

# In Touch with Hope

Phone: 712-262-3016

www.spencerhope.org

April 2011

Join us on Sundays for our worship services at 9:00 a.m. (sanctuary) or at 10:30 a.m. (Harbor of Hope)

---

## Living the Adventure. . .

### Pastor Russell

rmullenburg@spencerhope.org

### Looking Ahead

Here's a look at what is on the immediate horizon for us as a church; an update on plans for the fall; and the seeds of an idea for the future.

First, **the weeks ahead**. With Easter we came to the end of our "I am Convinced..." series. The next series is something we are calling "I ♥ Church." We are going to spend six weeks talking about the church—what it is, how God views it, our role in it, and why it matters.

One of the things that bothers me is national poll data that shows religious belief remains high in America, but actual church participation is declining. Occasionally I'll run across somebody who says: "I believe in God and Jesus, but I don't need a church." People will say: "I express my faith in my own way, I just don't like organized religion." Even more disturbing to me are some books I've come across recently that imply organized churches should be allowed to disappear, and we'd be better off with house groups and internet affiliations and coffee house discussions. Basically, there seems to be a movement afoot that is trying to do away with the church.



But I don't hold that view. I love the church. And I believe God does too. And while no local congregation is perfect, I believe God wants us to care about His church as much as He does. And so, whether you are crazy about the church, lukewarm, or having cold feet—my hope is that over the next several weeks you will fall in love with the Bride of Christ.

Second, **an update on plans for the fall**. As we've been saying since December, we need to go to two sanctuary services in order to have room for new people. We have had several meetings in the past few months and have come to the decision that we cannot do justice to three services. So the service that currently meets in the Harbor will come to an end in August and we will ask everybody to choose one of two sanctuary services.

These two services will be identical. We anticipate the first service will begin earlier than the current 9:00 a.m. time, the second service will begin a little later than the current 10:30 a.m. time, and our Sunday School hour will fit between the two services. We are also hoping to continue the practice of serving a noon meal in the Harbor.

This new schedule will mean changes for everybody, but especially for those currently attending the 10:30 service, who will be asked to change their worship setting. We will also need several families to volunteer to begin regularly attending the second service so that we can achieve balance between the services. We will all need to work together so that we can achieve our goal of continuing to have room for everybody who wants to join our worship services.

Third, **the seeds of an idea for the future**. Even as we begin making plans for two sanctuary services, we continue to assess our building and how it serves our needs. One glaring need has been the bottleneck of people leaving the sanctuary and the overall lack of space in the lobby, as well as the shortage of restroom space on the sanctuary end of the building.

To that end, the consistory will be meeting with the building's architect in May to learn what might be possible and to get some preliminary cost estimates for lobby expansion. This is all exploratory at this time—and it remains clear that the most cost effective way to accommodate growth is multiple services as opposed to building new sanctuary space—but we want to consider all options as we dream about where God is leading us.

## Youth Pastor Jay

jvangelder@spencerhope.org



### Jay's Happy thoughts on Youth Ministry at Hope!!!

- ✦ May 8<sup>th</sup> we will have 6 Youth taking the **"Next Step in their Faith Journey"**. These youth went on the spiritual retreat and decided to publicly state their faith to the congregation. This step makes them members of Hope Church. These students have probably decided at a younger age that they accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and now want to profess that to the congregation. At Hope Church we are asking youth to choose on their own, if they want to become a member of the body of Hope Church. For these students this will be another important "Spiritual Marker" in their lives as they grow in their relationship with Christ.
- ✦ **Pancake Breakfast**, stuff was flying. "We served 253 people" John Wimmer said. What a wonderful turn out! The first 50 people ordered pancakes and 1 waffle. But Tanner Schaefer is quoted, "It only took one person to order a waffle and everyone saw the amazing results." After that the waffle people were going full steam. After we served the 150<sup>th</sup> person, Eric & Ryan, the grillers, came to me and said "we are out of sausage." Off to HyVee we go to buy more with a total of 65 lbs. of sausage eaten (I think the Hope people like the little piggy who went to market). Servers were hopping as they took orders and ran food back with smiles on their faces. I was very proud of our youth as they served people their Easter morning breakfast.
- ✦ **This month we hit 450 youth** that have attended so far in the two and a half years since I have come to Hope church. We as youth staff are very excited to see our young people feel comfortable inviting their friends to come and join us on youth group nights. I always feel if youth invite their friends to come along we are doing something right.
- ✦ **Other things:** Both 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth & Sr. High went to watch the movie **"The Passion"** to start off our Easter week as we journeyed to the cross and resurrection. The Sr. High also went to another movie this month called **"Soul Surfer"** which is based on a true story of Bethany Hamilton, who was bitten by a shark while surfing in Hawaii. This was a Christian movie telling the story of Bethany's journey through this tragic event in her life and how God helped her through it.

## Children & Family News

### Kim Smith

ksmith@spencerhope.org



***IT'S COMING.....***

***REGISTRATION FOR VBS IS COMING...!!***

**VBS registration will be open to Hope Church May 1- May 11**, you may register in the lobby. You must be pre-registered/pre-paid by May 11 to guarantee a spot for your child.

Starting on May 12, we will open up the registration to the community until we are full.

**Join in the VBS fun!** Positions are still available for any level of help at VBS. Come make a difference in the lives of the children that God is sending to Hope Church that week! We have a great time getting to know not only the children that are attending but each other as we serve together! We can use people of every age, ability and time frame. Call Kim at 262-3016 or ksmith@spencerhope.org

**VBS Clean-up crew needed:** People willing to help us clean up after VBS is over are needed. Sunday afternoon for about 1-2 hours is all this position requires! Contact Kim if you are willing to help us out!



## **Worship/Outreach News**

### **Jean Blok**

jblok@spencerhope.org

I thought maybe it was time to update you on some things that the Outreach Ministry Team has been doing. They are a busy and active team year round and great to work with. It is great to see them eager to serve God by reaching out to the community in a variety of ways.

In the first 4 months of 2011, 12 mugs have been delivered to new visitors. Mugs are delivered to visitors after they have attended a second time. Mugs are filled with information on Hope Church and candy. Someone from the team tries to contact them in person so they can answer any questions they might have as well as invite them to continue to worship at Hope Church.

On April 17 at 4:00 a.m. the Outreach Team arrived at the Harbor Kitchen to begin preparing a breakfast of French toast, little smokies, fresh fruit, milk, and juice. Shortly thereafter teenagers started arriving from their all night festivities of the Spencer Junior/Senior Prom. Between 55 - 60 were served and the largest percentage was from the community.

Two cases of Bibles were ordered and delivered to the Clay County Jail. One case is in the English language and the other in Spanish. They are NIV and also contain written testimonies from people with similar backgrounds. The Bibles will be in the cells and available for the inmates to take home with them if they so choose. 30 Bibles have also been purchased to be available for distribution during VBS for those children who do not have access to one at home.

Different members have been busy helping to get ready for Love Spencer with projects and Bob Campbell is our Point Leader for Hope Church. What a super way to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors in Spencer. Let's continue the action throughout the rest of the year.

Believe it or not, we already have mentioned Trunk or Treat and how the planning for that is just around the corner. So as you see, this team is busy and is always looking for ways to reach out to the community and bring the family of Hope Church along.

~~~~~

### **MOPS AT NIGHT**

For more than a decade, Hope Church has been a ministry partner with Spencer MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). The MOPS ministry is for women of preschooler-age children who are often faced with the daunting and sometimes exhausting task of raising children.

MOPS helps equip women to become all that God has designed them to be, and to remind women of the value of mothering for its contribution to individuals, children, society at large, future generations and eternity.

MOPS International helps local, grassroots groups remember that "Better Moms Make a Better World" and the Spencer MOPS group vision is: "Through Christ, to unite, support and equip women in their journey throughout motherhood."

In an effort to reach more mothers of preschoolers, the Spencer MOPS ministry will be expanding by establishing a MOPS at Night group this fall. The evening group is designed for moms who have children from ages newborn through kindergarten, but are unable to attend the Thursday morning MOPS group due to other commitments.

MOPS at Night group will be held at Hope Church, October through May, and meet on the first Thursday of each month. If you're interested in attending MOPS at Night or learning more about this new group, please contact Bridgette Visser, 712-580-4704 or [bridgette\\_visser@hotmail.com](mailto:bridgette_visser@hotmail.com).

## Upcoming Services

9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services



May 1: *The Best Place on Earth* ~ Acts 2:42-47

May 8: *I Heart Family*

~ (6-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School Classes)

May 15: *He Calls Her His Bride* ~ Ephesians 5:25-32

### Pastor's Membership Class

May 15 & 22

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

- Are you new to Hope Church?
- Have you been attending for a while but have questions?
- Do you wonder why we do what we do the way we do it?

Pastor Russell will be leading a seminar to answer some of these questions and to help those who are considering committing to Hope Church membership. This is a great opportunity to find out about Hope - how we are like (and unlike) other churches you may have been involved in. Attending does not commit you to joining Hope, but it helps you make that decision wisely. This class is intended for adults. Please sign up on the lobby bulletin board or contact Pastor Russell (346.8480).



You are invited to attend the **National Day of Prayer Breakfast** on Thursday, May 5, 6:30 a.m. at the Spencer Area Senior Center (located in the old Spencer Middle School). Pastor Kevin Grimes, of Dayspring Assembly will be the featured speaker. A continental breakfast of rolls and fruit will be served.

### Would you like a copy (DVD) of a Sunday's sermon?

There are forms available by the church office door for you to fill out. When you are finished with the form, enclose \$3 and put in the mail slot by the office door. A DVD will be made for you and will be put in your mailbox.

**Habitat for Humanity** is building a house in Everly this summer. Hope Church was a valuable asset in building the 2009 Habitat home in Spencer. Are you interested in being part of a team from Hope Church? We will be planning some Saturday teams beginning as early as May and as late as September. Each of our teams will need a leader, a lunch coordinator, an on-site safety person, and a devotional leader, as well as other workers. If you have a desire to share your time and talent to help build this home, please contact Mike Schmillen at 262-8531 or mgschmil@smunet.net.

**Hope Church is helping to support the new church work** that the RCA is beginning in Ft. Dodge called Cana. On Sunday, May 15, people from Hope are invited to come to Ft. Dodge for a prayer walk. Join with Cana's core group and others from the RCA walking the streets of the city and silently asking God to bless the community and grow His Church. A car pool will be leaving Spencer at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served in Fort Dodge. Contact Dave Johnson (262.7403) for more information.

**If you would like to have a meeting** (team, prayer, small group, etc.) in the church at any time please contact the church office (262-3016 or hrc@spencerhope.org) so we may put it on the church calendar to avoid confusion and interference in setting up rooms. Thank you!

**Do you throw your printer ink cartridges away?** Why not bring them to the church office, and we will recycle them at Staples. We get a \$2 credit for every cartridge we bring in which helps to purchase office supplies.

If you would like a **prayer request** started, please contact Karmen Brown (rkbrown@smunet.net) or Lynda Schmidt (hrc@spencerhope.org) at the church office. We prefer that you email - so we have the correct information and spelling. We would also like it if a family member would contact us. We do not put out prayer requests without being contacted.

### Congratulations to our College Graduates:



Olivia Johnson will graduate from Marquette University on May 22 with a degree in accounting.

Emma Wakefield graduated from Minnesota State University in December 2010 with a degree in Management/Human Resources.

### Puzzle Answer - How Big Is Your Faith?

The kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed. It is the smallest of seeds, but grows to be the greatest of trees. Matthew 13:31-32



**Hope Church is doing the Baby Bottle Campaign during the month of May for Cherish Center.**

Jan Turner, Director of Cherish Center, will be with us during worship us on Sunday, May 1.

You will be invited to take home a baby bottle, fill it with loose change, bills, or a check (payable to Cherish Center), and return it to the church by Sunday, May 29. The proceeds will be used to support Cherish House, a maternity home for teenage moms, and serving Northwest Iowa and beyond. For more information, visit their web site at [www.cherishcenter.org](http://www.cherishcenter.org). Your involvement can make a positive difference in the lives of young mothers and their babies.