

Hope-Line

The Newsletter for Hope Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Florida 33884-1556
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MAY 2016



As I write this article I have almost been with you for one year. It is hard to believe. As I ponder this milestone I am humbled by the love, care and support Julie and I have been given. Leaving everything that was familiar to us behind was not easy, but what we have found and experienced in your midst has affirmed in our hearts that this is where God has called us. We are so grateful for the relationships we have made and friendships that have been forged in this first year of our ministry. As we reflect on what has been accomplished it is obvious that God is at work in our midst. Thank you for all you have shared and given and for the commitment you have for our church. It is wonderful to be a part of this thriving and strong community of faith.

I must admit I was not prepared for the “seasonal exodus” that occurs each spring here at Hope. As they say at Red Roof Inn, “We’ll keep the light on for you.” We will miss you this summer and pray that God will watch over each of you as you travel to cooler locales. Drop us a note every chance you get and let us know how you are doing.

The Session has decided to continue both 8:15 and 10:30 services throughout the summer. So, if you are busy later in the day, worship early and if you want to sleep in a bit, join us at 10:30. We promise the church will be a “cool” place to gather throughout the summer. There are several “save the date events” of which you need to mark your calendars. The first event is our all church picnic immediately following 10:30 worship on **Sunday, May 15**. We will be recognizing their accomplishments and celebrate our graduates on **Sunday, May 29**. The next event is our choral summer cantata on **Sunday, June 5**.

An exciting event is coming **June 27 to July 1**. Our friends from Cedarkirk are bringing their Day Camp to Hope. Together we will serve our community by providing a day camp for all campers kindergarten through 5th grade. The fee is \$75 and scholarships are available. Campers will meet daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and lunch and snacks will be provided.

July brings us an exciting worship experience with our favorite old fashioned hymn sing. So be prepared to vote for your favorite hymns for us to sing and enjoy once more.

For those of you who enjoy a light, heart touching, summer read...please know you are welcomed to sit down with me for an hour or so and share the lives of Port William, Kentucky. You will find yourselves living through the lives of a mythical town and become involved with new friends portrayed by Wendell Berry. Copies of our first book, *Jayber Crow*, can be found in our church office or through Amazon. Come pull up a seat and journey with us on **Monday, June 6** at 6:45 p.m. or **Thursday, June 9** at 10:30 a.m. We will learn, love, laugh and enjoy a conversation about real “life.”

Peace.

Pastor Owen

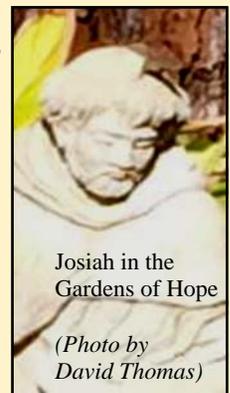
News from Your Church Gecko

O Lamb of God, Sweet Lamb of God... not only were we a light shining brightly, but the rafters were lifting from the roof! Every gecko on the hill was joining in glad adoration of our new hymnbooks, *Glory to God*. All of my friends have just been elated over this new hymnbook. In fact, if you listen closely, you can still hear them singing throughout the community. Glory to God! Even St. Francis enjoyed the music!

Now if the hymnbooks were not enough, we also were ecstatic that we have new Bibles. Papaw Gecko could read the print so much easier and even baby gecko could read and comprehend all her favorite Bible stories with the Common English Version. So I must say, a huge amount of joy was overflowing and spilling from the doors of Hope. If I didn’t know better, I would think all of us geckos wanted to just run throughout the community and evangelize from this gift of God.

Talking about gifts of God...our little geckos are still chattering about the gift of peace which they received from their “cuddle buddies” through the Holy Spirit. God is mysterious and touches our lives in so many unexpected ways. He keeps us on our toes. Maybe that is just what we need to open the doors for Pentecost. We geckos love the mysterious and unexpected. I can’t wait to slip into the doors next Sunday for worship!

Josiah



Josiah in the
Gardens of Hope

(Photo by
David Thomas)

Hope Creative School News



Trike-A-Thon

On April 14, the Hope Creative School children rode their trikes and bikes for a good cause. They raised over \$450 for The Hearth Project. Thank you for your generous gifts of love.

End-of-Year Program

Thursday, May 19 — 11 a.m. — McGrath Hall
All Hope family and friends are invited!

Playground Update...

The HCS playground is coming along slowly, but surely. It will be well worth the time and effort that has been put into it especially when we see the smiling faces of the school children on it once again.

Open Enrollment

It's that time of year again! Open Enrollment for the 2016-2017 School Year. Register before June 1 and receive \$50 off your enrollment fee. Hope Church members receive an additional discount off tuition.

YOUTH OF HOPE

Friday, May 13—Youth of Hope will be leaving at 5 p.m. for our overnight camping trip at Wekiwa State Park.

Saturday, May 21—We will be taking a day trip to enjoy the beach with John and Lynne Maxwell at their beach home.

Saturday, May 28—Will be a tremendous day of fun for our end of the year bash at the home of Scott and Ardis Boland. Stay tuned for further details!



CEDARKIRK TRAVELING DAY CAMP At Hope Presbyterian Church

Cedarkirk Camp and Hope Presbyterian Church will team together this summer to provide **CEDARKIRK TRAVELING DAY CAMP** at Hope Church! Our week of camp begins **Monday, June 27 until Friday, July 1**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for kindergarten through 5th grade. Lunch and snacks will be provided. The fee is \$75 per child (scholarships available). If you have any questions or are interested in sponsoring a child for camp, please contact Julie: julie@hopepreswh.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — June 27 through July 1 for our **DAY CAMP**. We will be here from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. daily at our church and a lot of our time will be spent outside. If you do not mind playing outside and enjoy children, please let me know. We will not have to teach, but simply be support staff for our leaders coming from Cedarkirk. This is going to be an exciting adventure! **ALSO** please feel free to take brochures with registration forms for your families, friends, and neighbors. Forms are available in the Narthex on Sunday or in the Church Office.

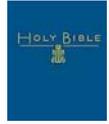
MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — We need **YOU** to help host the leaders that will be coming the week of June 27 through July 1 from Cedarkirk. They need room and board along with transportation to and from the church. If you would like to offer your home to host a leader, please let Julie know. Thank you!

NEW BIBLES AND HYMNALS!

Your Worship committee is pleased to announce that we have purchased new Bibles and hymnals for our sanctuary! We invite you to help defray the cost of the Bibles and hymnals. You may do so in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone (e.g., it could be yourself, your family or anyone you choose). We'll include a memorial/honor-of sticker inside the front cover. **Please make checks to Hope Presbyterian Church and mark check with "Bible" and/or "Hymnal" on the memo line. Thank you!*

COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE

*Cost: \$13 each



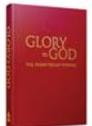
Name _____ Bible(s) _____ Amount Enclosed _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

GLORY TO GOD HYMNAL

*Cost: \$20 each



Name _____ Hymnal(s) _____ Amount Enclosed _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Upcoming Events and Opportunities



SUNDAY PICNIC LUNCHEON

May 15 — 11:45 a.m. — McGrath Hall

Menu: Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, cole slaw,
baked beans, iced tea and coffee
Dessert: Cake and ice cream

Special Music by the Carrikers and the Reasoners

Cost: \$8 (Adults); Kids 12 and under—Free! But everyone needs a ticket!
Tickets must be purchased in advance to facilitate food purchases.
Tickets are available through **Tuesday, May 10.**

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY, MAY 29

If you or someone you know will soon be graduating, we would like to recognize and honor that achievement on Graduation Sunday. Please notify the church office of the full name of student, name of school, grade and degree to be received so we may share in this time of celebration.



“OUR FATHER” CANTATA — SUNDAY, JUNE 5 HOPE’S CHANCEL CHOIR



ALL WOMEN OF HOPE are invited to a Baby Shower for Savannah Kenny
Saturday, June 25 — 12 Noon to 2 p.m. — McGrath Hall
Please RSVP: A sign-up sheet is in the Church Office
or call the office (863) 324-6382 if you plan to attend.

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Address Correction Requested



**The Church Office
will be closed
Monday, May 30 in
observance of
Memorial Day.**

“LIKE US” ON



MEMORIAL DAY 2016

In honor of Memorial Day, the Men’s Group of Hope will be decorating the lawn in front of the Church with a field of 100 flags. The Men’s Group will repeat the decorations for July 4th and Veterans Day.



Funding for the flags will be done by the Men’s Group at no cost to the Church.

If you would like to participate, you can dedicate a flag in honor or memory of anyone you desire. There is no charge for the dedication, but a donation of \$10 or less would be greatly appreciated so we can buy more flags. Simply fill out the form below. *Please mark your check or contribution envelope with the word “Flag.” Thank you!*

Memorial Flag Dedication

Name _____ Flag(s) ordered _____ Amount Enclosed _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____