

Hope-Line

The Newsletter for Hope Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Florida 33884-1556
2110 Cypress Gardens Boulevard ♦ 863-324-6382 ♦ hope@hopepreswh.org ♦ www.hopepreswh.org

SEPTEMBER 2015



There is an old farm saying that goes like this, “You gotta hit the ground running or you will never get your crops in.” When I think about the life of faith and our call as Jesus’ disciples, that old farm saying is so appropriate. We can’t just sit back and relax when it comes to matters of faith and discipleship. We have to put forth the effort and energy to reap the harvest. Hope Church has so much to offer no matter if you are new to our faith community or a lifelong member. This fall, I hope we will all “hit the ground running” together. There is a lot to do and if we all get involved we will far exceed our expectations and have so much more fun together. There are needs we can all fill and if we all jump in together just imagine what we can accomplish—and the fun we will have doing it. There are new program offerings for every age group in our congregation. There are also new opportunities to reach out and serve taking shape as well. Have you ever been told, “There are so many opportunities in front of you, you have no excuse for not doing well.” I want to encourage you to take part in as many activities as you can. It is a great way for Julie and me to get to know you better—and the great part is that your faith will be strengthened. So come on and join us as we hit the ground running this fall!

As I am sure you have noticed, I love to be around people. The best way to do me in is to put me in room by myself. Relationships are important to me and the ministry I hope to build here at Hope. Thank you to all of you who have come by the office or spoke to me in public—I love that. And those of you who have come by yet, the door is always open. I love to hear your stories and learn about your lives and develop the connection that not only binds us together in faith but also personally as well.

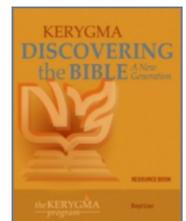
My golden lab Boomer is over 15 years old—but still in great shape. He is so curious. Every morning when we let him out in the backyard, he walks every inch exploring whatever he finds. Then he rolls around in the grass and chases June bugs or barks at the birds flying by. He never seems to lose his love for life and everyday seems to be a new and exciting adventure for him—even if he did the very same thing the day before. As our lives continue to intertwine and develop, may we also have that same curiosity and sense of adventure so that we too never lose our love for this life God has given us. Hope to see each of you at the church where HOPE is a given each time we gather!

Peace.

Pastor Owen

“DISCOVERING THE BIBLE”

Reverend Carriker will be teaching *Discovering the Bible* program from Keryma (Proclamation) this fall at Hope. This Bible Study program will introduce you to the people, places and stories of the Bible and help you discover where *The Story* lives in *your story*! Through a process of reading, reflection, discussion and creative expression, both the first-time learner and the lifelong student will participate in an engaging, rewarding encounter with Scripture that will greatly deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Bible. The study is 30 sessions. The study will be offered once during the daytime and once in the evening to accommodate those who do not drive at night and those who work during the day. Plans at present are to offer the study on Monday evenings in the Sunset Room located in the Sanctuary beginning at 6:45 p.m. and then repeated on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The course will begin **September 14 and 17**. To sign up, call the Church office (863) 324-6382 or e-mail Reverend Carriker at owen@hopepreswh.org. If you have questions, contact Reverend Carriker. Please register so that we can order the appropriate number of study resource books.





From Josiah, the Church Geeko

Most of my days here at Hope have been spent following Rev. Carriker around. He has such a great job! He spends most mornings in the church office and then is out visiting in the afternoon. It is kind of fun going with him and I am learning so much about our congregation. Best thing, the other day he treated me to a snickers bar. Well not really. He stopped in the store to get a bottle of water and a snickers bar. He then went to Astoria to visit, and while he was in there, I took a few bites. I intended to only take one bite, but you know how that goes. I ate half of it before I knew it! Of course he was so into finding his next visit when he got in the car that he did not even notice! Guess I got away with that one.



Ms. Marti and Mrs. Donna have made a mailbox for me in the mailroom, but I have not received one piece of mail. I love postcards. When you travel I hope you will take time to send me a postcard. I like to look at the picture and imagine myself being there. Please send me something. It is just not fair that Rev. Carriker gets all the mail.

I signed up for fall Bible Study today. I think I am going to go to the day class on Thursday. I am excited to take part in this “Best Bible Study Ever” that Rev. Carriker is leading. I picked up the study guide and started reading the first chapter. It is excellent material. There are 30 discoveries that we will make in this study. It really is going to be good. Sign up and you can sit with me on Thursdays. We will have so much fun together.

For the last few Sundays I have been slipping out of worship to take part in Mrs. Julie’s Sunday School program for the children. Wow are they having fun! My favorite was last Sunday when we got to make rain sticks out of a paper towel tube. I loved it—my parents, not so much. In fact they made me stay in worship this week. I did not mind that so much cause I got to see Nicole and William get baptized. And, Rev. Carriker’s sermon was relatively short. There is always so much fun to be had in Sunday School!

The Creative School is starting back! I am so thrilled. Obadiah and I will have other kids to play with on the playground. Kids just seem to love playing with us and we are thrilled when they are around. They like to pick us up and they let us play games with them. Adults always try to run us out of the building but the kids just love to have us around.

Well, it sure is good to be just a few weeks from fall and the new program year. Although I have to be really careful I don’t get stepped on when the attendance picks up! I’ve gotta run but I will be seeing you around the church when you stop by and don’t forget, send me some mail!



Josiah

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Two Worship Services resume:

8:15 and 10:30 a.m.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper observed at both services.
Join us as we celebrate our programs within Hope Church at our
EXPO SHOWCASE in McGrath Hall — 9:30 a.m.
A light breakfast will be provided.



Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner — September 16 — 6 p.m.—McGrath Hall

Menu: Caesar salad, Burgundy Beef Tips, choice of rice or noodles, hot vegetable, garlic bread, coffee, iced tea, and frosted pink lemonade cake 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, September 6 and 13 before and after worship.

FALL KICK-OFF TIME IS NEAR!

Sunday, September 13 join in on the fun, light breakfast, and **Fall Expo** of all the groups within the church. It is still not too late to reserve tables to promote your group or committee. E-mail Julie: julie@hopepreswh.org reserve your table. This will be a joyous start to a new year to celebrate the fall programs of for our church.

YOUTH NEW TIME! YOUTH NEW DAY!

Beginning **September 20** Youth of Hope will meet on Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. All youth that are in Junior and Senior High grades are invited to come and enjoy delicious meals, wonderful Christian fellowship, and recreation. We will have one more Wednesday evening meeting on September 9 to prepare for Worship on Sunday, September 13. Remember youth will assist in both worship services.



Looking forward to an exciting fall program! Of course, the youth are celebrating our **Fall Kick-Off** by participating in our September 13 worship services. We also have some exciting opportunities for mission projects within our community. Come and share some of the exciting opportunities!

THANK YOU!

The Youth of Hope, along with all of our leaders, would like to extend their sincere thanks to our congregation for the outpouring of love and support. So many of you have prepared meals or ordered meals for our group. Some of you have donated gift cards and then there are those of you that have given your time and energy and love offerings to make special projects/games for our group to play this coming year. Wow!!! We appreciate all that you do for us and give praise to God for such a loving and generous congregation. Thank you again!!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL and CHILDREN'S CHURCH

New **SUNDAY SCHOOL** program begins on **Sunday, September 20** from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. We have a whole host of wonderful teachers who will be teaching our new curriculum this year, **"Growing in Grace in Gratitude."** Without a doubt, this is some of the best curriculum the Presbyterian Church has ever written. We will have a multiage group meeting in Room 204 in the Christian Education Building. We ask that parents fill out a registration form for all the children attending Sunday School. These will be available September 13 at the **Fall Kick-Off**.

Children's Church will continue to be a time for children ages 4 through 6 to gather and share the scripture which the adults will be sharing in worship. Children will leave after the "Time for Children" for the Nursery (up to 3 years of age) or to Children's Church, ages 4 through 6. We still need volunteers to serve each Sunday. The program is prepared and all you have to do is serve during worship. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Don't miss an opportunity to share in the lives of our wonderful children.



KIDS ROCK!

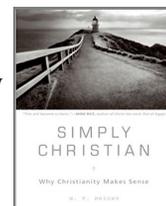


Listen up!

Get ready....Get set....Gooooooooooooooooo! Kids Rock — Kids Reaching Our Communities— begins **Wednesday, September 16** from 5 to 6 p.m. Registration will be available online or through our church office. This program is designed for grades 1 through 5. Bible study, videos, skits, music, recreation and more.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Reverend Carriker will be leading this book/video study during the Sunday School hour beginning on **Sunday, September 20, 9:15 a.m. in the Sunset Room located in the Sanctuary**. The class will include watching a short video each week and then a time of discussion. There is a study guide for the course and participants may want to purchase N. T. Wright's book **Simply Christian**. Not since C. S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* has such a wise and informed leader taken the time to explain what Christianity is and how it is practiced. In **Simply Christian**, renowned biblical scholar and Anglican Bishop N. T. Wright makes a case for Christianity from the ground up. Walking the reader through the Christian faith step-by-step and question by question, Wright's **Simply Christian** offers explanations for even the toughest doubt-filled skeptics, leaving believers with a reason for renewed faith. To sign up, call the church office (863) 324-6382 or e-mail Reverend Carriker: owen@hopepreswh.org. If you have questions, contact Reverend Carriker. Please register so that we can order the appropriate number of study resource books.



Published by:

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Address Correction Requested

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Holy Communion



Follow us on FACEBOOK!

Click the Facebook link on
our home page:

www.hopepreswh.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE MINI-BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE
Saturday—October 10—8 a.m. - 12 Noon—McGrath Hall

Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas donations, and other items may be brought to the church and left in the Service Entrance in the Christian Education Building. Please keep the holiday items separate from all other items. Items that are large and heavy require a phone call to Mary Kaylor (863) 969-3352 to arrange for delivery to the church. Please do not leave items outside the building and remember we cannot accept clothing or shoes. Children's toys are accepted. Thank you for your continued support. —Bazaar Committee

SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18—10:30 a.m. Worship Service

The Festival Singers of Florida and the Nairobi Chamber Chorus will lead worship.

LADIES CRAFT DAY

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

A light lunch will be available for purchase.

- 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. So far we have 15 baskets that will be donated.

Tickets available Sunday, October 4. 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