

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 767

January 24, 2024

“Beyond Words”

1 Peter 1:8 “... and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory...”

2 Corinthians 4:18 “... while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

A group of prospectors set out from Bannock, Montana (then the capital of the state), in search of gold. They went through many hardships and several of their small company died en route. Finally they were overtaken by the Native Americans in the area who took their good horses, leaving them with only a few limping old ponies. They were threatened by them. The Native Americans told them to head back to Bannock and stay there for if they returned to their tribal land, they would be killed.

Defeated, discouraged, and downhearted, the prospectors sought to make their way back to their capital city, for they valued their lives. On their journey back, they stop by a creek to tether their ponies, give them a break and get some water for the ponies and themselves before setting out again.

As one of the prospectors was bending over to cup some water in his hand when he noticed an unusual rock in front of him. He picked it up and called to his buddy to bring him a hammer. Upon cracking the rock, he said, “It looks as though there may be gold here.” The two of them panned for gold the rest of the afternoon and managed to get \$12 worth of gold. The entire company of prospectors panned for gold the next day in the creek and collected \$50 worth of gold, a great sum of money in those days. They said to one another, “We have struck it!!!”

They made their way back to Bannock and vowed not to breathe a word concerning this gold strike to anyone. They secretly set about re-equipping themselves with supplies for another prospecting trip. But when they got ready to leave and head back to the creek and their gold find, 300 men followed them.

Who had told them? Who had opened their mouth to blab or boast? NO ONE! Not a one of these men said a word. So how did the others know? It was their beaming faces that had betrayed their secret!

What about us? Would anyone know by our faces, by our demeanor, our expressions who we belong too. Are we enamored with Jesus, whom we have not seen, but love, to the point that we are unable to conceal the treasure we have in Him? Would our beaming faces betray us, that we are not a part of this lost world, but that, in fact, our citizenship is held elsewhere? Would it?

The Apostle Peter thought that of the Christians he was writing to in the first century. He had seen Jesus and been with Jesus, but they had not. And though they had not seen Jesus, they loved Him. Though they did not see Him now, they believed in Him. And what does Peter say that this did for them? It produced great rejoicing, great joy, so much so that they could not contain themselves. They were full of glory expressed to God.

The Apostle Paul states in 2 Corinthians that the things seen are temporal, but the things unseen are eternal. We have not seen Jesus face to face as did the first century Apostles. But for those who have been called by Him to come into a relationship with Him, though we have not seen Him, we love and believe in Him. Shouldn't then our faces be aglow? Shouldn't others be able to tell, even without a word, that we belong to Jesus?

“We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image...” 2 Corinthians 3:18

I know that I am challenged by this as I write. Do I show my love and belief in Jesus in ways beyond words...beyond words? Maybe at times I do, but certainly not all the time. Is my joy in Jesus full of glory towards God? Do I love Jesus so much for my salvation and eternal life that I cannot contain myself? Questions to ponder for me and maybe for you.

Here is one, if I were traveling outside of my circle of friends, family, area of influence, would people that do not know me, know that I love Jesus? This is certainly something for me to think about.

Love to you all & Blessings,

Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, January 24

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

Friday, January 26

Saturday, January 27

Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic
Providence EPC, Angier, NC

Saturday, January 27

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 28

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Wednesday, January 31

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



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.

TLC Devotion

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

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, January 27
@ 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:

Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes,
Corn, Rolls & Dessert

**2023 Contribution
Statements are available on
the Foyer counter.**

Prayer Requests:

Reville & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie Baldwin, Donna 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, Ellie Tappan, Dave & Dot Geil, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom), 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.

HOPE - REBOOT 50 - Days to Vitality

Everyday a Devotion Everyday a Prayer

*Join us for our Sunday
school time following
Fellowship for Discussion
on our study this week.*

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - January 28

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - January 28

Bill Joyner

Soundboard - January 28

Jane Davis

Live Streaming - January 28

Diane Williams

Communion - January

Sandra Pierce

Greeter - January 28

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - January 28

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

Matthew 16:13 - 18
**“Acknowledgement &
A Promise”**

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Jan	28	Micah	4
Jan	29	Micah	5
Jan	30	Micah	6
Jan	31	Micah	7
Feb	1	Nahum	1
Feb	2	Nahum	2
Feb	3	Nahum	3

Quote of the Week

**“Pride leads to every other
vice. It is the complete
anti-God state of mind.”**

C.S. Lewis

**Put on your Calendar
Ash Wednesday Service
February 14th
@ 7:00 p.m.
Supper Served
@ 6:15 p.m.**

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

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www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

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in the search box)