

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 750

September 27, 2023

## “Yes, We’re the Church Together!”

When my two older kids were in preschool, during the first half of the church’s Sunday School hour the kids gathered and sang songs. There was one song that I still remember and sing often. It goes like this:

**I am the Church.**

**You are the Church.**

**We are the Church together.**

**All who follow Jesus,  
all around the world,**

**yes, we’re the Church together. (Refrain)**

**The Church is not a building.**

**The Church is not a steeple.**

**The Church is not a resting place.**

**The Church is the people! (v. 1)**

People! That is what makes a church. Without them, what would be the point? A church comes into existence because there are like-minded people who have a love of God and want to worship Him. Philippians 2:2 tells us, “make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” Verse 1 reminds us that the church is not a place; it’s believers.

Verse 1 was the only verse sung by the children back then, but when I researched the song, a hymn written by two Presbyterian ministers in 1972, I discovered more verses. The song goes on to talk about the diversity of people needed in the church. We need all kinds: young, old, new believers, mature followers and varying viewpoints on the same topic. We need people with different spiritual gifts. Many parts, but one body, all working together.

**We're many kinds of people,**

**with many kinds of faces,**

**all colors and all ages, too**

**from all times and places. (v. 2)**

Besides worshiping God, what other purposes does the church have? Well, for one, we are to teach God’s truth. Paul says this many times in his letters and 2 Timothy 3: 16-17 is a favorite of mine: “All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.” Verse 3 speaks of the church learning bravely, cautiously, slowly or boldly, but always studying the Word.

**Sometimes the church is marching;**

**sometimes it's bravely burning,**

**sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding;**

**always it's learning. (v. 3)**

As Jesus said, following Him will not take away worldly pain, but He brings us joy and thanksgiving because we are the church together and Verse 4 says just that. We have pain because we are sinners, and while Jesus died for us so that one day we would have no more pain, no more sin, we do need comfort here on earth, and the church – the people – provides that.

**And when the people gather,**

**there's singing and there's praying;**

**there's laughing and there's crying sometimes,**

**all of it saying: (v. 4)**

And the final verse reminds us that although we are sinners on earth, He has not left us. He has given us a part of Him through the Holy Spirit so that we can continue to disciple and spread the Good News.

**At Pentecost some people**

**received the Holy Spirit**

**and told the Good News through the world**

**to all who would hear it. (v.5)**

This simple song has reminded me that while a physical building is nice to have, the real church is people, filled with the Holy Spirit, and as disciples we continue to study His Word so that we may have a mature relationship with Jesus and are open to sharing the Good News when we have the opportunity.

Just like this song, Matthew also said it simply when he said, “For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.” (18:20). Yes, we’re the Church together!

May God continue to lead our paths,

Elizabeth Floyd - Ruling Elder - HOPE Church Raleigh

Worship . Grow . Serve

# HOPE Calendar

## Wednesday, September 27

TLC Devotion @ 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Supper, Study & Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

## Thursday, September 28

Worship Team Practice @ 6:30 p.m.

## Friday, September 29

Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic

## Saturday, September 30

Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic

## Sunday, October 1

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.  
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Extended Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.  
NO Sunday school

## Monday, October 2

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - October 1  
*Church is Providing*

ProPresenter - October 1  
*Elizabeth Floyd*

Soundboard - October 1  
*Jane Davis*

Live Streaming - October 1  
*Diane Williams*

Communion - October  
*Terry Duffell*

Greeter - October 1  
*Joan Rollinson*

Nursery Volunteer - October 1  
*Volunteer Needed*

Scripture Text and Sermon  
This Sunday

Matthew 20:26 - 28 (KJV)  
1 Corinthians 11:1 (KJV)  
"Leadership Revealed"  
Elder Ted Lithgow

## Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Oct	1	Jeremiah 33
Oct	2	Jeremiah 34
Oct	3	Jeremiah 35
Oct	4	Jeremiah 36
Oct	5	Jeremiah 37
Oct	6	Jeremiah 38
Oct	7	Jeremiah 39



## Outreach Ministries

### "Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center  
Food Pantry

### Boxes 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.

### The Computer Lab

Saturday, October 14 @ 9:00 a.m.

### TLC Devotion

Wednesday, October 25  
@ 11:00 a.m.

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

### Women of HOPE

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

### REBOOT/Revitalization with Ken Priddy Next Steps Coming!

### Men of HOPE

Men of the church, be praying about  
whether God is calling you to lead this  
Men's group at HOPE.

## Quote of the Week

*"The Psalms are inexhaustible,  
and deserve to be read, said,  
sung, chanted, whispered,  
learned by heart, and even  
shouted from the rooftops."*

N. T. Wright

## Prayer Requests:

Reville & 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, Shelley, Diane Mack's Sister-in-law, 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 Supper, Study, & Prayer September 27

Tonight @ 6:15 p.m.

Study of Exodus

### Bring your Bibles

A Zoom Link will be available for  
those who cannot meet in person.

### Menu:

Stew Beef & Rice, Corn,  
Rolls, & Dessert

### Presbytery of the Coastal Mid- Atlantic Presbytery Meeting

Sept. 29 - 30

Hope EPC, Richmond, VA

Please pray for the Commissioners  
that will attend

*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)