

The Connection



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 894

July 7, 2026

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
(*cf. **Rom. 8:16-18***)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."
(*cf. **Rev. 21:3-5***)

Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore, we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.
(*cf. **II Cor. 5:6-9***)

This week's monologue is on a subject that most people would choose to avoid at all costs. Yet, it is not something from which we can run, for it eventually will catch up with us. As the old saying goes, "There are only two things in life that are certain, death and taxes". And the subject of taxes is not on this docket. Death is an eventuality all of us will undoubtedly face. However, especially for the Christian, death is not something that we need fear, for, as it has rightly been stated, death is but a doorway into the very Presence of God for those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is not "the long goodbye" as much as it is "the eternal hello"!

There is a Christian song that was released in 2006 by Bob Kauflin of Sovereign Grace Music, entitled "*It is Not Death to Die*". It is a beautiful song based on the French poem, "*Non, ce n'est pas mourir*", written by Pastor H.A. Cesar Malan in 1832 and translated into English by George W. Bethune in 1847. The song is a reminder that this trek through temporal life is a short one with the long, eternal experience still awaiting us at journey's end. The perspective provided is a very Biblical one and worth our consideration. I would encourage you to listen to the song and you will be blessed by the music and the meaning.

I believe the reasons we fear death so much in our time are as follows: (1) Our technological advances give us the impression that it is possible to become immortal in these earthly bodies, conquering aging and health issues so that we can live forever; (2) We rarely encounter death personally unless it with the elderly; therefore, we spend our time focused on living, rather than grasping our own mortality; (3) Our society treasures youth and vitality, so much so that it is not really until we enter our 80s that we begin to feel "old"; many would say, "Why should the young be concerned about the morbid subject of death? (4) Our society is obsessed with the present while we view the future, only in terms of our lives being enhanced and made better, not coming to an inevitable end.

As Christians, we must remember that this life is "*but a vapor*" (*cf. **Jas. 4:14***), here today, gone tomorrow. That is not being morbid, but realistic. The Puritans, for example, understood this truth. They lived in a time when death was prevalent and expected. They watched their loved ones die from all manner of illnesses. They buried their young and old. Yet they still possessed joy in the knowledge that by faith we enter God's bliss when we pass on into His eternal realm. The greater life lies before us when we have laid this body down for the last time. We have the promise of eternal life with the One who saved us and who will call us home on our appointed day. Until then, we should enjoy the "*abundant life*" Christ has given us (*cf. **Jn. 10:10***) and look forward with anticipation to the life eternal that lies beyond the horizon for each of His children.

Pastor Chris

**All Scriptures quoted from the New American Standard version (NASB)*

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, July 8th
6:30 pm

The Study on the Church and the
Last Days Bible study, followed by
Prayer

Sunday, July 12th
Worship Music Practice
@ 8:30 am

Worship @ 10:00 am
Fellowship Time and Sunday
School/AfterChat to follow

Wednesday, July 15th
6:30 pm

The Study on the Church and the
Last Days Bible study, followed by
Prayer

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: July 11th
at HOPE Church (with Bible study
—See note below)

Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

“Food of the Month”

**Cereals and Nonperishable Breakfast
Foods**

The collection bin is in the foyer

Prayer Requests:

Jordan Stevens, Kathy Herriman, Gene and Becky Hale, Ellie Tappan, Erin's parents & brother, Burton, Pastor Chris & Lori King and Jimmy King, Donna (Joan's friend), Patty Moyer & son, Brandon, Jerry Kinard (eye surgery), 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, Loretta, Joan Summers, Janice Worthington, Donna Abel, Pastor Marty & Terry Duffell, Laura Bradshaw (stroke recovery), Tom Klein family, Rev. Rob Westlund (shingles), Dave & Suku Rendall, EPC missionaries; all First Responders; future plans & growth (spiritual & numerical) for HOPE Church Raleigh!

Helping Hands Ministries for July 12, 2026

Live Streaming
Ramsey Mallory

Soundboard
Rich Williams

ProPresenter
Elizabeth Floyd

Communion Preparation
Lynn Joyner

Nursery
Lynn Joyner/Donna Williams

Scripture Reading and Communion
Assistant
Ryan Hutchins

Prayer Support
Becky Hale

For the ladies planning on attending the EPC Women's Retreat at Ridgecrest in October:

For those who paid a \$75
deposit (for double occupancy),
the balance due is \$201. Money
needs to be paid to Ryan by
August 15th so he can finalize
our church's payments.

Next Sunday's Sermon:

The Apostles Creed (Pt. 8)
(rf. **1 Cor. 12:12-18**)
Pastor Chris King

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXXrk1IXluY&list=RDOXXrk1IXluY&start_radio=1

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Sound Board Volunteers
Nursery Helpers

(Sign-Up Sheets Available)

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 SERVE

TLC Devotion
On Wed. July 22nd at 10:30 am
@ TLC

HOPE Meal Ministry
Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or
someone else. **Donations of new meals to the
freezer would be greatly appreciated. Contact
Christina Johnston for details.**

Saturday, July 11th, 2026 @ 10 am

Come join the Women of HOPE as they continue
in their study based on the book,
Becoming a Woman of Grace,
by Cynthia Heald
If interested, contact Alice Kinard
for further details.



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