

G Garden Gleanings

January 2025

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

Church Board Installation Service

We began the New Year, a bit delayed due to a snow storm, by installing new board members on January 12. Scot Loyd was installed as an Elder and Scott Vogt was installed as a Deacon.

We want to thank and recognize those going off of the board, Larry Friesen and Mel Graybill. Thank you for your service the past 6 years on the Church Board.

Continue to uphold each of the board members as they continue to seek God's will for Garden, as they guide our church.



Organization of the 2025 Church Boards

Elder Board:

Steve Crist—Chairman
Lindley Harms—Vice—Chairman
Scot Loyd—Secretary
Rob Hiebert

Deacon Board:

Bryson Huxman—Chairman
Dennis Morrison—Vice-Chairman
Kyle Hanzlicek—Secretary
Scott Vogt

Full Board:

Rob Hiebert—Chairman
Lindley Harms—Vice—Chairman
Kyle Hanzlicek—Secretary
Gary Huxman—Treasurer

Kids' Christmas Presentation

The Kids in the Junior Sunday School Classes shared a few Christmas songs on December 15 during the morning worship service. They sang songs and also shared their ability to play the hand bells together as well. Special thanks to Jenny Loyd, who lead the kids, as well as other Sunday School teachers who stepped up to help with the program.



Seniors' Christmas Party

On Monday evening, December 16, the Seniors met in the church fellowship hall for a 5:30 dinner. The dinner was catered by Goessel Grocery & Deli. We had 57 in attendance for a delightful evening of food and fellowship. For the entertainment we all went up to the sanctuary, where Glen and Sheila Litke and Brenda Jordan Trio sang Christmas songs and shared stories of Christmas past. We all had a good evening together.

Committee Members:

Jim & Mary Regier

David & Lynette Janzen

Eldon & Eva Pankratz



New Year's Eve Party

Around 30 people gathered at the Activity Center on New Year's Eve to "almost" ring in the New Year! A few games were played and lots of visiting and food made for an enjoyable evening.



Vonnie's Views

We've certainly had our share of winter weather in 2025! Ice arrived on January 4, followed by a significant snowfall accompanied by stiff winds. Just four days later, a second snowstorm hit. Like many others, I've found myself complaining about the weather, saying things like, "I'm done with winter" and "I'm ready for spring." But is that kind of complaint harmless?

In November, I began reading through the Bible again, and I'm currently in the book of Numbers. As I read, I've been struck by how often the Israelites complained against God after their escape from Egypt. To fully grasp the seriousness of their complaints, it's important to remember what their lives were like in Egypt before their deliverance. Was slavery simply an inconvenience for them? And was their escape ordinary or extraordinary?

Exodus paints a grim picture of their life in Egypt: *"The Egyptians ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work, they ruthlessly made them work as slaves"* (Exodus 1:13-14, ESV). Exodus also tells us that the Israelites *"groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew"* (Exodus 2:23-25, ESV). Their lives were miserable, and it only got worse as God began to orchestrate their deliverance.

But God performed a magnificent rescue. He led the Israelites out of Egypt with great power, allowing them to plunder Egypt's riches. He also destroyed Pharaoh and his elite army in full view of the Israelites, demonstrating His power and faithfulness. *"Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses"* (Exodus 14:31, ESV).

Given all of this, it's puzzling that the Israelites continued to complain. After spending a year at Mount Sinai, receiving the law of God, and building the Tabernacle according to His instructions, they still built a golden calf to worship. As they journeyed toward Canaan, complaints continued to mount. The situation became so dire that Moses nearly buckled under the pressure of leadership (Numbers 11:10-15).

Psalm 106:24-25 sheds light on the seriousness of their complaints:

1. They despised God's covenant promise.
2. They did not believe God would lead them into the land of Canaan.
3. They refused to obey God's direction.

Hebrews 3:7-4:15 also comments on Israel's sin in the wilderness. The writer warns:

"Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore, I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" (Hebrews 3:7-11, ESV)

The passage continues by urging believers to *"exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin"* (Hebrews 3:13, ESV).

As I read through Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, I've asked myself: Is any complaining truly innocent? What does complaining—even about small things—say about my belief in and confidence in God? What message does my complaining send to others about my relationship with God? Is complaining a form of unbelief? If so, then, as I see in Scripture, complaining can lead to rebellion (Numbers 13-14).

Faith looks to God with courage and trust, while unbelief focuses on circumstances with fear and grumbling. May we all catch ourselves when we complain and choose, instead, to trust God with our circumstances and our future.

FEBRUARY

Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: John 6:69—Also we have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Pray for the salvation of family members.
2 Look to God to fill the empty spots in your heart.	3 Praise God for His constant presence & care.	4 Pray gov't officials seek God's wisdom & not the wisdom of men.	5 Pray for young men in Brazil as they grow in humility & leadership roles.	6 Pray for deliverance for those in bondage to addictions.	7 Pray Daniel & Krissy know how best to communicate God's truth.	8 Praise God for sweet surprises & joy where we don't expect to find it.
9 Pray God guards our minds & keeps up from being deceived.	10 Pray those in military know Christ & are ready to die.	11 Pray missionaries we support run the race well & finish well.	12 Pray young people are committed to purity & marrying within the faith.	13 Pray God's healing touch on broken hearts & broken lives.	14 Praise God that He is merciful even in judgment.	15 Pray to love God more than anything in this world.
16 Pray the Holy Spirit has free rein in Pastor Dizzy & works through his words & life.	17 Pray for those closest to you to grow daily in knowing Christ.	18 Pray homeless, sick & lonely are ministered to in the name of Christ.	19 Pray young kids grow strong in their faith in Christ.	20 Pray God helps parents release their kids COMPLETELY to His will.	21 Pray many Jews receive their Messiah & are spared from the wrath to come.	22 Ask God to show you where you need to make correction in your life.
23 Pray God would heal any rifts within our church body.	24 Pray for all you come into contact with today - praying they would know Jesus.	25 Pray those on church board have a hunger for more of God & His Word.	26 Pray for Seth & Drew Hiebert to be used by God in mighty & wonderful ways.	27 Pray for believers in Brazil to bring forth much fruit unto God.	28 Pray those facing major life changes find their security & worth in Christ, not in circumstances.	



I hope this email finds you well. My name is Caleb Hanke, and I am honored to serve as the new President of the Board of Directors for New Hope Shelter. Having been a volunteer and board member over the past few years, I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable impact our collective efforts have on the lives of those we serve.

As I step into this role, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to Brian Bisbee, who has dedicated the past five years to leading New Hope Shelter with passion and commitment. Brian was instrumental in helping us achieve one of our most significant milestones — building our amazing facility on Meridian Road. His dedication has been a cornerstone of our success, and his leadership will leave a lasting legacy for years to come.

I am also thrilled to welcome Corrie Edwards as our new Executive Director. Corrie brings 30 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit sector and a proven track record of driving meaningful change. Her expertise and passion for community service align perfectly with our mission, and I am confident she will lead New Hope Shelter into an exciting new chapter of growth and impact.

As a resident of Newton, Kansas, I am deeply invested in our community. My wife, Nicole, and I, along with our seven children, call this city home. We are active members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Newton is not just where we live — it's where we thrive, grow, and come together to create positive change.

I want to thank each of you — our volunteers, donors, and supporters — for your invaluable contributions to New Hope Shelter. Your gifts of Time, Talent, and/or Treasure, ensure that we continue to provide hope, dignity, and a path forward for individuals and families in need.

In Matthew 25:35-36 we read: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." — this is the core of what we do. We as a community have many differences, opinions, and viewpoints on the world. But what is so beautiful is that, at the end of the day, we set all those aside and truly embrace this verse. You make an impact; you make a difference.

Over the coming months, I look forward to connecting with you — whether at events, meetings, or simply in conversation. Together, we will build upon the strong foundation laid by Brian and welcome Corrie's fresh perspective as we continue our mission to serve those in need.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

Warm regards,
Caleb Hanke
President Elect, Board of Directors
New Hope Shelter
president@newhope-shelter.org

Our mission at New Hope Shelter, Inc. is to provide a sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness in Harvey, Marion, McPherson and Butler counties by uniting the local church into a nurturing community which restores hope through a growing relationship with Christ.

It is through the love of Christ we share with those in need of hope.

Executive Director - Corrie Edwards
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