

ANNUAL CHURCH REPORT!

May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

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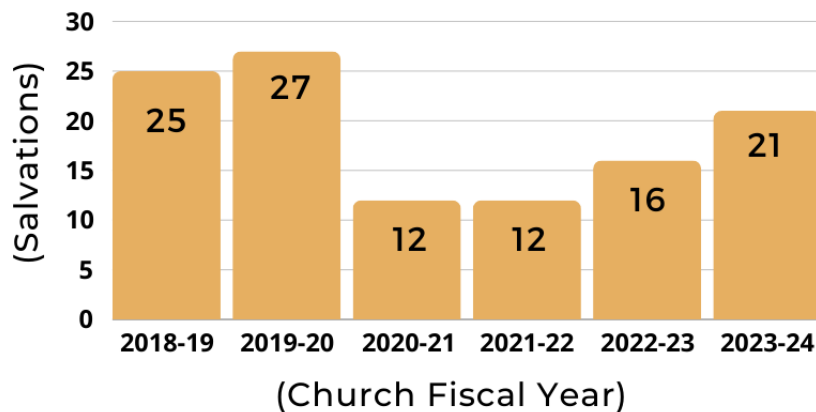


21 Salvations!

Every light 'lit' on our HOPE sign (Kentville & Kingston) represents someone's decision to **commit their life to Jesus!**

As people walked through the door it indicated their desire to *ask Jesus into their heart, recommit their life, &/or surrender hurts or grief to Jesus.*

Salvations at New Hope



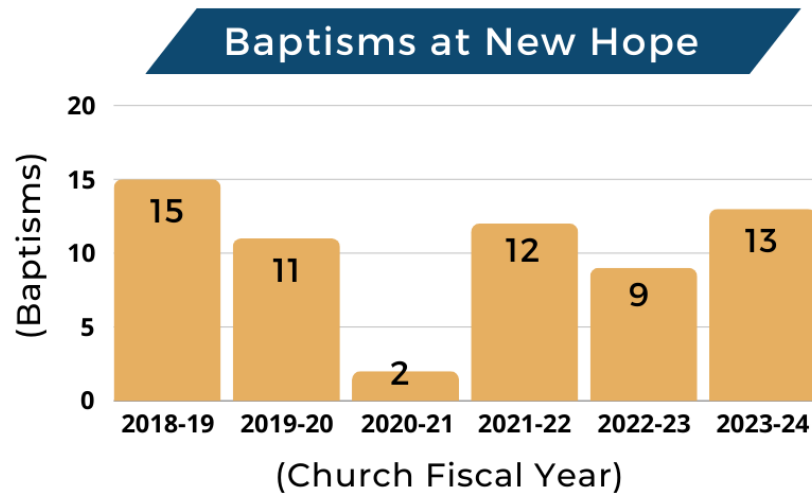
“May the God of **HOPE** fill you with all joy and peace as you **TRUST HIM**, so that you may overflow with **HOPE** by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

13 Baptisms!



On Sunday, July 31 we baptized 6 people at Lake George during our annual 'BBQ & Baptisms' outdoor event!



“ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was **raised** from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live **NEW LIVES**. ”
Romans 6:4



Our Vision!



We exist to spread the **HOPE** of Jesus Christ through a loving **COMMUNITY** as we **GROW** in our relationship and likeness of Him.

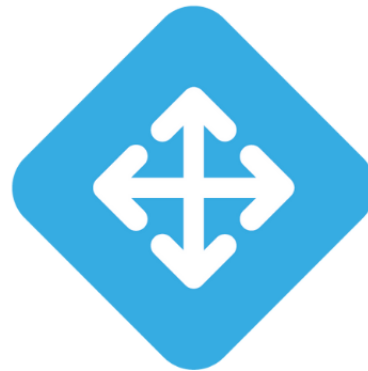
Motto: "a hope-filled community"



HOPE

Because of Jesus, we have **HOPE** for forgiveness and a bright future with Him in Heaven for all eternity!

(Romans 5:5)



COMMUNITY

Because of Jesus, we belong to a loving **COMMUNITY** that encourages, loves & supports one another!

(Romans 12:9-13)



GROWTH

Because of Jesus, we lead others to accept Him into their heart and we seek to **GROW** in our likeness of Him!

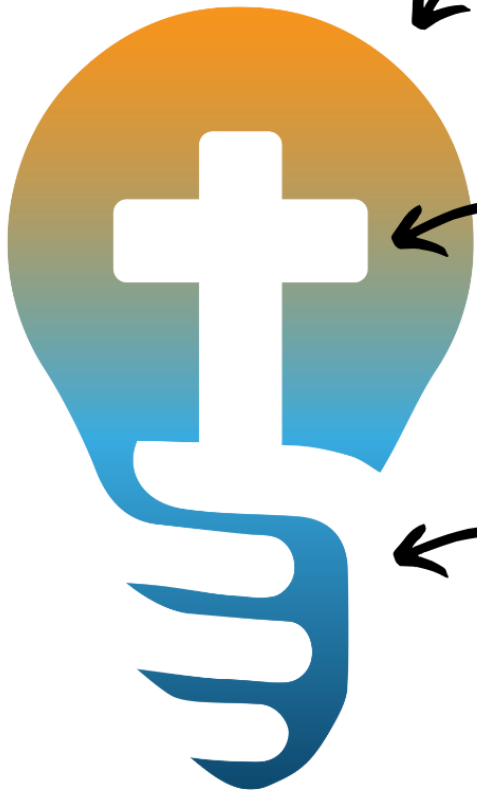
(Ephesians 5:1-2)

It takes **ALL** the people of God, doing **ALL** the work of God, to reach **ALL** the people **FOR GOD**!



Our Logo!

By God's help, we will **SHINE** our light for Jesus and tell others about the **HOPE** He provides!



LIGHT BULB

Jesus, *"I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."* (John 8:12)

- There is a better/more fulfilling way to live found in Jesus. When we surrender our life and follow Jesus (walk in His light) it becomes brighter and more clear that His ways are right and He keeps us from walking in darkness and making a mess of our lives.

CROSS

"But God showed His great love for us by sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:8)

- If it weren't for Jesus' loving sacrifice on the cross in which He paid the price/penalty of our sin, and offered forgiveness of sins, we would have NO HOPE... When we accept Jesus into our heart as personal Lord & Saviour, we are forgiven, adopted into the family of God, and we experience HIS HOPE & LIGHT in our life.

HAND

Jesus said, *"You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."* (Matt. 5:14-16)

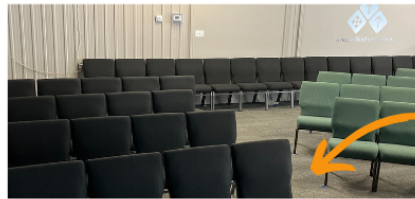
- The hand represents those who trust & follow Jesus. Jesus is OUR Lord & Saviour, and He is OUR LIGHT & HOPE. But Jesus doesn't want us to keep this hope to ourselves... He wants us to SHINE BRIGHTLY for God and take the hope of Jesus to others!

LET THE LIGHT OF JESUS SHINE!

Kingston location!

418 Markland Road, Kingston, NS

est. October 25, 2018



97 AVG. SUNDAY
ATTENDANCE

(*47% increase from last year!)

MINISTRIES

HOPE HUDDLES, **HOPE** YOUTH, **HOPE** KIDS,
MENS MINISTRY, **OUTREACH** PROJECTS,
PRAYER TEAM & **BLESSINGS** IN A BACKPACK!

NEW CHAIRS! \$1,000 extra!!

B/c of your **generosity** we raised **\$6,310** to purchase
53 new black chairs to replace the old fold-up ones.
THANK YOU to everyone who gave to make this happen!

FROM PASTOR DAVE...



Looking back over this past year, we can't help but see **God's incredible faithfulness** shining through! He has poured out **His blessings** on New Hope Kingston, and I truly believe this is just the beginning, as long as we keep Him at the **centre** of everything we do. Serving as your Campus Pastor has been an absolute **joy** and **privilege**! Let's continue this amazing journey **together**!

1 CHURCH IN TWO LOCATIONS!

Kentville location!

7054 Hwy #12, Kentville, NS

est. July 14, 1994

203 **AVG. SUNDAY
ATTENDANCE**

(* 33% increase from last year!)

GROWTH! 11% Increase in Giving!

300 Avg. Attendance (*both locations)

(* 37% increase from last year!)

MINISTRIES

HOPE HUDDLES, **HOPE** YOUTH, **HOPE** KIDS, **MENS**
& **WOMENS** MINISTRIES, **GEMS** & **CADETS**, **PRAYER**
& **VISITATION** TEAM, **IMMIGRANT** CONNECTION,
OUTREACH PROJECTS, **BLESSINGS** IN A BACKPACK!



FROM PASTOR SCOTT...

These are truly **amazing** times, and while we **celebrate** our past accomplishments, we must not linger too long or risk getting stuck. As we **give thanks** to God, our eyes are set on the **future** & where He **leads us** for continued **Kingdom growth**. There is work ahead, but I am **deeply grateful** for the Holy Spirit who **empowers** & **equips** all of us. Remember the words of John Wesley, "The **BEST** is **YET** to **COME!**"

3rd Location Coming!

We believe God is calling us to continue to spread the **HOPE** of Jesus!

WINDSOR, NS

Windsor is a town located in Hants County, and is a service centre for the western part of the county. It is situated on Highway 101 with a population of 3,600+. It is known as “the little town of big firsts”, the birthplace of Hockey in Canada, home to the world's largest pumpkins & the oldest agricultural fair in North America.

NEXT STEPS...

- 1.) **PRAY** for God's guidance & direction.
- 2.) **CONSIDER** how you may support this next location (launch team, finances, etc.)



To Be Determined... (*launch date)

(*For more info: pastorscott@nhwchurch.ca)



(est. September 2020)

Hope Huddles

Hope Huddles are a casual and friendly environment in which we learn, care, serve, and grow in our faith together in a small group!

More simply put; it is the church on a smaller scale.

● SIZE

Typically composed of 6-12 adults + kids.

● FORMAT

Socialize, Meal/Snack, Music, Bible Study and Prayer.
(+communion in each season)

● SEASONS

Sept. - Dec. (10 weeks)
Jan. - Mar. (10 weeks)
Apr. - Jn. (10 weeks)

● OUTREACH

2 outreaches in each 'season' to make a positive impact in our local community.

15 Huddles = 140 Participants!

*(*17% increase from last year!)*

OUTREACH: Child Sponsorship, Handwritten Cards, Visitations, Serving and Preparing Meals, Blessings in a Backpack Support, Yard Work, Gift Cards, etc.



Join A Huddle

pastorscott@nhwchurch.ca (Kentville)
pastordave@nhwchurch.ca (Kingston)

Stats & Online!

We thank the Lord for the ability to **stay connected** with others through **in-person** & **online** options!



Kentville: 203 Avg. Sunday Attendance
33% increase from last year!



Kingston: 97 Avg. Sunday Attendance
47% increase from last year!



Facebook: 1050 Followers
6% increase from last year!



Facebook LIVE: 30 Avg. Sunday Viewers
Same avg. as last year!



Instagram: 259 Followers
4% increase from last year!



Spotify: 60 Followers
43% increase from last year!



E-Newsletter: 227 Contacts (*68% Open Rate)
8% increase from last year! 26% increase from last year!

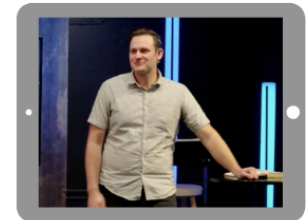
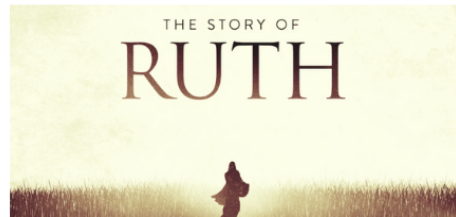


Online



9 SERMON SERIES!

Did You Miss A Sermon? 
(nhwchurch.ca OR Spotify)



"All Scripture is inspired by God & is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong & teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare & equip his people to do every good work." (2Tim.3:16-17)

GOD'S WORD TEACHES US!

Outreach!



121 SHOEBOXES!

Operation Christmas Child is a hands-on way to bless under privileged kids in the developing world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, & school supplies. Because of your generosity we were able to bless **121 children** in 2023!

2022: 111 | 2021: 114
2020: 85 | 2019: 125



65 BACKPACKS!

Blessings in a Backpack is a school-based feeding program that provides food for elementary school children over the weekend. Because of your generosity we are able to partner with 6 schools and bless **65 kids** on a weekly basis!

2023: 55 | 2022: 53
2021: 35 | 2020: 35



37 HAMPERS!

Christmas Hampers, in partnership with The Salvation Army, is a campaign in which local churches provide a full Christmas dinner for those in need. A variety of food items are given in each hamper: Turkey, stuffing, veggies, potatoes, milk, bread, etc. B/c of your generosity we blessed **37 families** (Kentville & Kingston) in our communities!



25 SPONSORSHIPS!

Compassion Canada's work can be summed up in the phrase, "holistic child development." This approach works with kids thru each stage of their lives to help them grow, learn and flourish. Compassion reaches more than 2 million kids in 29 countries, helping them overcome poverty & live out their fullest potential! We know of **25 new** sponsorships this year thru members of New Hope!

2023 Christmas Eve Offering

\$19,516!

(2022: \$22,770 | 2021: \$14,063 | 2020: \$9,685 | 2019: \$11,595)



THANK YOU to the many who financially invested into our Christmas Eve Offering! We believe in partnering with and meeting the real life needs of others. As promised, **100%** of the donations continue to go to **intentional acts of kindness** in our community during **2024!**

\$300 towards the purchase of a **New Bed** for a local woman with back issues

\$400 for the **Valley Community Literary Association** (Community Suppers)

\$500 for **Campaign for Kids** (Principle's Fund: AVRCE)

\$500 for **2 Arctic Tents** to the Frugal Mom's Society (those living outside for the winter)

\$600 towards the **Plumbing** of a commercial sink for a local Immigrant-owned small business

\$1000 for the **Wildfire victim support** in Shelburne, NS

\$1000 towards each: **Fundy Food Bank, Valley Care Pregnancy Centre, School Expenses**

\$3000+ worth of **Gift Cards** to those in need (Bus Transit, Groceries, Meals, Gas, etc.)

**This is just a brief example of how we have stewarded these funds.*



Community Generosity

CHURCH EVENTS!



PUMPKIN BASH!

On Sunday, Oct. 29 we held our annual Pumpkin Bash at both locations w/ 150 people (church & local)! This event included carving pumpkins, pumpkin races or smashing, door prizes, chili, cookies + photo booth! There was certainly *gourd* vibes only!



GINGERBREAD BASH!

On Saturday, Dec. 16 we held our annual HopeKids Gingerbread Bash with 100+ people at both locations! This interactive service included... building our own edible nativity scene, games, singing carols and learning about the first Christmas!



GOOD FRIDAY!

On Friday, March 29 approx. 300 people engaged in a tactile experience during the service (both locations). This moving service included singing, videos, messages, and inviting people to nail their cross to Jesus' cross indicating what they wanted forgiveness for.



EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

On Saturday, March 30 we hosted 400+ people (70% from the community) for our Easter Eggstravaganza at our Kentville location! There was an egg hunt, crafts, bouncy castle, face-painting, photo booth, and a FREE bbq! This was an *egg-cellent* time!



LAUGHS! FRIENDS! MEMORIES!

Celebrating

— 25 YEARS —
AT NEW HOPE

Pastor Scott & Shari
PRIME

SUNDAY, OCT. 15, 4PM
NEW HOPE KENTVILLE



We celebrated Pastor Scott & Shari for **25 faithful years** at New Hope! This special service included guest speakers who shared heartfelt moments of the **impact** Pastor Scott & Shari have had upon their life. We sang some of Pastor Scott & Shari's **favourite worship songs**, we watched heartfelt **video tributes**, **gifts presented**, **laughs/tears**, and delicious **refreshments**!

WE APPRECIATE YOU!



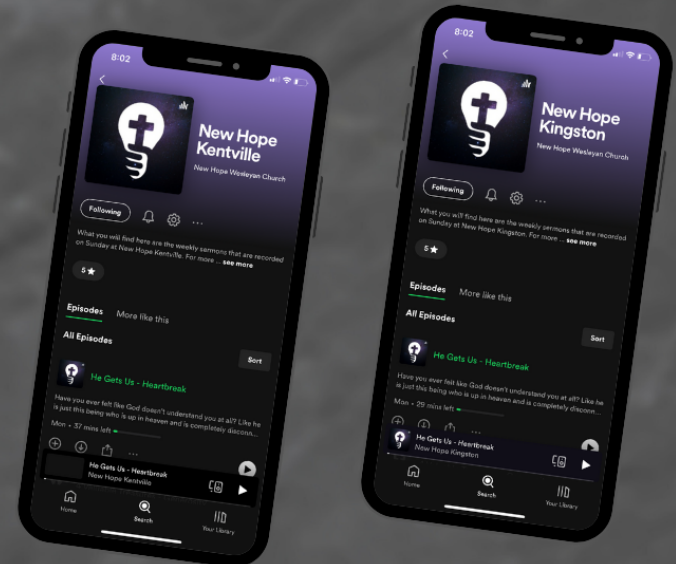
On Sunday, April 14, 2024 many people publicly expressed their **COMMITMENT** to talk to someone this year about Jesus by placing their '**HAND-PRINT**' on the wall next to our Church logo! The many hand-prints on the wall serve as our ongoing reminder!

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!



SERMON PODCAST

Kentville or Kingston Sermons



STEP 1: Search - "**New Hope Kentville** or **Kingston**"

STEP 2: Listen to the latest sermon on the go!

TAKE THE MESSAGE WITH YOU!

TXT Prayer Requests...

902-906-0377

"... PRESENT your requests to God." (Phil. 4:6b)



We believe in the POWER of prayer and CARE about what is going on in your life. Therefore, if there is anything we can pray about, please do not hesitate to share your request!

*(*Prayer Requests are prayed for by the Pastoral Staff + forwarded to the Email Prayer Chain.)*

PRAYING WITH & FOR YOU!

STAFF REPORTS!

KENTVILLE



Pastor Scott
Lead Pastor



Pastor Jodie
Assistant Pastor



Pastor Dan
Youth & Media



Pastor Mariah
Children's Pastor



Pastor Megan
Spiritual Care



Pastor Karen
Missions Pastor

KINGSTON



Pastor Dave
Campus Pastor



Pastor Melissa
Assist. Campus Pastor

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

LEAD PASTOR REPORT

Zhang Rongliang is the founder of one of the largest churches in China. It is reported that over 10 million members point to him as their spiritual leader, which has resulted in great persecution for Zhang.

In early December 2004, the Chinese government took Zhang into custody, where he remained for seven years and six months for being a believer in Jesus Christ. However, Zhang testified that he did not see those years in prison as wasted time. When news of his imprisonment got out, individuals from around the globe pleaded for his release. Thousands of letters were written on Zhang's behalf, and thousands more were praying for his freedom.

It was a bit of a surprise when Zhang wrote to one of his Christian friends: *"I am happy that you and others tried to arrange for my release, but in one way, I am happy that you failed."* Was Zhang joking? Was he genuinely happy that he was not released from a Chinese prison? Zhang continued in the letter, *"You almost made a big mistake."*

According to the faithful Chinese pastor, God used him to start up a "church" in prison where he and 5,000 men were being held. Zhang was happy/blessed that God used him in the centre of persecution and imprisonment.

It is an incredible story of perseverance and faith.

Paul talks about perseverance/faith while expounding on love in action. The Apostle writes - *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* **Romans 12:12 NLT** A bold verse to live up to. Are you joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer? Do you have a level of grit and determination for Jesus like Zhang? Unfortunately, we often default to whining and bellyaching about our predicament.

The story of Zhang offers multiple discussion points, both personally and corporately:

- 1st - If God used Zhang in the blatant face of persecution, what is our excuse in the Annapolis Valley for not being used by God where very little persecution exists?
- 2nd - God always uses the faithful and willing. Be faithful and willing.
- 3rd - What seems unfair and like a prison can become great moments where God uses the faithful to accomplish great things.
- 4th - We make mistakes; God does not. New Hope is in a season of incredible blessings. It is no mistake that God is preparing us for an incredible future.

In many ways, **2023-24 has been New Hope's best ministry days**, and I can testify the same. Some highlights from our best days would be (May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024):

- Sunday Morning In-person Avg. Attendance: **300** (An increase of 17% over the previous year) **Kentville - 203 & Kingston – 97**)
- **21** Salvations
- **13** Baptisms
- **7** Child Dedications
- **11% Increase** in Regular Financial Giving
- Weekly average for Online Sunday Services - **30** (IP addresses)
- Child Sponsorship through Compassion - **57** (worldwide)

In these **excellent days**, we must only linger briefly, or we will become stuck in past accomplishments. In honouring the past and offering appropriate thanksgiving to God, we must look forward to where God wants to use us for continued Kingdom growth. In the words of John Wesley, '**The BEST is YET to COME!**'

There is so much we do not know when looking ahead. However, **God-willing we must:**

- Be even more reliant on the Holy Spirit.
- Replace the roof at the Kentville location in the summer of 2024.
- Conduct a Giving Campaign to eliminate our current Kentville mortgage and launch another New Hope location or two (Windsor/Bridgewater). The LBA has approved a launch date of September 8, 2024, for our Giving Campaign.
- Hope Signs in both locations become fully lit, representing lives transformed through the Power of Jesus.
- The realization of 20 Huddles in both locations with 180-200 people attending the Huddles.

There is much work to be completed, and I am thankful for the Holy Spirit, who empowers and equips the saints.

In closing, a very special **thank you** for my recognition on October 15, 2023, for serving 25 years as your Lead Pastor. It was meaningful, inspiring, and generous. Thank you, Pastor Jodie, Susan Amirault (Vice-chair of LBA), Staff, and the Church, for making an old guy feel special.

May the truth from this past hymn be a guide for future days.

*Lead On, O King Eternal We follow, not with fears, For gladness breaks like morning
Wher'er your face appears. Your cross is lifted o'er us, We journey in its light; The crown awaits the conquest;
Lead on, O God of might. **Ernest Shurtleff***

Sincerely,

Scott Prime

Rev. Scott Prime

(pastorscott@nhwchurch.ca)

ASSISTANT PASTOR REPORT

New Hope Family, it is a great privilege to serve as your Assistant Pastor this past church fiscal year. Thank you so much for making my service to God and His Church a truly rewarding experience! Thank you to Pastor Scott, our incredible staff, the church board, and to the entire church family for supporting, encouraging, and expressing how much you appreciate Mariah and I, and for your expressions of love towards our daughter Nora. We feel motivated to give our best to God, His Church, and our community.

I have had the joy of being involved in many positive ministry events and experiences such as:

- I considered it a great privilege to be '**Interim Pastor**' for 2 months while Pastor Scott was on Sabbatical (Aug.^{'23}). God taught me about surrender, relying upon Him and time/staff management. Thank you church family for your prayers and support especially during that extra responsibility
- Planning the celebration service (Oct. 15 ^{'23}) for Pastor Scott & Shari in honour of **25 years** of faithful service at New Hope. I was so pleased to see 130 people attend the event to offer their congratulations. The celebration was filled with laughter and tears by Pastor Scott and Shari which made the event worth it!
- Witnessing **88 people** (Kentville) **55** (Kingston) publicly express their commitment on April 14^{'24} to talk to someone this year about Jesus. The 'hand-prints' on the wall serve as our reminder of those commitments!
- Preached **11** Sunday sermons. I always enjoy unpacking God's Word in the most practical ways I can.

Three personal highlights for me this were...

- Mariah and I are so grateful to God for providing a **house** for our family in Centreville (June ^{'23}).
- It was a special moment to have my dad **dedicate** our daughter Nora to the Lord (Oct. 8 ^{'23}) as Mariah and I made our commitments before our church family.
- Starting in January ^{'24}, I began participating in a 'leadership development' **Co-Hort** of about a dozen, up-and-coming Assistant pastors, led by our District Superintendent Rev. Peter Moore.

I have responsibility of overseeing the following areas: Worship Ministry, First Impressions, Promotional/Church Materials, Co-Lead the Staff Meetings, and In-House Documents/Procedures. Here are a few highlights...

Worship Ministry

- I have the privilege of overseeing the service orders, song selections, creative elements, recruitment, and scheduling of worship team members for our Sunday Services in Kentville & Kingston. (*I am very grateful to Pastor Dave who oversees the recruitment & scheduling in Kingston with such excellence.)
- I had the privilege to participate 45 Sundays (worship lead, guitar, or drums). It is my intent to lead our church to worship God by engaging in new/older songs, & encounter God as we invite His presence into our midst.

(continued)

- a) I am very thankful to Alex (Sarah) Sanford who skilfully serves as one of our worship leaders at our Kentville & Kingston locations. We are blessed by their commitment, and to have them faithfully serve God and our church family! Special thank you to Marlee Dietert who has been a co-worship leader and passionately leads our church family in worship at our Kentville location.
- We are blessed with **35 highly skilled and passionate worship team members** between Kentville & Kingston, and I am very grateful for their commitment to serve and give God their best in worship. Also, we recruited 5 new team members (Kentville & Kingston).
- **Updates:** We purchased a new subwoofer and wireless headset microphone for Kingston, and had additional stage lighting installed pointing towards the cross in Kingston. Special thanks to Jason Chesley for providing the electrical and Pastor Dan for his assistance with installing the subwoofer.
- I assisted Pastor Scott with planning and leading the music for our monthly **THRIVE: Worship & Prayer** services (Oct., Nov., Jan. & Feb.) We tried something new by having each staff member be in charge of planning 1 THRIVE service in whatever creative way they would like (March, April, May, June).
- I was excited to oversee the planning of our family-fun event, '**Carols & Desserts**' (Dec. 10 '23) at our Kentville location. We saw 170+ people attend and included singing carols, funny interactive moments, prizes and delicious deserts in the lobby. **Special thank you** to members of the Kentville & Kingston worship team who passionately led the music, along with Heather Hockley, Susan Amirault (+Huddle) for planning and serving the delicious festive desserts + cleaning up afterwards! Also, thank you to those who made desserts!
- I oversaw the planning of our **Christmas Eve Services** at both locations which included a funny skit, singing Christmas carols, special moments, videos, message, candle-lighting, and festive drinks in the lobby afterwards. There were 494 people that attended (Kentville & Kingston)
 - a) **(Dec. 23 - Kingston)** I was pleased to have a Kingston *only* worship team skilfully and passionately lead the music. Special thanks to Pastor Dave for overseeing the service in Kingston.
 - b) **(Dec. 24 - Kentville)** It was a joy to lead the singing, and I was honoured to share the stage with Lindsay Ward as we sang, "*Light of the World: Sing Hallelujah*". Also, Pastor Dan and I depicted a funny skit as Joseph (me) booked a trip with the Travel Agent (Dan) to Bethlehem last minute.
- I oversaw the planning of our Easter Weekend Services (Mar. 29 & 30 '24).
 - a) **Good Friday:** Pastor Scott and I planned the interactive and creative service, which included singing, communion, videos and short messages. We provided Ziploc baggies (coin, map, nail, cross) to everyone so they could interact and respond to the short messages. 290 people attended!
 - b) **Easter Sunday:** Pastor Scott and I planned the service which included singing, videos and I was honoured to share the stage with Lindsay Ward as we sang, "*To The One*". 403 people attended!

(continued)

- I oversaw the planning of our **Easter Weekend Services**.
 - a) Good Friday: I participated by leading the music and sharing a devotional thought about the immense suffering Jesus endured b/c he loves us! Special thank you to Heather Hockley & Linda Isnor for providing the refreshments in the lobby afterwards!
 - b) Easter Sunday: Cardboard testimonies (special thanks to Pastor Karen), and I also enjoyed being part of a special music video, *"Who You Are To Me"* with the talented Marlee Dietert & Alex Sanford. Special thanks to Pastor Dan for all his time and effort to edit/record this special video.
- I was very grateful to **Jon & Haleigh Enserink** for their creativity, time and effort to oversee and implement our Christmas stage design for Kentville! Over the last year we have redesigned the platform 3 times. Special thanks to Pastor Scott, Pastor Mariah, Wayne & Linda Isnor, & Heather Hockley for their practical support!
- **Special thanks** to Susan Amirault, Heather Hockley & Linda Isnor for their time and effort to creatively and festively design our Kentville lobby for Christmas.

First Impressions

- It is my privilege to oversee and support the important ministries of our Greeters and Ushers at our Kentville location. **Thank you** to the many who served so faithfully in these ministries by genuinely welcoming others to our church family!! We welcomed **4 new members** to the greeters ministry.
- I took over the weekly e-bulletin in August 2023 that includes upcoming events and access to relevant info about our upcoming church events and happenings.
- **Something new...** We had the upper landing wall (Kentville) painted blue (thanks to Dave Hazelwood) and our church logo (thanks to Colleen Gerrits) in anticipation for our congregation's creative respond to the sermon that weekend. On April 14, 2024 I preached about 'Holy Spirit Empowerment' and the challenge was for our church family to shine our light and witness for Jesus this year. I was blown away when I witnessed **88 people** (Kentville) and **55** (Kingston) publicly express their commitment to talk to someone this year about Jesus by placing their 'hand-print' on the wall next to our Church logo!
- **Updated/New:** We reupholstered the 4 black lobby chairs in Kentville (June 2023) by a gentleman in Kentville – this was a major cost savings compared to purchasing new! We updated our Parking Lot Sandwich Board signs with our new church logo (Kentville & Kingston) and provided a 'Church Office Sign' for Kentville that directed those who are unfamiliar with our church to drive around to the lower level - Special thanks to Wayne & Linda Isnor for their help with installing!
- I created the invitation cards and promotional materials for: BBQ & Baptisms, Kick Off Sunday, Christmas Services, & Easter Weekend. And I oversee any events or special requests that require 'online sign-up'

In addition to the above responsibilities, I also had the privilege of...

- I was honoured to participate by in the Celebration of Life service for Merwyn Young (Sept. 17 '23). My sincere condolences and continued love & support to Honey Young.
- I officiated 3 weddings for members of our church family (Summer '23)
- Oversaw/Planned the video of 32 people express, *"I Trust God b/c..."* (Sept.24, '23) – special thanks to Pastor Dan for his amazing compiling of this special/encouraging video!
- Co-Led, with Pastor Scott, our weekly Staff meetings.
- Attended and participated at most of our monthly Board meetings.
- Created and compiled our Annual Church Report document.
- Multiple pastoral visitations, connections with our church family, and meetings with ministry leaders.

Personal Goals (2023-2024 church fiscal year)

- Develop my leadership ability by reading more books.
- Assist Pastor Scott as he entrusts me with more leadership responsibility.
- Organize/Host a "Church Health & Growth" conference.
- Provide church apparel with our logo (hats, shirts, sweaters, etc.)
- Update In-House documents and procedures.
- Purchase additional lobby furniture, stage equipment, & update church signage.
- Continue to empower & equip others so the ministries I oversee are less 'reliant' upon me, and are increasingly under the very capable leadership of others.

I am humbled to transition into my **11th year** as part of the pastoral staff & church family of New Hope. **Thank you** for entrusting me with this important position. This past year has been filled with growth and challenges. I am continually realizing how much I need the Holy Spirit to live God-honouring life & produce effective ministry results.

I believe now more than ever we need to humbly seek and rely upon **Gods power** to effectively witness for Jesus. God's Word reminds us, *"For it is God who works in you to will (desire) and to act (power) in order to fulfil His good purpose."* (Phil. 2:13). **The good news** is that the Holy Spirit is the power-source God gives and indwells all Christ followers. While it is God who provides the power, it is our continual surrender and dependence upon God which allows His power to work in and through us effectively. **Together** we can make an eternal difference for God as we tell others about Jesus and shine His light (John 8:12 & Matt. 5:14-16)!

Serving with you,

Jedie Elliott

Rev. Jedie Elliott

(pastorjedie@nhwchurch.ca)

YOUTH & MEDIA REPORT

New Hope family another year has gone by & once again it has been an exciting year as a church & I can't wait to see where we go next! We have seen a number of incredible things happen this past year & God has been faithful.

Hope Youth (Kentville & Kingston) Here are some quick stats about Hope Youth this past year...

- **1** Baptism
- **2** Decisions to follow Jesus
- **18** Average Weekly Attendance
- **43** Different teens have attended a youth event at least once

This past summer our youth group attended OneCon in Moncton NB. This was the first time that OneCon had met at full capacity since 2019. **Our group of 8 joined 2500 other teens** and leaders in a weekend of worship/games. There was a concert on the Friday evening of the weekend that our group particularly enjoyed. One of the other highlights was being able to go out for a special lunch together where we reflected on the years we had shared together. The speakers and music were incredible which you would expect but I think the best part of the weekend was the teens being able to see so many other people their age worshipping Jesus together.

One of the **challenges** with our group this year is that we had a leader move away from Kingston. She was an incredible leader during her time with us and we were not happy to see her move away but wish her well. Thank you to Kiera for her time spent with us. Luckily after a short season of running the group short a leader God provided for us again. We welcomed to the team Cheryl in January. She and her husband attend the Kingston location and she has a huge passion for youth ministry, having volunteered in many youth groups. Our group is mostly middle school girls so having her has been amazing.

I would ask you to **pray for the youth group**. That we would see the teens of New Hope fall in love with Jesus and be a beacon of Hope for our community. I also would ask you to pray for the teens who attend youth but their families do not attend church. That they would be the spark in their home that ignites a flame for Jesus.

Media (Kentville)

- **30** Average Livestream Viewership
- **350** Average reach per service

This year we continued to livestream our weekly services at New Hope. We also continued the option to listen to the audio version of not only the Kentville campus sermon but the Kingston campus sermon as well.

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These audio versions are available on Spotify and on Apple Podcast. This year we recorded a number of remote videos. Some of the highlights for me were the Christmas Eve promo video as well as our annual stories of hope series. We also recorded a telling of the Christmas story that was particularly memorable. I was able to travel to different families homes in our church for this recording and it was a special time together. We have also continued recording our announcements weekly.

This was the first full year of our new website. I have continued to maintain the site regularly as part of my weekly tasks. We were able to utilize the site with special pages for both Easter and Christmas used an an easier way for guests to find our special service and event times.

I want to express my sincere **'thank you'** all who have supported me in my time at New Hope and I continue to be excited for what is coming next and hope you will join me on the journey!

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Burman

Rev. Daniel Burman

(pastordan@nhwchurch.ca)

CHILDREN'S PASTOR REPORT

Hello New Hope Family,

It's **great to be serving** at New Hope after being on maternity leave from November 2022-2023. Since coming back to work, I feel that I've been given a fresh perspective on what our priorities should be in the HopeKids Ministry. I have also been reminded in the importance of **teamwork** and how each member of the HopeKids team brings unique and valuable gifts, which makes this ministry what it is. Most of all, I have been reminded that the HopeKids Ministry is not my ministry, or New Hope's...**it belongs to the Lord** and each child that comes to our church doors deserves to feel **loved** and learn more about the **love of God**.

I'd like to **publicly thank Pastor Megan** for investing into the HopeKids Ministry while I was on leave and would like to acknowledge that any special events listed below from May-November 2023 took place under her leadership.

2023-2024 Ministry Highlights

Stats:

Our average attendance for this church year is **78**, with the average attendance for each service being:

- 9:30AM (Kentville): **26**
- 11:00AM (Kentville): **29**
- 10:30AM (Kingston): **23**

****Our average attendance for the 2022-2023 church year was 65. Praise God for this growth!**

Since May 2023, we have welcomed **11 new leaders** to our team across both of our locations:

- Kentville: **6 leaders**
- Kingston: **5 leaders**

We also had the chance to witness **2 of our "hope kids" get baptized** and **8 child dedications**. Praise God for children and families who are committing themselves to living for Him!

Events

- "School's Out" Bash! (June 2023)
- Summer Missions Projects (July-August 2023) Bottle drive for Chyrsalis House (**raised \$125**), collected **15kg of food for the Food Bank**, made **2 homemade blankets** for Open Arms, and **wrote letters** to our sponsor children in Guatemala and Honduras.
- Kickoff Sunday (September 2023)

(continued)

- Pumpkin Bash (October 2023)
- Gingerbread Bash (December 2023) Over **100+ people** in attendance between both locations
- Easter Eggstravaganza (March 2023) Around **400 people** in attendance (including volunteers)

We were also fortunate to have Bronwyn Knowlton as our summer student from May-August 2023. We are even more fortunate to have Bronwyn back this summer to serve in HopeKids and help to elevate our Programming and invest in our “hope kids” over the next few months.

I am continuously seeking ways to **improve the quality of the HopeKids Ministry**. From rearranging the layout of a classroom to ensuring that our curriculum is relevant and engaging, there are always improvements to be made. An increase in attendance is something to rejoice in; however, it is important to acknowledge that as we continue to grow and welcome in new children with varying needs, we need to adapt our programming to best support all children. With this in mind, I am currently researching new curriculum options and restructuring the format of our Sunday mornings. Please pray for me as I discern these next steps for the HopeKids Ministry.

My ultimate goal in serving in this ministry is to have children learn about God’s love for them and the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made. In order to allow room for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of these children, I believe that it is crucial for children to feel **loved and safe**, and **enjoy coming to church**.

I would like to **thank** each and every one of you for your continuous support to our family as we continue to serve at New Hope. We are blessed!

In Christ,

Mariah Elliott

Pastor Mariah Elliott

(mariah@nhwchurch.ca)

SPIRITUAL CARE PASTOR REPORT

Being part of the New Hope pastoral team is **truly a blessing**. Coming to such a healthy and thriving community for my first pastoral position is truly incomprehensible and I have learned so much during my 4 years here. So, thank you to all of New Hope and the staff for every learning experience and making me feel at home!

Please note that I was the temporary Children's Pastor from October 2022 – December 2023 while Pastor Mariah was on maternity leave. Since then, I have been the Spiritual Care Pastor.

From May 2023 – April 2024, I have been involved in the following, **Spiritual care pastor**:

I am very excited to have the official role of Spiritual Care Pastor at New Hope! This role has allowed me to dedicate more time to supporting our church members through their difficult times. I have had the privilege of meeting with many individuals in coffee shops, their homes, and on walks, providing a safe space for them to share their struggles while offering love, non-judgment, and Godly guidance. My efforts have been enriched by attending numerous mental health webinars and seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance.

In the coming year, my goal is to deepen my understanding of mental health and integrate healthy practices within our church community. I plan to achieve this by continuing to watch webinars and enrolling in a few specialized courses. This June, I am excited to take a small course through Acadia University on "Mental Health Care in the Church," which I believe will be incredibly valuable for our ministry.

Last year at Beulah Camp, I had the opportunity to learn about Kingwood University's new online program, **Kingswood Learn**. I automatically knew this could grow our ministries and volunteers at New Hope, so I jumped right in. Through these courses, we can help our leaders better understand the ministry they are a part of by learning how to do their job with excellence, that their role can impact the whole community, and how to grow closer to God through it all. This free program is done through short videos and worksheets (if we want to have them graded by professors, we pay a small fee). I am excited to see how this curriculum will come to life at New Hope in the coming months!

HopeKids:

- I had the pleasure of leading HopeKids for much of this past year. This time has taught me a lot and brought me out of my comfort zone. I really enjoyed this position and part of me was sad to be stepping out of it, but thankfully I still help at HopeKids on Sunday mornings. Please see Pastor Mariah's report for more details.

Preaching:

- I had the opportunity to preach at either campus (May 21, Dec. 31 & Mar. 29)

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- I was asked to share my testimony at the Woman's connection on Dec. 12th.
- I was the guest speaker at Gaspereau Baptist on March 10th.

Hope Youth (Kentville):

- I help Pastor Dan with Hope Youth on Monday Nights.
- Pastor Dan and I brought two teens to One Con on June 2nd – 3rd of last year. This year, we will be bringing those same two teens on May 31st – June 1st.

Other Responsibilities:

- Our pastoral team read through Amplified Leadership by Dan Reiland. This book has helped us to lead well and learn how to support everyone in our ministries.
- Aaron and I attend Susan and John Amirault's Huddle on Thursday nights.
- I am the Club Coordinator for our GEMS group. Please see the report attached for more information.

Lastly, I would like to give **HUGE thank you** to anyone who has helped me with HopeKids, GEMS, or any other aspect of the church in this past year, but specifically, I would like to give a big shout out to:

- Heather Hockley for always having a big smile on her face, helping me prep for our events, and doing the little things that makes this church tick!
- Tanya and Jemma Langley for their time and dedication to our Children's Ministries, helping me to clean out multiple storage closets, brainstorming through different ideas or difficulties, and being sweet friends to me.
- Sarah Brown for her unconditional support and friendship, for always being willing to help with anything, and for teaching our GEMS girls how to use the Cricut Machine!
- Dave Hazelwood, for his great sense of humour and for being willing to paint Pastor Karen's and my office! It looks beautiful!

May God bless you!

Sincerely,

Megan Hingley

Pastor Megan Hingley

(pastormegan@nhwchurch.ca)

MISSIONS PASTOR REPORT

Stats:

- Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes: **121** total for both locations
- Blessings in a Backpack: **65** total for both locations
- Christmas Hampers: **27** for Kentville location & **10** for Kingston location
- Compassion Sunday child sponsorships: **25** total for both locations
- Food Bank deliveries average **40-50 Kg each month**.

Projects:

- Love Atlantic Sept. 25-Oct 1, 2023. New Hope Kentville collected and donated 4 large boxes of food for the Valley Community Suppers at the Oakdene Pk. location. Also collected a large tote full of new socks and gloves for Open Arms.
- Winter wear and Blanket collection for Open Arms Dec. 2023-Mar.2024
- Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign Nov. 2023
- Christmas Hampers Dec. 2023

Special Events:

- Apple Blossom Festival May26 2023, We gave away bottles of water, Bibles & Hope Magazines to the public.
- Gospel Concert with All Things New music ministries Oct. 22, 2023
- Compassion Sunday April 7, 2024

Regular Ministries:

- Blessings in a Backpack delivered every week to 5 schools in the Valley (from both locations)
- Seniors' gatherings 4 times per year, Kentville location
- Missions Committee Meetings Spring and Fall
- Community Generosity; Some examples of help we were able to give in the community: Plumbing for a commercial sink for an Immigrant-owned small business; A new bed for a local woman with back issues; Wildfire victim support in Shelburne NS; Local Syrian Refugee support; Many gas cards and grocery cards to community members and church family members; 2 Arctic Tents to the Frugal Mom's Society to be donated to people living outside for the winter.

Praise Items:

- New Hope now supports a child named Micheal in Guatemala through Compassion Canada. Our Hope Kids send letter and cards regularly
- New Hope also supports a child named Ninrod in India through World Vision

New Initiative:

- Missions Bulletin published 4 times per year
- Visitation Team established in Jan. 2024 consisting of 8 laypeople who visit hospital, hospice, homes.

Local Missions New Hope Financially Supports:

- Fundy Food Bank, Valley Care Pregnancy Center, Open Arms Resource Center and Shelter, Campaign for Kids (School program), Valley Community Suppers and Valley Hospice.

Global Missions New Hope Supports:

- Robin and Yoko White (global Partners in Japan)
- Team Amplify (Global Partners)
- Recovery House, Sierra Leone (World Hope International)
- ShareWord Canada (formerly the Gideons)
- Manipur Relief, Turkiye Relief, Gaza Relief (World Hope International)
- Ignite Hope (World Hope International)
- Compassion Canada (with a Compassion Child Sponsorship)

Future Plans:

- Establish a regional Drop-Off Center for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes this fall
- Expand the Blessings in a Backpack program
- Mission Trip

Thank you to each one of you who so generously gives to the Mission of loving people and spreading the gospel!

In His Service,

Karen Doucette

Rev. Karen Doucette

(pastorkaren@nhwchurch.ca)

CAMPUS PASTOR REPORT

Below are a few highlights from this past church year, along with challenges to be aware of & goals for the year ahead.

Highlights

- Baptized **seven individuals** - one of whom gave their life to Jesus after saying the sinner's prayer found in the back of a New Hope gift Bible.
- To encourage greater relational connection within the church family, we had three potlucks throughout the summer. These were hosted by different people in our congregation. Attendance was between **40-55** each time. We intend to do this again this summer.
- Received **sixteen people** into membership from the Kingston location, plus one transfer.
- Launched a **prayer ministry team** that is available to pray with people following every Sunday service.
- Purchased **fifty-three new chairs** to replace the fold-up ones we were using. The church was able to raise the \$5000+ needed.
- Within the community, we participated in the following ministries: Christmas food hampers, Salvation Army Christmas Kettles, Heart of the Valley Nursing Home, Blessings in a Backpack, and the Upper Room Food Bank.
- Numerically, NH – Kingston is the largest it has ever been since opening in 2018. On any given Sunday, our attendance is in the **90 -110 range**.

Challenges

- With church growth comes more work - especially for the pastor(s). As we continue to grow, I will need to be diligent at offloading/delegating tasks to capable volunteers. Over this past year, I have been able to hand off the following ministries: Love Atlantic planning, cleaning the church, greeters/tellers scheduling, and monthly nursing home church services.
- From a facilities standpoint, we are getting closer to max capacity - especially in the Hope Kids department. To facilitate future growth, significant decisions will have to be made that will not be popular. Things such as having Hope Kids run the entire service, in order to free up more chairs in the sanctuary, and eventually going to two services. Maximizing our current space, rather than building new or finding a larger building, seems to make the most sense from a stewardship perspective.
- The larger we get, the harder it is to keep the family atmosphere so many love. We will need to be intentional in finding new ways to help newcomers successfully assimilate relationally into the life of the church.

Future Goals

- This fall we are planning to run an Alpha program. It will be a big undertaking, but it is a practical way we can reach out to unchurched & de-churched people in our community.
- As a church, we do not have a strong community presence. Many have no idea we even exist in Kingston. To

(continued)

- (1) connect with and find ways to support our area schools/teachers and (2) have a booth at the Kingston Steer BBQ and the CFB Greenwood “Wing Welcome” event.
- I anticipate new ministries beginning as we continue to grow and develop. This will be dependent on finding volunteers and making sure we don’t “stretch ourselves too thin.” A regular women’s ministry is being planned for the fall. I’m also in talks about starting a kid’s mid-week program.

Glancing back over this past year, God’s faithfulness has been evident. He has blessed NH – Kingston this past year and I’m believing this is only the beginning - so long as we abide in Him before everything else. It has been my joy and privilege to serve as campus pastor.

For King Jesus,

Dave Tysick

Rev. Dave Tysick

(pastordave@nhwchurch.ca)



THANK YOU!

*our deepest
Gratitude*



We appreciate the vision, character, time commitment, care, sacrifices, skill, leadership & efforts of all our pastors! **THANK YOU** for shepherding our church family and surrounding communities!

*YOU'RE
The
Best*



WE APPRECIATE YOU!

MINISTRY LEADER REPORTS!



Pastor Megan
Gems Ministry



Mark Gerrits
Cadets Ministry



Ken McKenna
Men's Ministry



Sharon Agius
Women's Ministry



Bernadine Gerrits
Dave Hazelwood
GriefShare Ministry



Mei Soo (Bee)
Immigrant Connection



Doug Morgan
Church Treasurer

GEMS MINISTRY REPORT

I didn't realize when I took over GEMS in 2022 just how much I would enjoy it, but this ministry is so much fun! I love working with our girls (grades 2-8) by teaching them about Jesus, having so many laughs together, and getting to know them. They are a wonderful group of young women, and I am excited to see where God will take them!

- We have a total of 20 girls in our GEMS group (14 last year)! This is the most we've had in a long time. We look forward to opening our doors to more in the Fall.
- We have 4 leaders that help me plan the year and execute each Friday night. We may be adding another leader in the Fall, which is so exciting!
- Each week, our girls learn how to *Act Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humby with our God* (Micah 4:8). We were able to teach them this through the curriculum that the program provided (it is very easy to follow!). Through this, we rotate on a 3-week teaching schedule:
 - Lesson nights (teaching about the Bible), Micah Missions (helping those in our community), and Badge nights (opportunities to learn useful skills from others, see below). We also have parties for special occasions, like Christmas, Valentine's, etc.
- We had 3 badge nights. Here, the girls learned
 - How to use the Cricut Machine by Sarah Brown, How to Worship Jesus by Bonnie Durling, and How to take care for Smokey the miniature horse by Heather and Chris Slauenwhite.
- We had a GEMS Sunday on May 26th to give the church an update on this ministry and to ask for support in our Bottle Drive fundraiser (which we are partnering in with the Cadets ministry).

One of the high points of this ministry has been seeing the girls really take in the Gospel message each week. I can see it on some of their faces that they are truly digesting it and taking it to heart. This encourages me and our leaders so much!

One of the difficulties I've faced is that we meet bi-weekly on Friday nights and because of my work schedule, Fridays are usually my day off, so it would be nice if we could move this ministry to a different night. However, this isn't always possible for our girls because of other commitments. We will reevaluate this in the Fall.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported this ministry, we couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,

Megan Hingley

Pastor Megan Hingley - GEMS Ministry Leader

CADETS MINISTRY REPORT

We are coming to a close of Cadets for another year. Our goal this year, as always, is to have fun, play games, learn skills, explore different activities, but most of all, to start or continue building a relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and with each other.

This year our numbers have diminished very slightly. We have 10 boys registered, with an average of 7 attending per meeting. I have to say, this is always a struggle for me when the numbers go down. We do need to do more outreach, which I admit is a struggle of mine and obviously should not be. I own it, and through God's strength, I hope to get better at it. But, back to the positive; we also have 5 Adult Counsellors, some of whom are helping out part time. So we continue to have a great Cadet to Counsellor ratio.

Our theme this season is "Rooted and Grounded", based on Ephesians 3:17-18, which says "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power,... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." On our kick off night we made up teams and we picked weeds from the lawn to see who could get the longest one and then went up to the lobby to estimate and discover how long and tall the lobby was. We made a bit of a competition out of it, which was fun. We then related what we discovered to our theme.

Throughout the year we have revisited the theme, emphasizing how important it is to be rooted and grounded in Christ. We have also talked about striving for the goal of being Christlike, building each other up, and listening for God's voice, amongst others.

Our meetings start out with an active game of some sort. We then "fall in" and the Cadets recite their Motto, Verse, Code and Pledge and end with a rousing rendition of our Cadet song, "Living for Jesus". Next, we have the devotional time mentioned above, with a lesson, discussion and prayer.

This part of the night has been a real blessing this year. The boys seem very engaged in the topics, identifying with what we are talking about and participating in meaningful discussions. And it has also been a joy to see the boys closing their eyes as we say our motto through to our song-proving that they know it all off by heart. It is a blessing to know that these words are rooted in their minds and that that, in turn, can keep God rooted in their hearts.

Following devotions, we do badge work or some other exploration and learning of skills or activities. This year we have explored the carpentry badge, the Bible knowledge badge, building catapults, animal track castings, the sewing badge and even baking a cake in an orange. Who knew! The typical night is then ended with communal prayer. This time, too, has been beautiful to witness, to see the boys become more comfortable to present their requests and items of thanks for prayer.

Cadet Camp is coming up soon, which will be held at Sunken Lake Boy Scout Camp June 22-23. At Cadet Camp we all have lots of fun playing games, swimming, having devotion time, making things, and just having a good time together.

We give God thanks for all the boys and counsellors that are a part of our Christian Cadet group and hope and pray that everyone involved grows ever deeper in their relationship with Jesus.

I would like to say a big thank you to the leaders: Simon Mainwaring, who has been my right hand man for many years, and our newest leaders Ryan Ewald, Peter Dietert and Ken McKenna for all their effort and dedication to the Cadet program. A big thank you also to those who bring the boys to Cadets each week.

Cadets will be going through a transition this summer with the Christian Cadet program being wrapped up and the Christian Service Brigade being introduced at New Hope as the new boys club program. Ken McKenna will lead this new program and I pray that this will be a thriving ministry at New Hope.

I have loved my time as a leader at Cadets and thank the New Hope pastoral staff for all the support, love and confidence they have given the Cadet program over the 14 years it has been part of New Hope.

Yours In Christ,

Mark Gerrits

Mark Gerrits - Cadets Leader & Head Counsellor

MEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

After hosting a simulcast of the Vancouver Iron Sharpens Iron conference for men last spring, given my passion for ministry to men, I was asked to head up the men's ministry. Recognizing men need time with other men to explore God's plan for their lives in a way that is separate for everyday life it was important for us to start meeting again.

Monthly breakfasts were reinstated after a long hiatus due to Covid last September. This has given the men of our church and the community an opportunity to reconnect again, listen to guest speakers and hear the testimonies of other men in the group. This has brought the men closer together and built friendships as we learned about different ministries and how the Lord has impacted our lives in different, yet relatable ways in addition to us enjoying some great food and conversation.

We have also shared social and inspirational events such as Super Bowl night and an Impactus men's ministry event broadcast from Ontario. We are considering a BBQ as well as a carshow as ways to keep us connected over the summer. A men's retreat is planned for the fall.

We also started an eschatology study for the men on Thursday nights which most weeks sees 7-8 men attend.

Additionally, we have had opportunities to meet needs in our church through such things as helping with moving, maintenance and service when asked.

As we move forward, we will continue to look for ways that we can hold each other up, through fellowship, prayer, mentorship and service while finding fun ways to be Godly men together.

Respectfully,

Ken McKenna

Ken McKenna - Men's Ministry Director

WOMEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

The women's ministry re-started in February 2024 after being shut down due to no leader.

The group started with four women who wanted to provide fellowship and to encourage women to deepen their connection with the Lord through praise and worship.

We have a breakfast the second Saturday of every month with an average of forty women attending each breakfast. There is always a guest speaker to bring awareness to a particular subject and to show how the Lord's hands are on everything in our lives. We have done topics on human trafficking, liturgical dance and testimonies.

Instead of a breakfast in May we did a Mother's Day tea which was a great success. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and games. One of the games showed how much God used women in the Bible.

For the next breakfast in June we will be having a workshop on mental health and depression.

We now have seven women to help in our ministry and would like to give a big thank you to Lorraine and Steve for helping when we were really short staffed. We would also like to acknowledge the people who helped or donated prizes and gifts to make our tea extra special.

We are praying our ministry will continue to grow and will help women increase their faith in the Lord.

Respectfully

Sharon Agius & Denise Ford

Sharon Agius & Denise Ford - Women's Ministry Leaders

GRIEFSHARE REPORT

GriefShare is a 13 week program dealing with different aspects of grief when a loved one has passed away. It is biblically based and offers practical, down-to-earth ideas on how to handle situations that arise as a person grieves. It also challenges those walking this journey to seek God as our comfort and our hope.

Due to health and family health concerns of the leaders, the Fall semester of GriefShare was not offered this year. We did manage, however, to present the one day event "Surviving The Holidays" on November 25/23. Ten participants joined leaders Dave and Agnes Hazelwood, Raya Duggan, Rudy Halbersma and Bernadine Gerrits.

With thanks to God, on Jan 15/24 we began our Winter/Spring semester using the new 4.0 version of GriefShare. There are four leaders: Dave and Agnes, Rudy, and Bernadine. We were a little overwhelmed when 20 participants showed up the first night! We scrambled to bring more chairs to Hope Cafe where we were meeting and we ran out of workbooks to distribute. We were able to borrow some workbooks from Hantsport Baptist while we waited for additional books to arrive. With a little re-organizing of how we normally run things, we were much better prepared to greet everyone the following week :)

As the semester progressed, we moved the meeting place upstairs and settled into two groups of 8-10 people in each group (including leaders). With nasty weather causing us to cancel two weeks in a row, we completed the program on April 22/24.

We hope to begin again early in Sept, DV.

As leaders and participants of GriefShare, we are so thankful to New Hope for providing this ministry for people who are navigating life after the loss of a loved one.

Please continue to pray for all participants. Please also pray for the leadership team and specifically for more people to be called to the roles of facilitators/co-facilitators.

Respectfully,

Bernadine Gerrits & Dave Hazelwood

Bernadine Gerrits & Dave Hazelwood - GriefShare Leaders

IMMIGRANT CONNECTION REPORT

Background

- Interestingly, as of today's, we are seeing more and more newcomers from around the globe heading their way to the Annapolis Valley. Like most universities, Acadia-U strives continually to lure international students to their campus. The overseas students population has gone up to 4,000 odd, a number which is much higher as compared to the pre-COVID's past. Likewise, the Kingstec campus of NSCC has also experienced a substantial increase in enrolment number of International students. Most of them are matured students; majority are from Africa, plus a handful from nations such as Philippines, India, China, S Korea and HK. Some of them landed here with their spouses and children while others arrived here alone, leaving behind their family back home (home country). Almost all have chosen the pathway as international students, so as to be eligible for application towards permanent residency. Unlike the past years, the retention rate of today's graduating students is so much higher. One great incentive is that their schooling kids are entitled to free education in the public schools, from pre-primary to grade 12. As a result, these newcomers who came as a family, tend to stay on in Nova Scotia upon graduation for the long haul.

Praise Items

Aug. to Sept. 2023

- As usual, it was the time of the year when International students would arrive. More often than not, one would see social media posts, many of which were related to housing needs. You could tell the urgency of those posts, and the sense of frustration among those newcomer students, seeking high and low for a roof over their heads. I thank God for He has never failed. Time again and again, he turns every crisis into an opportunity. That student in need was grateful for a Canadian family who took him in for a night. I worked behind the scene to have a room arranged for him the next day. It was a rewarding experience to hear that both of them sharing the apartment unit, got along well. It brought me JOY to see them in- person pre-Christmas 2023.

Labour Day Weekend, 2023

- The same Canadian family had an 'open house' on a Saturday. All in all, ten of us gathered for an outdoor BBQ. The host was so delighted to meet new faces while catching up with the familiar ones. We had had a great time enjoying BBQ meats and salads, and playing traditional games on their backyard. Thereafter, most of us reclined to our seats, relaxing and chatting away until it was time to go home. We merely spread out in pairs to allow one-on-one conversation. It was through such conversations that we got to hear their stories, their struggles as newcomers and their anticipated dreams for their future in Canada.

Pre-Christmas, Mid-December 2023

- It had been a privilege, an honour to have met those two cousins, K and W, Chinese from Malaysia. The fact that we crossed paths had to do with their housing needs. They were in a dire situation when they realized they were cheated of their cash, nearly \$3,000 in CAD through a SCAM. They were made aware like 3 days prior to their departure for Nova Scotia. By God's grace, through my channels of connections, they found themselves a living space through the lead provided. It was uplifting and encouraging to have those two young adults made their way from Glace Bay, Cape Breton to Kentville to visit me. Thanks to the same Canadian couple who hosted them for two nights. They had an amazing time as I brought them around to see places and do things together. They told me two events stood out, one of which was an evening meeting the Asians in town through a potluck while the other was a pre- Christmas Carolling and Dessert night at New Hope Wesleyan. Praise God, the Gospel that was presented through the multi-media animations and everything else did stir up their souls and beings, based on the feedback gathered. May the sowing of seeds comes to fruition in His time; that they may encounter Jesus some day down the road as they pursue their new life in Canada.

Where Can We Meet Newcomers From Abroad

Valley Community Learning Association (VCLA)

- **Community Garden:** I am so thankful that I got accepted as one of them, though I am a volunteer at heart. I find working in the garden a good therapy for my soul and being, mentally, emotionally and physically. I met different people as they showed up as volunteers. Apart from Canadians, there were newcomers from afar, such as Ecuador, Jamaica, S Africa, Mexico, Venezuela, India, and HK.
- **Community Supper:** More often than not, some newcomers may stay behind for supper. Needless to say, food brings people together, especially the like-minded ones who enjoy gardening as well as helping out at the kitchen, cleaning up and housekeeping as a community. I thank God for using me as a Connector, bringing in a chef from outside VCLA; allowing us all to have an International meal at least once a month. From tantalizing HK Chinese food, Vietnamese's, Malaysian's to sumptuous traditional treats such as Middle-eastern, Northern Indian; there is something to satisfy every palate!
- In other words, VCLA community hub is like a field full of harvest, where labourers are needed. With much delight, I want to acknowledge a Hope Huddle group, who take time and efforts to cook up a Thanksgiving meal, two years in a row for the community at large. Of course, it is my prayer that many more Christ followers will show up any other time of the year to bring Christ's love and healing into their midst. People are constantly in need of a listening ear, or a helping hand, whatever that might be.

Prayer Requests

Solidifying the presence of Immigrant Connection on campus, NSCC Kingstec

(continued)

- The door remained closed for several years now, from 2020 through to 2023. I ask of God's favour, by faith and by His grace, that he will open a new door in the coming Fall. The goal is to have NSCC recognise Immigrant Connection (IC) as one of their community partners in the long term. May Immigrant Connection be one resource that they can safely rely on, especially for students in critical situations that are beyond their scope of support. Please join me in prayer for a sweet opportunity where a collaboration between the Students Association and IC made possible; to co-host an event for international students, to WELCOME year-1 learners as well as the returning ones from year 2.
- **Mobilizing, Encouraging, Participating:** Praise God for the groundwork already laid in Canada in cities such as Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. LOVE NEW CANADIANS is a cross-denominational agency, established to engage mainstream churches through webinars/videos/testimonies so that they may catch the heartbeat of Jesus to welcome strangers into our midst. Their invaluable resources are meant to equip churches for ministry with Internationals - immigrants, migrant workers and students from abroad.
- **Intentional Intercessory Prayers:** Prayer is like a lifeline to keep us moving and alive as a church. God desires His people to arise as intercessors to pray for the pastoral, leadership team and all ministries happening inside and outside the church. One way is to encourage such intercessory prayers through Hope Huddles. Another avenue is through Thrive, where ministries can be prayed for. Perhaps, we can have themes like Young Adults for one month, and Internationals for another month.

May the Lord raise up many more intercessors because prayer can help to draw each to be closer and intimate with Christ Jesus. As a church, the more concerted our prayer is for one another, the more power is to be manifested, the more healing and deliverance may follow suit. Amen!

In Christ,

Mei Soo (Bee)

Mei Soo (Bee) - Immigrant Connection Leader

FINANCIAL REPORT!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a CHEERFUL giver.**"

2 Corinthians 9:7

GIVING OPTIONS



IN-PERSON

(Lobby / Office - 'Offering Box')



E-TRANSFER

(Email - give@nhwchurch.ca)



CHURCH APP

(Apple / Google - 'Church Center')



WEBSITE

(www.nhwchurch.ca)



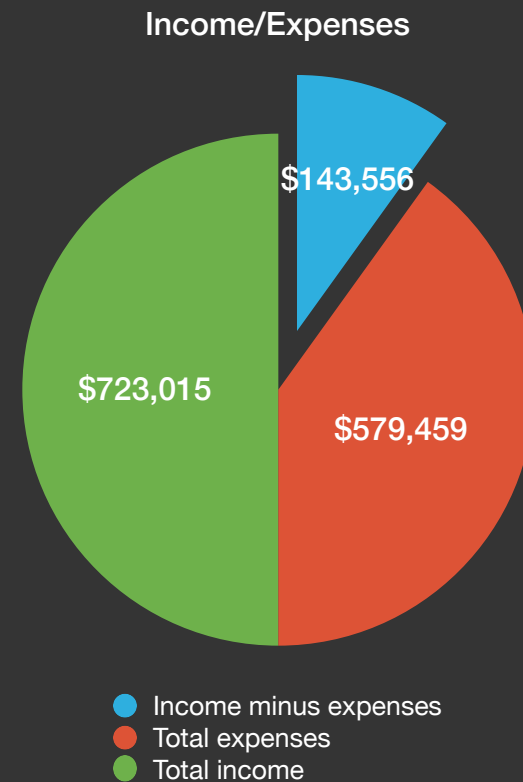
THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

2023-24 (Revenue & Expenses)

REVENUE	
Giving	\$529,745
Missions	\$44,889
Building For Life (BFL 2024 Campaign)	\$128,381
Other	\$20,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$723,015

EXPENSE	
Ministries	\$43,906
Missions	\$41,293
Wage Costs	\$304,446
Building Costs / Building Rental	\$67,812
Mortgage Costs	\$46,537
Banking Costs	\$7,448
Office Costs	\$18,128
United Stewardship Fund (USF)	\$49,889
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$579,459

DIFFERENCE	
Difference	\$143,556

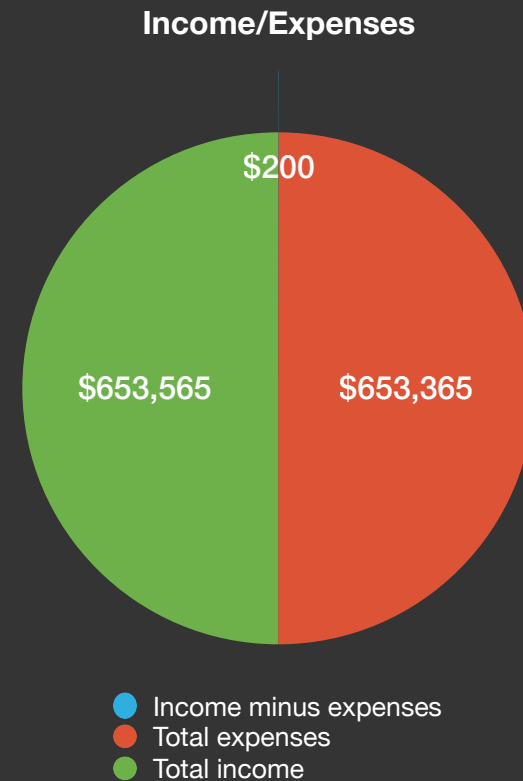


2024-25 (Church Budget)

REVENUE	
Giving	\$566,489
Missions	\$40,000
Building For Life	\$46,876
Other	\$200
TOTAL INCOME	\$653,565

EXPENSE	
Ministries	\$55,550
Missions	\$59,500
Wage Costs	\$340,011
Building Costs / Building Rental	\$124,585
Office Costs	\$18,700
United Stewardship Fund (USF)	\$55,019
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$653,365

DIFFERENCE	
Income minus expenses	\$200



CONNECT WITH US!

KENTVILLE & KINGSTON



KENTVILLE

7054 Hwy # 12, Kentville

(Sundays @ 9:30 & 11am)

HopeKids (18 months - age 10)



KINGSTON

418 Markland Rd. Kingston

(Sunday @ 10:30am)

HopeKids (age 4 - 10)



ONLINE OPTIONS

Facebook LIVE // nhwchurch.ca

(Sundays @ 9:30 & 11am)



902-678-2222

(Church Office)



www.nhwchurch.ca

(Website)



Spotify

(New Hope Kentville or Kingston)



New Hope Wesleyan Church

(Facebook)



@NHWChurch

(Instagram)