

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



**HOPE**  
CHURCH | RALEIGH  
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 698

September 28, 2022

## “I See You”

We had our 1st Stated Presbytery meeting of The Coastal Mid-Atlantic Presbytery this past weekend at Englewood EPC in Rocky Mount. I would agree with the feedback we have received thus far, things went very well.

Our theme for the weekend was “Entrusted to Disciple”. And our support passages were 2 Timothy 2:2 and Philippians 4:9. If you are unfamiliar with those verses, I would encourage you to look them up and read them. One of the underlying themes lifted up around the central theme, “Entrusted to Disciple”, was that of “relationship”. Everything we did and everything we talked about had an aspect of relationship. It was pretty cool to see it all come together in that way.

Terry and I attended Englewood EPC for worship on Sunday morning and Pastor Karyn Cartier preached. Her sermon was “Conversations with Jesus” with a text from Acts 9:1-18. This was Saul’s encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Again, if you are not familiar with this text, I would encourage you to read through Acts 9:1-18.

As I have begun to reflect on conversations, sermons, and presentations from the weekend, I would have to say there was another underlying theme and that was “I see you”. And as I thought about Jesus’ ministry there are so many “I see you” moments.

In Matthew 4:18, Matthew says that Jesus “saw” two brothers, Simon (Peter) and Andrew and called them to follow Him. In verse 4:21 “He saw” two other brothers, James and John and called to them. There are so many “I see you” moments in Jesus’ ministry. In the dark of night, “I see you Nicodemus.” In the light of day, “I see you Zaccheus,” up in the tree. “I see you,” Samaritan women at Jacob’s well in mid-day. “I see you” blind Bartemaus. “I see you” Mary who is pouring out expensive perfume on my feet and wiping them. “I see you,” the 5000 men plus your families, who are hungry and need feeding. “I see you” quadriplegic on a mat being lowered down through a roof by four friends. “I see you” lady who is hemorrhaging and touching My robe. “I see you” leaper who no one will touch. “I see you” invalid by the pool of Bethesda. “I see you” adulteress woman ready to be stoned. “I see you” rich young ruler who can’t submit. “I see you” criminal who condemns and criminal who acknowledges. “I see you” Peter broken because of your denial. “I see you!!!”

So much of Jesus’ ministry was “I see you” and I know what is going on. I know your heart and I know you. If we have come to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then we have to acknowledge that He saw us. He came to us and said, I see you lost and broken sinner, come to me. When Jesus comes to see, He comes to heal. He comes to love. He comes to cleanse and restore.

How about us? I see you is so important in our relationships with others. Can I say, do I say, “I see you brother or sister?” I see you broken by sin. I see you hurting physically. I see you lost spiritually. Can we say, I see you addict and how can I help? I see you who have been abused. I see you gender confused. I see you sexually broken. I see you mentally disconnected. Can we? I am NOT saying that Jesus, nor do we, condone any sin. But I am saying that Jesus saw the lost, the sinners, and ate with them, touched them, spoke to them, had conversations with them and offered them an alternative, a way to a restorative relationship with God/with Him.

Do we look away? Not engage? Do we refuse to go back to a store, fast food restaurant, business establishment, etc., because we don’t want to see that person or group that doesn’t look like us? Do we?

What if God had done that to us. What if Jesus would have said to me, “I see you sinner, Marty, but I’m turning away and want nothing to do with you because of who you are. Because you have idols, lust, and multiple sins active in your life, I don’t want to be around you, help you, or share with you. What if Jesus says, “I’m done with you.” Man, hell, here I come, right? But God came to me and said, “I see you Marty and want you to come to Me and serve Me and I will forgive you through the blood of My Son.” If we treasure the fact that God saw us and if we are called to be like Christ in the world (which by the way, we are), then aren’t we supposed to see others where they are and who they are, the way Jesus sees them? Can I come along side a homosexual (for example) and say, I see you? You are real and I want to hear your story. I want to share mine (my Christ story). Can I do that? Can you?

This thought, “I see you”, is so important. We are created to be in relationship with God and with each other. In the garden, God said, it is not good for man to be alone, I will make him a helper. When Adam and Eve hid in the garden after sinning, God comes and says, “Where are you?” He was seeking them to see them, to be with them. Man was created for relationship and nothing has changed on that front. “I see you” is so important to practice with one another. When is the last time you practiced it? When is the last time you saw those around you who are unlike you? Different than you?

Remember, Jesus is still seeing, still looking, still watching our actions. He is still convicting when we stray, fail, or even look the other way. And I’m thankful He sees. “I see you!” Jesus says. Glory to God. Amen!

Blessings my friends,  
Pastor Marty  
HOPE Church Raleigh  
Worship . Grow . Serve

# HOPE Calendar

**Wednesday, September 28**  
Wednesday Night Supper, Study &  
Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

**Thursday, September 29**  
No Worship Team Practice

**Sunday, October 2**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.  
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

**Monday, October 3**  
No Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, October 5**  
Wednesday Night Supper, Study &  
Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - Oct. 2

*Church Will Provide*

Soundboard - Oct. 2

*Benjamin Pierce*

Communion Steward - Oct.

*Elizabeth Floyd*

Greeter - Oct. 2

*Joan Rollinson*

Volunteer for the Nursery - Oct. 2

*Volunteer Needed*

This Sunday  
Scripture Text and Sermon  
*Matthew 5:1 - 3*

*"Blessed are the  
Poor in Spirit"*



## Outreach Ministries

**OCTOBER "Food of the Month"**  
for the Raleigh Dream Center Food  
Pantry **Canned or Boxed Meals**  
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.

**Next TLC Devotion**  
**October 27 @ 11:00 a.m.**

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

**Sunday School**  
**This Sunday for all ages**

**WOMEN of HOPE**  
Saturday, October 8  
@ 1:00 p.m. meeting at the church

**MEN of HOPE**  
Tuesday, October 4 at 7 p.m.  
A ZOOM link for the meeting will  
be sent out beforehand.  
Join us!

**Quote of the Week**  
**"If we are going to be  
empowered by the Holy  
Spirit, we must start by  
taking the Bible seriously."**  
A. W. Tozer

## Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Chandi Haswell &  
family, Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn  
Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams,  
Diane 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,  
Gene & Becky Hale, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy  
Forrest's daughter Haley and son Jude,  
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,  
and Prayer**  
**Tonight @ 6:15 p.m.**

**Menu:**  
Chicken Alfredo, Salad,  
Bread, & Dessert

**Sound Board Volunteers**  
**Needed:** The worship team  
continues to grow, and there is a  
need to have someone operating  
the sound board during services.  
Previous knowledge in this area is  
not required, and we will be holding  
a training clinic for those that would  
like to serve the church in this way.  
This is a different person from the  
one that handles ProPresenter with  
Worship slides.  
Contact Lori Estelle if you are  
interested:  
loriestelle@hopechurchraleigh.org

**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)**

## Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Oct 2	2 Kings	16
Oct 3	2 Kings	17
Oct 4	2 Kings	18
Oct 5	2 Kings	19
Oct 6	2 Kings	20
Oct 7	2 Kings	21
Oct 8	2 Kings	22

# *Stewardship*

## **2023**

