

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 758

November 22, 2023

## “Love Changes Lives”

In 1921 Lewis Lawes became the Warden at Sing Sing Prison. No prison was tougher than Sing Sing during that time. But when Warden Lawes retired some 20 years later, that prison had become a humanitarian institution. Those who studied the system said credit for the change belonged to Lawes. But when he was asked about the transformation, here's what he said, "I owe it all to my wonderful wife, Catherine, who is buried outside the prison walls."

Catherine Lawes was a young mother with three small children when her husband became the Warden. Everybody warned her from the beginning that she should never set foot inside the prison walls, but that didn't stop Catherine! When the first prison basketball game was held, she went, walking into the gym with her three beautiful kids and she sat in the stands with the inmates.

Her attitude was: "My husband and I are going to take care of these men and I believe they will take care of me! I don't have to worry!"

She insisted on getting acquainted with them and their records. She discovered one convicted murderer was blind so she paid him a visit. Holding his hand in hers she said, "Do you read Braille?"

What's Braille?" He asked. Then she taught him how to read. Years later he would weep in love for her.

Later, Catherine found a deaf-mute in prison. She went to school to learn how to use sign language. Many said that Catherine Lawes was the body of Jesus that came alive again in Sing Sing from 1921 to 1937.

Then, she was killed in a car accident. The next morning Lewis Lawes didn't come to work, so the acting Warden took his place. It seemed almost instantly that the prison knew something was wrong.

The following day, her body was resting in a casket in her home, three-quarters of a mile from the prison. As the acting Warden took his early morning walk he was shocked to see a large crowd of the toughest, hardest-looking criminals gathered like a herd of animals at the main gate. He came closer and noticed tears of grief and sadness. He knew how much they loved Catherine. He turned and faced the men, "All right, men, you can go. Just be sure and check in tonight!" Then he opened the gate and a parade of criminals

walked, without a guard, the three-quarters of a mile to stand in line to pay their final respects to Catherine Lawes. And every one of them checked back into the prison that night. EVERY ONE!!!

**Matthew 5:43-48** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Didn't Jesus, Himself, display this love for us? **Romans 5:8** "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

God the Father and God the Son show their love for me, a sinner, in need of His grace and mercy. And He gave it to me, because He loves me. And then gave me His Spirit so that I could love like Him.

Catherine Lawes showed love to those who most others had forgotten, given up on, didn't care about, and love changed lives. LOVE CHANGES LIVES!

I pray that we give thanks to God tomorrow (Thanksgiving Day 2023) for all the love, grace, and mercy He has shown us. But I also pray that we will share the love of Christ with others. Love can break down barriers, lift up spirits, encourage the broken, and bring the Light of Jesus in ways nothing else can.

Catherine's story is just one beautiful story of how love transforms lives. Create your own story, believer! The love of Jesus is worth sharing.

Blessings to all and HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh  
Worship . Grow . Serve

# HOPE Calendar

**Wednesday, November 22**

NO Wednesday Night  
Ministries Tonight

**Thursday, November 23**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

**Sunday, November 26**

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

**Monday, November 27**

Worship Leader Search Team  
Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

**Wednesday, November 29**

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer  
@ 7:00 p.m.

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - November 26  
*Church is Providing*

ProPresenter - November 26  
*Emma Duffell*

Soundboard - November 26  
*Ben Pierce*

Live Streaming - November 26  
*Al Floyd*

Communion - November  
*Sandra Pierce*

Greeter - November 26  
*Joan Rollinson*

Nursery Volunteer - November 26  
*Volunteer Needed*

Scripture Text and Sermon  
This Sunday  
The Parables of Jesus

Mark 4:26 - 29  
"The Parable of the  
Seed Growing Secretly"



## Outreach Ministries

**Scroll to Page #3  
For Christmas Outreach  
Opportunities**

**"Food of the Month"**  
for the Raleigh Dream Center  
Food Pantry  
**Pop Top Soups**  
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, December 9  
@ 9:00 a.m.

**TLC Devotion**  
NO TLC Devotion held in  
November

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

**Women of HOPE**  
Saturday, December 9  
@ 1:00 p.m.

## **NO Wednesday Night Supper until January**

There will be no Wed. Night Supper until  
January. We will have a Devotional and  
Prayer Time beginning 11/29 through  
12/20. Wed. Night Supper, Study, and  
Prayer resumes 1/3/24

## Quote of the Week

"The remarkable thing about fearing  
God is that when you fear God you fear  
nothing else, whereas if you do not fear  
God you fear everything else. "Blessed  
is every one that feareth the Lord";..."

Oswald Chambers

## 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,  
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.

**NO Wednesday Night  
Ministries Tonight - 11/22**

**Wednesday Night,  
Devotion & Prayer begins  
November 29**  
@ 7:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Dates

**Hanging of the Greens**  
Saturday, December 2 @ 10:00 a.m.

**Advent Season Begins**  
Sunday, December 3

**Christmas Eve Service**  
Sunday, December 24 @ 5:00 p.m.

**16th Anniversary Service**  
Sunday, January 7th  
Covered Dish Meal After Worship

**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)

## Daily Devotions

### For This Coming Week

Nov 26	Ezekiel 32
Nov 27	Ezekiel 33
Nov 28	Ezekiel 34
Nov 29	Ezekiel 35
Nov 30	Ezekiel 36
Dec. 1	Ezekiel 37
Dec. 2	Ezekiel 38

# Christmas Gifts for Homeless Children at Millbrook East Middle School

HOPE Church,

We are partnering with two other North Raleigh Area Churches to provide gifts to the homeless children at Millbrook East Middle School. These children have been identified for us by the Wake County DSS. In fact, we are coordinating the gift distribution with a social worker at the school. This was at the recommendation of a police officer who works with at-risk kids in Wake County schools. New Hope Baptist and Longview Baptist are the other two churches helping to support this gift giving opportunity. Here is how this will work for our congregation.

## Christmas gifts:

1. You can purchase a \$25.00 Walmart or Target gift cards. We would like the children to know that these gifts reflect the true meaning of Christmas, so if you can, please enclose the gift card inside a Christmas card.
2. You can purchase Christmas treats and/or stocking stuffers [unwrapped]
3. You can donate money which will be used to purchase additional gift cards. Please notate on your Check "Gifts for the Homeless Children".

**Due date is Sunday: December 10th.**

HOPE Church Raleigh