

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 676

April 27, 2022

## “We are His Witnesses to the TRUTH”

Last Monday, April 18th, I had to report for Jury duty in Moore County. Believe it or not, this was the first time in my life that I've been called for jury duty. I guess it has been the luck of the computer file spin.

The instruction on my summons stated, “Call this number xxx-xxx-xxxx between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to get instructions. If you are to report that day, you will need to be in court room 202 by 2:00 p.m.”

My prayer, and yes I did pray, was that when I called that they would NOT have any cases that need a jury that week. But, no such luck. The recording said, “You are to report to court room 202 by 2:00 p.m. for jury selection.” Great!!!

Now for any of you that know me well, you know I cannot stand to be late for anything, not even jury selection. When I arrived at the courthouse and went upstairs to court room 202, outside of the courtroom was a table with a sign that read, “Jurors Please Sign In”. No one was manning the tables, but I went ahead and started filling out the sheet. The bailiff came out of the court room and said, “Hey, you the first one here. Finish signing in and go ahead and take a seat in the courtroom”, which I did.

Being first and sitting there for several minutes by myself my mind was flooded with *Law and Order* courtroom episodes from TV. I even flashed back to *Perry Mason* courtroom shows. Some of you reading this have no idea who Perry Mason is, but that is okay. He was a TV lawyer. I scanned the room. Jury box here. DA there. Defendant and their lawyer there. Court recorder there. Judge, front and center. Then turning my eyes to the witness box. That is where all the testimony of the case will happen. It is there where I will hear what happened, how it happened, and in someone's opinion, why it happened. There will be witnesses for the defendant and those against. My job will be to listen, and from the evidence, make an informed decision. Here is the NC Oath that a juror has to take before jury selection.

### Oath for NC Juror

*You do solemnly swear (affirm) that you will truthfully and without prejudice or partiality try all issues in civil or criminal actions that come before you and give true verdicts according to the evidence, so help you, God.*

I raised my right hand and said “I Do” to the Juror oath.

That oath certainly is worded properly. You have to swear to truthfully and without prejudice or partiality hear the evidence and make a ruling.

We have just finished up Holy Week and many are moved by the remembrance of Jesus that week of His life. Others go through the motion of Easter. Still others have nothing to do with it. Oh, the evidence of the resurrection is overwhelming on many fronts, but in some people's opinions, it has no meaning, no significance for life, not even life after death.

But the evidence is overwhelming. First, the evidence that Jesus was an innocent man. The Pharisees convince Pilot/ Herod and the crowds to crucify Jesus. The evidence is overwhelming, not just from God's Word, but from secular recordings of the crucifixion and His resurrection. If 500 people entered the courtroom and gave the EXACT same testimony, no jury would say, “Oh, that could not have happened.”

Here is the thing, those who are “of the world”, they do not believe because they do not know Him. God's Word tells us that over and over. But for the believer, the evidence is overwhelming. In fact, so overwhelming, our hearts flood with thankfulness and gratitude towards our Lord and Savior for what He has done for us. As Jesus told Thomas in the upper room 8 days after His resurrection, **“Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”** **John 20:29** God has revealed to us His evidence through His Word AND through the indwelling Holy Spirit that He gives us when we come to faith in Him. Thank you Jesus.

Folks, we are His witnesses to the TRUTH. We are the ones today carrying out the message of TRUTH. It is so important to follow His command for His purpose of His Kingdom. Look at it this way, God has called you to the stand to witness to the truth so that the jury will know the evidence presented by you is truth, thus believable.

After we sat down from taking the oath, the DA and the defendant's attorney approached the bench. The presiding Judge listened to them talk for a few minutes. We could not hear the conversation. After they went back to their seats the Judge turned to us and said, “The case has reached a decision without having to be tried by a jury. So I am releasing you and your duty is fulfilled for the next two years. Thank you for your service to the State of NC. You are free to go.” Yeah! Well I guess yeah! By this time, I was kind of getting into hearing the case and being a *Perry Mason* juror. Oh well, maybe next time.

Blessings to you all,  
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh

**Go and Worship . Grow . Serve (Witness)**

# HOPE Calendar

**Wednesday, April 27**

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

**Thursday, April 28**

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday/Saturday, Apr 28-30**

Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic

**Sunday, May 1**

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

**Monday, May 2**

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, May 4**

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

**Last One Until the Fall**

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - May 1

*Church Will Provide*

Soundboard - May 1

*Elizabeth Floyd*

Communion Steward - May

*Janice Worthington*

Greeter - May 1

*Volunteer Needed*

Volunteer for the Nursery - May 1

*Volunteer Needed*

**This Sunday**

Scripture Text and Sermon

*1 Kings 17 - 19*

*"Living in the Here and Now:*

*God Addresses Man's*

*Depression"*

*Elder Bruce Mack Preaching*



## Sunday School This Sunday for all ages

### Our Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month" for the Raleigh Dream  
Center Food Pantry May:

**Pull Top Canned Vegetables**

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, May 14th

@ 1:00 p.m.

### The Computer Lab

This Saturday, May 14th

@ 9:00 a.m.

### MEN of HOPE

**No Meeting on May 3rd**

Tuesday, May 17th at 7 p.m.

A ZOOM link for the meeting will  
be sent out beforehand.

Join us!

The May HOPE Session meeting has  
been moved to Sunday, May 15th @  
12:00 p.m. because our normal date in  
May is Mother's Day.

### MOTHER'S DAY

**May 8th**

Gentlemen - Don't Forget!

### Quote of the Week

**"The whole course of our life ought to  
be guided by God's word; for otherwise  
we must be involved on every side in  
the darkness of ignorance; and the  
Lord does not shine on us, except  
when we take His word as our light."**

**"John Calvin**

### Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Lori Estelle, Mark Drylie, Kyle Rohweder  
(Friend of Rich and Diane Williams), Chandi Haswell &  
family, Ken Guy (Lynn Joyner's brother-in-law), 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,  
Study, & Prayer Tonight (4/27)  
@ 6:15 p.m.**

### Menu:

Pot Roast, Rice & Gravy,  
Black Eyes Peas, Rolls, Dessert

### Communion Change

(Please read)

Beginning on May 8th, the HOPE  
Session has approved serving  
Communion by Intinction and by  
individual pre-packaged cups. The  
table for the pre-packaged cups  
will be near the isle and front row.  
For those who prefer to continue to  
partake of communion with the  
cups, you will pick up a cup and  
stop in front of Pastor Marty before  
returning to your seat and  
partaking of the elements. Those  
wishing to be served by intinction  
may stop in front of Pastor Marty  
and pick up a piece of bread, dip it  
in the cup and partake. The way  
you choose to partake of  
communion is at your discretion.

### Daily Devotions

#### For This Coming Week

May 1	Deuteronomy	22
May 2	Deuteronomy	23
May 3	Deuteronomy	24
May 4	Deuteronomy	25
May 5	Deuteronomy	26
May 6	Deuteronomy	27
May 7	Deuteronomy	28

**HOPE Church Raleigh**  
*An Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

**4911 Green Rd**

**Raleigh, NC 27616**

**919-508-6827**

**Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

**www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org**

**www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh**

**Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh**

**YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"  
in the search box)**