

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 773

March 6, 2024

“Stones in the Sun!”

My Boy Scout troop was doing a 50 mile hike once. We had mapped out the route and it was spread out between some walking trails in the woods and then some along the roadside. During the course of our hike I saw a small stone about the size of a half-dollar with smooth rounded edges. Normally I would have passed it by letting it lay there for another 100 years with all the other stones, but not that day. This one instantly caught my eye. It looked special, glistening in the sunlight. It reflected several colors that were so cool, as if trying to mirror nature.

Into my pocket this stone went. I considered it a rare find as a young boy. Of course, no one else in my troop thought anything about it.

When I got home, I displayed my new find on a shelf in my room and there it stayed. Over time I forgot about my precious stone, until one day, while taking something off the shelf, I was surprised to see that the stone had completely lost its luster. It had sat on my shelf among some of my other treasured pieces, and had grown hard, gray, almost down-right ugly. I was shocked remembering its beauty the day I picked it up. What had happened to my prized possession? Where was the sparkle, the colors that had attracted me that day while on our hike?

Disgusted, I picked up the stone and was heading out into the backyard to throw it as far as I could into the woods. But opening the screen door and heading outside, the stone lit up. A beam of light struck the stone and as though by magic, it began to shimmer and glow again. In an instant the beautiful stone was alive.

Had the colors returned or had they always been there, dormant, waiting to be released? Then looking up I realized what was happening. Sunlight!!! That was the answer. The rays from the sun were all my stone needed to come alive.

How much like each of us was this stone! Left to ourselves, our lives are empty, colorless, without meaning. Only when we are touched by the glory of God is our inner beauty revealed. Scripture is very clear that God is Light and His light shines through us if we let Him.

1 John 1:5 “This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”

Matthew 5:14 - 16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

And then the last chapter in the Bible reminds us that one day all Believers will be illuminated by the Glory of God in His very presence. I’m looking forward to that day!!!

Revelation 22:5 “And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.”

Are you allowing the Light of Christ to shine through you into this dark world? Can others see the Light that God has placed in your heart? If not, you can change that. Pray God will remove any impediments so that your light will shine bright for Him.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 9

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 10

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Session Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13

NO Wednesday Night Supper, Study, & Prayer Tonight

Saturday, March 16

Vision Team and Session meets with the Congregation @ 9:00 a.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - March 10

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - March 10

Emma Duffell

Soundboard - March 10

Jane Davis

Live Streaming - March 10

Diane Williams

Communion - March

Kathy Jo Duckett, Lynn Joyner, & Donna Williams

Greeter - March 10

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - March 10

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

John 12:20 - 33

"For This Purpose

I Came to This Hour"

Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Mar	10	Matthew	10
Mar	11	Matthew	11
Mar	12	Matthew	12
Mar	13	Matthew	13
Mar	14	Matthew	14
Mar	15	Matthew	15
Mar	16	Matthew	16

Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Individual Pop-Top Canned Meat

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, March 9
@ 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

Supper, Study, & Prayer

Supper @ 6:15 p.m.

Study @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

Menu:

**Crock Pot Chicken, New Potatoes,
Green Beans, Bread, Dessert**

Pray for an Opportunity

HOPE family - Start now praying that God would lead you to invite someone(s) to join you for Easter Worship. Pray specifically for Him to lay on your heart who to ask, when to ask, and then do it. I'm asking each one in our

HOPE family to do this. Pray - asking and expecting God to act. **Easter is March 31st**



Turn you clocks forward **ONE hour** before going to bed this **Saturday night.**

(Spring Forward for Daylight Saving Time)

Quotes of the Week

"True love is always costly."
Billy Graham

"The most influential person in your life is the one you refuse to forgive."
Anonymous

Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie Baldwin, Ron Clifton, 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 NOW

MARCH 16

The Vision Team and Session would like to invite you to join them on March 16 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. to share your thoughts on the vision for HOPE moving forward. At 10 a.m. the Vision Team and Session will meet to continue their work together on REBOOT - Revitalization

HOPE4Kids Ministry Informational Meeting

Sunday, March 24th
@ 12 p.m.

Led by Terry Duffell
Anyone interested, please join in.

HOLY Week

Sunday, Mar 24 - Palm Sunday
Wednesday, Mar 27 - NO WNSSP
Thursday, Mar 28 -
Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, Mar. 29 - The Sanctuary is
Open for Prayer 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday, Mar. 31 - Easter 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

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh" in the search box)