



the anchor

Hope Lutheran Church, Ellijay, GA
November 2009

WELCOME HOME !!



First Sunday in our new building, November 1, 2009

The Dedication Service for our new building
has been set for December 13 at 3:00 P.M.
A dinner reception will follow the service.
We will hold only one morning worship service
that day, at 10 a.m.

From the Pastor

*For everything there is a season,
And a time for every purpose under heaven...*
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Ain't that the truth!

We're just now finishing a wonderful season of building here at Hope Church. Building a new building that is! 'Cause frankly, we're always in the building mode aren't we? Building up disciples, building up our ministries, and building up witnesses for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel of salvation!

At the moment - to be sure - we're in a season too of thanksgiving for the great work the Lord has accomplished through us in making our new home a reality. We're also in a season of celebration for all the same reasons.

And yet, we're also entering into a new season of addressing all the limitless ministry possibilities that our past seasons of building up have made open to us. With all the distractions of constructing a new building behind us, we're well-equipped now and joyfully open to all the new things that God would have us be doing in our waiting communities.

Praise God, we've been blessed with a congregation council that clearly sees this future opening up to us with all its possibilities for witness and service - a council that's dedicated itself to finding and implementing all the best ways possible to prepare and equip us - the members of Hope - to continue and expand the work we're called on to do for the sake of the Kingdom.

In the weeks to come, you can look forward to word coming from our council leadership on new ways we can organize ourselves into better-functioning committees and task groups as we take steps into God's future. Ours is a council primed for vision and action. Ours is a council determined to communicate well - hearing your concerns and responding, and determined too to motivate us all as we follow the Holy Spirit's continued leading for our lives together.

You need only look to our past to know that we - as a congregation - have been greatly blessed. And in our present excitements we realize that our best, communal response - our best way of saying "thank you" for these blessings - will be to become the blessing that Christ calls us to be for the sake of all others!

Folks, our work hasn't ended here at Hope Church - it's only just beginning.

Don't be weary though! It's God-ordained work! It's Holy-Spirit-led work! It's Jesus-powered work!

Remember: God doesn't call the equipped!

God equips the called!

And we?

We are the called!

*For everything there is a season,
And a time for every purpose under heaven...*

Upcoming Ladies Events



Ladies, mark your calendars for these special occasions.

- * Annual Ladies Luncheon, November 14th
- * Prayer Workshop, December 4th and 5th

The Ladies Luncheon will be Saturday, November 14th in Founders Hall. You can begin arriving at 11:00 to mingle. Lunch will be served at the strike of Noon. Our speaker this year will be Reverend Natalie Adams. You don't want to miss her. Natalie is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, The Southern Baptist Theology and Shorter College. She was the planter/pastor of Bannister Creek Church, a mission church in Cumming, Georgia. She is currently a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cumming, Georgia where she fills in for Pastor Kerry when the need arises. Her message will inspire you with joy and purpose. Sharing a day of growing fellowship and faith - what a wonderful way to celebrate our new Hope on the Hill worship and ministry facility!

Be sure to make your reservation by Friday, November 6 Contact Laura Rogne at laurarogne@gmail.com, 706-276-1614 (home), or 706-889-0000 (cell); or Mary Anne Rankenburg at oma@ellijay.com or 706-276-7307.

The Prayer Workshop will be on December 4th and 5th. The Advent Season is a special time as we await the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. What a perfect time to enrich our prayer life. We are blessed to have Joanne Astalos facilitate this special event. Please join us in Hope's new fellowship hall as we enjoy learning, discussion, fellowship and prayer December 4th and 5th, Friday evening and Saturday. Event is open to both members and guests. Our schedule is as follows:

Friday, December 4 th	Saturday, December 5 th
Dinner 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Breakfast 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Session 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Session 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Lunch 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.	
Session 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	

For more information and to register contact Laura Rogne 706-889-0000 or laurarogne@gmail.com

Ladies Monday Evening Bible Study

Hope's Monday evening Ladies Bible Study continues as we review the Minor Prophets. We are discovering how studying the Old Testament enriches our understanding and study of the New Testament. We invite members and guests to join us 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. each Monday evening in Hope's fellowship hall. For more information contact Judy Kruger 706-636-5573 or krugerrjk@hotmail.com.

New Council Officers Elected

The new council met for the first time on October 21. Officers for the coming year will be Christine Westerman, President; Emil Harvey, Vice-President; and Dick Nagel, Secretary. Roger Ashcraft will continue as Treasurer, Steve Austin will continue as Financial Secretary.

Greetings From Our Council President

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of your new council, we are truly honored to serve during this exciting time for our congregation! During our first worship service in our beautiful new sanctuary, what a joy it was to look around and see the faces of all those who made our dream a reality. It is amazing what can be accomplished with a group of people committed to achieving a goal...especially when that work is Holy Spirit led!

As Pastor Dave has said, our work has just begun. During the next few months your congregational council will be working to identify needs amongst our congregation and the community, setting priorities and goals, and then implementing programs to achieve our goals. We will keep in mind our mission of making Christ known through reaching, welcoming, praising and discipling.

We ask for your prayers as we go forward in serving our Lord. All are welcome to attend the council meetings. Our next regularly scheduled council meeting is Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to contact a member of council with ideas or suggestions at anytime.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you!
Christine Westerman

Thanks to All!

Dear Members of Hope Church,

What a wonderful labor of love you've provided. What a gracious commitment of time, treasures and talents you have given. What a humble and dedicated group of Christian servants you all are.

Thank you! All of you!

Our new building is wonderful and finished. It promises to serve us and the work we do in God's kingdom well for a long time to come.

I could start naming names but the list would be too long and, of course, I'd risk missing one of you. Your work and your commitment have come from the heart and that, more than anything, is what makes our new home so welcoming, warm and special. I will thank the Lord by name. His guidance and strength have given us the ability to persevere and to succeed. We continue to pray that the Holy Spirit guides us wisely and well as we move into the future here at 3295 Old Highway 5 South.

On Sunday, December 13th we will come together with the larger community to dedicate our new campus. What a wonderful day of celebration it will be!

Again, thank you - all of you!

In His service, Pastor Dave

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Youth will hold their annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 22, 2009 following the late service. The menu will be turkey with all the trimmings. If you would like to prepare a dish for the dinner, please email (dburton562002@yahoo.com) or call me (706-636-2395).

New Church Mailing Address

From now on our mailing address at Hope is 3295 Old Highway 5 South, Ellijay, GA, 30540. Please make that change for yourself and your family, and also with any bill-pay services you may use to send contributions to Hope. Our post office box will stay open until June as we make the transition to having all our mail delivered here to the church. Thanks in advance for letting folks know.

A Member Family Challenges Our Congregation

After our first service at the new church this past Sunday, a member family approached the pastor with a challenge for the whole congregation. "I hate having debt," the husband said, "how do you think the congregation would respond if my family agreed to match up to \$25,000.00 in an offering to be taken up now to reduce our new mortgage even before a new loan is finalized?"

After Pastor Dave picked his jaw up off the floor, he said, "Why don't we find out?"

Christine Westerman, our new council president, says the congregation council will have more information about this wonderful opportunity out to everyone in the next few days!

Thanks from Pastor Dave and Janet

Dear Members and Friends of Hope Church,

Janet and I would both like to thank you for your generous gift to us and for the thoughtful way you helped us celebrate our ten years together with you here at Hope. These ten years have gone by so quickly - it truly does seem like it was only yesterday we arrived!

We plan to use the wonderful gift of a stay at the Marriott Waverley Renaissance later this month. We will also spend several days in Asheville to take in the sights at the Biltmore House with all their Christmas decorations. Rest assured, we will relax and enjoy our time together.

Please know how honored and blessed I am to your pastor. These truly have been the best years of my life.

In His service,
Pastor Dave

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS



4-Nov Erin Wimberly
6-Nov Steve Austin
8-Nov Kelle Deppa
10-Nov Butch Hinton
13-Nov Nicholas Christensen
14-Nov Carol Ashcraft
14-Nov Billy Huff
20-Nov Kathy Ballard
20-Nov Shirley Black
22-Nov Kristiann Settles
23-Nov Julie Martin
24-Nov Cristina Cook
25-Nov Doris Goplin
26-Nov Ron Rogne
29-Nov Bryan Bremm

ANNIVERSARIES



6-Nov Janet & Dave Smedley
7-Nov Rena & Stan Ashworth
22-Nov Butch & Nancy Hinton
24-Nov Shela & Billy Huff



Join Hope's new Book Club. We'll be holding our organizational meeting this month. Be on the lookout for date and time in our Sunday Bulletin. For more information contact Kathy Ballard 706-636-1628 or mballard@ellijay.com

Christian Education Team Thank You

Hope's Christian Education Team thanks our Congregation for agreeing to change the Worship Service times to allow for more Sunday School time. We are blessed to have a Congregation that understands the value and benefits of the study of the Word of God.

A Letter from Pastor Bill Corkish

(Pastor Corkish, former pastor from Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia, was Hope Church's first pastor. He served here during our earliest, formative years until his retirement in the late '90s to The Villages in central Florida)

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Hope,

Due to our having to celebrate Christmas early in Richmond, Va., it will not be possible for Sue Ann and me to be with you in person for your momentous day of dedication. Our prayers and our spirits, however, will be with you.

While this congratulatory letter is being read, you are experiencing a miracle. Who would have thought that from 12 of God's wandering children in a mountain culture in Ellijay, Ga. a viable Lutheran witness would be born? And though it took some 19 years, God answered your prayers for you to be blessed with a marvelous building in which to enhance your mission & ministry. It didn't happen without struggle, frustration & impatience. Doing ministry in God's Kingdom never does. Hear what St. Paul says to the Christian at Ephesus:

"Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against the powers, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. . . Pray at all times in the Spirit to withstand the evil forces of this world."

Isn't it amazing how God blesses us in the midst of our murmurings and our impatience? For example, when you needed a shepherd to walk with you in those infant years on into the troubling teen years, God provided. When you needed a strong Lutheran couple to give stability & vision to your ministry, God provided. When your efforts to call a full time pastor were denied, God provided interim Shepherds to keep your mission alive. And when God's time was right, He provided you with the right pastor to lead you to this "Day of Celebration." Finally, when you needed someone to lead you in getting the building ready for worship, God provided.

I want you to know that I could not be prouder of the shepherd God provided for your first full-time mission developer. Pastor David Smedley, as many of you know, is a son of the congregation I served in Stone Mountain. God took an angry Roman Catholic and turned him into a loving, caring father & husband. And little did we realize that God would continue remaking Pastor Dave into a faithful ordained servant of the Lord.

In closing I would like to challenge each of you to set your church on fire with the power of the Holy Spirit as the early Christians did on the Day of Pentecost. Now, as you know, fire can have many meanings. It can keep you warm. It can provide you with food. Unfortunately, it can also destroy. When I learned of the fire which could have destroyed your cherished building just as it was about to be completed, this thought came to me: In limiting the fire to garbage and putting it out miraculously, God wanted you to know that the building belongs to him and you are but stewards of how you use it as an instrument of worship, service and reaching out with good news of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray: *"Come Holy Spirit, instruct the minds and hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love." - Amen*

November Worship Assistants

Assisting Ministers

1 Keith Bell
 8 Nicholas Christensen
 15 Vicki Christensen
 22 Maureen Bremm
 29 Laura Rogne

Lectors 8:30

1 Wayne Buehler
 8 Jan Austin
 15 Todd Hinton
 22 Joe Holt
 29 Kermit Littleton

Acolytes 8:30

1 Hope Bobak
 8 Justen Trahan
 15 Cody Hinton
 22 Bryan Bremm
 29 Hope Bobak

Communion 8:30

1 Rich & Kay Hein
 8 Kermit & Juanita Littleton
 15 Rich & Kay Hein
 22 Jan & Steve Austin
 29 Charlene Ivey & Sally Burke

Greeters/Ushers 8:30

1 Sally Burke & Charlene Ivey

 8 Dick & Phyllis Nagel

 15 Rich & Kay Hein

 22 Kermit & Juanita Littleton

 29 TBA

Counters

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

10:30

Joe Waid
 Barbara Jonason
 Elene Rivers
 Janet Smedley
 Cantey Gordon

10:30

Mitchel Waid
 Mitchel Waid
 Natalie Givens-Waid
 Mitchel Waid
 Brannen Trahan

10:30

Joe & Kim Waid
 Barbara Jonason & Sandy Peterson
 Carolynn Maatta & Kristie Drost
 Janet Smedley & Keith Sadler
 Helen Gordon & Carol Ashcraft

10:30

Michael & Jennifer Bates
 Joanne Cleberg & Mollie Odehnal
 Nathan & Joseph Bates
 Chuck & Carolynn Maatta
 Vern & Betty Haugen
 Bill & Barbara Fail
 Jim & Sandy Peterson
 Stan & Rena Ashworth
 Emil & Judy Harvey
 Bill & Kat Are
 Richard & Linda Bowers
 Keith & Heidi Kosarick
 Leon & June Edgemon
 Jim & Sandy Peterson
 Keith & Donna Sadler

The Hope Staff

Church: 706.636.HOPE (4673)

E-mail: hopeelca@ellijay.com

Pastor Smedley: 706.692.2557

Accompanist: Rae Reta Peel: 706.635.6115

Newsletter: Ellen Ottinger: 706.636.4673

Music Director: Bob Martin: 706.635.4986

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



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. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Meetings are open to all and your presence is welcomed.