

# In Touch with Hope

919 Grand Ave

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Phone: 712-262-3016

[www.spencerhope.org](http://www.spencerhope.org)

February 24, 2010

Join us Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (sanctuary) or at 10:30 a.m. (Harbor of Hope)

Living the Adventure. . .

## ***The Parable of the Hot Dog***

Why should we stop sinning? If God is going to forgive us anyway, why shouldn't we just do what we want and then look to the cross to cover our wrongdoing?

There are a lot of reasons that isn't a good idea, but one the biggest is because as Christians we are now living our lives as an offering to God. Romans 6:13 says: "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness."

To understand what this means, consider the parable of the hot dog:

Imagine holding a barbecue for someone you want to impress. In the process of getting the hot dogs outside, one of them rolls off the plate and onto the ground. You pick it up. It's gotten a few pieces of gravel stuck to it, but otherwise it's OK. You brush off the most obvious debris, and throw it on the grill.

As the hot dogs cook, the phone rings and you go to answer it. While you are gone, the flames get out of control and our hot dog--the one that fell to the ground earlier--gets burned beyond recognition. You pick it up with your tongs and you can see the ashes flaking off of it. It's mostly black, with just a few pink spots where the skin has cracked. You shrug your shoulders and put it on the edge of the grill.

Then, a little later, the kids come tearing by and accidentally bump the grill. You don't notice it, but the gravel-encrusted, charcoal hot dog gets knocked to the ground and kicked into the newly cut lawn. As it bounces along, the moist, exposed parts of the hot dog collect little bits of fresh grass clippings. When it comes to rest, a colony of ants discover it and send out workers to investigate.

The hot dog is now spotted with little bits of stone and sand, burned to a consistency of charcoal, sprouting little green beards at funny angles, and crawling with ants. But you haven't noticed it.

The dog, however, has.

Now, normally, your dog will eat anything. He's a dog, after all. But after a few inquisitive sniffs and an investigatory lick or two, he decides that even he doesn't want *this* hot dog.

At about the same time that the dog is depositing his drool on the frankfurter, you decide it is time to head back into the house. As you load up the platter, you notice the dog snuffing around and you go to investigate. You see the hot dog and wonder how it got away, then you stoop to pick it up...

The question now is: is this what you are going to present to that person you want to impress? Are you going to whip out a bun and load it up with this black, ant-infested, grass covered, gritty, dog slobbery excuse for a hot dog and serve it to your guest? Of course not!

Then why would you want to foul yourself up with sin and then present yourself to God? Why would you want to mess around with all of the things God finds distasteful and displeasing and then offer yourself to Him? It just doesn't make sense.

Yes, God forgives sin. But, in view of his mercy, we should offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is our spiritual act of worship. (Rom. 12:1)



## Upcoming Services

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

### The Power of the Cross

Feb. 28 ~ *Power Denied* ~ John 18:15-27

March 7 ~ *Power of Truth* ~ John 18:28-40

March 14 ~ *Power Given* ~ John 19:1-20

### **Prayer Concern:**

**Marion Ver Mulm** returned home on Friday evening, (Feb. 19) after spending several days hospitalized.

### **Our Condolences...**

...to **Curt & Connie Paulsen** with the passing of their son-in-law, Joey Elbert of Spirit Lake from time to eternity on Monday, February 22.

...to **Alma Birchard** with the passing of her husband, Clarence, from time to eternity on February 14.

...to **Lanette and Kent Kilpatrick, Donette Hansen, Ronette DuBois and families** with the passing of their mother, Opal DuBois, from time to eternity on February 11.

### **Thank You Note:**

"We want to thank our church family for all the cards, memorials, food, phone calls and prayers, during the hospitalization and passing of our dear mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

A special thanks to the Women of Hope for the preparation and serving of the dinner the day of the funeral.

Most of all our greatest thanks to Pastor Russell and Pastor Jay for all the time and concern they gave us. A mere thank you can not let you all know our deep feelings of appreciation."

*The Family of Opal DuBois*



**Do you enjoy singing?** If so, please consider joining the choir that is rehearsing for a special Sunday (Mar. 21) to enhance both worship services. The services will feature the choir in five anthems. Practice is every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. Spread the word and join us for this great opportunity.



All children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to join in the March 28 **Palm Sunday Choir**. They will be assisting in worship and sharing special music. Practices will be downstairs in Kingdom Kids beginning Wednesday night, March 3, 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

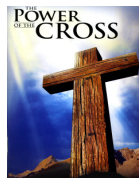
Questions? Call Kim 262-3016 or email [ksmith@spencerhope.org](mailto:ksmith@spencerhope.org)



We have the privilege and opportunity to host the **Ordination of Dustyn Keepers as Minister of Word and Sacrament**. The Ordination Service will be at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 7 with refreshments following the service. Dustyn is a graduate of Spencer High and a member of Hope Church. She attended Western Theology Seminar. Dustyn has received a contract from the North Holland Reformed Church in Holland, MI to serve as their Pastor of Discipleship.

**Do you enjoy computers?** Do you want to be called a "techy"? We'd love to have you join our team. We're looking for a few more people to join us as we keep growing. Opportunities would be for sound system, projection, and possibly video operator. For more information, contact Jean Blok (712.262.3016 or [jblok@spencerhope.org](mailto:jblok@spencerhope.org)).

**Do you have old magazines?** Pastor Jay would like to have them. Just drop them off by his office door during the week. If you have questions, please contact Jay (363-0885).



**Power of the Cross Devotional** is available in the lobby of the church. This is a free devotional for you and we encourage you to use it individually or as a family during the Lenten season.

There are **post cards available** for you to hand out or drop in the mail to invite people to worship at this special time of year. Information regarding special services and about Hope Church is on the back of the card. You simply need to address the card and put a 44¢ stamp on it.

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

### **This is important**

If a charge is made at Hy-Vee or Fareway, **you must bring the signed receipt to the church office (Lynda) with the event on the receipt also.** There is a slot next to the office door where you can put your signed receipt(s). Remember if you charge at HyVee you have to pick up the authorization card first from the church office. Thank you!

### **Nursery Care Team Sunday, February 28**

Carla & Maia van Holsteijn, Ivan & Dawn Crane

## Haiti News

**We have a team going to Haiti with UCI (United Christians International) from March 3 – 12.** The team consists of Christi Gabhart, Karmen Brown, Heather Brown, Sharon Berkenpas, Paul Rekow and Dawn Vanden Berg. **On Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. we will have a time of prayer as a send off for the group.**

**There are still six openings for the June 23– July 2, mission trip to Haiti.** This mission will be in conjunction with Promise for Haiti, Dr. Guy and the hospital in Pignon. Deadline for this trip is March 1 and then Hope Church will invite SunnyBrook Church in Sioux City to fill the team. This mission is a rare opportunity for those who cannot attend during the winter months. Please contact Christi Gabhart if interested (christi@mchsi.com / 262-7216).

### **Thank You Notes from Haiti**

"These last few weeks have brought unbelievable sorrow. As you may know Pignon was not severely damaged by the quake. The hospital and dorms are standing and are receiving patients from the entire region. Medical teams are scheduled to arrive weekly with equipment, supplies, food and water purification systems. The Pignon airport is open and operating. Thanks to your prayers and generosity, we were able to meet the immediate challenges brought by the earthquake. Hope Church's 2010 donations of \$16,000 have been such a blessing. We ask for your prayers for the difficult days ahead as we continue to need your support. Dr. Guy Theodore sends his heartfelt thanks."

*Sue Ishee, Treasurer*  
Promise for Haiti

"Thank you for the generous offering to UCI for the earthquake victims. It will help JeanJean and Kristie so much as they house and feed the homeless. Your ongoing support as well as special gift shows the compassionate heart of your people at Hope Reformed."

*Martha Rankin, UCI Coordinator*



Want to be in on the "ground floor" of Vacation Bible School? We are looking for creative people to help us plan an awesome time for our kids!

Please contact Kim at 262-3016  
or email her at ksmith@spencerhope.org.



## **SR. HIGH**

Sunday, Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m.

**6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

## Small Group News

**Small Group Contact Person:** You can pick up your group's study books & DVD from the lobby table. The cost for a book is \$8 and the DVD is free. Please make checks payable to Hope Church and on the memo line please put study book and drop off at the church office.

**If you're unable to attend a small group study,** but are interested in participating in Hope's church-wide study, join us in The Well beginning Sunday, March 7 during the Sunday school hour: 10:30-11:30 a.m. We'll be reading and discussing John Ortberg's "The Life You've Always Wanted" study. Susan Christensen will facilitate the study. Cost of the study book is \$8. To reserve your book, contact Lynda at the church office (262.3016) or Susan at 260.1595.

### **Small Group Collects Pajamas...**

The small group led by Joyce Flaharty has been busy serving God in a unique way. They are collecting pajamas and nightgowns for CAASA and have recruited many churches and a few businesses to help donate. They plan to have a **'Sort and Tag'** day in March and Kelly Sargent, State Program Director from Des Moines is planning to come for the event. Local media has also been invited and promises to be an exciting day. Their group consists of Martha Oskvig, Linda Maxson, Dorothy Loats and Joyce Flaharty. An example of being God's hands and feet! Sunday, Feb. 28 is the last day that you are invited to bring pajamas. Please leave the tags on the new pajamas or nightgown. There is a collection box in the church lobby.



### **Small Group Training a Success!**

On January 24th, Hope Church was fortunate to have two great speakers to help small group members learn how to be better communicators, and how to get the most from your small group. Pam Kimpson, Director of Discipleship For the Synod of the Heartland and Chris Ver Steeg, Groups Director, from Sunnybrook Church in Sioux City were our speakers and made for a very informative 2 hours!

### **Do you know someone who might want to be in a group?**

At Hope Church, our groups are constantly changing, growing, and multiplying. The Small Group Ministry Team (SGMT) is continually working to find a welcoming spot for anyone interested in becoming part of a group. The SGMT maintains an up-to-date list of all Hope Small Groups and is always available to help any way possible. Just call the SGMT and let them know you have someone that is interested in getting involved and the team will help them find a home. Call Jim at: 515-491-7842 for more information.

### **Small Group Ministry Team**

Jim & Julie Hill	Dennis & Sue Holck
Ivan & Dawn Crane	Bill & Carol Hartig
Kim Weeks	Craig & Mary Van Drunen
Mark & Brenda Olson	

**Community Lenten Services**  
**Theme: Who Is This Jesus?**

Each Wednesday through March 31  
Worship: 12:00 noon  
Lunch: 12:30 p.m., \$4.00 donation  
No reservation necessary.

March 3: *"I Am the Gate"*

March 10: *"I Am the Good Shepherd"*

March 17: *"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"*

March 24: *"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life"*

March 31: *"I Am the Vine"*

Location: Grace United Methodist Church  
311 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave West, Spencer

Sponsored by the Spencer Ministerial Association