

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 734

June 7, 2023

“Stay Vigilant in the Faith”

I grew up in the 60's and 70's and I'm sure many of you reading this article can identify with what I'm about to say. Kindergarten through fifth grade we said the Pledge of Allegiance and prayed at the start of our day each week. It was not unusual for my teachers to have scripture posters on the walls in my classroom. I had one teacher, when we became a little more rambunctious than she thought we ought to be, would stop class and have us stand and she would say a prayer over us.

In Columbus County, NC elementary school was K - 8 grades and High School was 9 -12 grades. At Guideway Elementary School, once a week we would gather for assembly in the auditorium, of course by grades, youngest at the front, oldest towards the back. And at the start of every assembly either our Principle or one of the teachers would open with a scripture reading, an application of the scripture for us, and a prayer.

I cannot be sure it didn't happen, but I never heard of or saw any student or any parent complain about these procedures. In fact, my parents said, once this was stopped; "What harm does it do to pray and read the Bible". And yes, when I entered sixth grade, the first day of class was quite different than my first 6 years of school. No pledge! No prayer!

I remember in my home church the adults talking about taking prayer out of public schools and the fact they thought it was wrong. Our pastor said from the pulpit that this was only the beginning.

As I have grown up over the years, Pastor Wall's statement has continued to bear truth. Our American culture has gradually taken away the rights of Christians to practice their faith publicly. There are those who say, "The nativity scene in Town Square offends me." Others, "The cross is a symbol of violence, take it down." The cross offends me, remove it." "Please remove the Ten Commandments. They offend me." Christianity, has been and still is, slowly being marginalized in our society. Even Christians have been programmed to keep quiet, don't say anything about your faith, no Bibles in the work place, etc, in order to keep their jobs. And, this is my opinion, the slope we have traveled down in my lifetime has been a slippery slope to a chaotic society, with very little discipline or accountability. "Self" rules the day, but does so in a hypocritical way. Let me explain.

A Utah school district has banned the Bible from their elementary and middle schools. Here is a clip from the article.

"Utah district bans Bible in elementary and middle schools 'due to vulgarity or violence. At Davis School District, located north of Salt Lake City, the collection of Christian scripture has been shelved for students until they enter high school. The district has removed the Bible from their elementary and middle school libraries after receiving a petition to ban the holy book due to its descriptions of sex and violence.'" (Fox News - FAITH Published June 3, 2023 12:03pm EDT)

So they ban the Bible because they deem it has sex and violence that is not appropriate for kids K - 8, but they can teach a

Kindergartener and older about how to have sex and how to change your gender to whatever you want. They can bring groups to demonstrate on elementary and middle school campuses to promote "woke" agendas, but we must remove the Bible because it teaches about sex and violence. Our nation is the most divided I've seen in my lifetime and that includes the late 60's with their demonstrations against war.

And then, I turn to God's word and the warnings are clear. Beware!!! These are only three warnings of many in scripture.

Luke 12:15 Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

1 Timothy 6:3-5; 11-12a "If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. 11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith..."

Many of us know the end result, we know how this turns out. Ultimately God wins the battle. We win the battle and have eternal peace to look forward to, but in the meantime, in the midst of all going on around us, we must stay vigilant in the faith. Do not be swayed by false prophets or the tickling of the ears with sweet words. The deceiver will use every means available to try to divert your attention from God using the current mantra of "Self-deserving" at every turn. Our society in America has turned from God. Stay vigilant in the Faith amidst of this chaos folks. It is worth the fight. The faithful have been warned. Stay vigilant in the Faith!!!

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, June 7

Confirmation Class @ 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer
@ 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 8

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, June 9

Family Fun Friday @ 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 10

The Computer Lab @ 9:00 a.m.
Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 11

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages
@ 11:10 a.m.
Session Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.

Monday, June 12

No Staff Meeting



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Canned Meats

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

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

The Computer Lab

June 10 @ 9:00 a.m.

TLC Devotion

Today, Wednesday, June 28
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, June 10
@ 1:00 p.m.

Family Fun Fridays For June

Friday - June 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Family Game Night
Bring your favorite board game and
challenge another family.
Invite friends and neighbors to join you.
(There will be games available too)

Friday - June 30 @ 6:30 p.m.

Family Movie Night
Our Sanctuary will become
The HOPE Theater
Invite friends and neighbors to join you.

Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory,, Jamie
Baldwin, Donna Williams, Diane Williams,
Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister &
Brother-in-law), 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), Gene & Becky Hale, Dave &
Dot Geil, 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 Ministries

Wednesday Night Devotion, & Prayer June 7

Devotion @ 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Time @ 8:00 p.m.

A Zoom Link will be available for those who
cannot join us in person starting
at 7:30 p.m. tonight

We would love for you
to join us.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - June 11

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - June 11

Emma Duffell

Soundboard - June 11

Ben Pierce

Live Streaming - June 11

Diane Williams

Communion June

Terry Duffell

Greeter - June 11

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - June 11

Terry Duffell

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

Matthew 7:15 - 20
"Beware of the False Prophets"

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Jun	11	Ecclesiastes 7
Jun	12	Ecclesiastes 8
Jun	13	Ecclesiastes 9
Jun	14	Ecclesiastes 10
Jun	15	Ecclesiastes 11
Jun	16	Ecclesiastes 12
Jun	17	Song of Solomon 1

Quote of the Week

"God's plans for you are
better than any plans you
have for yourself."

Greg Laurie

Confirmation Class

Coming Dates

Wednesday, June 7 @ 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 14 @ 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 2 @ 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, July 23 @ 12:15 p.m.

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

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in the search box)