

New Hope United Methodist Church's Monthly Newsletter

The Hilltopper

August 2025

Dear New Hope UMC Friends,

The Bible says, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2 NIV)

I'm no angel, for sure, but you have excelled in showing me, and Debbie, a wonderful and hospitable welcome. I think there is new hope at New Hope church! There is hope that this congregation will grow spiritually and then as a result, grow numerically. And I can assure you that if you show visitors and strangers the same welcome as you have shown me, that will happen.

Shortly after I had grown my first beard I was appointed to a different church. As I stood before the congregation on the first Sunday, there I was concerned to see that no other men were sporting beards. I wondered if my having a beard would be an issue (this was in the early 1980s). As I was preaching, however, I spotted a man in the back of the sanctuary who also had a full beard. I breathed a sigh of relief. I felt certain that if there was a member of the church who sported a beard then it wouldn't be an issue for me.

During my first weeks there I kept running into Bob (the man with the beard) and I gladly came to know him. He managed a nearby business, and I saw he had certain gifts and abilities, so I asked him to serve in several capacities in the church. After six or so months had gone by, he said he would like to join the church. I was amazed, because I was so sure he was already a member. I shared with Bob that I thought he was already a member as he was there on my first Sunday and he said that was his first Sunday too, and he was relieved to see that I had a beard.

Then he said that the main reason he continued attending the church was because I had always treated him as though he were a member!

So, you see, hospitality is vital to church growth. As new folks arrive, please go out of your way to welcome them as you have welcomed us. Feeling accepted and loved can be a great way to become a part of a church family.

By the way – Bob was a great church member, and he started a Boy Scout Troop for boys with no father, or with a troubled home environment.

Peace and Blessings, *Pastor Jim*



LAITY SUNDAY

Sunday, August 24th is Laity Sunday and will be led by our youth. Plan now to join us for this special service.



Sunday, August 31st

We will offer another Coffee S.H.O.P.

During our usual Sunday school time,
(9:45am-10:15am),

we will hold a 'Coffee SHOP' in the
Social Hall.

Everyone is invited to join us for
coffee, juice, and light breakfast
items.

Susan Mehler will lead us with devotions and prayer.



Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

Saturday, August 2nd ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, August 3rd ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship and Holy Communion @ 10:30am

Monday, August 4th ~ Sisters of Hope & Love Picnic @ 5:30pm

Wednesday, August 6th ~ Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Saturday, August 9th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, August 10th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Tuesday, August 12th ~ 50's Drive-In Meeting @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, August 13th ~ Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Saturday, August 16th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, August 17th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, August 20th ~ Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Saturday, August 23rd ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, August 24th ~ Laity Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, August 27th ~ Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Thursday, August 28th ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, August 30th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, August 31st ~ Coffee SHOP from 9:45am-10:15am

~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am



Church Council Meeting

**The Church Council
did not meet in July.**

**We will have the minutes
to the next meeting
when they come available.**

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE



Study

**Our Bible Study
on the book of
Luke is still
ongoing on
Wednesday
evenings at
6:30pm.**

**Everyone is
welcome to join us
- bring your bible
and a friend!**

The Daylily

In the many flower beds in our yard, one flower stands out as prominent and most prolific: the daylily. They vary in color, from yellow, orange, or multi-colored. Some are a foot tall while the old-fashioned ones stand nearly four feet tall. They are a hardy perennial, withstanding the cold of winter in their dormancy to the drought of late summer. With minimal care, they produce their blooms throughout the long, hot Southern season.

Although probably different from the lilies found in our flower gardens, the flower is mentioned several times throughout the Scriptures, especially in the love song of Solomon. Most bible students agree that the “lily of the valleys” in Song of Solomon 2:1 is a type of Jesus Christ. We sing the old song, “He’s the lily of the valley, the bright and morning star, He’s the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.” Jesus used the natural growing lily to illustrate God’s providential care for us. “Consider the lilies, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these” (Luke 12:27).



One characteristic of our daylilies and perhaps a sad one, is the short lifespan of the blooms. They last only a day, then wither away only to be replaced by another bloom the day after. The Lord uses a flower as a metaphor to describe the brevity of life. “All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” (1 Peter 1:24–25)

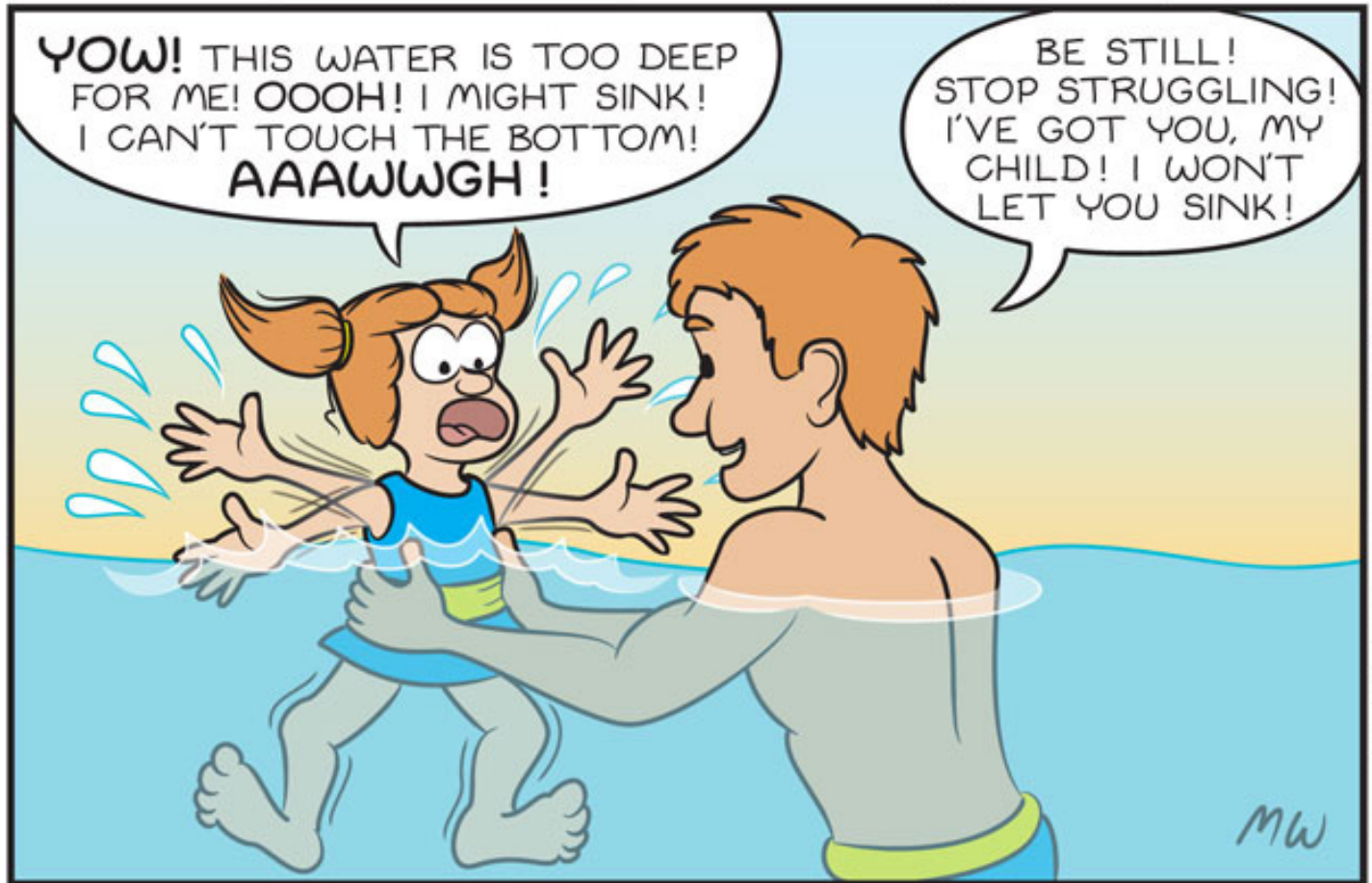
As we enjoy the flower of the daylily today, let it remind us of the shortness of life and to make the very best of this day the Lord has made and to rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24).

Jay Launius
Maud, TX

<https://bulletindigest.com/2025/07/04/the-daylily/>

BE STILL

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” — PSALM 46:10 NIV

***If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper,
please contact us! Call/Text: (540) 280-1860 or email
NewHopeUMC.Virginia@gmail.com***

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