old Testament. He brought a Torah scroll to read from. He believes every person is a representative of God, so teaching his faith to others is his way of increasing peace in the world.





Rev. Dr. Surekha Nelavala (Harmony Lutheran Church) was introduced by her friend Pr. Ginny, and then presented her thoughts as a Lutheran pastor coming from the Dalit caste in India, also known as the Untouchables. She pointed out that *religion* is a human institution, while *spirituality* is a different topic. We are all children of the same God, whether we believe it or not. All are called to love the stranger in our midst and to honor them. There is no qualification on who is our neighbor.



**Sangeetha Struck** (NHLC member) spoke of Buddhism and Hinduism from the perspective of a Christian, raised in a Hindu family and of Indian heritage, who lived in the then Buddhist country of Burma. She presented the basic teachings and beliefs of each religion. In Buddhism the teachings are tools, not dogma, to achieve enlightenment which leads to Nirvana. All people have a Buddhist nature. Hinduism, a very complex religion, or way of life, accepts all faith traditions as valid approaches to God. Our purpose in life is to achieve Divine nature, oneness with Brahman, which may take many lifetimes.

#### Fellowship around the table





Contact Pastor Ginny or  
Cindy Ranker regarding  
**Baptism or 1st Communion.**

or contact the church of-  
fice or sign up on the  
Sign Up bulletin board in  
the Narthex.



## Graduate Sunday Sunday, June 7



We are honoring and blessing our graduates at  
both services (8:30 & 10).

Please plan to attend if you are a graduate  
(all the way from pre-school to college and  
vocational/technical school and beyond!)  
**Send information** about your accomplishment  
to the Parish Administrator, Sharon Punte  
(410-381-4673 / [info@NewHopeLutheran.org](mailto:info@NewHopeLutheran.org)).



## Relax and Recharge Benefit Yoga Class to Support Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

Fri. 6/5, 7:30p, Fellowship Hall

Please join us for a rejuvenating and relaxing yoga class that will be lead by Leah Shepherd. There is no charge, but we ask participants to make a free-will donation to support Lutheran World Relief, a nonprofit organization that provides long-term solutions to poverty and conducts emergency relief operations, including offering assistance to people impacted by the recent earthquake in Nepal. The class will be suitable for all ability levels. No need for prior experience or super-flexible muscles! Please RSVP to Leah Shepherd ([LeahCarlson2003@yahoo.com](mailto:LeahCarlson2003@yahoo.com)).



## Did you know?

If you shop at Giant, Weis or Food Lion,  
please consider buying **Growing with Groceries** cards.



You can **purchase them** in \$25 and  
\$100 denominations each Sunday in  
**Fellowship Hall.**

When you purchase the cards at face  
value, the church receives 5% profit.

**What a great 'no cost' way for all of us to make a regular contribution to New Hope!**

We currently have about 15 New Hope families using these cards for their weekly grocery shopping. We'd love to have more families participate. Each year we raise thousands of dollars to help support the budget at New Hope. Stop by the Growing with Groceries table this Sunday if you have any questions.

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NEWS

## HIKING AT PATAPSCO STATE PARK, MCKELDIN AREA

The youth group (all high school and middle school students) and their parents will be going hiking.

**Sunday, June 7  
following the 10:00 service.**

We'll head over to King's Contrivance for lunch and then carpool up to the park.

In addition to lunch, everyone will also need to bring \$3 per person entrance fee to enter the park.

There are a variety of trails (1.4 - 7 miles) come prepared for varied terrain and dress for the weather. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended. We will need parents to drive and chaperone. If you can help out please contact Pam Rowe ([fprowe@verizon.net](mailto:fprowe@verizon.net)).



Not technically a teenager anymore but still young at heart?  
Come join us!

Last year we had a great inter-generational group and we'd love to have your company out on the trails again. The more the merrier!



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## CAMPING AT CUNNINGHAM FALLS

JUNE 22-23

The youth are heading west to Cunningham State Falls for an outdoor extravaganza of camping, hiking, swimming and maybe even...boating! For those of you who have not camped before, the campsites are deluxe with cement bathhouses, showers with warm water and of course, flush toilets! It's a great way to be introduced to camping if you've never done it before.

We will meet at noon on Monday, June 22 at the church to carpool to Cunningham State. The cost is \$15 per camper. (This does not include money for boat rental at the lake or any junk food purchased.) Bring a bathing suit, long pants, bug spray, sun screen and sturdy foot wear for hiking. Check out Cunningham's website at <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/western/cunningham.aspx>



## ***WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES***

1  
Gary & Debbie Mechtel (85)  
2  
Rev. Dick & Marg Goodlin (63)  
7  
Paul & Sue Biermann (80)  
8  
David & Debbie DiBattista (74)  
9  
Karl & Jennifer Greaser (01)  
12  
Tom & Sherri Gruneberg (99)  
14  
Mike & Josie Zayac (86)  
15  
Barry Hommerbocker & Linda Yergey (91)  
16  
John & Lisa Madden (90)  
18  
Ryan & Amanda Rindler (11)  
20  
Charles & Lillian Brodine (81)  
24  
George & Joyce Loper (72)  
John & Jane Sabatelli (72)  
25  
Tom & Sharon Punte (88)  
27  
Lenny & Sue Moyer (81)  
28  
Kirk Nabors & Kathy Glyshaw (86)  
29  
Sally & Brian Frekot (90)

## ***BIRTHDAYS***

1 Lisa Madden Leah Shepherd	14 Earl Jones Patricia Daughtery Mikie Heady	22 Ryan Rindler Jared Ballard Kathryn Witt
2 Brigitte Wood Kate Bailey	15 June Elliott Justin Harrington James Waters	23 Tom Punte Douglas Walrath
3 Dorothy McGuire	16 George Kronmiller	24 Thomas King
4 Ben Ailinger	17 Dawn Ebeling	25 Fred Schilling Tom Berkheimer
5 Jacob Premo	18 Clara Scholz	26 Christine Potenzzone
7 Janice Nicholas	19 Ginny Price	27 Bertrand Jenne D'Othee
8 Suzonne Sage Linda Howser	20 Diane Palmer Dana Douglas	29 Katie Johnson Riley Adams
10 Julia Moore	20 Megan Hessler	30 Mikayla Prettyman
12 Noemie Janne D'Othee	20 Kayla Davis Brooks Seifert	30 Maddie Palardy
13 Eric Johnson		

## ***BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES***

1 Jennifer Lastova Riley Adams	14 Kayla Davis Ina O'Ryan	23 Frederick Schilling	<i>Additional Baptisms</i> Jane Sabatelli
2 Caitlin Kelley	18 Helen Fleming	24 Nell Kropf	Deborah Kolessar
4 Maggie Madden Tori Sekela	19 Andrew Jurik	25 Palmer Burcham	Anton Bricker
5 Jacob Paul	20 Bryce Mack	26 Joseph Prettyman	David Ose
7 Deborah Crabtree	20 Carolyn Le	27 Sydney Walrath	Sherri Gruneberg
Jada Garrett	21 Sara Furst	29 Bryce Vernon	Ivan Ose
12 Daniel Sonnemann	22 Henrik Struck	29 Benjamin Kropf	
	22 Erin Myers	Olivia Struble	

## JUNE 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Holy Communion and Nursery available at 8:30 & 10 am	<b>1</b> 5:30p GS 1214 7p Single Again 7p Quilt/Craft	<b>2</b> 10a Staff Mtg 7:30p Joyful Noise	<b>3</b> 10a Bible Study & Lunch 6p Venture Crew 373 7p B Scout Tr 373 7p Den 6 7:15p Patrol Break	<b>4</b> 7p Moving On	<b>5</b> 7:30p Yoga Benefit for LWR	<b>6</b> 4p Huang Studio Piano Recital 6:30p AA
<b>7</b> 11:15a Summer Study Sessions HS Youth - Hiking	<b>8</b> 7p Single Again	<b>9</b> 10a Staff Mtg 5:30p GS Bridging Ceremony 7p BS Comm 7:30p Joyful Noise	<b>10</b> 9:30a MOMs Club 10a Bible Study 11:30a Finance Team 6p Venture Crew 373 7p B Scout Tr 373 7p Pack Comm 7:15p Patrol Break	<b>11</b> 8a Volunteer Maryland 7p Moving On	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8a GS CPR Course 9a Yard Sale 6:30p AA
<b>14</b> Pie Sunday 11:15a Summer Study Sessions	<b>15</b> 7p Single Again 7p Quilt/Craft	<b>16</b> 10a Staff Mtg 12:30 Racial Justice 7p Cong. Council 7:30p Joyful Noise	<b>17</b> 10a Bible Study 6p Venture Crew 373 7p B Scout Tr 373 7p Pack Comm 7p Den 6 7p Stephen Ministry 7:15p Patrol Break	<b>18</b> 7p Moving On	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30p AA
<b>21</b> 11:15a Summer Study Sessions 6p Rise Up Youth Gathering Meeting 7p Tr373 PLC	<b>22</b> 5p HS Youth Camping 7p Single Again	<b>23</b> 10a Staff Mtg 7:30p Joyful Noise	<b>24</b> 10a Bible Study 6p Venture Crew 373 7p B Scout Tr 373 7p Pack Comm 7:15p Patrol Break	<b>25</b> 7p Moving On	<b>26</b> 6:30p Pack 373 meeting	<b>27</b> 9:30a Breakfast for Rt1 10a Jazz Jam 6:30p AA
<b>28</b> 11:15a Summer Study Sessions	<b>29</b> 7p Single Again	<b>30</b> 10a Staff Mtg 7:30p Joyful Noise				



(410) 381-HOPE (4673)  
info@newhopelutheran.org  
www.newhopelutheran.org

A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
(ELCA)

opposite Kings Contrivance Village Center  
at the corner of  
Guilford Road & Eden Brook Drive.

**Sunday Worship:**  
8:30 & 10:00 & 11:30 am  
Holy Communion Served at all services

Pastor: The Rev. Ginny Price

Family Ministry Coordinator: Cindy Ranker

Associates in Ministry  
Music: Sue Pumplin, Sharon Punte

Parish Administrator: Sharon Punte

Great Expectations Newsletter Editor:  
Carol Henderson & Sharon Punte

## Up Coming Events

**Sunday Summer Worship**  
8:30 & 10:00 am  
Summer Sessions @ 11:15 am

**Yogo Benefit**  
June 5

**Vacation Bible School**  
July 20 - 24

**New Hope Lutheran Church**  
**8575 Guilford Road**  
**Columbia, MD 21046**  
**(410) 381-HOPE**



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Time Value:**  
**Please do not delay**  
**June 2015**