

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hope Scope

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2012

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Dr. Candace Adams

Throughout our discipleship sermon series, I have invited you to reach out to others with your faith testimony. The word testimony makes many of you uncomfortable. You are not alone in your feeling. I think that the reason most people are intimidated is because their experience of testimonies is similar to a large theatrical production. Moreover, as Anna Carter Florence, a professor at Columbia Theological Seminary, states, "Presbyterians hyperventilate, because a lot of us have seen it [testimonies] done badly, where people talk about themselves, not about God."

Walter Brueggemann describes two types of testimonies present in the church: core testimony, which is "God is great and God is good and that's about it," and counter testimony, which asks, "God may be great and good, but where is God?" Florence contends that the church needs to hear both types of testimonies. She says, "When all they hear is core testimony, people start leaving the church looking for something more. Too much counter testimony causes nihilism and depression, even among the faithful." Florence offers a "Presbyterian style" definition of testimony: "It's standing in the biblical text and in your own life and saying what you see and believe about God."

Testimony is unnecessary if a situation can be easily resolved without it. Let us consider how testimony impacted the biblical narrative. The women who first saw the risen Lord reported their findings to Jesus' disciples. The disciples labeled their story an "idle tale." Frankly, the men thought the women had lost their minds. Dead people stay dead; they do not wake up and undress out of their burial clothes.

Peter and a couple of disciples had a foot race to the tomb. They found the tomb as they women had described it.

The women did not stop sharing their testimonies because people were unwilling to accept it. They told the truth. They spoke it boldly. We are called to declare our faith as the women at the tomb did.

What is your testimony? Take time this next month to write down the answers to the following questions: When do you feel closest to God? How has your relationship with God made a difference in your life? Where is God presently working in your life? Whose story in the Bible do you most relate to? Do you have a favorite passage of Scripture? We are called to *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."*
—1 Peter 3:15

Session Highlights from January 9, 2012

- * Approved a lock-in for the 2nd - 8th grades in the River of Hope Youth Center on January 20-21, 2012 from 7-9 p.m.
- * Approved allowing the Bible Club to go to the YMCA on February 1, 2012 at a cost of \$5 per child to help cover costs, utilizing volunteer drivers and returning to church at 5:50 p.m., for supper and Christian Education classes.
- * Approved the baptisms of Nayla Danielson and Aubry Sabillon, children of Elizabeth Danielson and Erik Sabillon on February 12, 2012 in the Hope Church sanctuary.
- * Approved reelection of Nancy Birkeland as Clerk of Session of Hope Presbyterian Church for 2012 and reelection of Jerry Bents as treasurer of Hope Presbyterian Church for 2012.
- * Approved the purchase of a new laptop for the River of Hope Youth Center at a maximum cost of \$600 with the funds to be taken from the River of Hope Youth Center's budget.
- * Approved allowing Jack Anderson's niece and her daughter to go along on the Alaska mission trip and to pay their own way.
- * Redwood Falls First Presbyterian Church gave \$1,000 to Hooked on Hope.
- * Approved appointing Barb Morris as Hope Presbyterian Church's commissioner to the February 4, 2012 Presbytery Meeting.

2012 Per Capita

Per Capita apportionments for Minnesota Valleys Presbytery in 2012 will be \$31.10. Per Capita dollars help support the ministries of the work of our Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the General Assembly. Each church is asked to pay \$31.10 per active member in its congregation. This money is then used to support the work and mission of the larger church. Members may pay their per capita by check in the amount of \$31.10 per member in your household.

Please write "2012 Per Capita" in the memo line of your check.

Deacons' Report by Karen Bents

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the Deacons who have been with us these last three years: Marge Anderson, Wendy Barr, Sue Block, and Lisa Thorson. Lisa will be serving another three year term with us, so we would like to thank her for her continued service! Our new Deacons include Kathy Taatjes, Jean Bauer and Laura Moore. We welcome them and thank them also for serving our Lord in this way!

Please view the "All About Me" display case in the narthex, honoring Albert and Ardis Hookom. What a nice display of pictures of their life together!

Health Ministry by Bev Jones

The Health committee decided to put first aid kits in the kitchen, River of Hope Youth Center, and the gazebo. The one in the kitchen will be on the counter in a red box. If anyone feels there should be something more in the boxes, please notify one of the Health Committee members.

A Health Committee bulletin board will be put on the wall next to the pamphlets and AED (defibrillator). Please look at the bulletin board for any upcoming events for information concerning health.

Hydration is important to both young and old. Hydration means taking fluids for your body to maintain correct fluid balance. If you exercise, work hard physically, play so that you perspire, you need to drink fluids. Sports drinks are very popular right now, especially with young people and athletes. If you are exercising strenuously for an extended period of time in warm temperatures, they can help restore you electrolyte balance. But some of them are high in sodium which can cause a spike in blood pressure. Water is the best thing to drink. Fruit juices, soft drinks and many other beverages contain sugar and some salt. It is recommended to sip water throughout the day. If you exercise it is recommended to drink some water before, during, and after your exercise. The Mayo Clinic recommends to drink eight cups for adults plus another two to three cups for short bouts of exercise. Increase your amount if exercising in high heat and/or humidity.

Students who play basketball, hockey, football, or any other sport in school should be sure to keep hydrated. If not, you may feel weak, feverish, dizzy, a headache and be confused. Drinking water is any easy cure if you are low on hydration!

If a fever is present, drinking water with your medication is very important. A fever can dehydrate the body quickly and water will help the medication work better and hydrate your body again.

Urinary tract infections can be serious. If your urine is cloudy or dark in color, drinking water can help to maintain your normal urine color. Water is important to take when antibiotics are ordered for an infection. The water helps the medication to enter your blood stream and begin their work.

February is Heart Health month. Remember to be good to your heart. Keep your blood pressure down; maintain a healthy weight and regular exercise.

Blood Pressure Screenings will be held the third Sunday of the month starting in February.

HPW Highlights by Jonelle Foreman

February 6th Coordinating meeting 7:00 p.m. Devotions by Celia Evenson.

We will be having our installation of Officers this night to welcome Celia Evenson, Carole Sietsema, Janet Barber and Pam Sigafos to the HPW Coordinating Team.

Plan on a brief review of duties and spending some time stapling the HPW Booklets together and putting in the boxes. Also World Day of Prayer will be on March 2nd and we need several people interested in attending and helping with reading parts.

Looking forward to another great year! HPW Moderator, *Jonelle Foreman*

Children & Families by Cathy Plucker

Birthday Kit Mission Project

The Preschool - 8th grade classes are participating in a fun birthday kit fundraising project. This project will take place through the end of February. Each class is encouraged to continue bringing in small items throughout this time that can be put into a birthday kit. Suggested items include: cake mix, frosting, balloons, candles, streamers, birthday plates and napkins, birthday table cloth. The winning class will receive a "birthday party" in their classroom in March. The birthday kits that were assembled last year are almost gone; please support the birthday kit mission project.



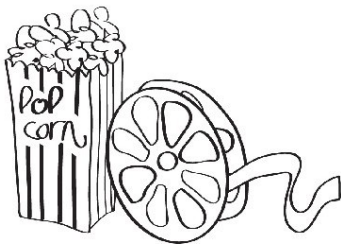
Bible Club February

February 1st Bible Club - YMCA. The children should ride bus #2 to church for a snack and then we will be loading the vehicles and going to the YMCA for some fun in the pool. They should remember their swimsuit and towel. Each child needs to pay \$5.00 for this event. The children will be transported back to church for supper at 5:50 pm. We will then have our Christian Education Hour from 6:15-7:15 pm.



Bible Club March

March 7th Bible Club - We will be having a game, movie and popcorn day for Bible Club in March. After school snack will be fruit kabobs. Supper is at 5:50 pm in church and the menu is grilled cheese sandwiches and either chicken noodle or tomato soup. Friends are always welcome. During Bible Club this year we have been learning the Fruit of the Spirit traits. They have been listening to stories from the Bible about people who have the Fruit of the Spirit character traits, like Noah having patience when God told him to build an ark.



Youth Ministries and The River of Hope Youth Center by Cathy Plucker



Donations Needed!

It is already that time of year when we can start thinking and planning for the silent auction fundraiser. This will be the fourth year that we will have the silent auction during the meatball supper. We have had three very successful years and are hoping for another great year. Some examples of donations that we have gotten the past years are homemade birdhouses and other outdoor items, hand sewn items, baked goods, services such as snow blowing and tilling, boat cruises, weekend get-a-ways, gift baskets, etc. We are always looking for new ideas for the silent auction. Please consider donating something to the silent auction. The proceeds are used towards youth missions. The youth are still strong in their mission endeavors, and donating to the silent auction will ensure that this continues. Cathy is accepting items from now until right up to the meatball supper. The meatball supper benefits many of our children and youth so they can go to Clearwater Camp during the summer.

Francis Chan Studies

The youth began a 4 week video study on surrender in January. Surrender typically implies weakness, loss and defeat. Can we actually gain something by giving up? Jesus said that the only way to truly live is to fully surrender your life to Him. In the four challenging sessions that we are studying, students share real-life stories about their own struggles and triumphs in surrendering to Christ. Francis Chan examines Scripture to show students that it is only through surrendering to God that they can become who God wants them to be. The four sessions involve the topics: surrender stuff, surrender status, surrender sin and finally surrender self. The youth are learning that sometimes things need to be surrendered in order for us to have a full relationship with God.

Youth Team Meeting

There will not be a youth team meeting in February. The youth team will meet again on **March 12th at 6:30 pm** in the River of Hope Youth Center. Please plan on coming to this meeting; we will be discussing the usage of the building, the remaining school year of TAG events, and the community youth team (formerly CUE). Thank you for your commitment to the youth of Hope Church and NLS community.

Missions by Cathy Plucker

Care Pantry Fundraiser

Thank you for making the January Care Pantry fundraiser a success.

Our shelves are full in the pantry.

We will be having our next fundraiser in April,
look for details in the March Hope Scope.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



Lenten Soup & Bread Suppers & Study

The mission committee will be leading a study during Lent this year in the fellowship hall. Candace will begin the study on February 29th on the topic of poverty of support networks and civic involvement. This is a lack of close family and community support. "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. We can sometimes feel abandoned and neglected.

Studies will vary each Wednesday but will be geared towards different poverties that we can have in our life; then we will compare it to the people who live in Guatemala. We decided to incorporate Guatemala in our studies because Guatemala was another place that Pastor Jack was passionate about. We will be taking a free will donation during the soup and bread meal that will go to the Potter's House in Guatemala.

Potter's House is a Christian non-profit organization that for more than 22 years has been working with the scavenger families of the garbage dump in Guatemala City. In the heart of the capital city lies the garbage dump where 11,000 people live in misery; 6,400 of these are children. Called "scavengers," they work in the garbage, searching for things of value that can be recycled. Even though they live, work and often find their food in the garbage, they are not trash. They are human beings with value and dignity. To God and to us, they are Treasures. They are determined hard-working people.



Jack Anderson Alaska Mission Trip Fundraiser

Softner Salt Fundraiser

****Presales February 15th-March 7th****

Pick up or **delivery to your home** on March 24th-25th.

If you use softner salt please plan on buying a few bags from the Alaska group. We have 931 bags that we hope will go fast. If you know someone who owns a business and can buy a skid which is 49 bags please contact:

Alisa and Duane Taatjes 796-4268 or

Cathy Plucker 220-3139 or at church 796-2650.

Prices: 1-4 bags \$6.50 each or

5 bags for \$30.00 #50 bags of Morton "Solar Salt" Crystals

Money raised from this fundraiser will be used for food costs while in Alaska for the group.



News from The Link

February 2012

Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other.

From the Director Report from 2011:

The Link completed its third year of existence in July and many great things are happening. We served over 90 different households in 2011, and shared over \$40,000 in **Outreach Assistance**, helping with things like rent, utilities, car insurance, auto repairs and medical expenses. This kind of help really makes a difference and families are very grateful for help. One client wrote this:

Dear Friends of The Link Program,

I just want to say thank you so much for your kind financial gift to us during this medical emergency. You are a fine example of God's love and a reminder that God hears us when we ask for help. Thank you again and God bless.

At the **New London Link Household Exchange** on Main Street, we receive donations of used household items such as furniture, kitchenware, bedding and appliances, which are shared with people who have a need. We serve an average of 20-25 households per month. **Volunteers** contribute a total of 20+ hours a week serving their neighbors at this site.

Through our **Distribution Events** we help meet other needs. The Just the Basics event provided personal products, cleaning supplies and winter outdoor gear and the Spring Drop-n-Shop Clothing Exchange offered families a place to find some "new" clothes. The Link served over 120 households between these two events this past year.

The Link also helps to coordinate **Tuesday's Table**, the weekly community meal served at area churches. After one year, average weekly attendance is

130-150 per week. This wouldn't be possible without the many volunteers each week and support of the participating congregations. The meal is open to anyone in the community who wants to share fellowship and conversation, take a night off cooking and meet some new friends.

The Link continues to mature as an organization. The Link's Director, Naomi, participated in The Minnesota Council of Non-Profits' Performance Management Leadership Institute. As part of a project for the institute, The Link Board completed a three-year strategic plan that will strengthen the organization and its programs for the future.

Finally, The Link is grateful for **grant funding** from Bremer Foundation, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, The United Way, The Willmar Community Foundation, The Good Samaritan Fund and The Women's Fund of WCF. We are also grateful for support from different **Community Groups** such as TDS, The New London Main Street Merchants, United Minnesota Bank, United Prairie Bank, and the support of community members and the area churches. Without your on-going support, the Link would not be able to exist. Thank you for being a part of our ministry!

Don't Forget ...TUESDAY'S TABLE

Free Community Meal Every Tuesday night at 6 pm!

Tuesday's Table is a great way to enjoy some fellowship and conversation. Invite a friend! Volunteer to help!

1st Tues @ Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer

2nd Tues @ Evangelical Covenant, NL

3rd Tues @ Faith Lutheran, Spicer

4th Tues @ Peace Lutheran, New London

5th Tues @ Hope Presbyterian, Spicer

Check out our website: www.thelinknls.org

Like The Link on Facebook!

Thank You Notes

Dear Hope Church,

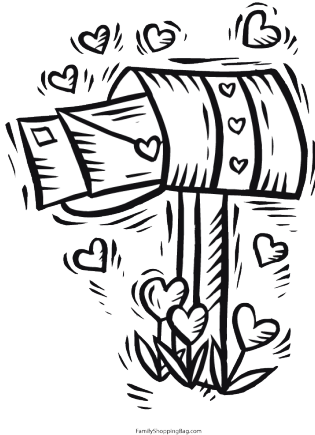
I just wanted to say thank you for everything!! My boys and I really enjoyed the Christmas gifts and food. We are grateful for your kindness.

Sara, Juan & Mason

Dear Hope family,

What a wonderful blessing it is when the angels among us come into our lives, our homes and our hearts with love. Because of your thoughtfulness and the generosity of your 'angels', we had a very blessed Christmas with amazing food and beautiful gifts. We are so humbled by the love and care shown us in this Christmas season. The joy I felt watching my children with their gifts was a gift I will treasure forever; and a very tangible reminder of the spirit of Christ at work in our lives.

With much love, *Corinne & family*



Giving Statements & Annual Reports

If you haven't yet, please pick up the 2011 Annual Report and your 2011 Giving Statement in your mailbox in the fellowship hall. These items are not mailed.

New Family Bio

Name: Barry & Sarah Sampson

Children and ages: Skyla (8), Blake (3), Shayla (1)

Children's interests: Skyla is involved in "Just For Kids" and likes playing games. Blake likes playing with cars. Shayla likes her babies. And all play well together.

Tell us about yourself: Barry works for "R & R" out of Hutchinson. He enjoys bow hunting and bowling. Sarah works at Rice Home Medical. She enjoys spending time with friends and family.

What brought you to Hope Presbyterian Church? Our daughter enjoyed the Vacation Bible School while we were searching for a church. We like the sermons and the friendly atmosphere.



February Volunteer Schedule

Lay Readers
5: Austin Nelson
12: Sue Block
19: Kenzie Peterson
26: Kenzie Peterson

Children’s Church Teachers
5: Kari Steele
12: Becky Jasa
19: Kim O’Malley
26: Alisa Taatjes

Sound Operators
5: Harold Foreman
12: Pete Bratberg
19: Dan Fischer
26: Duane Taatjes

Coffee Servers
February 5: Audrey & Clinton Ilang; Laurie & Steve Gehrke
February 12: Conny & John Williamson; Shar & Eldon Williams
February 19: Kim & Ben O’Malley; Nancy & Ruth Birkeland
February 26: Barb & Pete Lindahl; Jaime & Justin Lindahl

Acolytes
 Nic Barney & Devin Bundy

Nursery Care
 A quiet room is available in the Christian Education hallway. If you need assistance, please visit with one of the ushers.

Ushers for the Month of February:
 Jason & Kari Steele
 Duane & Alisa Taatjes

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests for those with Health Concerns, Grieving or Other Concerns will be included in the bulletin for one month. If you or your loved one continues to need prayer, please contact the church office to remain on the list.

New: Wally, Amanda & Evelyn Titus

Health Concerns: Audrey Dean, Philip & Maxine Quale, Karen Bents, Carol Burns, Gay Gloege, Hazel Jones, Tenley Thompson, Judith Houdek, Dave Wohnoutka

Other Concerns:
 For those dealing with depression
 For all those who struggle with addiction

Grieving:
Military Serving in Kuwait/Korea: Adam Peterson, Josh Gehrke
Shut-ins/Nursing Home Residents: Elsie Walquist, Val Johanson, Dorothy Jones
Hospice: Lillian Sluka, Dee Anderson

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Ash Wednesday Worship

February 22, 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Soup & Bread Suppers

February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28

5:45 - 6:15 p.m.

Lenten Study

February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28

6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

in fellowship hall