

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 713

January 11, 2023

## “So Great a Cloud of Witnesses!”

**“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:1 - 3**

As many of you reading this article know, HOPE Church Raleigh celebrated its Fourteenth Anniversary this past Sunday. Our first official worship service was January of 2009 and HOPE Church Raleigh (EPC) was launched and moved forward. Yes, there have been challenges along the way, but also great victories.

After our covered-dish meal on Sunday, we had a time of sharing. I am always blessed by the stories that are shared by our members. And so many have been such a vital part of HOPE. I remember Rich Williams trying to figure out in early 2012 how to present our renovation project to the City of Raleigh WITHOUT building plans. Well, God surprised him and all of us by providing those original plans in such a divine way. Man, did God show up in a huge way that day for us. Others on Sunday gave accolades to many who have helped in ministry throughout the years and have been such a blessing.

But as Terry, Emma, and I were driving home reflecting on the day, Emma brought up three people that I, nor anyone else, mentioned during our sharing time. These three impacted HOPE Church in different ways, but so significantly.

The first one I want to mention is a couple, Ray and Rose Ann Stilwell. I remember looking down the long hallway at our worship location at 6200 Falls of Neuse Road in 2009 and seeing this man walking with a cane, slightly bent over and this stately woman by his side. And from day one, my love for Ray and Rose Ann took off. Every visit, every conversation was precious. I miss them both.

When I think of Ray and Rose I think of this passage above from Hebrews 12. The Hebrew writer in chapter 11 has given us this great list of the faithful are recorded in Scripture. And then he says we have such a great cloud of witnesses around us. That great cloud of witnesses were those who encouraged us, challenged us,

lifted us up, and most importantly gave an example of Christ living in them in the world. Ray and Rose Ann were that example of Christ.

**Ray Stilwell - 8/16/27 to 5/17/17**  
**Rose Ann Stilwell - 6/14/30 to 9/26/17**

The other person I wanted to mention is Terry Parmanand. Terry walked through our doors at HOPE Church in August of 2016. From the first day he blessed us. He and Nicolas, his son, were such a great part of HOPE. As Terry shared his story of how God had led him to HOPE was nothing short of a divine call. In the Fall of 2016 Terry went through our New Member class and joined HOPE as an official member.

The first Sunday in January of 2017 Terry attended, our then, Eighth Anniversary service. Following our meal we had a time of sharing and Terry gave his testimony that day. I am pretty sure that there was not a dry eye in the room. He shared that the LORD was his Savior and he gave all praise to Jesus.

Then, just three Sundays later, I received a call from his sister that Terry had passed away. Terry would have turned 42 on February 13 that year. I about hit the floor. How? Why? All those questions ran through my mind. I went over after church and met with his family. And again, my love for all the Parmanand family began that day. We had love for Terry and Nicolas, but his family has blessed my heart greatly over these past years. Terry was one of those witnesses that made such a difference to others.

**Terry Parmanand 2/13/75 to 1/28/17**

Folks, in 2017 HOPE Church lost three great witnesses. Witnesses that proclaimed and lived out their faith before God and others. I am a better person for having known and been around Terry, Ray, and Rose Ann. Not that any of us are maybe looking for accolades after our death, but will others, because of our faithfulness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, be able to say that they were a better person from having known and having been around you and me? I pray so. Why? Because that is what God wants. He wants us to be a witness for HIM, a witness that makes a difference in someone else's life. I pray I do my Lord proud, not for my sake, but for His glory.

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

# HOPE Calendar

## Wednesday, January 11

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

## Thursday, January 12

EPC Pastor Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m.  
Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

## Saturday, January 14

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

## Sunday, January 15

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.  
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.  
Stated Session Mtg. @ 12:00 p.m.

## Monday, January 16

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.



## Outreach Ministries

**January "Food of the Month"**  
for the Raleigh Dream Center  
Food Pantry **Boxed Cereal**  
We have a collection bin in the  
foyer

### HOPE Meal Ministry

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

### TLC Devotion

January 25 @ 11:00 a.m.

### The Computer Lab

January 21 @ 9:00 a.m.

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

### WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, January 14  
@ 1:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Night Supper,  
Bible Study, & Prayer**  
will resumes tonight night

**Sermon on the Mount  
Sermon Series  
Resumes this  
Sunday, January 15**

## Prayer Requests:

Those with 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  
and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's  
brothers), 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.

**This Sunday,  
Monthly Stated Session  
Meeting @ 12 p.m.**

## Wednesday Night Ministries

### Wednesday Night Supper, Bible Study, & Prayer

Supper @ 6:15 p.m.  
Bible Study & HOPE4Kids  
@ 7 p.m.  
Prayer Time @ 8:45 p.m.

A Zoom Link will be available for  
those who cannot join us in person  
starting at 7 p.m.

**Menu:** Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, &  
Dessert

Pastor Marty will begin a teaching  
on Biblical Covenants

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - Jan. 15  
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - Jan. 15  
Elizabeth Floyd

Soundboard - Jan. 15  
Benjamin Pierce

Live Steaming - Jan. 15  
Al Floyd

Communion January  
Lynn Joyner

Greeter - Jan. 15  
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - Jan. 15  
Terry Duffell

**This Sunday  
Scripture Text and Sermon**

*Matthew 5:13 - 16*

*"Salt & Light"*

## Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Jan 15	Esther	8
Jan 16	Esther	9
Jan 17	Esther	10
Jan 18	Job	1
Jan 19	Job	2
Jan 20	Job	3
Jan 21	Job	4

## Quote of the Week

"When the law of God is  
written in our hearts our  
duty will be our delight."  
**Matthew Henry**

**HOPE Church Raleigh**  
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
4911 Green Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
919-508-6827  
**Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

[www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org](http://www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org)  
[www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh](https://www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh)  
Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh  
YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"  
in the search box)