

# Hope-Line

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



~~With the start of school, you know that September and crisp cool air is just around the corner.~~

Sorry about that. For a moment I thought I was back in North Carolina. It must have been the cold air of the Sanctuary last Sunday that got me thinking about fall. With the start of school in Florida we know that we still have two more months of summer. (Let's be honest. Summer really lasts until at least the end of October in Florida.) But as we flip the calendar from August to September we are reminded that it is time for us to get back into the non-summer swing of things. In the life of the church we refer to September as "program start-up" month. You will notice that all of our regular programs that took the summer off will be starting up in the next few weeks. Let me encourage you to rekindle your commitment to our programs and mission by getting involved in what we have to offer. We cannot grow and flourish as a community of faith without your support and involvement in our programs and mission. We cannot sit back and "let others do it." Regularly participating in worship and education is the best way to strengthen our faith and grow in our understanding of what Christ calls us to be and do.

"Kick Off Sunday" will be **September 11** this year. The worship that Sunday (9:30 a.m.) will be followed by a church wide picnic, fellowship and games. In my heart sometimes I call "Kick Off Sunday" "Kick Start Sunday." We sometimes need to kick start our faith.

This is also the time of year we begin to welcome back all of those who "took flight" to cooler climates. We are so glad you are back and want you to know we missed you while you were away. We have been anticipating your return and you will find your familiar seats waiting for you. While many of you were away we welcomed a new organist/accompanist to our staff, Philip King. We hope you will take a moment and introduce yourselves to him. We feel so fortunate to have Philip with us and are truly enjoying his talent and ministry.

We have a busy fall ahead of us and our hope is that each of you will consider ways you can get more involved in the programs and mission of our community of faith. You are a vital part of our "body of Christ" and we cannot do without you.

Peace.

*Pastor Owen*

## Thursday Evening Worship begins September 22

Our new contemporary worship service will begin on **Thursday evening, September 22** at 6:30 p.m. in McGrath Hall. Our tag line is: "Worship with us on Thursdays. Connect with God. And, have your weekends free!" This worship service targets those in our church and community who have busy weekends or who work on Sundays and cannot attend worship on Sunday mornings. This will be a family friendly service that will end around 7:15 p.m., we hope just in time to get the kids home for bed. It will involve both traditional and contemporary music, and visuals will be provided by a screen. It will be a more interactive service, especially the sermons. The dress for this service will certainly be relaxed and you are even encouraged to bring your coffee, water or soft drinks with you. Even if you are not sure this service will appeal to you we invite you to come and see what it is all about.

## Discovering the Bible

Our Bible studies will resume on **Monday, September 19** at 6:30 p.m. or **Thursday, September 22** at 10:30 a.m. in the Sunset Room. Our study this fall will center on the time after Pentecost, letters of Paul and Revelation. Our study guide is "Discovering the Bible" by the Kerygma (Proclamation) program. If you are interested, but have not been to one of our studies before, please know you are welcome to join us. We would love to have you come and learn with us. Please call the church office or indicate your interest on the Friendship pad on Sunday mornings. If you were a part of the class last year—your place is waiting for you and we look forward to seeing you "back in class." This study is a wonderful way to capture a bird's eye view of the Bible. Although you will learn a lot, it is a "no experience necessary" course. It is a very enjoyable journey through the Bible that will surprise you by what you learn and the relationships you build with others in our church community.

## NEWS FROM JOSIAH



I tagged along with the youth on their trip to Kelly Park a couple of weeks ago and not only was the trip tubing fun, fun, fun—but I got to witness an event I have been waiting for my whole life long. It happened like this:

The youth wore that river out! They tubed both up and down the river all morning. Yes, they tubed up the river too! They would finish a run and walk back up the river! They made seven trips down the river with Rev. Carriker being his usual mischievous self. He dunked most of the youth and avoided being dunked himself until...

I could see it coming. He and Miss Julie were lagging behind the group taking their time coming down the river. Bad move on his part. That enabled the other youth to get set up in the pool at the midpoint of the tubing run. There was a curve in the river so they could get set up without him knowing it. So, there they were, perfectly positioned in a semi-circle in the middle of the pool just under the lifeguard stand. It proved to be the perfect place. Rev. Carriker must have thought they would not dunk him that close to the lifeguard because he just floated right on in to the middle of the group. My heart began to pound with anticipation and excitement. I could not believe what I knew was about to happen. It was incredible. Now mind you Rev. Carriker kept his eye on the three most likely “dunkers,” RW, DG and RB (initials only to protect the innocence of the dunkers)—he knew they were the three most likely to carry out the deed. He just knew they would try to dunk him from behind so he kept turning and turning and turning to keep them in front of him. Then the fateful moment came. It came to him not from the back, but from the front. RW, DG and RB gathered in front of him. The excitement was deafening. They simply lifted his legs out of the water and tumbled him backwards in a truly Olympic quality dunk—the best I have seen in years. Wringing wet, knowing he had been dunked in the greatest of style, Rev. Carriker came up out of the water and just smiled. It was all he could do. He had been had. It was a dunk worth a perfect 10.0 score—One that I will never forget and will never let Rev. Carriker forget either. Yes sir, the dunker became the dunkee and wow was it beautiful. I often lie in bed at night reliving in my mind that beautiful moment. It was world record good!

Now I know some of you are reading this thinking, “That was just not very nice to dunk the pastor.” If that is your feeling, keep in mind that not many in our group escaped a good dunking by this one we call pastor—so turnabout is fair play! Truth is this. What a great day we had and it was all in fun. I just don’t know when I have had more fun. When this group goes on another trip don’t miss it. It will contain more fun than you can imagine that a church group can have and you will be blessed to share in their friendship. And, don’t feel sorry for Rev. Carriker, he won the Kōb game and is once again the Kōb king!

Look forward to seeing all of you at church!

Peace,  
Josiah



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## YOUTH OF HOPE NEWS

We will be kicking off our program this year with a trip to Kelly Park for another day of tubing and fun! This will be a FAMILY gathering for all our families and our youth on **Saturday, September 17**. We will be leaving the church at 7 a.m. Each person will need to bring \$5 to rent a tube. We will be taking a picnic lunch and enjoying the day at the park. If you would like to invite a friend, let Julie know so we can make permission slips available.

Our program this year includes several new opportunities for mission and some great trips and activities that you will enjoy! Of course, we cannot forget that we must get busy as we prepare for Trunk or Treat, Sunday, October 30. Plus we have a tremendous opportunity to participate in something really exciting and special for Christmas... so come and join us for Youth Meetings on Sundays from 4 to 6 p.m. starting September 25. Can't wait to see you!

## KID'S ROCK

**Kid's Rock begins Wednesday, September 21** at 5 p.m. Our Curriculum this quarter is “JESUS IS...” We will continue our classes which will be fun filled with Ukulele lessons, Bible Study, games, recreation and crafts. All children grades 1 through 5 are welcome. We will continue our classes each Wednesday through December 7. Can't wait to see you!!!

## FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

We will be celebrating all the programs within our church and enjoy lunch! We will share a yummy hotdog and hamburger lunch with all the fixin's! As you know with Fall Kick-off, each committee in our church will need to prepare your poster boards to inform everyone of the ministry each committee shares with Hope Presbyterian Church. Our boards will be displayed on September 11 in McGrath Hall. Please let Julie know what type of table your committee will need. **One important piece of information you must note for this date...PLEASE WEAR YOUR PLAY CLOTHES FOR SEPTEMBER 11.** Come to worship in your PLAY CLOTHES...we will have some educational games and activities that will require you to participate and enjoy a unique worship experience. Come celebrate with us as we begin our fall activities with educational opportunities for everyone!

### KICK-OFF SUNDAY LUNCHEON

September 11 — McGrath Hall — after Worship

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

Dessert: Ice cream cones!

Cost: \$6 (Adults), Kids 12 and under—FREE!

Tickets available TODAY and on Sundays, August 28 and September 4 in the Narthex.

**NOTE: FELLOWSHIP DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS**—If you would like to help set up, serve or clean up at the dinners or luncheons, please contact Joyce Snively (863) 324-6074 or e-mail: joycesnively@yahoo.com. Thank you!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*All women are invited to join any or all Circles.*

**MORNING GLORIES CIRCLE** — Tuesday, September 6 — 10 a.m. — Parlor

Our focus this year will be on prayer through reading, DVDs and discussion. We will begin the year with “Before Amen” by Max Lucado and then continue our prayer journey with the popular book and DVD “War Room.” Please join us the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the church parlor. For more information contact Lynne Maxwell (863) 291-3819 or (863) 280-0185.

**CIRCLE OF HOPE** — Wednesday, September 7 — 1 :30 p.m.

At the home of Barb Follett, 21104 Quail Circle, Lake Wales. Our mission will be to support a needy music student from Polk College. For directions or questions, please call Barb (863) 949-6201 or (863) 307-7116.

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS** — Monday, September 12 — 6 p.m.

Fire Restaurant at Lake Ashton

Please RSVP Jeanie Madaus (863) 326-6056

**WILLOWS OF HOPE (Singles and Widows)** — Sunday, September 18 after Worship in the Adult Library

**HOPE'S BOOK CLUB** — Monday, September 19 — 10 a.m. in the Sunset Room

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### “LIVING BEYOND YOURSELF: EXPLORING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT” BY BETH MOORE

This class begins **Tuesday, September 20** at 6:30 p.m. and will meet the first and third Tuesday of each month. This is a twelve week interactive Bible study that features personal, daily assignments and weekly group sessions with a DVD presentation each week by Beth Moore. Who is Beth Moore? “Beth Moore is an author and Bible teacher of best-selling Bible studies and books for women. She is the founder of *Living Proof Ministries* and speaker at *Living Proof Live* women's events across the USA. Beth's mission is to guide women everywhere into a richer, more fulfilling relationship with the Father.”— from the Lifeway website. This class is designed for **ALL WOMEN**. If you are interested in being a part of this Bible Study, please make sure you notify Julie so that your personal workbook may be reserved. Any questions? Please contact Julie.

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### SAVE THE DATE!

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR**— Saturday, October 8 — 8 a.m. until 12 Noon in McGrath Hall

**THE LADIES' CHRISTMAS TEA** — Saturday, December 10 — 12 Noon until 2 p.m. in McGrath Hall

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Address Correction Requested



## Gardens of Hope



Swallowtail and Gulf Fritillary  
Butterflies!

The Membership Committee at Hope is trying to create an informational video/power point. If you have any digital pictures of Hope Church or group activities that you'll share, please send them to Kris Marone at [marone5@aol.com](mailto:marone5@aol.com). We'd like to have this ready for Kick-Off Sunday, September 11. (If you have too many to send in an e-mail, you can put them in a zip file. If you're not sure how to do this, please e-mail Kris.)

Thank you!



### September Worship Schedule — One Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Starting September 1 — New Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday — 9 a.m. to 12 Noon - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Friday — 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

**Sunday, September 4 — The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Tuesday, September 6 — Morning Glories Circle — Parlor — 10 a.m.

Wednesday, September 7 — Circle of Hope — Home of Barb Follett — 1:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 11 — FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY LUNCHEON in McGrath Hall — After Worship**

Monday, September 12 — Circle of Friends — Fire Restaurant, Lake Ashton — 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 17 — Youth of Hope trip to Kelly Park — 7 a.m.

Sunday, September 18 — Willows of Hope — Adult Library after Worship

Monday, September 19 — Hope's Book Club — Sunset Room — 10 a.m.

Monday, September 19 — Bible Study resumes — Sunset Room — 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 20 — Class begins: "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit"  
By Beth Moore (first and third Tuesdays of each month for all women.)**

Wednesday, September 21 — Kid's Rock begins! — 5 p.m.

Thursday, September 22 — Bible Study resumes — Sunset Room — 10:30 a.m.

**Thursdays, September 22 and 29 — New Worship Service — McGrath Hall — 6:30 p.m.**

Sunday, September 25 — Youth of Hope — 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, September 27 — Stated Session Meeting — 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 28 — Hope Creative School Community Helper Day — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.