

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 764

January 03, 2024

“The Baptized Believer in 2024”

This Sunday, January 7th, is “Baptism of the Lord” Sunday on the church calendar. The following scriptures are the appointed lectionary scriptures for this Sunday. Please read through them with “Baptism” in mind.

Genesis 1:1-5: “In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.”

Psalms 29:1-11: “Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!” The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!”

Acts 19:1-7: “While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.”

Mark 1:4-11: “John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in

the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

This coming Sunday, January 7th, is also our 15th Anniversary Sunday at HOPE Church Raleigh. We started in January 2009 at 6200 Falls of Neuse Road. As I thought about these two events coinciding on the same day, I thought about how they worked together in who we are as HOPE Church. God has ordained our steps. Individually, He has brought a group of Baptized Believers together for His purpose. These baptized Believers, full of the Holy Spirit, have faced great ups and some great adversities. But each year, and every step of the way, He has always been faithful.

I read this verse in Proverbs on New Years day and realized the verse address is **2024. Proverbs 20:24 “Man’s steps are ordained by the Lord,...”** (*Bold and underlined added*)

We enter this new Year of 2024 and know that a lot of changes are in store for HOPE Church Raleigh. We need to believe that as “Baptized Believers” God is ordaining every single step we take this year. His Holy Spirit, in which we have been blessed to have indwell in us, will lead and guide. We are His body of “Baptized Believers” and I believe we all want what is best for His church. It will take us all. Don’t check out in 2024! Rather be engaged in being used by Him for His purpose for HOPE. We all have something to bring to the table and if you do not participate, a piece is missing. You have been Called, Baptized, and Gifted for this moment. Live into it!!!

As we live into God’s future for HOPE Church, we look forward to hearing those words, “Well done My good and faithful servant” (*Matthew 25:23*). Let’s Go, Baptized Believer, in 2024!!!

Blessings all and Happy New Year,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, January 03

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

Thursday, January 04

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.
REBOOT Vision Team Mtg.
@ 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

Sunday, January 07 Anniversary Service

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:30 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Covered Dish @ 11:00 a.m.

Monday, January 08

Session REBOOT Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m.
Via ZOOM

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - January 07
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - January 07
Emma Duffell

Soundboard - January 07
Ben Pierce

Live Streaming - January 07
Franklin Johnston

Communion - January
Sandra Pierce

Greeter - January 07
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - January 07
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon

This Sunday

Anniversary Sunday

1 Peter 1:1 - 16

“If Sprinkled with
His Blood...”



Outreach Ministries

“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.

The Computer Lab is on “Pause”

TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each Month
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, January 13
@ 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Supper, Study & Prayer Resumes

Tonight - Study: Exodus

Supper @ 6:15 p.m.

Study @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

Menu:

Spaghetti, Salad, Bread & Dessert

Session Meeting on Sunday,
Jan. 14th @ 12 p.m.
(REBOOT Vision Team joins in)

Quote of the Week

“Peace is such a precious
jewel that I would give
anything for it but truth.”

Matthew Henry

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.

Upcoming

15th Anniversary Sunday, January 7

Come Join us as we Celebrate
15 Years. A Covered-Dish
following Worship. Bring enough
food to share.

There will be a time of sharing
following our meal.

*There will not be Sunday school
on Sunday:*
January 7 (Covered Dish Meal)

HOPE - REBOOT 50 - Days to Vitality

BEGINS ON JANUARY 14TH
GET READY
EVERYONE!!!

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

Jan.	7	Hosea	14
Jan.	8	Joel	1
Jan.	9	Joel	2
Jan.	10	Joel	3
Jan.	11	Amos	1
Jan.	12	Amos	2
Jan.	13	Amos	3