

The Connection



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
• A Congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church—EPC •
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 874

February 17, 2026

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

*Then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.” Then the righteous will answer Him, “Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?” The King will answer and say to them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” (cf. **Matt. 25:3, 34-40** NASB)*

In my experiences as a Christian and as a minister, I have noted that there are typically two potholes that believers in Christ can fall into when trying to exhibit their faith. The first is the “get everyone saved” mentality. This perspective is full of the evangelist spirit and desires only that more people “get saved” so they won’t go to hell after they die. They see everyone with whom they have contact as a prospective convert. On the surface it would appear that this is a very noble and Biblical view to have. However, the “get everyone saved” mentality is quite short-sighted, because those who have this perspective forget that Jesus’ Great Commission in **Matt. 28:19** says, “Go and make **disciples** of all men”, not just get them saved! The mission of Christianity is not to hand out “Get out of Hell Free” cards to everyone; it is to make followers of Jesus by growing them spiritually from babies to adults by the power of His Spirit through the teaching of His Word and the right observance of His Sacraments.

The second pitfall that endangers Christians is spiritual arrogance. It is the pursuit of a spiritual Christian Nirvana wherein they become “so heavenly minded, they are of no earthly good” as the age-old idiom goes. Yes, Christians are to be locked in on Christ as our lodestar, pursuing spiritual treasures that are eternal in nature. However, we are also called to fulfill the “good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (cf. **Eph. 2:10**). Jesus’ feet were dusty and dirty from walking from village to village ministering to people. His hands were carpenter’s hands, rough and chapped from touching the hurts and hearts of the poor, lifting up the struggling, wiping the tears of the mourning, bringing healing to those afflicted by disease and death. Of all people, Jesus was always “heavenly minded” even while He went about doing “earthly good”. He was bringing God and heaven to earth as the God-Man Himself. If we are to be true followers of Christ, we, too, must keep this important balance.

The opportunity is growing and becoming more imperative that we display our faith in Jesus clearly by our actions. We should not see individuals as targets for our evangelistic zeal nor desire to increase our tally of converts to Christianity as a means of getting credit for their “salvation”. Nor should we keep our spiritual heads in the clouds, believing it is a better use of our time and talents to develop ourselves spiritually, rather than using these same tools to bless the world and its inhabitants in tangible, concrete and meaningful ways. Rather, we should see the world and the people within through the eyes of Christ, full of compassion and love, seeking not only to make them into disciples of Jesus, but also to make their lives better for having been introduced to Him and having their actual, physical needs been ministered to in His Name.

Pastor Chris

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, February 18th
Supper at 6:00 pm, followed by our
Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm.

Sunday, February 22nd
Worship Team Practice
@ 8:30 am
Worship @ 10:00 am
Sunday School/Adult AfterChat @11:15

Wednesday, February 25th
Supper at 6:15 pm, followed by Bible
study and Prayer, beginning at 7 pm.

Helping Hands Ministries for Feb. 22nd, 2026

Live Streaming

Diane Williams

Soundboard

Rich Williams

ProPresenter

Elizabeth Floyd

Communion Preparation

Lynn Joyner

Nursery

Lynn Joyner
Donna Williams

Communion Assistant

RE Al Floyd

Prayer Support

RE Franklin Johnston

Welcome/Announcements and Scripture Reading

RE Al Floyd

Giving to the Ministry of HOPE:

Online via QR Code



Or on our website:
www.hopechurchraleigh.org
or by check made out to:
"Hope Church Raleigh" and dropped
in plate during Communion

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

Women of HOPE

Meetings generally at HOPE on the
second and fourth Saturdays
every month from 10 am to Noon.

Next Meeting: February 28th
at HOPE Church (with Bible study
—See note below)

Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

"Food of the Month"

**ONE-MEAL CANNED SOUPS/
CANNED MEAT**

The collection bin is in the foyer

We have a special Ash Wednesday
Service on Wednesday, February 18th at
7 pm. Our normal Wednesday evening
meal will be served at 6 pm. Plenty of
food is being prepared. We invite
everyone to come and participate!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

TLC Devotion

On Wed. Feb. 25th at 11 am
@ TLC

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.

But now, having been freed from sin and
having become slaves of God, you have fruit
unto holiness, and the end is eternal life. For
the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(rf. **Rom. 6:22-23** MEV).

The Women of HOPE are continuing with
their **Bible study on Feb. 28th, 2026.**

The study is based on the book,
Becoming a Woman of Grace,
by Cynthia Heald

If interested, contact Alice Kinard
for further details.

Prayer Requests:

Ernest Mbeng, Jordan Stevens,
Kathy Herriman, Gene and Becky
Hale, Erin's parents & brother,
Burton, Pastor Chris & Lori King,
Sandy (Kathy's friend), Donna
(Joan's friend), Patty Moyer & son,
Brandon, Jerry Kinard, Alice Kinard
(transplant possibilities), Tom &
Donna Williams, Ron Clifton, Phil
Parton, Krishana, Sam, Rachel &
children, Joan Rollinson, Dianne
Reinoso, Cindy, Barbara (stroke),
HOPE Children & Youth ministries,
Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho,
Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome,
Mallory family, Carol and Colin,
Tommy, Skip, Walt, Loretta, Joan
Summers, Janice Worthington,
Donna Abel, Pastor Marty & Terry
Duffell, Laura Bradshaw (stroke
recovery), Tom Klein, Baby Sutton,
future plans & growth (spiritual &
numerical) for HOPE Church Raleigh!

Next Sunday's Sermon:

What To Do When Trials Press Hard
(rf. **Ps. 6:1-10**)

To prepare for next Sunday, click on the
link and be blessed!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=OgEyXL1jxUc&list=RD0gEyXL1jxUc&
start_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgEyXL1jxUc&list=RD0gEyXL1jxUc&start_radio=1)

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers
Sound Board Volunteers
Nursery Helpers



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www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh
YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)