

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 668

March 2, 2022

“Memorials”

Many of us have heard of stories (or even experienced ourselves) finding something from the past that has significant meaning or even has change the trajectory of the future for someone.

I have read stories of family members finding letters left by their loved one that cleared up past questions the family had about them. Stories of money and valuables left for heirs that no one knew about. Significant money that changed the future of the family.

I read a story not long ago of a family Bible that when opened after the death of a loved one, inside they found specific passages that were written down that pointed, over and over again, to salvation in the Lord. One of the children read those passages and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, came to faith in Jesus Christ. My cousins, my Aunt Opal's children, found notations in her Bible that blessed their heart.

Memorials! We tend to look at them in many different ways. We put up memorial stones in a cemetery or on a columbarium wall to take note of our loved ones whose remains were place there. There is certainly nothing wrong with that. When I have a chance, I visit my mom and dad's gravesite. Looking at the headstones, their names, birth and death dates, my mind is flooded with memories, my heart is full!

We have memorials in taking pictures. Most of us have pictures around the house of family members, or even our family gathered for a special occasion. Again, as we see those pictures, memories flood our hearts. Many carry around pictures in their billfold or pocketbooks so that they can show them to others. We say, "Look, this is was my grandson getting his attendance award last week." Most are proud moments, some others note heartbreaks or sad moments in our life.

I posted a picture on Facebook of our dog Sadie that we had to put down last week. While the picture was a reminder of her beauty and devotion for almost 14 years, it was sad too, because we miss her presence in our life. Memorials remind us of the past, flooding our hearts and minds with certain feelings.

Our country has created memorials in our nation's capital to remind us of individuals, Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson, and of our nation's history, WWII Memorial, Vietnam Memorial. You can go to the Smithsonian and see past documents that give a picture of the past that shaped the future.

God works in this manner too. In the Old Testament, the heroes of Scripture left monuments behind to remind upcoming generations of God's faithfulness. Here are just a few examples. God give the two tablets with the Ten Commandments to Moses on the mountain to bring down and show the Israelites. Those tablets were placed in the Ark

of the Covenant that God had them carry before them as they moved through the desert, as a sign of God's faithfulness. As the Israelites crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, Joshua left 12 memorial stones as a reminder of God's faithfulness and the promise that was fulfilled.

As Christians, we use the Cross of Christ as a reminder of His sacrifice for us. Most Christian churches have a cross somewhere. Many wear a cross around their neck or on their wrist, or as a tattoo, to signify that they belong to Christ.

What if we thought about leaving a memorial to future generations? What if our churches thought about, "How can we impact future generations for Christ by leaving them something to remind them of GOD'S faithfulness?"

For the church, our memorials to God may come in the form of ministries that impact our community or missions around the world. Our memorial my be a picture of a youth that came to Christ and was baptized, and now serves the Lord as a pastor or Christian leader.

For us individually, our memorial may be a letter left to read telling what Jesus meant to us or how the Holy Spirit helped/ led us through difficult periods of our life. It may be a worn Bible with notes in the margin and words of God's faithfulness over the years.

Here is the deal folks. We all leave some type of memorial behind. Everyone! Secular and Sacred! How that looks is different for everyone. But, for the young adults, you can start planning now of how you might impact future generations/ family/friends. For those of us who are a little closer to our life expectancy, if we haven't yet, we might want to think about a memorial that will impact the future of those we love, and maybe even those we don't know.

I've been told before that if you never shoot at the target, you will never hit the bullseye. I believe that to be true. God uses His historic Word to tell us about Himself, His Son, and His Spirit and how the past, what He has already done, can effect your and my life and our future TODAY. Maybe we should do the same.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh

Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, March 2

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6:15 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Prayer Service
@ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 3

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 6

First Sunday in Lent

Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, March 7

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 9

Wednesday Night Supper, Study, and
Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.



Sunday School for all ages This Sunday

Our Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month” for the Raleigh Dream
Center Food Pantry.

March

Canned Vegetables and Canned Soup

We have a collection bin in the foyer

Meal Ministry

**Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.**

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board
to help prepare meals for others. See
Christina Johnston with questions.

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, March 12th
@ 1:00 p.m.

The Computer Lab

Is on hold until April or May

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, March 15th at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will
be sent out beforehand.
Join us!

Lent Begins Today

Lent 2022 begins Today, March 2nd. We will
have supper at 6:15 p.m. as usual and then a
Prayer Service at 7 p.m. to begin Lent.
(No Ephesians Study tonight).

Quote of the Week

*“It is a debt which the old disciples of
Christ owe to the succeeding
generations to leave behind them a
solemn testimony to the power,
pleasure, and advantage of religion,
and the truth of God’s promises.”*

Matthew Henry

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Kyle Rohweder (Friend of Rich
and Diane Williams), Chandhi Haswell & family, Beverly
Ivy (Lynn Joyner’s Sister), Ken Guy (Lynn Joyner’s
brother-in-law), Norma Talley (Lynn Joyner’s sister),
Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn Doby, Jamie
Baldwin, Donna Williams, Renee Logan, Loretta
(Sandi Underwood’s daughter), Joan Summers,
Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn
Joyner’s family members), Tommy Lanphere (Lynn
Joyner’s brother), Becky Hale’s mom in Wyoming,
Gene & Becky Hale, The Baker family, Dave & Dot
Geil, Joy Forrest’s daughter Haley, Carlyle and
Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce’s dad and stepmom),
Brian Adam’s dad, our Military, our Missionaries, our
Nation, and the world. If you have those you would
like added to our prayer concerns, please email me
those names.

Wednesday Night Supper, Tonight (3/2) @ 6:15 p.m.

Menu:

BBQ Chicken, Mashed Potatoes &
Gravy, Green Beans, Corn,
Rolls, Dessert

No Study of Ephesians Tonight

Schedule:

6:15 p.m. - Supper
7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Prayer
Service
7:00 p.m. - HOPE4Kids will sit with
Mrs. Terry during the Prayer
Service and participate w/her

NO ZOOM LINK THIS WEEK!!!

DISCOVERY CLASS

(New Member Class)

THIS Sunday,
during the
Sunday school time.

**HOPE Session will meet on
Sunday, March 13 @ 12 PM
(In Person)**

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - March 6

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - March 6

Dave O’Dell

Communion Steward - March

Sandra Pierce

Greeter - March 7

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - March 7

Volunteer Needed

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon
Romans 8:12 - 17
*“We Cry Out
Abba! Father!”*

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Mar. 6	Numbers	2
Mar. 7	Numbers	3
Mar. 8	Numbers	4
Mar. 9	Numbers	5
Mar. 10	Numbers	6
Mar. 11	Numbers	7
Mar. 12	Numbers	8

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

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in the search box)