

Hope-Line

The Newsletter for Hope Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Florida 33884-1556
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OCTOBER 2015



For me, October is always a very busy month. We are settling into our new schedules and routines and there is often more to do than we have time to do. Our “*light of hope*” has become a little brighter by all the wonderful programs and events we have starting up this fall. We are off to a good start and I am so thankful that so many of you are participating in the Bible Studies, Sunday school, Kid’s Rock and Youth. It makes me feel so good about our church to see so many of you stepping up to assist us in leadership and attendance. Many of you give so much of yourselves to help our church fulfill its mission and as your pastor I greatly appreciate all that you do. While we celebrate all of you who are volunteering to help, we also send out a plea for any others who would like to join our leadership teams. If you want to help, contact either me or Julie and we will be more than happy to plug you in to one of our leadership teams.

In a world with so much going on, the church can easily drop off the plate or become just something else we do. Thank you for your commitment to our church. I try to say this often, because I really mean it: I am grateful for your attendance at worship on Sunday mornings. I know there are so many things that tug at your time and commitment. Thank you for making worship a priority and supporting the work of our congregation. Your effort makes our church strong and enables our ministry to reach out into the community around us.

This month we celebrate World Communion Sunday, welcome the Nairobi Chamber Chorus on October 18 at the 10:30 service and have a congregational meeting after worship on October 25 to elect officers. There is a lot going on and we hope you will participate in not only these events, but all we have to offer.

I am so glad to be sailing with each of you on this ship of great “Hope.” We are moving in the direction God is leading us and as a community of faith we are accomplishing so much for God’s Kingdom. So as a friend once said, “Don’t slow down now, the good part is just around the corner.”

Peace. *Pastor Owen*

The Nairobi Chamber Chorus and the Festival Singers of Florida Sunday, October 18, 2015—10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Many Hope Church members and friends will remember that the Festival Singers sang during worship at Hope one year ago. The Festival Singers of Florida is the lead sponsor for the Nairobi Chamber Chorus’ 10-day Southeastern United States tour.



Founded in October 2005, the Nairobi Chamber Chorus mission is to enable young Kenyans to participate in a high quality musical forum from which to build careers and expand knowledge of the arts. Ken Wakia, their founding director said, “Sharing in worship at Hope will mark the end of a 10-day American tour during which we will work to touch lives, fill hearts and build bridges between cultures through the universal language of music. I can’t think of a better way to bring our tour to a close than to worship with you.”

The Festival Singers of Florida raised money to bring the Nairobi Chamber Chorus to America and will manage their tour. The Presbyterian Women of Hope made a significant contribution to that effort. Dr. Kevin Fenton, the Festival Singers artistic director said, “There’s an old saying that Africa will steal your heart. Those are true words; it certainly stole the hearts of the Festival Singers of Florida who went to Kenya one year ago and performed with the Nairobi Chamber Chorus. Their energy and inner joy absolutely filled our hearts. We are pleased to share that with you.” Fenton is professor of choral conducting and ensembles at Florida State University where he has served since 2000.



From Josiah, the Church Gecko



Well, it was Josiah to the rescue the other day! I was helping Pastor Owen set up for a class he was teaching and he was trying to get into a room he had not yet been given a key to, and as usual, I saved the day. It is amazing how many times I save the day for him! You may not know, but I have special privileges to enter all the rooms and buildings at Hope. Although the locks have been changed, Mr. Ron told me the other day that nothing would change for me. I will still be able to get into all the buildings of the church the same way I entered them before the locks were changed. Mr. Ron told me to come and go as I please, but to be careful not to let folks in that probably should not be in the buildings. My special clearance to enter the buildings does not require a key. I simply slip in under the door or in some cases between the doors through the weather stripping. So, on the day Pastor Owen needed in the room all I had to do was slip through the weather stripping and open the door for him. I was going to apply to be the official door opener for Hope, but Pastor Owen said I would have to wear a nametag to do that and dress in Khaki pants and a button down collar—and as you know, I am “clothing optional.”

Speaking of name tags, don't forget to sign up on Sunday for your name tag. The church is sponsoring these at no cost to you. Although I know most of you, there are a few that I am still trying to put a name with a face. So please stop by the table in the Narthex and sign up for a name tag. Tell them you are doing it for Josiah!

I have so enjoyed receiving mail! Thank you to all the folks who have sent me postcards and letters. I have received mail from as far away as Scotland and as close as Lakeland. I read every one of them and love to imagine that I am living in the postcards! Recently I received a picture of a bagpiper with a beautiful castle in the background. I have had so much fun imagining what it is like to play the bagpipe and live in that beautiful castle!

And talking about things I enjoy: I love **KIDS ROCK!** It is so much fun. It is the fastest hour of my week and the most fun. I can't decide what I like best: the music, the Bible stories, the Dude perfect videos, the games or the refreshments. Truth is I love it all and can hardly wait for Wednesday at 5 p.m. Now don't get me wrong, I like Pastor Owen's Bible Study but **KIDS ROCK** is more on my level!



Well, I guess I need to be moving along. I am tagging along with Pastor Owen this afternoon to visit some of our home-bound folks and he told me that if I am good he will buy me a snicker's bar! I think I will ask him for a large one today. He has been giving me the snack size. I think he bought a bag of them and gives me one at a time. I have never seen the snack size sold in the stores as individual bars, have you? Anyway, look forward to seeing you around the church! Speak to me and wave when you see me.

Peace.

Josiah



TRUNK OR TREAT

It is that time of year to brightly shine that beacon of light in our community! On **Friday, October 30**, the Youth of Hope, along with all our wonderful friends at Hope, will be shining our lanterns brightly with our **Trunk or Treat** from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Some of you might be scratching your heads and asking, “What in the world is a Trunk or Treat?” A Trunk or Treat is many things...it means decorating the trunk of your vehicle and loading it with wonderful candies for children in the community to come share and an opportunity to shine our lights here at Hope. **(NO CANDIES WITH NUTS PLEASE.)**



We want our Trunk or Treat to include activities such as a cake walk, candy and/or caramel apples, cotton candy, many Halloween themed games, a face painting booth, a craft booth and more. Everyone gets to dress up in their friendly Halloween costumes. The wonderful opportunity about Trunk or Treat here at Hope is that we help provide a child friendly atmosphere for children in our community to TRICK OR TREAT safely. Many of you already participate with the Hope Creative School by decorating your vehicles earlier in the day. We simply invite you to keep them decorated and allow us to share them on Friday evening too...only we need more vehicles...lots more! So we ask you to please consider helping us by your program or group sponsoring a booth or an activity. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Julie at the church office or by email: julie@hopepreswh.org.

HOPE CREATIVE SCHOOL BOOK FAIR—OCTOBER 4-9



The Hope Creative School Scholastic Book Fair opens for members and friends of Hope **Sunday, October 4, between Worship Services**. Many of the latest books for children with some selections for upper elementary and middle school are available. These books make great gifts for Christmas and birthdays! Proceeds go towards book credit for Hope Creative School.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women are invited to join any or all Circles.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS—Monday, October 5—6 p.m. at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant.
Please RSVP Ann Wainscott princecraft17@tampabay.rr.com or Jeanie Madaus (863) 326-6056.

MORNING GLORIES CIRCLE—Tuesday, October 6—10 a.m. in the Parlor.
Guest Speaker is Lieutenant Bernabe from the Salvation Army of Winter Haven.
Questions? Please call Anne McBride (407) 227-5949.

CIRCLE OF HOPE—Wednesday, October 7—1:30 p.m. at the home of Ruth Berkey,
5008 Pebble Beach Boulevard. Questions? Call Ruth at (863) 324-3079.

MEN OF HOPE

The Men of Hope recently purchased an engraved brick to honor
“Rev Rob” Morrison in recognition of his faithful service as our interim pastor.
The engraved brick has been placed by the church flagpole.



HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE MINI-BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE

Saturday—October 10—8 a.m. - 12 Noon—McGrath Hall

Fall, Halloween and Christmas Decorations
Christmas ornaments, lights, wreaths, trees,
greeting cards, wrapping paper and
homemade goodies for sale.



All hands on deck for another successful BAKE SALE!
Drop off your unpriced baked goodies on Friday, October 9
between 9 a.m. and 12 Noon.

Make sure you label your goodies and if they contain nuts.
Sugar-free items are also welcome!

—Bazaar Committee

Octoberfest Fellowship Dinner —Wednesday, October 14 — 6 p.m.—McGrath Hall

Menu: German Sausage or Pork Loin, German Potato Salad, Sauerkraut,
Pickled Beets, coffee, iced tea, and Apple Strudel for dessert.

Cost: \$8 (Adults); Kids 12 and under—FREE! But everyone needs a ticket!

Dinner tickets must be purchased in advance to facilitate food purchases.

Tickets available Sundays, October 4 and 11.

LADIES CRAFT DAY

Saturday, October 24 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — McGrath Hall

A light lunch will be available for purchase (Cost: \$5)

- Making a Deco Wreath by Barbara Anderson (Cost \$10-\$15)
- Paper Crafting Class by Florence Davis (Cost \$5)
- Making Christmas Tree earrings by Barbara Follett (Cost \$10)

Questions? Please contact PeggyAnn White at paw@krats.com



FROM THE DEACONS

SPAGHETTI DINNER AND BASKET RAFFLE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28—5:30 p.m.—McGRATH HALL

Basket Raffle and live music. Tickets available each Sunday through October 24.

Adults—\$10 Children 5-12—\$5. (Kids under 5—Free.)

Raffle tickets—\$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Come for dinner, entertainment, and if you are lucky, take a basket home!

—PeggyAnn White, Moderator



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our home page:
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT HOPE

I just received a **GOOD MORNING EYEWITNESS NEWS REPORT** from our reporters about activities occurring in our building on Sundays between 9:15 and 10:15 a.m. Sounds as though this may be an opportunity for us in the church community to take part in...just from our news desk and **YOU** got it first!

What a joy and privilege we have to share in our curriculum for our **Sunday School Programs** this fall season:

OUR YOUNGER CHILDREN are studying *“Growing in Grace and Gratitude”* with some of the finest teachers you will find at Hope Presbyterian Church. We have studied, *“God Saw How It Was Good”* and this last week we studied, *“God Makes Promises.”* We have sung songs from our “Growing in Grace and Gratitude” CD along with Mr. David and Mrs. Judy Calhoun as they join us with guitar and more fun songs! Mrs. Holly even led a scavenger hunt throughout our church last Sunday morning and the children built an altar out of rocks. So many fun things are going on in Room 204 of McGrath Hall during our Sunday School time.

OUR OLDER YOUTH have been sharing stories about themselves, stories about the Bible and even details about how we use the Bible in our everyday lives. We even counted the Bibles in our homes and shared what kind of Bibles we use. We are getting some hands on, indepth, activities to teach us how to utilize our Bibles better...and helps us even more as we grow as **YOUTH OF HOPE**. Which by the way, intermingles with our Bible Study on Sunday evenings led by Pastor Owen!

Pastor Owen has been leading our **ADULT CLASS** in the *“Simply Christian”* study with N. T. Wright. I think being Christian is sometimes anything but simple and you might find that N. T. Wright may agree or...not? Well, **YOU** need to make the decision and join in that discussion in the Parlor from 9:15 to 10:15 on Sunday morning. Sounds like a pretty exciting time in the life of our church as we grow in Christian Education!

—Julie Carriker, Interim Director of Christian Education