

Marriage & Parenting at Hope

May/June 2008



“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh.’ So then they are no longer two, but one flesh.” Mark 10:6-8

Spring is in the air. As I sit here writing in my sunroom the windows are open (hurray)! I can hear the birds singing and I can smell the fresh cut grass. My flower beds are showing signs of new life. Three of my children took bouquets of flowers to their teachers this morning. Tulips, daffodils and hyacinths with their dazzling colors and lingering fragrance were carefully cut, wrapped in damp paper towels and foil. I love to see the amazement on their faces as they talk about how God creates such beauty. I had a whole lesson on how a funny looking bulb becomes a beautiful daffodil from my seven year-old all before 8:00 this morning.



May also means the school year is coming to a close. Family life is in full swing. There are soccer and baseball games to go to, recitals, concerts, awards ceremonies, Confirmation, graduations to attend and then...SUMMER. In all the craziness that our lives involve dont forget to take a breath and enjoy it. Sit on your deck or front porch and relax for a moment. Take a moment just to be a family. Take a walk. Look at the stars. Plant some flowers. Enjoy Gods creations.

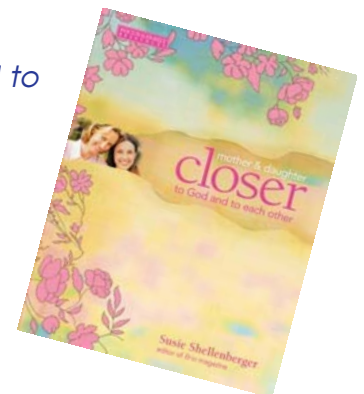
“The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” 1 John 2:17

Blessings, *Deborah Boyer*

In Honor of Mother’s Day...

Suggested Reading

- *Mother & Daughter – Closer to God and to Each Other* by Susie Shellenberger
A devotional designed for mothers and daughters. It will make you laugh. It will make you cry. You will talk about issues that you may have never thought to bring up. It’s an adventure that will strengthen your relationship through Bible reading, question and answer time and prayer.



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WHAT TO DO AT HOPE:

Movie Night at Hope: Saturday, June 7, The Bridge. Light meal and popcorn served at 6:30 pm. Movie begins at 7:00 pm. Enjoy a date night with your beloved the first Saturday of each month. Visit www.hopewdm.org/adult_ministries for movies titles.

Movie is free. A free-will offering for food will be accepted. Sorry, childcare is unavailable.

Line-Dancing Lessons: Fridays, May 2 – May 30, 6:30-8:00 pm, Gym. Learn to synchronize your steps during these fun-filled, free lessons! This is a great time of exercise, fun and fellowship. Come by yourself or bring your friends, and dance to a variety of music. For more information contact Margie Hague at mlh1234@mchsi.com. Sorry, childcare is unavailable.

The Marriage Course will be offered again in the fall. Watch for details.

Prayer: During the second session of The Marriage Course we learned about the immensely important role that prayer plays in a marriage. For some people, even those who have their own regular personal prayer time, praying with their spouse can be an awkward situation. Pastor Caroline laid out the basics for us. The prayer doesn't have to be lengthy or full of scripture. It just needs to be sincere.

- 1 Begin by asking your spouse what he/she would like you to pray about. Remember, you need to have your partner's permission to pray something. You don't get to decide! It could be a decision he/she is facing at work, what is happening (or happened) in his/her day, his/her personal needs, your needs as a couple or as parents, areas where he/she is seeking forgiveness, hopes, dreams.
- 2 Open with a Bible verse; maybe one that was read at your wedding, one that you choose together, or the verse used at The Marriage Course, Song of Songs 8:6-7.
- 3 Then thank God for the partner he has given you, naming at least one thing about him/her that brought you joy, laughter, or appreciation today.
- 4 Now pray about what your spouse has asked for. You don't need to be eloquent or flowery or long – use your own words, be simple and sincere.
- 5 Let your spouse do the same (3 and 4.)
- 6 Close together by asking God to make you one in heart with God as the center of your marriage. Amen!

Volunteers, Parents and Kids, thank you all so much for your participation this past year in the KQ, KFC, WOW and RO56 programs. We could not have done it without ALL of you. It is such a blessing to be able to partner together to mold and shape the faith of our Hope kids together. Blessings to each and every one of you. We look forward to continuing again in the Fall.
Sincerely The Children's Ministry Staff



Going for Gold With God

Vacation Bible School registration forms are now available!

July 14-18 morning session
July 21-25 morning or evening sessions

Registration forms for kids and volunteers are available online at www.hopewdm.org/childrens and at the Welcome Centers and Youth Booth.

For more information contact Jennifer Newton at jennifer.newton@hopewdm.org or 422-9139.

Marriage & Parenting at Hope

V To reach out to families in our community and to encourage them to be Christ-centered, spirited, growing, and serving. Classes, small groups and special events focus on supporting and encouraging families through biblically-based and Christ-centered programs.



I *"But from the beginning of the creation, God*
O *'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall*
N *leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the*
two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two,
but one flesh." Mark 10:6-8



G *To be a safe place within the community of believers*
O *where today's families can share challenges and offer*
A *support.*

L *"Know that the Lord your God, he is God, the faithful*
God, who keeps covenant and mercy with those who
love him and keep his commandments to a thousand
generations." Deuteronomy 7:9

Marriage & Parenting at Hope provides classes, events and small-group connections to:

- **Show** couples how to experience the true gift of marriage that God has given them. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
- **Help** marriages build on a Christ-centered foundation through prayer and Bible study. (Matthew 6:33)
 - **Build** small groups to provide an opportunity to share life and grow together. (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 2:42, 46-47)
- **Empower** couples to model their lives after Jesus as disciples that serve others. (2 Timothy 2:2)
- **Encourage** families to grow together in Christ. (Proverbs 23:18)

Register for classes and events at www.hopewdm.org/adult_ministries
or contact the church office at 222-1520 or registrations@hopewdm.org.

For more information, please contact Marriage & Parenting
Coordinator Deborah Boyer at 222-1520, ext.115
or email deb.boyer@hopewdm.org.