



# New Hope Community Church Annual Report

April 2018 - March 2019

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## Pastor's Report 2018-2019

It is our joy and privilege to serve the body of Christ at New Hope Community Church. Our vision continues to focus on growing together toward maturity in Christ (Col. 1:28, 29).

This past year we called Allison Aldrich to rejoin our team of deacons. We so appreciate each of the deacons on to the Church Council, and we are thankful for the ways they have helped us to manage and oversee our facility, our ministries, and our people.

It has been our joy to journey with you through several different preaching series this year. We presented the following message series: Rhythm, Balance and Beauty, Acts, Faith and Risk-Taking, Ephesians, For Unto Us, Kingdom of God, and Daniel. You can listen to these recorded messages online at <http://www.newhopepotdam.org/messages/>.

Along with our pastoral staff, the following people joined us in edifying the body with encouraging words: Karen Stauffer, Pat Noble, Dave Coles, Sam Ludlam, Victoria Hocking, and Bob Snow.

This past year Scott Daby has transitioned from full-time salaried pastoral ministry to a part-time salaried position. We are so thankful for Scott and the valuable ministry he has poured into this church body and community, and we are thankful for his heart to continue to serve in this new capacity.

It has been a joy having Beverly Ewart serve as our ministry staff for women. She has been a blessing to many of the ladies within the church body. Beverly continues to provide follow-up for first-time visitors, one-on-one discipleship, mentoring, and wholeness-prayer. She is able to help meet many of the needs, but there are still more needs than her current hours will allow for. We are proposing to increase her time from 10 hours a week to 15 hours at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting in April. We are thankful for her serving in this capacity!

It is a joy to serve our communities through ministries like the Snack Pack Program (which now supports 294 students), the Rehab ministry at Canton Potsdam Hospital, and joining in with other community activities and events like the Summer Festival!

Congratulations to those who have made a profession of faith and been baptized: Tyler, Angela, Nick, and Emily Estabrooks.



The joy of welcoming new members into the church family is always a great cause for celebration. This year we welcomed Mimi Haskins, Mathew and Michelle Razis, and Sabena Thompson. We are thankful for their gifts of service, words of encouragement, and the love they have shown to the church body and our community.

In addition to spiritual new births, we celebrated with Jim and Crystal Holt the birth of their daughter, Grace.

This year our prayers and sympathies went out to the following New Hope friends and family:

- Ed Noble and the passing of his mother, Rachel.
- Penney Jandrew and the passing of her uncle, Jeff,
- Martin Walker and the passing of his brother, David.
- Jie Faulkner and the passing of his mother, Barbara.
- Jared Remington and the passing of his grandfather, John.
- Scott and Leanne Miller (and the Miller family) and the passing of their son, Justin.

Areas we are praying for and looking to grow in this upcoming year:

- Increase outreach to International students and families.
- Need-oriented evangelism and outreach in our community.
- Growth in our home groups and weekly fellowship times together.

As your pastors, we have diligently prayed for you and for your well-being. We want each and every one of you to grow together towards maturity in Christ, so we have continued to emphasize the value of small groups and the need to be a praying body.

In closing, we want to give thanks to our Home Group leaders, Ministry Leaders, Deacons, and all those who serve so faithfully in our church. We appreciate and value each one of you!

May we continue to grow together toward maturity in Christ.

In Him, your Pastors:

Jim Holt, Glen Ewart, Scott Daby, and John Ault

## Addiction Ministry

I continue to teach Spirituality at the CPH Chemical Dependency Unit as a volunteer Chaplain. People in the class regularly express their gratitude for the things taught, and it is a good springboard for them to take advantage of the opportunity to visit our Church service on Sunday. Attendance usually numbers in a couple to ten or more. Those who come are impressed by the music, teaching, and the warmth of the people. A Big thanks to all who make a point to reach out to them. Harold and Carol Hoyt have faithfully provided rides on Sundays for those from rehab with help from Char Barton and the Nobles. Harold and Ed and Pat Noble have also joined with me in leading chapel at the rehab when it is our turn.

While not officially a part of our church, New Hope Transformation House Ministries, Inc. was birthed out of our church and has a majority of board members from our church. After six years of trying to establish a home for women in addiction recovery, we have finally opened a home for six women (plus the in-house Resident Director). It is in the parsonage of Grace Episcopal Church in Canton, and we are deeply grateful for their willingness to partner in this ministry. After 16 months of negotiation with the Canton planning board, we received permission and opened the home to the first resident in January.

We praise God that when we opened, we had already met our budget for the first year! It is significant that the majority of funds came from people in our church or people who had been members in the past. One former student from the 70s and her husband donated over \$10,000 in stock, and their employer, Texas Instruments matched their donation! Many sizable gifts came from others in our church. A big THANKS to all of you for your gifts and prayers!

I will be teaching my theology of addiction at Grace House on a weekly basis. Many others in our church have volunteered to help by mentoring, providing transportation, and leading groups. We welcome them and would be glad to have many others join in!

I still have a vision for our church to be a spiritual home for people desiring to overcome addictions. I envision a core of 40 to 100 people from addictive backgrounds being a part of our body. What we need is for those in our midst with a background and/or a burden for this ministry to pull together and begin this ministry. Will you join me in prayer, reaching out, and ministering?

Submitted by

John Ault

### Audio-Visual Ministry

First of all, I would like to thank Silas Ludlam for his many years of service in various areas of the church. He served faithfully in AV as ministry head for the majority of 2018 and oversaw many positive changes including, but not limited to, the installation of a new projector and projector screen, and the implementation of a church-owned electric drum set and new mixer for the drum set. I would also like to recognize Andrew Phillips who served in AV for several years as an EasyWorship projectionist. He got married in the fall and has now joined his wife at her church. I thank him so much for his service.

It was an honor to get to know and work with the AV team at the end of last year. I believe that we've been able to pursue some changes in how we serve that are benefitting the smoothness of the service and our ability to serve with excellence. I want to thank our sound technicians Adam Simmons and Christian Thompson. They have both been very available and amazingly helpful in determining where to prioritize my focus in overseeing this ministry. I also would like to thank our EasyWorship projectionists Ethan Thompson, Sam Ludlum, and Brendan Lennox who contribute greatly to the quality of the weekly services by helping to coordinate the visual aspects of each service. I would also like to thank Alan Boswell for working on the video mixer and providing video of the services for the nursery and the kitchen.

I look forward to working more with and expanding this team as we move into 2019.

Aaron Reardon

## Benevolence Fund

The Benevolence Fund allows us to ministers to many in our body and in our local communities as challenges or needs arise. This fund is reliant upon the gifts and contributions of donors who have a heart to see various short term needs met. We receive a variety of requests from both those within our congregation and those in the community. I am thankful for Scott Daby who had been heading this ministry. I also want to thank John Ault, who works with me to help assess those cases where support is appropriate. And lastly, a special thanks go out to those who have given to this fund and have allowed us, as a congregation, to meet pressing needs.

In Christ's Love, Jim Holt

## Building and Grounds

During the 2018-19 year, we were able to accomplish one major project and many small ones. The big one was the men's room, which is now completely remodeled. Thank you to Scott Daby for heading that and doing a great job!

I would like to thank everyone who helped this year, especially Scott Daby, Chad Greer, and Bob Snow for always helping behind the scenes on the building. Also thanks to Jody Daby for her work setting up the lobby so nicely and all the decorating inside, and to Karen Stauffer for maintaining the flowers and trees outside!

We have many small repair projects to be done around the building and are always looking for volunteers to tackle them, so if you see one that you might like to bless the body by doing, please talk to me and we can get you set up.

We will have two workdays, one spring and one fall, that will be posted. They are always fun filled and accomplish a lot of the deep cleaning and sprucing up inside and out.

Thanks, and God Bless

Wyatt Boswell

## Care and Mercy

Our MealTrain was quiet for 2018; we prepared and delivered meals for two families of New Hope. Without our wonderful cooks, this ministry would not exist. Thank you to all the cooks at New Hope for helping with the MealTrain when the need arises!

The KARDS ministry sends out cards to all newcomers to New Hope. Amy Walker and Pat Noble do a wonderful job creating and sending the cards. Their creative minds are a blessing from God.

Thank you both for helping out in this ministry!

God Bless you!

Annette Kelley

## Christian Education

### *Bagels and Bibles*

This past year we offered two opportunities for Christian Education during our Bagels & Bibles (B&B) classes on Sunday mornings. In the fall semester, Glen Ewart led a class for college students on Becoming a Contagious Christian. They focused on practical ways for stepping out and sharing their faith. For this upcoming spring semester, Bob Snow and Ben Stauffer have been working together to provide a class for community and college students on the biblical basis for justice. Their course is entitled: "When Righteousness and Justice Embrace - The Biblical Basis for Social Justice." Thank you to the leaders of these classes, and also thank you to Annette Kelley and her team for providing bagels and coffee before the classes.

In Christ's Love, Jim Holt

### *Junior Church*

During Sunday morning worship services, children ages 4 to 12 are invited to attend the Junior Church program during the sermon. There are two classes, the younger class is Pre K to Grade 2, while the older class is Grade 3 to Grade 6. The Bible is opened and brought to life through stories, activities, life applications and games.

Both classes are using a curriculum from Faith Alive which we find works well for our time frame and the teachers. Most Sundays we have around 14 kids but the number changes with guests. One Sunday the younger class had 16 attendees (what fun!). The younger class continues to focus on learning and experiencing the stories of the bible as one big story of God's redemption and restoration through Jesus Christ. We desire that our children grow up with a spiritual reserve of biblical stories, truths, and promises. The older class continues to learn the content of the Bible, but with a greater emphasis on life application. We hope our children will take the biblical truths and promises with them into this world. We desire to equip our kids to rely on God in practical ways. One big change is that Terefe (our sponsored boy from Ethiopia) has been adopted by a family. We hope to continue to raise awareness and encourage a heart for missions in other ways.

As always, we are SO GRATEFUL for our team of loving and creative teachers. Jill Ludlam, Amy Walker, Jody Daby, teach the younger class with Pat Noble contributing "Mission Sundays." Karen Stauffer, Chad Greer, Jamie Roscoe, and Pam Thompson teach the older class. Each of these volunteers brings unique insights into the bible and are examples of practical faith to our children. We love them all. THANK YOU!!

We could always use more volunteers in this ministry, so if you have a heart for kids, love telling what God has done, and want to be blessed, please see Karen or Jill.

Sincerely, Karen Stauffer & Jill Ludlam

### *Nursery*

Our goal is to provide a place where parents can confidently leave their children ages three and under in a safe, happy and Godly environment while they worship and serve. We are blessed with many

volunteers that serve in the nursery and share God's love as they serve. This year we had approximately 34 volunteers that served at one time or other in the nursery. Of those 34, 16 were adults, 7 were teens, and 11 were college students that attend New Hope.

This year we provided nursery care for all Sunday morning services, Christmas Eve service, and both Easter services.

One of the projects that the nursery ministry has been asked to undertake this year is to write a nursery policy. That has taken a lot of time, prayer and thought. It is still in the making.

I am grateful for Rebecca Williams who served as a co-leader for the nursery. As of this winter, she is stepping down from the ministry. I appreciated her Godly insight and wisdom that she gave to the nursery ministry in addition to all that she did.

Janet Stauffer

### *Children's Moment*

On the second Sunday of the month, the children receive a special message. It is often an object lesson or a story which relates to and brings the sermon topic to life. Sometimes I think the adults enjoy these moments as much as the children do!

During the remaining Sundays, the children still come up to the front of the church to be prayed for by and perhaps receive a word of encouragement from the person who is hosting the service. The children are dismissed for Jr. Church after this time.

Thank you so much to the folks who prepare these messages and pray for our children: Andrea Ellison, Mark & Stephanie Hebel, Karen Stauffer, and Adam Simmons. For Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for of such are the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:15

Marianne Augenstein

## **College Ministry**

Our mission statement at New Hope Community Church focuses on reaching the community, countries around the world, and our local campuses. This is a big part of our church's history and present-day focus.

Several key people make up New Hope Community Church's college team. Thank you to Adrienne Boswell (Adopt-A-Student Ministry), Sean and Andrea Ellison (Sunday Spaghetti Luncheons), Glen Ewart (SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson Intervarsity Leader) and Jim Holt (New Hope Community Church College Leader).

We are thankful for the 20 college students from SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson and SUNY Canton who regularly attend New Hope Community Church. Thank you to all the college students who have served in the Nursery, Junior Church, on Praise and Worship Teams, setting up for Fellowship Hour and at Encounter Youth Group. We appreciate each one of you! In the fall, we were blessed to have students serve during college Sunday. They led the worship team and helped with up front and behind the scene tasks. Thank you to Victoria Williams who preached on October 28. The next college Sunday is scheduled for March 3rd.



Thank you to everyone who has given college students rides to church this past year. If you are interested in learning more about the college ministry, be sure to check out our web page at <http://www.newhopepotdam.org/resources/ministries/college-ministry/>.

In Christ's Love, Jim Holt

### *Adopt-a-Student Ministry*

This year brought five new students into the Adopt-a-Student Program and two returning students.

Adopting families look forward to sharing meals and conversations with their student as well as watching them become a big brother or big sister to their own children. In addition to meals, some families are able to attend a concert that their student is performing in or take a day trip together.

Here are two of my favorite memories shared by students currently being adopted:

"Being part of the Hebel family has been awesome! I really enjoyed going to Canada and canoeing with the Hebel's as well as just having dinner at their house and talking or playing with the kids. It's great to get off campus sometimes." Lauren Derflinger, SUNY Potsdam

"I LOVE the Ellison's so much. I am so grateful for always being welcomed into their home and table. Some highlights over the last year have been getting to (sometimes accidentally, and other times planned) see the kids perform on various instruments at Crane, and being able to spend Halloween festivities with them. Mr. Ellison makes a great giant inflatable dinosaur!!" Diane McEntee, SUNY Potsdam

This is the kind of fellowship I love to see between families and the college community. Our families want to provide a comfortable place to connect, share a meal, and do life together! Interested students can fill out this google form (<https://goo.gl/LEUk86>) to request an adopted family! If you are a family who would like to adopt a student, please contact me at [boswellam@gmail.com](mailto:boswellam@gmail.com).

Adrienne Boswell

### *Spaghetti Suppers*

Another facet of the College Ministry, Spaghetti Suppers hosted by Sean and Andrea Ellison at 90 Elm Street, continues to fill people with family, fellowship, and tasty food. Andrea eagerly extends an invite to the entire church community. I think she would probably express it something like "God made people to need people and to need food, and at my house, you can take care of both!" The Ellison's are a blessing to the college students and others who attend, and we are very thankful for the sharing of their love and their home.

Cullen Haskins

## Communion

Setting up and cleaning up Communion the first Sunday of each month continues on a rotating basis. Those who serve in this way are the Exwares, the Hoyts, Danny Farnsworth, and the Snows. Also, I now arrange for six people to distribute the bread and juice for each communion service. I am grateful for all those who serve in this way.

Ginny Snow

## Evangelism

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Col. 3:17*

We are a “show and tell” church. Some of us love to tell others about the love of God for them through Christ. Others prefer to show them His love through service. And some do both! This is evangelism in “word and deed,” and in this way, we are growing together in sharing God’s love and shining His light on the campuses and in our local communities.

We continue to build a reputation in the community for being one of the churches to volunteer for cleaning goose poo and trash during the Summer Festival. Because of our continued outreach to the local rehab, we have a good reputation as a church that loves and serves the clients seeking help. When we have sponsored rummage sales to raise awareness and money for global needs, we help the community see our love for the nations. The Snack Pack Program has become a household name in town and, as a result, our church is seen as a compassionate church who cares for local families. These, and other, acts of love and service we hope and pray will continue to expand in scope and fruitfulness next year.

We were blessed with another great Alpha class. Several people heard about this course through our outreach during the Summer Festival, some through the local newspaper, and some through personal invitations. All 15 participants had a great experience, and some are considering helping serve at the next fall’s Alpha class. Thanks for your continued prayers and support of this outreach!

We have sponsored two outreach movies nights as of the writing of this report, with plans for a third at the end of February. Thanks to Martin Walker and Sylvia Ludlam for bringing back our outreach coffeeshouses.

The Christmas Eve and Easter services continue to be our largest gathering of unchurched community members. Thanks to everyone who participated with these special outreach services!

Whatever we do, whether in word or deed, we will do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Glen Ewart

## Greeter Ministry

Thank you, Pat Noble, for serving as head of the Greeters Ministry for several years. It is appreciated. Pat resigned earlier this year. I then took over the Greeters Ministry. We have a small but dedicated

crew. Our role is to provide a warm welcome and assist in any way needed. We also keep the sidewalk clear of snow. Thanks guys.

Due to broken bones and work commitments we lost a few greeters, but added Donna & Harold Exware, and Stephen & Seth Ludlam. As of December 31 this year. I have had to resign due to health issues. Starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim Holt began overseeing the greeter's ministry.

Thanks to all the greeters. It is appreciated.

Marie Watkin

## Home Groups

Home/small groups are a great way to grow in friendship, prayer, the study of God's word, and service to others. Some small groups meet at the church building and others in homes. This past year we had three different groups that met regularly for some time. I want to thank the following group leaders who served this past year. Thank you to Mark and Patsy Reardon, Irene Theobald, and Scott Daby. We have several new groups for the spring semester. They are led by Mark and Patsy Reardon, Irene Theobald, Scott Daby, Courtney Kissam, Mark and Steph Hebel, and John and Jane Ault. If you are interested in leading or participating in a small group, please contact Jim Holt at jimholt@newhopepotdam.org. Visit our small groups webpage to learn more:

<http://www.newhopepotdam.org/resources/ministries/small-groups/>.

In Christ's Love, Jim Holt

## Hospitality Report

Hospitality is always busy throughout the year with our weekly coffee in the lobby, annual welcome back student's potluck, summer picnic that includes at least one baptism, Easter reception, Christmas Eve reception, annual holiday dinner, and weekly fellowship time.

I want to thank all the hard working ladies and men who host fellowship every Sunday during the academic year. Our hosts are Jody D., Amy W., Patsy R., Laura and Tim Z., Carol and Harold H., Ginny S., Lorraine B., Mosun O., Jill L., and Donna E. It is such an honor to work with such great people. I am also very impressed that some of our youth have stepped up to help out with fellowship – Martha W., Shiloh D., and Maddie E.

I also want to thank everyone who helps make every potluck and picnic a success by the food they bring, the wonderful fellowship and the setup and clean up. Without all the hard work of everyone, these events probably would not happen.

I look forward to another blessed year in 2019 working with these folks. God Bless you!

Annette Kelley

## Men's Ministry

Each Thursday morning at 6 a.m. between five and ten men meet at New Hope to study the scriptures and to pray for each other. We have seen some really neat answers to prayer and almost always in a way that we did not expect or in a time frame that we did not anticipate.

Our current study is in 2 Corinthians, which is a powerful study on relationships and how to navigate through the pesky differences we have and to press into unity and love. It addresses an assortment of weaknesses and proclaims majestic compensating themes such as, *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* 2 Corinthians 5:21

One special event we did this year was "The First Annual Barry Scholz Wood Cutting Day." About ten men showed up at Pierrepont for a day-long wood cutting day. We harvested about 12 face cords of firewood for Helping Hands. It was an action-packed Saturday and a great time of fellowship with each other. We were blessed to have with us, Judy and Jason Scholz, and Jessica Hall. Did I say "The First Annual Barry Scholz Wood Cutting Day?" That is correct, and we are planning to have our second this spring. So stay tuned.

At the close of this report, I want to state that I appreciate the men in our congregation and I want to extend to each and every one the invitation to join us Thursday mornings as we journey through the word of God with fresh spontaneity.

Blessed by this company of men,

Scott Daby

## Missions Report

### Global Outreach

Scott Daby stepped down as head of the Missions Team in May. His continued participation is SO appreciated. Jody continues to serve as the note taker and overall creator of content as needed! (see below)

Ben Stauffer, like the Daby's, brings real experience to our team. Amy Walker has joined us and jumped right in with organizing a huge fundraiser! Bob Ludlam has joined us with his unique skills and experience as an administrator. Ed Noble faithfully prays for New Hope's Global Outreach. Pat has taken the helm again setting agendas and casting vision. Below is a list of just some of the things that were done this past year from April 2018 through March 2019 because YOU gave to and prayed for the nations!

Ethiopia: Karen and Renee Stauffer shared about their trip. We also had a Rummage Sale to benefit Partners with Ethiopia.

Haiti: Amber and Ved shared with us.

North Country: Bob Emmett shared about Camp Mandeville. We gave a gift to the New Hope Transformation Ministry.

India: Pat Noble and Steph Hebel participated in CultureLINK training in preparation for leading a team. We had a Rummage Sale initiated by Amy Walker with profits going to support the trip. Jody Daby created a pamphlet about the Dhobi people. Get yours on the Global REACH table!

Muslim World: We gave financial support to Bridging the Divide by providing scholarships for Muslim background Christian leaders and pastors to attend their strategic conference. We also promoted the 30 Days of Prayer by providing booklets for adults and children.

Hindu World: We heard from Sirish in September at a breakfast and had "Pizza with Doctor Robbie" in November.

USA: In October we heard from Nancy Gingirch and Nanette Holt about ministry to Internationals. In December we helped two students attend IVCF's Urbana Missions Conference.

Unreached World: Pat shared on Pentecost Sunday (The International Day for the Unreached, IDU) and we gave a gift to Act Beyond's Matching Grant Campaign for the creation of HUBS around the world for training workers for the unreached. We also heard from our workers Dave and Jean and Mike and Amanda about their work. We continue to support workers in China, India, and Indonesia.

Pat Noble with lots of help from the "GOT" (Global Outreach Team!)

## Music and Worship

The 2018 year was one of growth and development for the Music Ministry. After changing the team structure at the end of 2017, the atmosphere of unity and connection between all the people serving in this ministry has grown substantially. Although the team structure still needs to be refined, I believe that the adjustment has been a terrific success. The overall consistency from one service to the next has certainly improved which I think contributes to our church's family identity.

I want to thank Crystal Holt for her service over the past few years in worship leading. She stepped down as a worship leader early in the year to welcome Grace into the world. I look forward to the day that she will be able to rejoin us in leading worship. I also want to thank Mark Reardon and Diane Romlein for their faithful service through the year in leading worship as well as Katlyn Reardon who has stepped in and started leading. It has been a great joy learning from and working with these leaders.

Thank you to all those who served on worship teams this past year: Adrienne Boswell, Martin Walker, Dane Merritt, Silas Ludlam, Kim Reardon, Cullen Haskins, Jamie Roscoe, Adam Romlein, John Lestingi, Graham Peters, Jacob Geil, Diana McEntee, and Toni Ajayi.

It has also been a real joy to work with the college students in putting together two college Sundays. I have taken a more active role engaging with the college students to get them involved in music ministry at the church. We currently have several more college students interested in joining music ministry and I am excited to see what all these students have to teach us about what God is doing in their generation.

Finally, we put a lot of time and energy into our "special services," Easter and Christmas Eve. We had many amazing volunteers share their gifts and talents for these services. I was blessed to be involved.

Aaron Reardon

## Prayer Chain

This year we sent out many requests for prayer, updates, and praise reports. God is working in many ways and in many lives. It has been a blessing and has been faith building for all of us to hear that our prayers are answered; it encourages us to continue to pray. The updates are fantastic! It is wonderful to be able to thank and praise God together for His faithfulness to us. We are glad that several new people have joined the list and many people feel comfortable asking the body to pray. We hope that you are blessed when you pray for others. You can send or call your request directly to [jeludlam64@gmail.com](mailto:jeludlam64@gmail.com) or ask the pastors to have your request put on the prayer chain. There is a phone chain available for those that do not have email. Please contact Marie Watkins or Irene Theobald to have a request forwarded by phone. Thank you, ladies, for sending on requests.

If you would like to join the prayer warriors and get the prayer requests, please call [315-265-8016](tel:315-265-8016) or email [jeludlam64@gmail.com](mailto:jeludlam64@gmail.com), and we will add you.

Thank you all for being faithful servants, saints, warriors, brothers, and sisters in prayer.

Blessings, Jill Ludlam.

## Prayer Ministry

It has been an honor to serve as the prayer ministry head! The prayer team continues to minister faithfully after Sunday morning service. Each prayer member is dedicated to serve the congregation in prayer. It has been a blessing serving with my brothers and sisters on the prayer team. Thank you for your commitment to serve our congregation in prayer faithfully each week!

Some members of the prayer team also intercede for our church services and other prayer needs weekly on Sunday mornings before service starts. This prayer time is open to anyone with a heart to pray. If you are interested in joining, please contact me for more information (email- [holt.crystalr@gmail.com](mailto:holt.crystalr@gmail.com)).

Expectant of God continuing to do BIG things in 2019! Be blessed!

Crystal Holt

## Sacred Dance Report

The Sacred Dance Team learns dances to worship songs and uses them to bless others. I have been using an intergenerational approach for the last several years, including children five years old through adults. There are about 15 dancers if everyone is there. We typically meet on Saturday afternoons to learn new dances, and which we share in church after a few practices. Our dances are made up of a combination of American Sign Language and simple dance movements. We try to tell a story using a dance that will reach people and bless them.

Last spring we joined up with the Gouverneur United Methodist Church team for a Sacred Dance workshop led by Linda Underwood and her team, "Woven and Spun." We learned three dances: "Be Glorified," "Sing Praises" and "Greater," which we shared at a spring coffeehouse.

In the fall, we learned two new dances, “God of Wonders” and “Power of Your Name.” We shared both dances in church and had a lot of fun at our practices. We also got to lead the reading and lighting of the Advent wreath as a team.

Plans are in the works for upcoming dances, as well as a trip to Maplewood Nursing Home to dance for the residents there.

Thank you to all of the dancers for participating in this ministry! (Julia, Maddie, Jonathan, Andrea, Wura, Akin, Martha, Paige, Matt, Kay, Adrienne, Katie, Adam, Crystal & Peter)

If anyone is interested in trying out Sacred Dance or has any questions, please let me know. Dance experience is not required, just a willing heart.

Marianne Augenstein

### Senior Ministry Report

We hold our monthly luncheons on the 3rd Friday of each month. We do break for the summer. This year we resumed in September but took another break November and December because of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We resumed in January with a great talk from Ben Stauffer where he gave an introduction to the class he and Bob Snow will lead on Social Justice.

Harold and Carol Hoyt continue to provide the oversight for the luncheons, and many of the seniors have provided the soups and desserts.

Seniors have also provided help for one another with transportation needs and household repairs. It has been encouraging to see seniors reaching out to one another, as well as inviting guests to join us at our meals. We would like to see an even greater increase in all these ministries.

For 2019/20 we plan on continuing our luncheons. We also want to expand our outreach and ministry to one another and other seniors in our area. We would also like to encourage our seniors to volunteer to help in other ministries in the church. We would also like to see other folks in our church to include seniors in their networks of fellowship and ministry.

John Ault

### Snack Pack Program (Potsdam)

The Potsdam Snack Pack Program experienced significant growth in the number of students served in 2018. When school ended in June 2018, we were providing snack packs to 168 students each week. We’re currently serving more than 250 Potsdam students from the elementary to high school level, plus 30 Head Start enrollees. None of this would have been possible without the ongoing commitment from the community, including members of New Hope Community Church, who care deeply about our young students. We also have some of the most dedicated volunteers who showed up every week and prepared a total of 6,772 snack packs in 2018.

Some of the highlights from 2018 include two major food drives sponsored by UPS, Save a Lot and the B99.3 Radio Station, participation in the Potsdam Summer Festival, selection as one of the organizations supported by 29 students during the SUNY Potsdam Day of Service, recipient of donations from Bear Pride Night (Ice Hockey game), and multiple public appearances to increase awareness about the program. We also received incredible support from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship as students from Clarkson University and SUNY Potsdam hosted multiple food drives throughout the year.

In addition to the increase in students receiving snack packs and volunteer support, we set a record for donations from private citizens, civic organizations, and businesses. The total amount of funds raised was \$19,404.90! We are so grateful for the way the community responded once they learned that hundreds of children were leaving school at the end of the week, not knowing if there was enough food at home. Currently, almost 500 Potsdam students from the elementary to high school level receive free lunch. Although the snack pack program cannot meet all the dietary needs of the children, we're grateful that we can address some of the food insecurity issues they face.

As we look back at the past year, we are so thankful for the relationships established across the community and look forward to forming new partnerships. Establishing this program in 2016 was an act of faith, but God continues to provide for our needs and shower us with His favor. As a result of the increased financial support from the community, we will not be requesting funding from New Hope Community Church in 2019. Thank you, New Hope family, for your generosity, compassion, love, and commitment to service.

To God be the Glory!

Laurell Brault

## Web/Social Media

Many first time visitors come to New Hope Community Church by visiting the church website: [www.newhopepotsdam.org](http://www.newhopepotsdam.org). Our website team consists of Pam Thompson, Chris Lenney and Jim Holt. Thanks to Pam who edits and uploads the weekly audio messages recorded by the A/V Team. Also, thank you to Chris who adds the audio files to the website and our iTunes podcast. On the website, you will find information about the church as well as helpful resources, such as the church constitution, church policies, library books, and more! We strive to keep the website and our Facebook page up to date every week. [www.facebook.com/newhopepotsdam](http://www.facebook.com/newhopepotsdam)

If you are interested in being part of the web/social-media team, please contact Jim Holt [jimholt@newhopepotsdam.org](mailto:jimholt@newhopepotsdam.org).

In Christ's Love, Jim Holt

## Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry saw some changes in the past year, particularly commencing activities with Courtney Kissam, Beverly Ewart, and Patsy Reardon serving as co-leaders. We have been working hard refining our goals and planning during this past year.



As we first starting meeting as women's ministry heads, led by the Holy Spirit and a desire to see God's Kingdom penetrate our community, we wrote a mission statement and updated the New Hope women's ministry website. It is our mission to facilitate a healthy, Christ-centered community that encourages women to follow Jesus sincerely.

We planned all of our events with this mission in mind. We also met with Jean Coles in August, and she helped us set up our goals as a ministry. It is our prayer that our events and meetings align with our mission and God's will for women in our community.

We participated in several conferences. The first was Kingdom Reign Women's Retreat in Rochester. Five women from New Hope attended this retreat with Jean Coles. Tony Clark was one of the main speakers at the event sponsored by the New Bethel Community Church in conjunction with other local churches.

We also participated in a Women's conference in Lisbon. More than ten women from New Hope attended this women's conference hosted at Lisbon central school. Heidi Czerepak was the featured speaker. Her testimony of God's work throughout her life moved many attendees.

We held several other studies and events of our own. We created what we called "Strickland Extravaganza" which averaged 12 women, plus Courtney & Beverly. *"Danielle Strickland Extravaganza" fell on Tuesday nights following the fellowship dinner last February - March. We watched videos of Danielle's talks, which were followed by relaxed, informal discussions based on Danielle's message.*

In May we started a Mark Manuscript Study for women. Courtney & Beverly hosted this study at the church building for eight weeks. After the study finished, we had a re-group party at the Cactus Cantina followed by dessert at Beverly's house (the last week in July). We consistently saw 12 women attend.

In August, we hosted a retreat of silence. About 20 women gathered for brunch and a retreat of silence with Lectio Divina (Psalm 37) at Steph Hebel's home from 11 am - 4 pm on Saturday, August 25. This was a wonderful time of fellowship, with some intense personal and corporate interaction with the Word.

Beginning in September, six sisters met for 11 weeks with Patsy Reardon working through the Discovery Bible Study. The Discover Bible Study is a biblically based discipleship study by Will Wyatt which aids in growing in Christ. The group grew closer to God and one another during the study.

Also in September, we began offering a morning time for prayer for women at the church which offers an opportunity for women to spend an hour with God and each other praying for the world, the church, friends and family, and other sisters.

Our grand finale for women's ministry for the year was the Prayer Mosaic that happened the week before Thanksgiving. Courtney, Beverly, and Patsy hosted this event at New Hope. We used ideas for the mosaic from the Missional Women's website, tweaking the ideas for our crew. Each site was designed to help us interact in active and contemplative ways with the word of God and questions were provided that were designed to help us grow in our relationships with God and each other.

Courtney Kissam, Beverly Ewart, and Patsy Reardon

## Youth Ministry: Encounter

This past year of leading Youth Group has been extremely exciting and busy!! We have had several new kids visiting youth group, and several have become regular attendees!

Prayer has become a regular part of our meetings with kids submitting their requests and then praying for each other. The leaders make notes about the prayer requests and email the other leaders the needs and praises for prayer during the week. The kids look forward to this part of our weekly get-togethers!

In April 2018, we completed our “Lies of Satan” theme of talks and scripture study. We then moved into full swing preparing for the 30 Hour Famine with a bake sale and discussions on worldwide hunger, refugees and immigrants. August was a super busy month. 1. We traveled to Syracuse to attend a workshop titled, “The Future is Ours”, which discussed empowerment, self-identity and the labels that the world puts on people. This was organized by RISE, Refugees & Immigrant Self-Empowerment, in Syracuse, with whom we had developed a relationship. 2. We also conducted a school supply drive and delivered the supplies to RISE in Syracuse on a 2nd trip less than two weeks later! 3. We did wood stacking for Helping Hands in Hannawa and put together a dinner for an ELIM team that came to lead the church in a special worship service.

In September, our team grew due to the addition of Jessica Hall and Jim Holt! Jessica has been leading games, and Jim has been co-leading with Steph and has been leading in music worship. We are so blessed to have Juby Varghese continuing to serve in Youth Group! The kids quite often give her hugs and exchange prayer requests with her!

We are currently wrapping up the Alpha Youth Series (2017) which we started in September. This series has been great at allowing the kids to ask questions and develop transparent relationships with each other. Having separated the kids into middle school (7-8 grades) and high school (9-12 grades), has allowed the kids to have age-specific discussions as well as separate prayer times.

Youth Group continues to do a number of service projects that have become a yearly pattern: making cards for Partners with Ethiopia (PWE) kids; Helping Hands food drive; bake sale for the Youth Group sponsored child, Mulalem; setup for the Rummage Sale; Operation Christmas Child packing party; Salvation Army bell ringing & caroling; Holiday Dinner setup/take down; Christmas caroling with the Ellison family. We also did three readings for Advent!! Lastly, we had bonfires and a New Year’s Eve Party at the Hebel’s, and several Coffee Houses that were well attended.

As a means of continuing to develop community with each other and the church body, nearly all of kids are involved in regular ministry including Audio/Visual, Coffee Hour and Nursery! The kids also have been attending each other’s musical and drama performances, which have been a joy to see!!

I, Steph Hebel, am stepping down from ministry leadership at the end of the current series that we are covering. I feel that God is leading me to observe a “jubilee year” since I have been in leadership ministry for 7 years at NHCC.

Steph Hebel

# New Hope Community Church Officers

## Elders

Jim Holt  
Glen Ewart  
John Ault  
Scott Daby

## Deacons

Allison Aldrich, Treasurer  
Laurell Brault, Secretary  
Cullen Haskins, Church Council President  
Annette Kelley  
Aaron Reardon, Church Council Vice President  
Bob Snow  
Karen Stauffer

## Ministry Goals Submitted During the Budget Process

Ministry	Goal
AV Ministry	Updating our current audio input system so that we are not moving and causing damage to our current main mixing unit. Switching Vox over to primarily a wireless system. Potentially replacing parts in the AV computer so that it runs correctly.
Buildings & Grounds	To maintain and repair our building inside and out, so that it may be used as to serve the church, community and further God's kingdom here on earth.
Christian Ed: Adult	The goal of Christian Education (Ed) is to equip the church body in growing towards maturity in Christ. The method of this goal is through Bible classes, topical classes, DVD driven classes and book studies.

Christian Ed: Jr. Church	To continue to see the kids applying God's truths in their lives, Using practical application of retelling stories from the Bible, Telling someone what God has done in their lives, Memorizing scripture, praying and loving God's Word, And of course a commitment to God (Salvation).
Christian Ed: Nursery	Our goal is to provide a place where parents can confidently leave their children ages 3 and under in a safe, happy and godly environment while they worship and serve. We want to continue to improve the nursery for the children and volunteers by replacing some of the toys, making the nursery attractive and efficient.
Hospitality	My ministry goals for Hospitality is to continue following the model of Matthew 25:35-45. I am also continuing to pray that God will raise up a few more volunteers to stretch out the rotation schedule.
Tuesdays Together	If we offer Alpha or another program in the fall. I want to be able to love on whoever attend by feeding their stomachs as well as their souls. Having childcare is a great benefit because there may be some people who wouldn't be able to attend if we didn't offer childcare.
Men's Ministry	This year I am looking to continue with the Men's Bible Study and prayer so I would like the budget to remain the same. We will still cover the Mother's Day gifts. I do think that this ministry needs some fresh leadership and so I am hoping that someone with a vision and passion would be raised up to revive this ministry and encourage our men in their faith.
Music Ministry	Keeping our equipment up to date, and working to gradually get equipment to replace the items that we are borrowing from individuals.
Office	To provide resources for digital, voice and print communication at New Hope Community Church.
Sacred Dance	I plan to continue to choreograph songs for the team to learn and share in church, using suggestions from the team whenever possible. I would like to bring the team to dance at the Maplewood Nursing Home again and participate in the Gouverneur Sacred Dance workshop. I want to encourage team members to use Sacred Dance as a way to worship in church but also on their own.
Seniors	Discipleship: Provide teaching at our Luncheons geared to the needs of Seniors Ministry: Develop a ministry to provide practical help for Seniors (i.e. transportation, sickness) Fellowship: Continue our luncheons; Evangelism & Outreach: Bring other Seniors to the luncheons and to Services; Have some of our luncheons at Mayfield and/or other locations Include new Seniors in our circles of friends
Youth Group	Our goal is to equip middle school and high school students in their walk with God. We also want to include and care for those who are exploring more about Christianity.
Care and Mercy	My goal is to help Marie with the Christmas boxes this year. I would like to be able to help her be able to pay for the shipping costs and possibly send out more boxes. If I am correct, the number of boxes has decreased over the past couple of years so I would like Care and Mercy to fill in the gap. I am also praying to adopt a family during the Christmas season to be a hand up, not a hand out to show the love of Christ during the Christmas season.
College Student Ministry	Our goal is to reach, care and equip college students in their walk with Jesus.