

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 778

April 10, 2024

“Follow Your Heart In Servanthood Ministry”

I recently read a story by Chuck Colson and it touched my heart. I want to share the story and then make a little commentary.

Colson’s Story: The young people at Shively Christian Church, led at the time by Youth Pastor Dave Stone, were fiercely competitive with their neighbor, Shively Baptist, in all things, especially softball. They were also serious about their Christianity, faithfully attending the summer Bible camp led by the youth pastor.

One week the Bible lesson was about Jesus washing His disciples’ feet, from John 13. To make the servanthood lesson stick, Pastor Stone divided the kids into groups and told them to go out and find a practical way to be servants.

“I want you to be Jesus in the city for the next two hours,” he said, “If Jesus were here, what would He do? Figure out how He would help people.”

Two hours later the kids reconvened in Pastor Stone’s living room to report what they had done.

One group had done two hours of yard work for an elderly man. Another group bought ice cream treats and delivered them to several widows in the church. A third group visited a church member in the hospital and gave him a card. Another group went to a nursing home and sang Christmas carols, yes, Christmas carols in the middle of August. One elderly resident remarked that it was the warmest Christmas she could remember.

But when the fifth group stood up and reported what they had done, everyone groaned. This group had made its way to none other than their arch rival, Shively Baptist, where they asked the pastor if he knew someone who needed help. The pastor sent them to the home of an elderly woman who needed yard work done. There, for two hours, they mowed grass, raked the yard, and trimmed the hedges.

When they were getting ready to leave, the woman called the group together and thanked them for their hard work. “I don’t know how I could get along without you,” she told them. “You kids at Shively Baptist are always coming to my rescue.”

“*Shively Baptist!*” Interrupted Pastor Stone. “I sure hope you set her straight and told her you were from Shively Christian Church.”

“Why, no, we didn’t,” the kids said. “We didn’t think it mattered.” (*End of Colson’s story*)

Wow, Pastor Stone! You missed a teaching point from this group of kids and lifted up “Pride” instead of servanthood.

These kids did not see servanthood as a competition or trying to make the point, “Look at what our church did.” Instead, they sought out someone in need and helped them, not qualifying the one they served by some criteria. They did not think that mattered.

How about us? Is our servanthood to draw attention to ourselves, to our group, our organization, our church? Or is servanthood really a point of serving whoever God calls you to serve? I would choose the latter.

Does it really matter? I think this fifth group of kids got it right. The other four groups did also, but this fifth group served without prejudices, and did actually what Pastor Stone challenged them to do, “If Jesus were here, what would He do?”

Think about it the next time you are called to have a servant heart. Go where God leads you, not necessarily where you want to go. Listen to the Holy Spirit and follow your heart in servanthood ministry, not your head.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

EPC Pastors Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m.

Saturday April 13

Women of HOPE @ 10:00 a.m.
Attending Englewood EPC
Evangelism Workshop

Sunday, April 14

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.
Session Meeting @ 12 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17

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

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - April 14

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - April 14

Elizabeth Floyd

Soundboard - April 14

Jane Davis

Live Streaming - April 14

Franklin Johnston

Communion - April

Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - April 14

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - April 14

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

Luke 14:15 - 24
"The Great Supper"

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, April 13

Plans are to attend the Evangelism
Workshop at Englewood EPC in
Rocky Mount from 10:00 a.m.
to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

Supper, Study, & Prayer Tonight

Supper @ 6:15 p.m.

Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 8:45 p.m.

Menu:

Crock Pot Chicken, New Potatoes,
Green Beans, Biscuits, & Dessert

We are studying Exodus

Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic

Will hold our Presbytery Meeting on
April 26 & 27 @ Trinity EPC,
Florence, SC

Please be in prayer for all the
Commissioners

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

Everyday Prayer

For

The Vision Team

The Session

The Congregation

Vision Team Meeting

Tuesday

April 16th

@ 7 PM

Via Zoom

**Susie Savino, our new
Worship Leader, will be with
us again on April 21st. Then
a couple more times in the
month of May before she
officially begins on June 1st.**

Quotes of the Week

**"The Word of God is
perfect; it is precious and
pure; it is truth itself."**

Martin Luther

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Apr	14	Luke	1
Apr	15	Luke	2
Apr	16	Luke	3
Apr.	17	Luke	4
Apr	18	Luke	5
Apr	19	Luke	6
Apr	20	Luke	7

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

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in the search box)