

From the Pastor, excerpts from this week's emails;

Today Sunday, June 24th, is a BIG day in the life of New Hope UMC. I hope you are able to come out and share it with us. We start at 8 AM at Strick's Family Campground (168 Hertford Beach Road) with the Summer Campground Worship. 9 AM we begin our Sunday School back at NHUMC followed at 10 AM with our Traditional Worship Service. **Beginning at 6 PM we will have an evening Worship Service to include five Baptisms and Welcoming Five new members to our family.** I am humbled and amazed at this opportunity to meet on the shores of the Albemarle Sound, to hold the service and then wade out and be a part of this Covenant between God, his church. The Baptizee's (not sure that is a word) and the rest of us at NHUMC will make a commitment to be the best church family we can be, to hold each other in love and fellowship and worship of God. And then, one at a time, they will slip beneath the water, to emerge a new person, born again in the love of Christ. **This Service will take place at the home of Herb and Merry Greene (487 Winslow Road, Hertford).**

Last Sunday was especially good for me. I got to hear two different sermons from two different speakers yesterday. I really enjoyed my first Strick's Family Campground Worship Service Sunday morning (8 AM). Herb Greene did a fantastic job, speaking about what I heard as seeing the blessings in your life. Being able to sit in view of the river, in the morning breeze, and worship as we choose. Being able to live in a place where "nothing" is going on. The blessings in our lives. (Herb, I hope that is what you said.) And he finished inside the time allotted, which I "sometimes" struggle with (haha).

And then at our "normal" Worship Service, Sharon Darnell did an awesome job on reminding us to think before we make promises to God, to think before we try to bargain with God, to always try to be aware of the consequences of our words, our promises, and our actions. She chose a couple of different passages of the Bible and tied them together very neatly. As I said, I was blest to hear two very good sermons.

Our **church meeting** Monday night went really well. While we did not form a Worship Committee, I did get the chance to speak with the church about some of the issues of the day. We talked about the Devil not being happy with NHUMC at this time. Of how he will continue to work to find ways to split us up, to put us at odds with each other. I used Jimmy Gard's quote "If we want to grow the church, we must find ways to keep the devil out the back door, and Love coming in the front door." We talked about the **Committee on the Way Forward**, and their recommendations, and how they affect or could affect us as a church. We talked about **Apportionments** and how that is NOT a dirty word. We talked about ministry and giving. We did not really get into the **Worship Committee** part, and I will try to do that again in the near future with just those interested in being on the committee.

Beginning in July, we will hold a **Movie Night** the 2nd and 4th Friday Evenings, 6 PM. And the Youth over at Bethany UMC would like for us to join with them in forming a Youth Group to meet once per month. We do not have everything ironed out as yet, but we will hold our first **Joint Youth Group** event on Sunday afternoon, July 15th. And the plan is to try to meet the third Sunday of each month. That will give us 3 planned Youth Events each month going forward.

We are putting together another order of **NHUMC Hats, T Shirts and other clothing items.** Sign-up sheets are in the foyer, and will be in the Fellowship Hall, or you can email me to let me know what you would like. Hats, \$10.50. Pocket T Shirts, (short sleeve) \$11. Zippered Hoodies, \$20. Add \$1 for each X size up. Add \$1 for dark colors

Pastor Carroll

Love GOD. Love Your Neighbor.

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