

Hope-Line

The Newsletter for Hope Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Florida 33884-1556
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As I write this article, we are becoming ever more aware of the loss in Texas by **Hurricane Harvey**. We know all too well what they are going through. Presbyterians have always responded to these disasters with our hearts, feet, hands and money. We lift up those who are struggling and have lost so much. Many of you have already given to relief efforts for Hurricane Harvey. Let me remind you that the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is one of the best ways you can help those in need. On Sundays, simply mark your check “**Hurricane Harvey**” on the memo line and place it in the offering plate. Our congregation will be looking at other ways we can help. Hopefully we can send a group from our church to do mission relief work in the next few months. This is a cause that we can make a difference in.

The month of September brings a return to our regular program schedule. This year there are a lot of opportunities for you to get involved in the worship, ministry and education of our Church. In addition to our regular programs, there are a lot of new offerings detailed in this newsletter. I hope you will make it a point to try out some of our new programs and ministries. A good rule of thumb in the church is to be active in worship and one program where you serve and one where you are fed. We sometimes refer to this as “**Worship + 2.**” As always, if you have questions or need help in finding your place at Hope contact me or any member of our staff or the church office—we are always glad to help.

We continue to get more and more of you involved in our “church app” through Seraphim. If you are not using our Church app and need help, contact us about that as well.

Our Membership committee is finalizing plans for our next **Pictorial Directory**. We want everyone to participate in this effort. We are making every effort to contact you and will be signing folks up beginning on **Kick-Off Sunday, September 10**. Our first photo sessions will be held October 16, 17, and 18 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

If you are one of our “seasonal members” (I like that better than calling you snowbirds) we welcome you back and have looked forward to your return since you left! We saved your place and can’t wait to see you. Here at Hope, God has blessed us in so many ways. Thank you for support of our shared ministry together.

Peace.

Pastor Owen

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

KICK-OFF SUNDAY BRUNCH

Friendship Hall — September 10 — following the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Menu: Chicken and biscuits, coffee and iced tea

(Freewill donation to cover cost of food.)

Come celebrate with us as we begin our fall activities with educational opportunities for everyone!
Please indicate on the pew pad if you are planning to attend or call the Church Office. Thank you!

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!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In our recent class, “**Fruit of the Spirit**” by Beth Moore, Beth asked that everyone say first to themselves, then aloud... “I am teachable.” Beth went on to say that “when we cease to be teachable is when we cease to become disciples.” That became especially profound to me as we kick off our programs for the year. How many of us are teachable? How many of us make it our priority to be teachable by the Word of God. How many of us are truly hungry and yearn for the Word of God in our **daily** lives? How many of us are teachable but have so many other priorities before we are able to share time with God through the teachable moments of scripture? Ouch!!!

I recently was talking with a group of youth when one of them asked what we were doing this year. An even more pointed question arose when one of them asked if our lessons had to be Biblical. Just so you know...that is not the question to ask the Christian Educator of a church. HELLO??? The Bible did not become one of the most popular books of all time by just sitting on a table in our living rooms and collecting dust.

Here at Hope, every last one of us needs to have a part in our Education Program. It is the foundation that keeps us growing and alive. Being teachable by scripture makes us disciples and fulfills our calling in the world. Remember, discipleship is a lifelong journey. Joyfully proclaim your servanthood as a disciple. Shout that statement...“I am teachable!!!”

Teachable Opportunities at Hope

Children’s Worship is time we share with our children during Worship Service at Hope. Our Presbyterian curriculum, “Growing in Grace and Gratitude,” is excellent material that teaches all the stories of the Bible through song, prayer, arts and crafts, reflection on God’s grace, celebrating God’s grace, and offering God’s grace through loving and serving.

Library Sunday for Children is our once-a-month library teachable moment. Mrs. Ann shares her love of books through her creative ideas and reading to the children. Her gift of love through books is expressed in the excitement of the children as they leave children’s sermon to listen to her read. They can’t wait to go to the Library!!!

Listening to Scripture—In the world in which we live it is important to know how to use scripture to help us discern God’s will. It is also important for us to understand how to interpret scripture when making decisions. This eight-session Bible Study led by Rev. Carriker will give us strategies to interpret scripture and relate it to our lives. This study will be offered on **Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and again on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m.** in the Sunset room. You can choose which class offering fits your schedule as the classes will cover the same material. This study is part of the Kerygma Bible Study program that we have previously used. We will begin the study on **Monday evening September 25 and Thursday morning September 28**. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us! Call the Church Office or e-mail Rev. Carriker (owen@hopepreswh.org) to register.

“**Living Beyond Yourself Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit**” by Beth Moore is not only a tremendous CD series but is also a Bible study that can be truly life-changing. This study concentrates on Galatians 5: 22-23. The 11-week companion workbook offers opportunities for personal time to study the Bible and, believe me, the fruit you gather during this time is priceless!! We are currently on Lesson 8. Come and see for yourself what this study is like. We welcome you for one lesson or as many as you can attend; our group is very easy going and flexible. If you get a chance come visit us and share this intimate study. Our class is currently meeting in Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.**

Our Kid’s Rock program for first through fifth grade children meets on **Thursday afternoons from 4:30 to 6 p.m.** This is a time for Bible study, ukulele lessons, recreation, and arts and crafts. This is an action-packed time of fun, fellowship, laughter, screams, shouts, dancing and joy! Don’t miss out on this teachable moment!

Youth of Hope will meet on **Sundays from 4 to 6 p.m.**, and is open to all of our junior and senior high school students. We are kicking off our program with Universal's *Rock the Universe* concert on **Friday, September 8**. This is the one church program where the youth help plan their own activities. Bring your ideas and join us for our meeting on **Sunday, September 10** in the youth room our for first meeting. Pizza will be served for supper.

Ukulele—Sunday evenings, 6 p.m. at Hope are unique and special times of incredible learning as we teach ukulele to you! You will not only learn many songs, but you will be playing and praising the Lord through this ministry during worship, for luncheons at church, and for serenades throughout the community. This is a close group of folks that truly are teachable and sing God's praises joyfully! Come on out and share Rev. Carriker's favorite hour of the week.

Cards of Hope is our new ministry this year that is not only tapping in on our creative juices, but also is a touching outreach to share the love of God through cards. Everyone at Hope will be able to share in the event on every other **Monday, beginning September 11** from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon in the Sunset Room and on the following dates: **September 25, October 9 and 23, and November 6**. Please sign up on the pew pad or call the Church Office. Questions? Please call Julie (863) 324-6382. The cards will serve all types of needs and cares. Join us as we "reach out and touch each other."

Kid's Pack Mission — We will be packing our "Kids Pack" on **Sunday, September 24**, after the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. A Chili Luncheon will follow. Please sign up on the pew pad or call the Church Office if you are planning to attend. We will pack on the last Sunday of each month. (One exception: We will pack on **Saturday, October 28** at 10 a.m. because of our "Trunk or Treat" on the last Sunday in October.)

— Julie Carriker, Director of Christian Education

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women are invited to join any or all Circles.

MORNING GLORIES CIRCLE — Tuesday, September 5 — 11:30 a.m.

At the Olive Garden Restaurant. All ladies are welcome to join us!
Please call Lynne Maxwell (863) 291-3819 to make your reservation.

CIRCLE OF HOPE — Wednesday, September 6 — 1 :30 p.m.

At the home of Becky Faughander, 4300 Dunmore Drive, Lake Wales.
Our mission will be in support of the families impacted by Hurricane Harvey.
Hope to see you there! For directions or questions, please call Becky (863) 662-5806.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS — Monday, September 11 — 6 p.m.

Beef O'Brady's Restaurant on Cypress Gardens Boulevard
Please RSVP Jeanie Madaus (863) 326-6056 or Ann Wainscott: princecraft17@tampabay.rr.com

HOPE'S BOOK CLUB — Monday, September 18 — 10 a.m. in the Sunset Room

HOPE CREATIVE SCHOOL HELPER'S DAY — Thursday, September 28

HOPE CREATIVE SCHOOL BOOK FAIR — Sunday, October 1 thru Friday, October 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Our Contemporary Worship Service begins on **Thursday evening, October 5** at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This service includes both traditional and contemporary music, and visuals are provided by a screen. Casual Dress is encouraged and you are welcome to bring your coffee, water or soft drinks with you.

“SHACK STUDY”

We will begin our study on “The Shack” by William P. Young on **Tuesday, October 3** at 7 p.m. in the Adult Library. We plan to have another showing of the movie prior to the study on **Saturday, September 30** at 4 p.m. Please sign the pew pad if you are interested in this class so we will know how many will be participating. Books for the study may be purchased on Amazon for \$10 or less. More details to follow as we get closer to the date. Questions? Please call Julie (863) 324-6382.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE MINI-BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE

Saturday, October 14

8 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Autumn, 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. Children’s toys are accepted, but we cannot accept clothing or shoes.

The BIG Annual Bazaar is scheduled for **Saturday, February 3, 2018**. Thank you for your continued support.

—Bazaar Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

(Watch for details in future bulletins and newsletters.)

ORGAN RECITAL — Sunday, October 22

TRUNK OR TREAT — Sunday, October 29

SING-A-LONG — Sunday, November 12

HANGING OF THE GREENS — Sunday, November 26

EIRINN ABU CONCERT — Sunday, December 3

CHRISTMAS CONCERT — Tuesday, December 5

THE LADIES’ CHRISTMAS TEA —Saturday, December 9

OFT TOLD STORY — Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

9:30 a.m. Worship Service — Chancel Choir Cantata

5 p.m. Family Worship Service

7 p.m. Candlelight Service