

New Hope Newsletter

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Christmas Traditions Bring Joy

By Paula Salzano, New Hope Newsletter Editor

Before we discovered New Hope Church, my husband Henry and I attended several of the large churches in Spokane. Sometimes, Christmas was a big production, and other times, traditions were simply ignored. I grew up in a Lutheran Church in Tacoma, and attending Christmas Eve service was an important part of our Christmas celebration. One Christmas in Spokane, our big church elected not to celebrate with a Christmas Eve service. I remember that particular Christmas Eve, we ended up at McDonald's with our son Matt (who was 3 or 4 years old at the time) eating ice cream, since we felt like we had no where to go.

Now I'm not against eating ice cream on Christmas Eve (or any other day!), but I am grateful to go to a church that embraces traditions and recognizes Christmas as a season of preparation for the birth of the Christ child. The lighting of the Advent wreath on the four Sundays before Christmas is always something I look forward to- not only for the message of preparation, but to see church families leading us in the Word of hope the nativity brings. Pastor Perry's advent devotional always brings our family together each evening as we strive to keep our focus on Jesus during the busy season. And, of course, there's nothing quite like the Children's Christmas Program, when the youngest among us bear witness of the coming of the infant Jesus.

I asked several members of the congregation to share their Christmas memories about the traditions of New Hope CRC.

"My favorite Christmas memory of New Hope is always the littlest children of the Christmas program dressed as angels. Seems like the halos were always a little crooked. The treat bags given with oranges, peanuts and candy are also a great memory because our church handed them out when I was young." **Cami Haveman** *(continued on next page)*



Calendar of Events

**New Hope Church
Christmas Program,
Sunday, December 14th,
7:00 p.m.** Children's
Christmas Play, adult choir,
high school bell choir and
Korean choir. Please plan to
bring a plate of cookies to
share with everyone.

**Christmas Caroling-
Wednesday, December
24th, 5:30 p.m.** Meet at
church, then to travel to bring
Christmas cheer through
song to shut-ins.

**Christmas Eve Service-
Wednesday, December
24th, 7:00 p.m.** Come
celebrate the birth of Jesus
at this candlelight service.

**Christmas Gifts for Angel
Tree-** Pick out an ornament
from the Christmas tree to
give a gift to a child whose
parent is incarcerated.

Christmas Memories at New Hope

Christmas Eve service by candlelight; Christmas caroling in the
bright moonlight
Restless children waiting to rehearse; Practicing their lines,
learning their verse
Choir voices singing in sweet harmony; Small Christmas
“angels” singing happily
And many more memories, but one I love best; Mingled
together with all of the rest
Is hearing the story of our Savior’s birth: God’s gift of salvation,
to all of the earth
Karen Agnew

“The advent lighting is new to us and we really enjoy it. I like that we keep bringing our focus back to Christ. Otherwise, we just blow through our lives and not stop to focus on the deeper issues of our spiritual journey.” **Lori Ulmer**

Capital Campaign Update:

Long Range Planning Committee Evaluates Architect Design Proposals

By Chuck Bussell, New Hope Deacon

NEW SANCTUARY PROJECT UPDATE: The Long Range Planning Committee continues in their due diligence efforts to evaluate and review the initial submissions from several Architect firms as well as a number of design/build proposals. These efforts will be reported and discussed at the next Council meeting scheduled for Dec. 18th.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW HOPE CRC 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER: New Hope CRC will celebrate its' 50th anniversary on Sunday April 26, 2009, and we'll commemorate this milestone in the life of our ministry with a special celebration dinner in honor of New Hope's "alumni congregation" on Saturday April 25, 2009 at 5:00 PM. What an awesome event this will be! More information on this will be forthcoming. See Lori Ulmer for more details.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: Just a reminder that December is the last month for Capital Campaign pledge commitments for 2008.

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”
2 Corinthians 9:15

Church Christmas Program is Next Sunday

The annual New Hope Christmas program is set for next Sunday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

The presentation will include the Sunday School Children’s musical play, “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” directed by Karyn Jeffrey and Phyllis Verdiun. The play looks at the Nativity through the eyes of the animals and focuses on the aspect of Jesus as our One Perfect Sacrificial Lamb.

The evening will also feature a selection of music by an adult choir assembled and directed by Mary Lynn Bussell, musical numbers by members of our Korean congregation, a High School bell choir, and some special individual musical presentations as well.

We are eager to share the amazing Truth of the Incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ with our families, neighbors and yes, even our selves. We all need to hear the glorious news “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder: and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6