



the anchor

Hope Lutheran Church
3295 Old Hwy 5 South, Ellijay, GA 30540

January 2010

From the Pastor

I was talking with my pastor buddy, Matt, a couple of weeks ago. We were talking about the completion of our new building here at Hope, and he reminded me that about five years ago his congregation in Grayson, Georgia, finished building their first sanctuary/classroom/office and fellowship building. "Don't do like we did, Dave," he told me. "As soon as our building was finished, we all took a break and kicked back for a while. Sadly, we ended up losing a bunch of momentum in the process. It took us well over a year to recover and get things moving again!" Matt told me the let-down after the rigors of the building process left him personally feeling depressed and low in energy. "If I had it to do all over again," he said, "I'd make sure that we'd plan a whole lot better ahead of time so we wouldn't go into a slump when the building was finished."

Truth is, folks, we anticipated, I think, just that kind of pitfall might happen here at Hope, and so we actually did plan for ways to avoid it. All along - going back to the approval of our Long Range Plan seven years ago - we insisted that our mission and ministry provide for us our purpose as a congregation, not just the process of constructing a new building. The building itself would be a speed-bump for us, not a destination. And I think that's exactly what it's proved to be.

I've heard a lot of bragging around here in these last weeks about our new home: how beautiful it is; how functional it is; how little money we owe on it. But it's a bragging that's centered on the Holy Spirit's work through our collective efforts rather than an "ain't we special" kind of bragging! This building's successful completion truly was the Lord's work - not ours! And we know that! We recognize it as the gift from God that it is, and we especially appreciate the great responsibility we all share in using it most effectively and faithfully for the doing of God's kingdom work here in the North Georgia mountains!

Truth be told? I'm glad the construction work is finished. I've been concerned that the last year-and-a-half spent in the actual building of our new home, while exciting and fulfilling, has only slowed us down from doing the work we are most truly called to be doing.

Now? Our time has been freed up and we can move forward full-speed ahead! I'm excited for us to be opening our building up to the community again. Already The Gilmer Community Food Pantry has been here for a dinner; a group of quilters have worked in our new fellowship space; Habitat for Humanity has had a board meeting and dinner here; and, we've begun conversations with a Hospice program locally to have monthly bereavement support group sessions here.

This coming month, our congregation council will meet at length to begin discussions on ways for our leadership to better organize itself. I'm sure there will be plenty of talk about how our ministries can expand in the future!

Unlike my friend, Matt, who soon after the completion of his building fell into a depression, I'm finding myself energized and excited and pumped up over the prospects that lie before us all! We have a new gift in this building, and we recognize that the Holy Spirit has gifted each of us in wonderful ways to be the voice, and the hands and the heart of Christ for our communities.

Folks, the time is now! The opportunities are many! The Spirit is with us!
Let's keep on a'working!

Greetings From Your Congregational Council

Happy New Year! What an exciting year 2009 was! We are looking forward to a new year in our new church home serving our members, friends, and our community. Here are some of the items we are working on:

- To start the year, Council is planning an all day work session on Saturday, January 9th. Our plans for that day include defining, prioritizing, and organizing the committee structure to better serve the needs of our congregation. Your input is always welcome!
- The Audit Committee is working on a financial audit for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The audit will commence in January, with the final report expected by the end of March 2010. A report will be made available for your review at that time.
- We are working with several community organizations who have requested use of our wonderful new facility.
- We are addressing the physical security of our church and are working on a process for key distribution, security system training, etc. In addition, we are working with Georgia Power to have lights installed in the parking lot and additional signs for the driveway approach.
- We are continuing to study and discuss the resolutions made by the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA in 2009.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for January 20th, 2010 at 7 PM. Please feel free to attend. As always, please contact a member of Council for any questions or concerns.

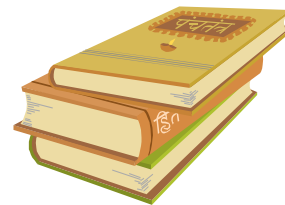
Hope Lutheran Church Library

We are now in the organization phase of our new Hope Library. The procedure in place will be as follows: books will be reviewed, selected, cataloged, and a check-out system set in place. Gilmer, Pickens, and Fannin Counties have excellent library facilities. So, we don't want to compete with their service. Our goal is to select non-fiction and fiction books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, videos, etc. that will assist our congregation in study, understanding, and entertainment with focus on *"Making Christ Known"* and celebrating life.

If you have items you think might be appropriate for us please place them in the area dedicated for that purpose in the library. If you have any questions you can reach me at 706-889-0000 or laurarogne@gmail.com

This is an exciting time at Hope. We give thanks to God for His blessings.

--Laura Rogne



Hope's Book Club Begins

"The Shack" is the first Book Club selection for 2010. Join us for our first discussion group on Monday, February 1st at 4:00 PM in our church library. If you need further information contact Kathy Ballard at 706-636-1628 or mballard@ellijay.com

"Good Housekeeping," Hope Style

Most of you have probably seen a plaque in a friend's home (or maybe you have one of your own) that attempts to let people know how to keep order in the home. Some statements on the plaque might be, "If you get it out, put it back away;" or "If you get it dirty, wash it;" or "If you spill it, clean it up." There are a number of variations on that theme. As we are settling in to our new building, here are some "housekeeping" suggestions from various people responsible for maintaining an orderly and safe environment in our church home.

- Lost and Found items will be put in the coat room just off the narthex near the men's restroom. If you are missing something, or need a place to put a lost item waiting for its owner, please go there.
- Family mail boxes are also located off the narthex, near the women's restroom. Please check your box regularly for "official" information and for items other members and friends might leave for you.
- With all the natural light we enjoy now, it is easy to forget when we have turned lights on. Before you leave an area, please check to see that unused lights are turned off. That includes big rooms and smaller spaces like storage areas and bathrooms.
- Food and drink should stay out of the sanctuary. So far, we're doing well with that.
- Trash cans are located throughout the building. Please empty ice and liquid from your beverage container before you toss it. At the moment, the barrel for aluminum cans is located near the kitchen. Each office also has a box for recyclable paper and cardboard. Please don't put food or messy trash in the recycle boxes!
- If you are one of the people with a key to the church, be careful to lock up after yourself, especially during the week. If Pastor Dave or Ellen is in the office, let one of them know when you arrive and leave so the alarm is not accidentally set while someone is in the building. It's sad to think that church doors needs to stay locked, but it is necessary for everyone's safety.
- When you are involved in preparing for an activity or event, plan for who will return your space to its original arrangement. The next people to use the area will appreciate finding it ready for them. Our custodians and leadership team have a big job just keeping the place clean and efficiently organized without having to move equipment and supplies or re-arrange furniture. Council will be working on policies and procedures for people outside of Hope who use our building for an event.

Thanks in advance for helping with these housekeeping necessities. And be sure to share this information with your children! Questions or further suggestions can be addressed to Chris Westerman, Jim Lyons, Laura Rogne, Ellen Ottinger, or any council member.

Luther Singers Are Recruiting New Members

The Hope Choir has really grown with wonderful new voices. There is some special music we would like to add to our repertoire. In order to accomplish that goal we will need more voices, particularly additional ALTOS & TENORS. But there is plenty of room in our SOPRANO and BASS sections. The more voices we have the more exciting music we will be able to offer as part of worship. Talk with Choir Director, Bob Martin, or come to rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM to visit. Bob can be reached at 706-635-4986 or jbm@ellijay.com Our next rehearsal will be January 6th.

Ladies Prayer Group

At the Prayer Workshop we talked briefly about the possibility of starting a Prayer Group. Let me know if you are interested. When...Time & Day would be best for your schedule? How often would you like to meet? *Laura Rogne 706-889-0000; laurarogne@gmail.com*

JANUARY LADIES MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

"The POWER of Humility"

A FOUR WEEK STUDY, January 4th thru 25th

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

*For more information contact Laura Rogne,
706-889-0000 or laurarogne@gmail.com*

Reflections on Dedication Day: December 13, 2009

For a couple of weeks while Hope was moving from Pleasant Grove to our new building, and again just before the dedication, it seemed as though I was living at Hope instead of at home. And I certainly was not the only one! Even after more than two years as part of Hope, the friendship and support offered to me and the cooperative efforts I have seen between church members sometimes take my breath away. I can only praise God for putting me in this place at this time and thank Him for the blessings. I feel like I am living on an emotional mountaintop.

On the morning of Dedication Day, Hope welcomed 16 people from 9 families into church membership. In spite of the threat of bad weather, attendance at the Service of Dedication and Blessing was just short of 250. The special offering for Kids Ferst totaled \$2331.00, including a matching gift from Thrivent Financial, for which Kids Ferst says a heartfelt "Thank You." There was just the right space in Founders Hall to seat the folks who stayed for the reception. God's hand again!

Dr. Chilton stressed in his dedication sermon that this is really a "commencement" for Hope: a beginning, not an end. Sunday attendance since the move has increased more than 10% and giving is staying strong even in a troubled economy. Pastor Dave mentions in his article this month a number of other things that indicate a healthy future for Hope. Logic and experience tell me I can't live on the mountaintop forever, but here on the hill it seems like it just might be possible! As we move into the new year, and a new era for Hope, it is my prayer that I be used here as God would see fit - that He will "find me faithful." My goal is to serve and facilitate whenever I can. Let me know when I can be of help to you.

Happy New Year!
Ellen Ottinger

P.S.: Clean copies of the Dedication bulletin are available in the office if you would like one to keep.

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS



6-Jan Richard Bowers
6-Jan Bill Fail
6-Jan Kay Hein
9-Jan Barbara Bell
9-Jan Bob Hayles
9-Jan John Owens
9-Jan Mitchel Waid
13-Jan Rob Ray
15-Jan Elaine Chambers
15-Jan Savannah Ray
17-Jan Sally Burke
17-Jan Jerry Odehnal
18-Jan Shela Huff
18-Jan Priscilla Smith
19-Jan Faith Bobak
19-Jan Janice Ross

20-Jan Trevor Bradley
20-Jan Nicholas Bradley
23-Jan Paul Schmidt
24-Jan Rev. Joe Holt
25-Jan Jean Barlow
26-Jan Harriet Berman
28-Jan Miranda Easley
28-Jan Rae Reta Peel
30-Jan Robert Bremm
30-Jan Charlotte Grewe
31-Jan Bill Strawser

ANNIVERSARIES



2-Jan Eileen & Jerry Odehnal
21-Jan Anita & Bud Settles
26-Jan Tony & Sally Burke

Youth Lunch In January 17

The Youth Group once again will be hosting a "lunch in" after the late service on Sunday, January 17, 2010. The theme will be soup and salads. The cost is \$6 per person, with a maximum of \$15 per family. Proceeds help provide scholarships to summer camp for our children and youth. Please contact Diane Burton at home at 706-636-2395 or email her at dburton562002@yahoo.com if you can provide a soup or salad, volunteer to help set up or clean up.

January Worship Assistants

Assisting Ministers

3 Nicholas Christensen
 10 Maureen Bremm
 17 Vicki Christensen
 24 Laura Rogne
 31 Laura Rogne

Counters

Jim Peterson & Bill Are
 Shawn Stoffer & Vern Haugen
 Stan Ashworth & Emil Harvey
 Chris Westerman & Bill Are
 Jim Peterson & Vern Haugen

Fellowship

Kristie Drost
 Fellowship Team
 Jennifer Bates
 Heidi Kosarick
 Barbara Fail

Lectors 8:30

3 Jan Austin
 10 Kermit Littleton
 17 Diane Burton
 24 Todd Hinton
 31 Vicki Christensen

10:30

Nathan Bates
 Kim Waid
 Kristie Drost
 Jean Barlow
 Laura Rogne

Communion 8:30

3 Steve & Jan Austin
 10 Kermit & Juanita Littleton
 17 Charlene Ivey & Sally burke
 24 Rich & Kay Hein
 31 TBA

10:30

Jennifer & Nathan Bates
 Joe & Kim Waid
 Kristie Drost & Sandy Peterson
 Doug & Doris Goplin
 Bill & Barbara Fail

Greeters 8:30

3 Sally Burke & Charlene Ivey
 10 Roger & Carol Ashcraft
 17 Rich & Kay Hein
 24 Kermit & Juanita Littleton
 31 Kermit & Juanita Littleton

10:30

Michael & Jennifer Bates
 Vern & Betty Haugen
 Emil & Judy Harvey
 Keith & Heidi Kosarick
 Jim & Sandy Peterson

Ushers 8:30

3 Sally Burke & Charlene Ivey
 10 Roger & Carol Ashcraft
 17 Rich & Kay Hein
 24 Kermit & Juanita Littleton
 31 Kermit & Juanita Littleton

10:30

Joseph & Nathan Bates
 Bill & Barbara Fail
 Jim & Jean Lyons
 Bill & Kat Are
 Leon & June Edgemon

Church Directory Update

In the very near future we will be printing a new church directory. If your contact information has changed and you have not already notified Ellen, please do so as soon as possible.

The Hope Staff

Church: 706.636.HOPE (4673)
E-mail: hopeelca@ellijay.com

Pastor Dave Smedley: 706.692.2557

Music Director: Bob Martin: 706.635.4986

Accompanist: Rae Reta Peel: 706.635.6115

Minister of Discipleship\Keeping In Touch Ministry Director:

Laura Rogne: 706.276.1614

Administrative Assistant: Ellen Ottinger

Church: 706.636.4673

Home: 706.276.2375

E-mail: esotting@ellijay.com

Maintenance: Nancy Hinton: 706.280.1970



"Anchored in His Word/Ministering in His Mountains"

Officers & Congregational Council

President	Christine Westerman
Vice President	Emil Harvey
Secretary	Richard Nagel
Treasurer	Roger Ashcraft
Financial Secretary	Steve Austin

Council Members:

Michael Bates	Juanita Littleton
Nathan Bates	Shawn Stoffer
Diane Burton	Kim Waid

Please contact any council member if you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns. Council meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Meetings are open to all and your presence is welcomed.