

# The Importance of Memorials

by Peggy McKinnon

May! The time of year we celebrate Memorial Day, paying homage to those who died fighting for our freedom. A few years ago two friends and I delighted in the opportunity to visit Vicksburg battleground where General Grant defeated the Confederate army during the Civil War. Driving along a highway in Mississippi we noticed a sign, pointing the way to the battlefield. As we all agreed to embark on the journey, we traveled a few miles out of our way to see where this turning point battle took place. As we approached, another sign, or marker, informed us "this is where it happened." The marker existed at the exact location of the battle so that Americans could see, and remember, the place where the battle occurred. Many people lost their lives in the battle. The marker reminds us of what happened there so that we may pay honor to those who fought that battle, and to feel the gratitude we hold for them.

As a memorial to God, the Israelites placed twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan River at the exact place where the Ark of God held the waters back, allowing the people to cross the river. Another twelve stones were carried to the exact place where they camped that night. Joshua 4:6-7 states:

*"The stones will be a reminder to you. When your children ask someday, 'Why are these stones important to you?' tell them how the water of the Jordan stopped flowing before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the water of the Jordan stopped flowing. These stones will be a lasting memorial for the Israelites."*

These stones, or markers, commemorated God's faithfulness, so that the Israelites could give honor to God and feel the gratitude they hold for Him. God has set in place a memorial for us, too. He gave us the sacrament of communion as a memorial to His suffering, reminding us of His importance in our lives.

*"Then he took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And in the same way he took the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'" Luke 22:19-20*

As we celebrate Memorial Day this month, let's remember our ancestors who fought so bravely for our freedom. Let's thank God for them. And the next time we celebrate communion, let's remember how He suffered for us. He laid all our sins upon himself, paying the penalty for our sins and transgressions to the point of a humiliating death. Communion is God's historical marker for us to recall what Jesus did for us and to feel the gratitude we hold for Him.

## Farewell Shannon...



Shannon Dardaman is moving to the Dallas, TX, area on May 13 where she will enjoy being close to her two sons, both in their mid-20s. To say that I will miss her is a significant understatement! Two years ago, Shannon and I became co-leaders of Women of New Hope. What a joy it has been to partner with her and to watch how God has used Shannon's special gifts to bless the women in our church, both individually and in a group setting. She has poured herself into women's ministry, The Well, mentoring women of MOPS, and so many other activities at New Hope. Godspeed Shannon, and we will be anxious to hear of God's plans for you in Texas.

*"... the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." – Psalm 121:8*

## Women on Wednesdays...

We have really enjoyed our Wednesday morning format this year... chatting with others at 9:30 over a cup of coffee and then heading off to The Well or one of our other Bible study groups. We'll wave "goodbye" for the summer (the last session is on Wednesday, May 4), and Women on Wednesdays will resume in September.

## Ongoing Bible Study

### **Gospel Message & Discussion -- 10:00 - 11:30, Room #211**

Beth Hoving teaches from God's word, and Lisa Bloomston leads discussion of this small group. No materials are needed. Contact Lisa at 239-274-1230 for more information, or just drop in on Wednesdays throughout the summer.

## Prayer Group

Led by Lisa Bloomston, this group meets every Wednesday in Room #211 at 12:00. The prayer group will continue to meet throughout the summer.

## May Women's Activities

Women on Wednesdays, Room 212 \*: 9:30 - 12:00 n - Wed., May. 4

Prayer Group, Room 211: 12:00 - 1:00 pm - Wed., May 4, 11, 18, 25

Lois Circle, Room 207: 10:00 - 12:00 n - Tues., May 10

Deborah Circle, Room 210: 10:00 - 12:00 n - Tues., May 10

Rebekah Circle Room 208: 10:00 - 12:00 n - Thurs., May 19

M.O.P.S. & Mom's Next, Room 212: 9:30 - 12:00 n - Tues., May 3, 24

Mom's at Night, Room 216: 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Tues., May 3

MOMtourage, Room 208: 6:30 - 7:30 pm - Wed., May 4, 11, 18, 25

\*Includes The Well; Gospel & Discussion

# *On a Mission to Serve*

## **Nicole Hjuisa**

MOPS. Service Coordinator

New Hope is the host of a local chapter of MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, September through May. If you drop by Room 216 on those mornings, you'll find the room a-buzz with laughter, conversation, crafts, prayer, and mentoring as women build relationships over food and the common bond of motherhood. It is not necessary to be a member of New Hope church to participate in MOPS, but a number of women have learned of New Hope through MOPS and are now part of the New Hope family.



MOPS women care deeply for their community and engage in service projects throughout the year.

The role of sourcing ideas for service, bringing them to discussion among the MOPS members, and coordinating the projects is the responsibility of New Hope member **Nicole Hjuisa** (pronounced "high'-sa") and her team of 7-8 ladies. During the 2020-2021 MOPS year, the team chose Verity Pregnancy Counseling Center for their donations. This season (2021-2022), the team chose WeCare Outreach Ministry to be the recipient of MOPS service contributions. Nicole and her team are in communication with the service partner throughout the year to identify WeCare's needs and to bring those needs to the women of MOPS. Generosity abounds! The MOPS women have provided diapers, baby wipes, and pull-up diapers for the daycare that WeCare supports, cleaning supplies for families serviced by WeCare, and sheets and bedding for children whose parents don't have the funds to provide anything other than a floor on which they can sleep. The need in Lee County is great, and Nicole and her team know that MOPS women understand that need and have hearts that are abounding in love for needy families.

Nicole is originally from Florida and husband Frank is from the Philippines. They have two children: five-year-old Gabriel and three-year-old Sophia who participate in the New Hope Nursery on Sunday mornings while Nicole and Frank are in the worship service. This coming fall, Gabriel will start school, and Nicole plans to take on the challenge of home-schooling. She enjoys fitness activities, cooking, being outside, and she ran her first marathon this year. Nicole participates in the children's Sunday School program at New Hope, "MOMtourage" on Wednesday nights, volunteers at WeCare Outreach Ministry, and helps with the swap-meet MOPS runs each year to raise funds for their service projects.

One of the mottos MOPS has for this season is "Make Love Your Legacy." Nicole and the women of MOPS are living that motto in their service to others.



# Volunteers WANTED! in His service

**Sunday World Changers Elementary Ministry**  
**Contact Debbie Norris: [debbie@newhopefortmyers.org](mailto:debbie@newhopefortmyers.org)**

- Welcome Desk Host at 11:00 am – warm, welcoming people to check in new families, answer questions
- Check in team at 9:30 am – serve on a schedule to check in families at beginning of service
- Summer Sunday School Team – serve on a schedule as a small group leader at 9:30, Bible teacher at 11:00, or helper at either hour. Can serve either June, July, or as a sub.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)**  
**Contact Debbie Norris: [debbie@newhopefortmyers.org](mailto:debbie@newhopefortmyers.org)**

- June 6 –10 from 8:15–12:15 – We need group guides to shepherd groups of 12 children each. Two adults and two teens will be assigned to each group of 12 children. We need 50 adults plus subs and 40 teens to serve an expected 280 children. You must be part of the New Hope family, and you may be screened by child protection services.
- There are a variety of needs for kingdom minded servants helping in the snack or imagination station center, greeters, check in system administrator, nametag prep, prayer warriors, and set-up the weekend before VBS, Friday clean up, mailing, and many more opportunities.





# Holy Week Breakfast for Women



The Holy Week Breakfast was attended by 155 women. Cindy Lawrence gave an inspiring testimony of her faith and journey through the illness that resulted in the amputation of her legs. Bob Rae and Jade Torok enhanced the service with their musical talents, Jeannie and Craig Martin made the casseroles, the women of Circles of Fellowship and various Bible study groups provided the fruit, coffee cakes, and orange juice, Craig Martin and his team of 10 men served the food, Danielle Studer and Michelle Myers took photos, and hospitality greeters made everyone feel welcome. Thanks to the Womens Leadership Team and all those who participated in this event!