

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

# Communicator

Vol. 9, No. 1

January 2010



**Brenda Barnes:  
one of banking's  
first female CEOs**

**NHTC's Outside  
Plant Manager  
retires**

**Owens Cross Roads  
Town Hall opens  
for business**

is a member-owned corporation dedicated to providing communications technology to the residents and businesses of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads.

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#### **The Communicator**

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*On the cover:*

*Owens Cross Roads recently celebrated the opening of a new town hall. Read more on page 10.*

## Manager's Comments

# Bundles, fiber big news of 2009, NHTC looks forward to exciting 2010



plished a lot.

At our annual meeting in May, we rolled out our new Bundles plans. Our members could not have been more excited to jump on board. Since our Bundles introduction, more and more of you have signed up to take advantage of this money-saving opportunity every month.

The big story of 2009 was fiber. In the past year we have made great strides in our fiber deployment project.

Fiber offers a virtually unlimited bandwidth coupled with a long reach, making it “future safe,” or a mainstream technology that will be in place for years to come.

By investing in optical fiber technology, we are building a network of the future. That’s important, because no one knows for certain what the bandwidth needs of tomorrow will be.

Think of the current network as a garden hose — the fiber network we are building will be a fire hose. One bundle of fiber cable not much thicker than a pencil could carry all of the world’s communications traffic at any given time.

With the bandwidth demands of homeowners and business owners changing so quickly, fiber will prepare NHTC to meet the needs of this region well into the future.

Every day, new technologies are being designed to utilize the incredible power of fiber. Today we have “smart phones.” Tomorrow, through fiber technology, we will have fully interactive “smart homes.”

With lightning fast data transmission

Another year has flown by. It seems like just yesterday we were bringing in 2009. And although the year went by quickly, we accom-

plished a lot. rates, the fiber connection will spark the creation of products not yet even dreamed of. Using the past as a guide, think what items that now seem commonplace were not even on the drawing board five or 10 years ago.

Our appliances and electronic equipment will be integrated. We will be able to change our thermostats or start a load of dishes using our television remote control—all without interrupting a video game or movie played on our 3D holographic, high definition televisions. Fiber will make this possible.

Fiber broadband connections will inspire new products and services and could open entirely new sectors in the business world.

As 21st century technology increases the demand for bandwidth, fiber connectivity will aid economic development and help create new jobs by attracting and keeping first-class companies in our area. Companies looking for a new place to open up shop have already shifted their focus from “location, location, location,” to “location, location, connectivity.”

Our close proximity to Huntsville, and NHTC’s ability to provide a first-class connection through fiber technology, makes this service area a very appealing place to open or relocate a business.

2009 was a very productive year for this cooperative. As we enter 2010, I am excited about the direction we are moving as a cooperative and the impact our hard work will have on this area for years to come. On behalf of New Hope Telephone Cooperative, I wish you all a wonderful 2010. ▲

**Tom Wing**

*General Manager,*

*New Hope Telephone Cooperative*



# Phishing scam still causing problems for NHTC



Over the summer, New Hope Telephone Cooperative warned its members in the pages of *The Communicator* about email phishing scams. Unfortunately, NHTC members are still being targeted by criminals trying to steal their personal information.

NHTC Network Administrator Rusty Bright warns members not to be fooled by any email claiming to be from the 'New Hope Email Update Team'. "There's no such thing," says Bright. "We would absolutely never send an email to our members asking them to divulge personal information."

If you are the recipient of one of these emails, do not delete it. Forward it to support@nehp.net. You can also forward suspicious emails to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at spam@uce.gov.

As a precaution, if NHTC sends an email to members, they will post a copy

of it directly on their Web site. You can check [www.nehp.net](http://www.nehp.net) to see if there's a copy of an email you've received.

There are some common sense steps you can take to help protect yourself from becoming a victim of scammers.

- Forward any suspicious email.

Contrary to what you may have been told in the past, do not delete the email. Send it to NHTC and the FTC. They will try to locate the criminal.

- Never give out personal information. Email is unsecure and should never be used to communicate private information such as account numbers, passwords and social security numbers.

- Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software.

For more tips on email spamming go to [www.ftc.gov/spam](http://www.ftc.gov/spam).▲

## We're *still* just what you're looking for



Casey Griep,  
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# NHTC adopts new email protocol

*Changes will require computer setting adjustment for most*

In a world of ever-changing technology it sometimes becomes necessary to change with it. That is why NHTC has decided to update their email system.

“Our current protocol has made it possible for spammers to use NHTC email accounts to send out massive amounts of junk email,” says

**Network Administrator Rusty Bright.**

Each time this occurs, NHTC is blacklisted from the email carriers that receive the junk emails. “That is the standard procedure to stop spam,” explains Bright. “Our company does it, too.”

Blacklisting a domain essentially prevents any and all email from getting through to that company’s email carrier. Although it is possible to be removed from the blacklist, it is a time consuming process. “We were recently blacklisted three times in three weeks from Hotmail,” says Bright. “And that is just one example.”

Fortunately, there is a way to fix the problem that will not cost members or the cooperative anything. The solution has three parts.

“First, we are going to limit the number of emails that can be sent per hour per account to 50,” says Bright.

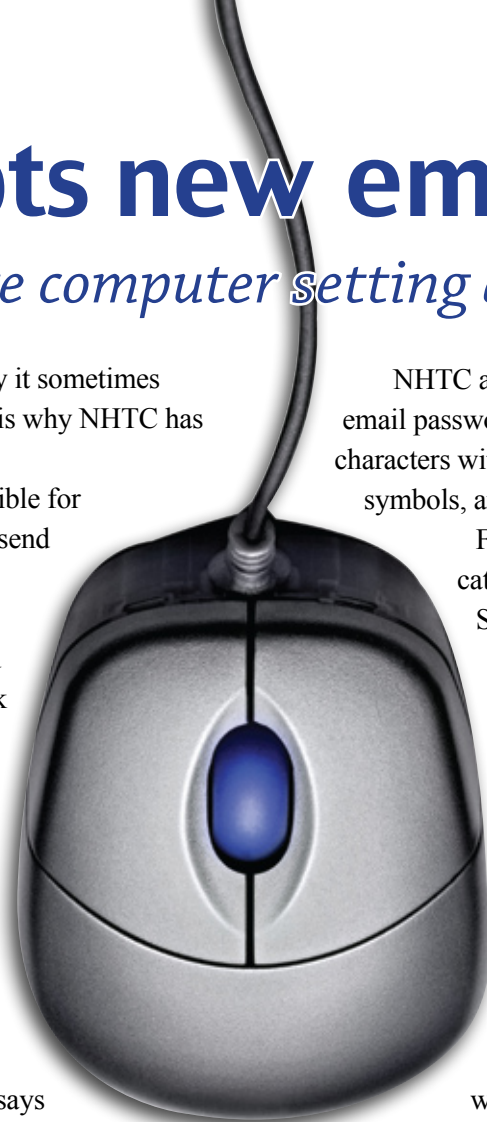
NHTC also recommends that members strengthen their email passwords. A strong password contains at least eight characters with upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols, and can not be found in the dictionary.

Finally, NHTC will begin requiring authentication for every email sent by using SMTP, or Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. SMTP forces email client software to verify it is a legitimate email account each time a message is sent.

“We’ve always required that our server verify emails being received,” says Bright, “but now we are putting the same check system in place for emails being sent.

“Everyone with an “nehp.net” account who does not use webmail browser to send and receive email will have to change the SMTP setting on their computer,” Bright explains. “Hotmail, gmail and other accounts will not be affected.”

***The SMTP changes take effect on Monday, January 18.*** At that time, if your computer’s email setting has not been changed you will still be able to receive email messages, but you will no longer be able to send messages until the setting is changed. Instructions for setting SMTP authentication for most email clients are listed below.▲



## Instructions for setting SMTP Authentication

### **OUTLOOK EXPRESS (WINDOWS 95/98/ME/2000/XP) & OUTLOOK 2000, WINDOWS MAIL (WINDOWS VISTA)**

1. Click the Tools menu. 2. Click Accounts. 3. Select your email account, and then click Properties. 4. Click the Servers tab. 5. Check the box next to “My outgoing server requires authentication” or (for Windows Mail) check the box next to “My server requires authentication.”

### **OUTLOOK 2007**

1. Click the Tools menu. 2. Click Account Settings. 3. Select your email account, then click Change. 4. Click the More Settings button. 5. Click the Outgoing Server tab. 6. Put a check next to “My outgoing server (SMTP)

requires authentication.”

### **OUTLOOK XP/2003**

1. Click the Tools menu. 2. Click Email Accounts. 3. Click “View or change existing e-mail accounts”, then click next. 4. Select your email account, then click Change. 5. Click the More Settings button. 6. Click the Outgoing Server tab. 7. Put a check next to “My outgoing server (SMTP) requires authentication.”

### **MOZILLA THUNDERBIRD**

1. Click the Tools menu. 2. Click Account Settings. 3. Click on Outgoing Server (SMTP). 4. Select your email

account, then click Edit. 5. Put a check next to “Use name and password.”

### **MAC MAIL 10.X**

1. Click the Mail menu. 2. Click on Preferences 3. In the accounts section, select the user account and click the Edit button to the right of the Description window. 4. Click the Options below “Outgoing Mail Server.” 5. Next to Authentication, select “Password.” The username and password will be your email account username and password.

**For further assistance, call NHTC at 256-723-4211 or after hours call Tech Support at 256-723-8940.**



## Community unites for Christmas Share Program

Now in its 16th year of operation, the Christmas Share Program helped provide Christmas presents for more children than ever this year. Over eighty children in New Hope and Owens Cross Roads had a wonderful Christmas thanks to the generous hearts of those in the community who adopted 'angels' from area Angel Trees or made other donations.

A local radio station even got involved with fundraising efforts. "We deep fried a turkey on the radio to raise awareness for our program," said Stacey Wilson. They raised \$1,280 in two days. Other businesses sponsored toy drives, too. "Our goal for next year is to help twice as many children," says Wilson.



Area merchants sponsored Angel Trees in their businesses in support of the Christmas Share Program. Shown above (L to R): Michelle Smith, Christmas Share volunteer; Stacey Wilson, volunteer; Bryn Butler, Citizens Bank; Misty Williams, NHTC; Linda Martin, Dollar General; and Sheila Chandler, Piggly Wiggly. The Tobacco Depot also sponsored an Angel Tree.

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# TIM WRIGHT RETIRES

After 31 years of employment at NHTC, outside plant manager Tim Wright has retired. Wright spent over three decades installing lines and equipment throughout the New Hope area and has been a part of NHTC's improvement and growth through technology.

## *Big dreams*

Wright began his career with NHTC at a young age. "I was just out of high school," he says. "I was not old enough to become a firefighter, so I had to find another job." Wright worked at a portable generator factory for two years until a job at NHTC became available.

By the time I reached the age I needed to become a firefighter, I had decided that was not the path I needed to take," comments Wright. "I was not cut out for factory work either. I wanted to work outside, and the position at NHTC allowed me to do that."

Wright started out as a cable splicer assistant under Roy Self. "I was young when I started working, and Roy really tried to direct me down the right path," he says. "He was a role model and a mentor. I really appreciate what he did for me."

After working as a cable splicer and installer, Wright earned Self's former position as outside plant manager. "I try to treat my workers the same way Roy treated me," Wright says.

## *Times change*

Over the course of his career, Wright has seen many changes in NHTC's technology. "We've come from the cotton fields to the space age," he jokes. "When I started working, we only had one truck with a lift. We climbed telephone poles every day. Things are so different now."

Though technology has changed

tremendously, Wright says some things remain the same. "Approaches change with technology," he says, "but everything relates back to the basic principles like troubleshooting, isolating and eliminating problems. If you can grasp those concepts, you can do well in this industry."

Wright says the thing he will miss the most about his job with NHTC is the people. "I've come to know so many people in the company and the community," he says. "The people I work with are more like family than co-workers. We see the highs and lows of each other, from new births to losses, and it really makes us a close-knit group."

He says he will also miss the interaction with customers. "There was a time when I could tell you where everyone lived and what kind of car they drove," he laughs. "When you work in a small place, you really get to know

everyone.”

Wright may be retiring, but he is far from slowing down. He is a member of New Hope Masonic Northern Lodge 278, the Valley of Huntsville Scottish Rite, and the Cahaba Shriners.

“I became involved with the fraternity of Masons because I wanted to be a part of something that helped others,” says Wright. “The Cahaba Shriners provide children in 11 counties with transportation to our hospitals and lodging. We are just a group of people with a heart to make a difference.”

## *Clowning around*

Although Wright is retiring his work boots, he is keeping a pair of slightly bigger shoes. “I have been

a clown with the Cahaba Shrine Bafoons for four years,” says Wright. “We perform at parties, parades and other events. It is such a reward to hear all the children laugh and have fun.”

Wright, also known as Bobo, recently attended the Special Olympics. “It was such an inspiration to watch those kids and adults.”

Wright is also a member of the OCR City Council and planning committee at OCR. He enjoys playing golf and fishing in his spare time.

When looking back on his many years with NHTC, Wright is thankful for all he has learned and all the friendships he has made. “I enjoyed my time here,” he says. “I am leaving a better person than I was when I started.” ▲



# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIORS

Graduating from New Hope or DAR High School this May?

Need help paying for college?

If so, you should know NHTC is awarding a \$500 scholarship to a deserving senior from DAR and New Hope high schools. The scholarships will be given to students who exemplify academic achievement and community involvement, and whose parents are members of NHTC.

Seniors may also apply for one of thirty \$2,000 nationwide scholarships, awarded by the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS). If a DAR or NHHS senior is chosen, NHTC will add \$500 to the scholarship—bringing the total to \$2,500.

## **Don't Wait!**

Applications with all attachments

must be received no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>

See your guidance counselor for applications today!







# Barnes was one of the first female bank CEOs in state

Picture walking into the lobby of your local bank. What do you see? Almost every employee is female. In the U.S., women make up almost 75 percent of the banking industry's entire workforce. But while women control the lobby of the bank, men traditionally control the corner office.

A 2007 study showed that 84 percent of executive banking positions—senior vice president or higher—were held by men. Even more staggering is the fact that only 9 percent of banking CEOs are women.

Representing only 25 percent of the workforce, men hold 84 percent of upper level management positions and 91 percent of chief executive positions.

Brenda Barnes, Chairman and CEO of People's State Bank of Commerce, and president of the bank's branch in Grant, is one of few women who have managed to break the executive gender barrier in banking. What makes her story even more impressive is that she did it in 1996, eleven years before the 2007 study.

As CEO of People's State Bank, Barnes oversees nine branches in Alabama and Tennessee. As Chairman of the bank's board of directors, she helps create vision, guide strategy and set goals for the nine-bank organization. And as branch president in Grant, she oversees the day-to-day operation of the bank.

Barnes was a full-time student at Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) when she went to work at People's State Bank in Grant 32 years ago. She took night classes so she could work full-time at the bank during the day to pay tuition.

Originally hired as a teller, Barnes

learned the business from the ground up. She has worked in every department and held almost every position in the bank.

"I just always wanted to know more," Barnes explains. "I wanted to know everything about every department. It was just a natural curiosity. But because of that, I can relate to every employee in the bank. I've been where they are."

Within six months of being hired, Barnes was promoted to head teller. She has not looked back since. After earning her degree in business and finance from NACC and Samford University, she continued to work for the bank, eventually moving into management. In 1996 Barnes was offered the job of president of People's State Bank in Grant.

Barnes was worried that some of the customers might have a difficult time relating to her, or resent banking with a woman.

"It may not seem significant today, but it was significant at the time, especially for this area," Barnes explains. "Even though I was being given an opportunity no one else probably would have given a woman at the time, it was a difficult decision."

Barnes says her mother was a great source of encouragement to her while she was considering the offer.

"My mom has always been an encourager," Barnes says. "I remember calling her and being overwhelmed, saying 'you know, I can't do this, Mom.' But she never doubted it. She always said you can do anything you want to do if you want to do it badly enough."

As the first female bank president in Marshall County and one of the first female bank CEOs in the state, there was enormous pressure on Barnes.

"It was tough at first," she recalls. "But this community showed me so much support. They were behind me from day one. To them, the title meant nothing. I was the same person they had been banking with for 20 years. It was at that point that I said, 'never will I get too important that I don't have time to see you.' Even today, I still wait on people that I waited on when I was a teller."

In addition to being promoted to branch president in Grant, the same year, Barnes was promoted to CEO of the nine-branch bank and elected to the bank's board of directors.

"Being a female local branch president was a big deal," she continues, "but CEO of the entire bank? It was just unheard of at that time."

She did not disappoint. Under Barnes' leadership as CEO, People's State Bank of Commerce has grown from \$20 million in assets in 1996 to \$250 million in 2009—a 1,250 percent increase in 13 years.

"When I first became CEO, at every meeting, every conference I went to, I was the only female in the room," Barnes says. "I had no problem with it, but for a while the other bankers almost acted like I was not in the room."

"Not only was I a female," she continues, "but I was a young female. They would go around the table and not really ask for much of my input. I finally just had to take a stand and say, 'Hey, I'm a member of this board and I do have input. I have something to say.' Finally they became comfortable with me and it hasn't been an issue since. It was tough for a few years, but now I'm chairman of the board."

As CEO, chairman of the bank's board of directors, and branch president, Barnes



serves three separate roles.

“Normally, a bank CEO does not have the responsibility of running a branch,” Barnes says. “A lot of bankers play a lot of golf; go out on their boats and relax; work half-days; or take two- or three-week vacations. I’m lucky if I take a week off each year. But that is my decision. That’s what I choose to do because I love my job. I want to be the best I can be.”

Running the bank’s branch in Grant requires more hours of work, but Barnes sees advantage in the extra workload.

“It allows me to lead by example,” Barnes says. “I set the goals for all nine bank locations. I know what is possible and what is not because part of my job is running the Grant branch. My train of thought is the same from tellers to bank presidents. I do not ask employees to do something that I would not try to do twice as hard myself. I never ever walk out that door to leave them to do the work. If anybody is putting in extra hours it’s going to be me.”

Working long hours is a habit Barnes developed at an early age.

“I grew up very poor,” Barnes says. “I remember at four years old, wanting a Chatty Cathy doll more than anything in the world. Well, my grandmother picked cotton, so I begged her to let me pick with her to earn the money for the doll.

“I knew if the man in charge would give me my own sack, I could pick enough to buy a doll,” Barnes says. “He said that at the end of the day, if my grandmother’s sack was more full than usual, he would give me my own sack. When we finished

that day and they went to weigh the bag, it was so heavy it broke. I was so happy! The next day I got my own bag and I eventually earned enough money to buy the doll.

“I realized then and there that if I was

a great board of directors,” Barnes says, “but we wouldn’t even be here without our customers. I always tell my employees that all banks offer the same services and products. But customer service is what we

will do better than everyone. As we have grown through the years, we have never lost sight of that philosophy. We take the same approach at every location, and I believe it has set us apart.”

Barnes says she believes she can continue to become a better banker.

“I never set goals to become bank president, or CEO or chairman,” Barnes says. “I had no desire. My goal has always been to be a good bank and to be a good banker. I knew that taking those positions would help me to become a better banker and that’s why I took them.

But I have a long ways to go. I don’t think I’m the best at what I do, so I will always strive to do better. I’m not content yet. If I get content, I’ll lose my vision. I’ll lose my excitement.”

Through the years, Barnes has been approached by a number of banks offering jobs. Despite offers of higher salaries and the opportunity to work for larger banks, Barnes has remained in Grant.

“There were times in the past when I contemplated leaving,” Barnes says. “But each time, I really prayed about it and thought about it, and knew that for some reason I was supposed to be here. This is where my heart is and I just really never could leave. I hope to retire here one day.”

Until that day, you can find CEO Brenda Barnes at the place she began her distinguished career, Peoples State Bank in Grant.▲



Brenda Barnes, Chairman and CEO of People's State Bank of Commerce.

willing to work hard, there was really nothing out of my reach,” Barnes reflects. “I’ve worked hard ever since. That’s just the way we were taught. If you want something, you work for it. I never knew not working was even an option.”

Barnes says much of her success comes from hiring excellent employees and placing a focus on customer service.

“I have always been blessed with a great team of employees, a great staff and

# New town hall in OCR will benefit entire community

After only a little more than a year of planning and construction, Owens Cross Roads (OCR) Town Hall has a new place to call home. The facility, located at the intersection of Highway 431 and Carpenter Road, recently opened its doors to serve the community.

OCR City Councilman Larry Furlough is excited about the new facility.

"This is long overdue," Furlough says. "Our community has grown by leaps and bounds, and our facilities needed to grow with it. The completion of our new town hall is a reflection of months of hard work and planning from many people in this community. We are excited to see this vision become a reality."

OCR City Councilwoman Cathy Bounds shares Furlough's sentiment.

"I think we've created a facility that our entire community can be proud of," Bounds says. "Our town hall provides a place to conduct town business that will be appealing to all, OCR natives and new residents alike. It is a wonderful representation of the people of this community."

To celebrate the completion of the project, OCR held an open house on Nov. 19. An estimated crowd of 125 people showed up to tour the new building, and to enjoy hamburgers and hotdogs provided by Madison County Commissioner Jerry Craig.

"We were expecting maybe 40 or 50 people to show up, at the most," Furlough says. "To have 125 at our open house on a Thursday night just shows that people in this community

are interested, that they really care about what's going on in this town."

Owens Cross Roads most recent U.S. Census data showed a 24.6 percent increase since the previous census in 2000. Much of this growth is coming from Huntsville as the city continues to expand in the direction of Owens Cross Roads.

In response to this growth, the town hired more police officers and expanded its administrative support staff. The new hires added more congestion to the already crowded former town hall.

As the population of the town and size of the police force have grown, more citations have been issued and arrests

made. This resulted in the need for a larger space to hold court. The former courtroom could accommodate 15-20 people. At times there were as many as 60 or 70 people in attendance, many forced because of lack of space to wait outside or in the fire truck bays during inclement weather. This high level of traffic was often a disruption to town officials and employees working in the former building.

To add to the problem of limited space, the former town hall stood in a flood zone. The building flooded numerous times in the past and there are watermarks on the walls as high as 30 inches.



OCR City Councilman Larry Furlough (center) and Councilwoman Cathy Bounds (far right) are joined in front of the new Owens Cross Roads Town Hall, from left to right, by Paula Smythe of Family First Homemakers Club, Patsy Brazelton of OCR Homemaker's Club and Debbie O'Neal, member of both clubs.



The combination of cramped quarters and flood risk led officials to search for a site to build a new town hall. Councilman Furlough eventually found a citizen willing to sell property to the town for a reasonable price. The council appointed Furlough and Bounds as the building committee.

After the town secured a loan from a local bank, Furlough and Bounds began drawing up plans for OCR's new town hall.

Huntsville architect William Boehme was hired to convert the committee's plan into an architectural design.

A contract, awarded to low-bidder Pierce Construction, was signed Feb. 24, 2009. Even Pierce's low bid was more than the project's \$500,000 budget. But after some careful planning from the building committee and cost-reduction through value engineering, the project was completed at only a few hundred dollars over budget.

The 2.5 acres on which the 4,400-square-foot town hall was built will allow plenty of room for future expansion and construction as the town of OCR continues to grow. The town has already applied for a federal grant that will provide funds to build a three-bay

fire station. If awarded the grant, the fire station will be built directly behind OCR Town Hall.

In the center of the building is a large rectangular chamber that will serve as a courtroom and city council chamber. The chamber seats 64, quite an improvement from the 12-seat courtroom in the former town hall.

Flanking the left side of the courtroom is a wing for administration and

police wing and the courtroom. The room will be used as judge's chambers when court is in session, and serve as a meeting space for various town committees. The new town hall is also equipped with a kitchen and break area. New Hope Telephone Cooperative will provide high-speed broadband telephone, Internet and cable television service for OCR Town Hall.

The OCR Homemakers Club has

pledged to provide an outdoor sign, and Family First Homemakers Club provided the flags that fly above town hall. Working together, the groups have secured \$500 in grant money to be used to provide landscaping for the town hall.

Debbie O'Neal, a member of both homemakers clubs, says the new



Left—The new Owens Cross Roads city council chamber and courtroom seats 64, quite an improvement from the 12-seat courtroom in the former town hall. To the left of the courtroom and city council chamber is a wing for administration and town business with offices for the mayor, city clerk and administrative officer.

Right—The new town hall has a conference room that will be used as judges' chambers when court is in session, and serve as a meeting space for various town committees. The conference room is between the courtroom (above) and the wing of the new town hall that houses the Owens Cross Roads Police Department.



town business, with offices for the mayor, city clerk and administrative officer.

A wing to the right of the court room houses the OCR Police Department—complete with lobby, chief's office, three officer work stations with computers, evidence room, interview room and holding cell. The chief's new office alone is larger than the space used by the entire police department at the former town hall.

A conference room lies between the

facility provides a nice landmark for OCR.

"There is no comparison to the old building," O'Neal says. "It's like somebody turning on the lights."

Former Owens Cross Roads Town Hall will become the new headquarters for the OCR Recreation League, currently located in a trailer behind former town hall.▲

# Enter NHTC's Spring Coloring Contest

New Hope Telephone Cooperative is sponsoring a Spring coloring contest for local elementary students.

The contest is open to kindergarten through fourth-grade students at Owens Cross Roads School, New Hope Elementary and DAR elementary. The rules are simple:

1. Only pictures depicting Spring will be accepted.
2. Pictures must be colored with crayons or markers only. No other mediums will be accepted.
3. All submissions should be on 8.5" x 11" white paper. Paper can be mounted to colored construction paper.
4. The student's first and last name, grade and school name should be written clearly on the back of the

submission.

5. Only one submission per student is allowed.
6. All entries should be turned in to your teacher by February 25, 2010. A representative from NHTC will pick up all entries from each school on February 26, 2010.
7. Entries will be judged by an independent panel.
8. Judging will be based on creativity, originality, interpretation of theme and overall appeal.
9. The grand prize winner will be announced in The Communicator magazine in April and receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Good luck everyone!



**Deadline for entries is Thursday, February 25, 2010**

**Open to DAR, New Hope and OCR Elementary Students**

**Grand prize winner announced in the April issue of *The Communicator***

## Community Events

### Monthly

#### **Angel Food Ministry**

Help cut grocery costs by participating in Angel Food ministry through New Hope United Methodist Church. Call 723-4812 or go to [www.newhopeunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://www.newhopeunitedmethodistchurch.org) for more information on the program, dates, times, and menu.

### March 13

#### **Queen and King of Hearts Pageant**

The New Hope Recreation Center is sponsoring a beauty pageant. The pageant will be held Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 6 p.m. at New Hope School. The pageant is open to boys and girls ages 0 and up. The entry deadline is **February 20**. Registration day is **February 27** from 10 a.m. until noon at New Hope Recreation Center. There is a \$50 entry fee for the pageant and all optionals are \$5 each. Each contestant will receive a trophy. All proceeds go to the New Hope Recreation Center. For entry forms and more information call Tina Anderton at 256-655-4102 or email her at [tinaanderton35@yahoo.com](mailto:tinaanderton35@yahoo.com).

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## PASTOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
NEW HOPE

There are two words we should remove from our vocabulary this year. Can't and won't. Words that really affect our lives!

"I can't stop unhealthy habits"

"I can't control my temper"

"I can't get over what someone has done to me"

"We don't get along because we can't communicate"

Changing the word to won't implies that you are not willing to stop unhealthy habits, control your temper, or even try to improve your communication.

These two words hold us hostage and weight you down like an anchor holds a boat. They keep us from facing reality.

The truth is we can't and won't because we choose not to, not because we

are forced to. The sooner we face up to this reality the sooner we stop blaming others for what we won't do ourselves.

There are a lot of motivational books that offer many suggestions, but who has the time to read or the money to purchase them?

Good news is that you may already have a book in your home that is filled with suggestions. Within its pages you will find strength and encouragement to keep going when things get tough and how to plan for the future.

Need strength? "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Do you get tired? "do not grow weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9) Avoid future pitfalls, "count the cost, whether you have sufficient to finish." (Luke 14:28).

The book is the Bible.

See you in church Sunday!

## ✝ Inspiration Corner

Struggling to believe in God? I pray you find a reason to believe. Even though scripture tells us repeatedly there will be much trouble in this world, the struggle with believing in God, for most, comes from wondering why a loving God would allow pain and suffering. Can pain and suffering exist in conjunction with a loving God? Since we're made in the image of God, why not?

I believe the creativity of man is merely a copy of something God has already done. Take cars for example. A car works by transferring energy into motion. If however, the car is not maintained as directed by the owner's manual, it will soon break down (pain and suffering). Does this mean no one created the car? No! It simply means the owner did not follow the manual to maintain that car.

God created mankind long before mankind created the car. Like the car, man came with an owner's manual. The Bible, like a car's manual, tells EVERYTHING it takes to run a long healthy happy life. Since pain, suffering, and death exists, does this mean there is no creator of life? No! It simply means the owner of that life did not follow the Bible. Believing in God would be like finding a mechanic who can make a car run forever. I pray that if this challenges your heart with the possibility there is a God, you will start the year off right looking for more answers in a church near you.



Michael Carpenter, Pastor  
New Hope United Methodist  
Church & Oak Bowery  
United Methodist Church

## Legislative Update

By Rep. Butch Taylor

Alabama House of Representatives, Dist. 22



During the month of December, I attended hearings in Montgomery on the state's education budget. As I've been sharing with you for

some time, the outlook is bleak for our 2010-2011 education budget. The economy has punched such a hole in the state's income that some people predict we could be faced with laying off 3,000 teachers.

In all my years as a teacher, coach and school board member, I have never seen it so bad. As a member of the Education Appropriations Committee, I will work harder than anyone in Montgomery over the next few months to find ways to soften the blow as much as possible.

Remember, Alabama cannot borrow its way out of a budget shortfall like they do in Washington. Our constitution says we must balance the general fund and education budgets each year. It forces us to make hard choices in times like these, but at least we are not passing along debt to our children and grandchildren.

The 2010 legislative session begins January 12. We meet three days per week (Tuesday through Thursday), and have 30 meeting days to write the budgets and conduct state business. I welcome any group who would like to visit the State House during the upcoming session. Whether you have a piece of legislation you are concerned with, or simply want to observe your government in action, call my Montgomery office at (334) 242-7219 to arrange a visit. Even if you cannot come, please call me anytime to share your ideas and concerns.▲



## From the Community

### CHEESEBURGER PIE

#### FILLING

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1-1/2 cups chopped onion
- 1/2 tsp. salt (or to taste)
- 1/4 tsp. pepper (or to taste)

#### CRUST

- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup Bisquick

#### TOPPING

- 2 tomatoes, sliced
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Grease a 10" deep-dish pie plate. Brown ground beef and onion in skillet over medium heat; stir in salt and pepper. Drain. Spread in pie plate. Beat crust ingredients for about 1 minute with a hand mixer, or until smooth. Pour over meat mixture. Bake at 400° for 25 minutes. Top with tomatoes and sprinkle with cheese. Bake 5 - 8 minutes more, until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before serving.

### WHITE TEXAS CHILI

- 2 cans white navy beans, drained
- 4 (14 1/2 oz.) cans chicken broth
- 1 large onion, chopped

- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. ground white pepper
- 1 Tbsp. dried oregano
- 1 Tbsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 5 cups cooked chicken, chopped
- 2 (4 oz.) cans chopped green chiles (optional)
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped (optional)

Place first 9 ingredients in large pot; stir together. Add chicken and optional ingredients if using them; stir in to mix well. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Serve in bowls with various toppings and tortilla chips.

### GARLIC MASHED POTATOES

- 1 medium head garlic
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 4 Tbsp. butter or margarine, softened
- 1/2 cup milk
- salt and pepper to taste

Drizzle garlic with olive oil, then wrap in aluminum foil. Bake in preheated 350 ° oven for 1 hour. Boil potatoes until tender. Drain, cool and chop. Stir in butter, milk, salt and pepper. Remove the garlic from the oven, and cut in half. Squeeze the softened cloves into the potatoes. Blend into potatoes and continue "smashing" mixture until desired consistency.

### CHOCOLATE FUDGE

- 3 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup margarine

- 2/3 cup (5 1/3 oz.) evaporated milk
- 2 cups (12 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 7 oz. jar marshmallow creme
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- walnut halves (optional)

Combine sugar, margarine and evaporated milk in 3 qt. saucepan. Bring to full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Continue boiling 5 minutes over medium heat (if using candy thermometer, until it reaches 234 degrees), stirring constantly to prevent scorching. Remove from heat; stir in chocolate chips until melted. Add marshmallow creme, nuts and vanilla; beat until well blended. Pour into greased 13x9 baking pan. Top with walnut halves if desired; press into fudge. Cool at room temperature; cut into bite-sized squares.

### CHOCOLATE ÉCLAIR DESSERT

- 2 individual packages graham crackers
- 2 (3 oz.) pkg. instant vanilla pudding mix
- 3 cups milk
- 1 (8 oz.) container whipped topping
- 1 (16 oz.) pkg. prepared chocolate frosting

Line the bottom of a 9x13-inch pan with graham crackers. In a large bowl, combine pudding mix and milk. Stir well. Stir whipped topping into pudding mixture. Spread half of mixture over graham cracker layer. Top with another layer of graham crackers and the remaining pudding. Top all with a final layer of graham crackers and pour chocolate frosting on top (heat frosting in the microwave for about 1 minute to soften). Refrigerate until serving.



# Classic Cars



Dylan & Justin Allen, sons of Brad & Dian Allen.



Photo by Brandon Adair.



Elizabeth and Christopher Burton in Papa's Little Yellow Car-92 Miata. Picture sent in by their Grandfather Wesley Paradise



Jaxon and South Stapler. Picture sent in by Grandparents Bruce and Teresa Stapler.



Hunter & Grant Maples at the Antique Truck Show. Photo sent by mom Rachel Maples



1966 Nova. Picture sent by Donny & Donna Lanier of Owens Cross Roads.



Wonnie Fisher and Barry Miner at Talladega Speedway with Barry's 1968 Mercury Cyclone



Cousins Jacob, Annie, Ryan, and Blake at 50's night at New Hope First Baptist



Leah Tabor, Lexi Tabor, Sydney Canterbury, and Brooke Canterbury with Granddaddy & Grandmother's '57.

"Spring is here" is the photo theme for March. Send pictures matching the photo theme to: NHTC • Attn.: Communicator Photos • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. You may prefer to e-mail your photo to [communicator@nehpt.net](mailto:communicator@nehpt.net). Follow these guidelines for publication: (1) Photos must match theme. (2) **Photos must be high resolution.** The resolution offered by some printers is not high enough for publication. (3) Do not write on the back of photo. Include names of persons in photo, as well as, photographer, address and phone number on paper taped to back. (4) Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your photo returned. (5) **The Deadline**

**for March is January 20th.**

By submitting your photos: (1) you attest that you are the creator and owner of the photos, (2) you give New Hope Telephone permission to publish your material in *The Communicator*, (3) you agree to offer said photos without the expectation of payment from New Hope Telephone, and (4) you understand that photos are selected for publication in *The Communicator* at the sole discretion of New Hope Telephone, and that submission of your photo does not guarantee your photo will appear in the magazine.

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