

In Touch with Hope

919 Grand Ave

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Phone: 712-262-3016

www.spencerhope.org

July 28, 2009

We are one church worshipping in two locations. Join us Sundays at 9:00 a.m. at 919 Grand Ave. or at 10:30 a.m. at the Spencer School Administration Building (23 E 7th St) for The Junction.

Living the Adventure. . .

Questions and Answers

As July comes to an end and we start thinking about the beginning of another church year, here are some answers to questions you may have been asking:

Rumors are that the church has hired somebody really talented to lead our worship: Is that true?

The consistory is very excited to announce that Mary Van Drunen has accepted the part-time position of music director/worship leader at Hope Church. Mary grew up in southern Minnesota and graduated from Hull Western Christian High School and Dordt College. While at Dordt she was a part of a team that led music at *Praise and Worship*, a Wednesday evening opportunity for prayer and praise at the college. Mary is passionate about helping the congregation draw closer to God through music and helping our worship volunteers develop their gifts for God's glory. And yes, we feel she is very talented.

Mary will be the point leader for our worship teams and will partner with Jean Blok, our worship coordinator, in planning our weekly worship. She will keep regular office hours on Tuesdays and will lead practice times on Wednesday evenings.

Mary also works as a legal secretary at Cornwall, Avery, Bjornstad and Scott. She and her husband Craig were married at Hope Church last November. They are hoping to buy their first house in Spencer soon.

Did we lose anybody in Canada?

The High School youth group returned to Spencer from their work trip to Canada at about 1:00 a.m. Tuesday morning. At this point (Tuesday afternoon) I haven't received any panicked phone calls so I assume that everybody made it back home safely. I saw Kris Rhode at lunch and he said the trip was "Awesome!" We'll get a full report on the trip on August 9 when Pastor Jay and the students lead our 9:00 a.m. worship service.

I keep seeing people at church whose names I can't remember: will we get our new picture directories soon?

The proof sheets for the picture directory were sent to the printers about two weeks ago. Estimated time of arrival for the finished product is the first two weeks of August. I've seen proof sheets, and I have to say that, Hope Church, you are a handsome bunch of people.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the calling and the check-in process while the pictures were being taken. A HUGE thank you to Noreen Meyer and Judy Van Helden for running point on this project.

I'm already dreading winter: Is it too late to be involved in next year's trip to Haiti?

Hope Church's next mission trip to Haiti is scheduled for January 27 to February 5, 2010. There is room for 16 people on the trip, and right now 9 spots have been reserved. There is a particular need for men to sign up, as only two men are on the list right now. Plane tickets should be booked by October 1, so you still have time, but don't delay. Call Christi Gabhart at (712) 262-7216 for more information.

I have a burning desire to get involved in children's ministry. When will our kids' programming begin for the year?

Kingdom Kids and Harbor Beach will begin on August 30, the Sunday after our Celebration in the park. Kids' Connection will begin on Wednesday, September 23, the week after the Clay County Fair. To learn more about volunteer opportunities helping spread God's fame to the next generation contact Joan Ebeling at (712) 262-4724 or Kim Smith at (712) 262-3016.

How are we going to manage two services in one building once The Junction 2.0 starts in the Harbor on August 30?

As with so many things in life, we will have to figure it out as we go along. Our goal is to be a unified church while still preserving the unique flavor of each of our two services. We'll have to iron out some wrinkles along the way, but we are confident our building has the room to handle both services. The most important thing is that we continue to make space for new people to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ through our church.

An informational meeting will be held in the Harbor on August 5 at 7:00 p.m. where we will go over the vision for the Junction service. Everyone who has filled out a Junction 2.0 volunteer card plus everyone interested in learning more about this service is encouraged to be there.



Upcoming Services

We are one church worshipping in two locations.
Our goal in worship is to hear from God, to bring glory
to His name, and to encourage one another.

919 Grand Ave – 9:00 a.m.

August 2: *The Great Exchange* - 2 Cor. 5:21

August 9: Youth Trip Report - Pastor Jay

August 16: *Dancing Before a Holy God* - 2 Samuel 7

– the band, Revive will be the leading worship music

The Junction -23 E 7th St - 10:30 a.m.

Great Conversions

August 2: *The Woman Who Washed Jesus' Feet*

• Led by Karmen Brown

August 9: *Zaccheus* • Led by Scott Finnern

August 16: *Peter* • Led by Pastor Russell



You are invited to join the **B.C. (Before Church) Prayer Time** every Sunday 8:30 – 8:55 a.m. in the Grace Room. Come be a part of the engine that will drive Hope Church for His Glory.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ACTION MEAL TEAMS:

Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room, there will be a meeting to plan ACTION MEALS for the upcoming school year. All are welcome to come volunteer and share ideas -- whether you have served in the past are not. We could use more helpers. This is a fun way to share God's love for those in and out of Hope Church.

Clases de Ingles GRATIS! Join this new opportunity to help non-English speaking adults learn English. Classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Hope Church starting on Monday, July 13. No experience necessary. Help will be needed in the class as well as for childcare. For more information or if you would like to be part of this opportunity please contact Emily Blok at 712.346.8908 or emilyblok3@hotmail.com

Prayer Concern:

Clarence Birchard is hospitalized in the local hospital.

Congratulations to Dawn Vanden Berg, who will graduate from Iowa Lakes Community College on Friday 31, with a major in Medical Assistant.



On Sunday, August 2, we will have the privilege and the opportunity to participate at the **Lord's Table for Communion** at 919 Grand Ave and at the Junction.

Treasure Village welcomes Doug & Judy Peterson of Heart Song on Sunday evening, August 2 at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$4.50/adults and children under age 12 free. Treasure Village is located on Hwy. 86, 2 miles NW of Milford.

REVIVE, a Christian band originating in Australia, will be leading the music in our 9:00 a.m. worship service on August 16. Revive was one of the groups that was a part of the Third Day tour that came to Spencer this spring. Their song "Chorus of the Saints" can be heard on Christian Radio. Read more of their story on the internet at <http://www.reviveband.com/band>. The band will also be providing a concert at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday at the bandshell as part of the skate competition that weekend.

"Celebration Sunday" Sunday, August 23 at 10:30 a.m., both campuses worshipping together at East Leach Park band shell area. Bring your lawn chair. Following worship lunch will be served and other fun activities. Bring your family and friends! Rain Location: Harbor of Hope. No B.C. Prayer Time that morning.

BECAUSE YOU ASKED... If you've ever had a question about God, life or anything in between - here's your chance to ask it! Go to our website www.spencerhope.org and click on the link where you will be able to submit your question anonymously. Questions can also be mailed to church or dropped off in the office. Please submit your questions by August 9. Then, in September we will have a four week sermon series based on the questions you asked.



LUV YOUR LIBRARY.....Thanks to Women of Hope for their generous donation to purchase many new library books. There are new videos for children, adventure books for youth, and fiction and non-fiction for adults.

If there is enough interest, a book club will be started in August. If you would like to be part of a book club, please call Betty Groen at 262-3653. Details will be worked out as a group.

The 75th Annual Okoboji Lakes Bible & Missionary Conference in Arnolds Park, Iowa, July 31-August 9 will celebrate our CHANGELESS God. All are welcome to this event featuring ministries for all ages. Come and go as you like for as long as you like. There are no fees. Freewill offerings are received in evening gatherings at 7:15 nightly. Morning sessions begin at 10:00 on weekdays and 10:30 on weekend days. Guests this year include musicians Go Fish, Phil Keaggy, Kim Hill, and Steve Green. Among the speakers are Dave Johnson, Dallas Willard, and Mark Ashton. First-timer or long-timer, you are invited to worship and grow in the friendly, relaxed atmosphere of an old-fashioned tent meeting with a contemporary feel. For full information log on to okobojiconference.org or phone 712.332.2883. Pamphlets are available on the library counter.

You are invited to a **Come & Go Baby Shower** for baby A & baby B twin girls soon to arrive and be adopted by Aaron & Amy Knoup. Tuesday, August 4, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with fun-n-games 7-8:00 p.m. They are registered at Wal-Mart and Target. Hosted by Karmen Brown, Anita Donaldson, Deb Mechler.

Nursery Schedule: Sunday, August 2

Kurt & Kim Weeks, Ivan & Dawn Crane

Time to pick up your paddles!

Fall is coming, and we get to experience joy and bring joy to Jesus as we serve in the Sunday morning children's programs, Harbor Beach and Kingdom Kids.

There are opportunities for everyone, whether you like to sing, act, decorate, teach, keep records, run computers, or play games.

While some commitments run from September through May, others involve only 15 minutes each Sunday for a couple of months. God doesn't ask more than we can give.

Check out the lobby bulletin board for details.

Grab a paddle and sign up!

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS: Don't forget to turn your carnival booth idea for the August 23, "Celebration Sunday" in to Kim **as soon as possible** so we have signs and a space for you. Call her at 262-3016 or email ksmith@spencerhope.org.

WORSHIP TEAM APPRECIATION and INFORMATION FOR NEW TEAMS FOR 2009/2010



Meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 12 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All worship volunteers from last year and those interested in volunteering for next year are invited to enjoy ice cream sundaes featuring fresh raspberries followed by God stories and other important information.

WHAT IS?

WOMEN OF HOPE is an organization within Hope Reformed Church. Every woman of Hope Church automatically belongs to Women of Hope. Women of Hope unites all the women of the church to deepen the spiritual life of each woman and to develop a personal responsibility for the whole mission of the church through a program of prayer, education, giving and service. Women of Hope meet during the school year with educational/spiritual programs and fellowship. Women of Hope also provide services; serving at weddings, funerals and special events, bringing meals to shut ins, new moms and the sick. They also provide snacks for Bible School and goodies for special events in the church. They have two fundraisers a year: Soup & Pie Supper and Spring Splendor. Some of the profits from these events go toward keeping the kitchens supplied, but most of the profits go to missions. Women of Hope offer women's Bible studies, prayer chains and prayer groups available to every woman. Please continue to support Women of Hope with your prayers, giving and service.

The purpose of Women of Hope shall be to unite all the women of the congregation in order to serve Christ in our community and the world, and to deepen the spiritual life of each of it's members through a program of prayer, Bible study, education, giving and service.

Women's Retreat

Sept. 18-20

Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

Speaker: Rev. Deb Mechler

Fee: \$79

Concert Saturday night will feature Pastor Mechler and Laura Carlentini, formerly of "Charis"

Call 712-337-3306 or go to www.okoboji.org for more information

The sessions will be on the topics of Significance, Sacramental Living & Sabbath Living.

Volunteers Needed for



Habitat for Humanity®

Plans are drawn and machinery is being placed to start the newest Habitat home in Spencer. Klaas Groen is chief supervisor and Mike Schmillen is second-in-command. Dennis Brechwald will be the contact person for volunteers who wish to help on this important project. If you are led by the Spirit to work on a volunteer basis for this Habitat project, contact Dennis B. (264-0857) and let him know your interest, skills and times available to help. Volunteers will be asked to work when available on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and all day Saturdays. No matter your age, sex, or skill level, you can all be of help in helping God's children.

Youth News



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

There will be **NO** High School Youth Group meetings until August 30.

6TH, 7TH & 8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

will meet until Wednesday, August 26, 6:30 p.m.

Please pray for the following 6th, 7th & 8th Grade youth and sponsors who will be attending Power Connection in Maryville, MO, July 31 – August 2.

Kayla Birchard
Tony Botcher
Tessa DeGeest
Tristan Decker
Matthew Finnern
Ben Fox
Michael Gabhart
Taylor Glover
Bailey Hawn
Allie Helmink
Austin Helmink
Austin Muilenburg
Kayla Muilenburg

Alecia Olson
Karis Rhode
Madison Rost
Reed Smith
Ryan Steinkamp
Piper Swanson
Sydney Van Wetering

Sponsors:

Danny Decker
Aaron Knoup
Amy Knoup
Kim Rhode
Jay Van Gelder

PRAYER FOR VACATIONS

Loving Father, who made this earth so fair; open our eyes to see its wonders and our hearts to feel its beauty. In our days of refreshment and recreation draw us nearer to You through the things which You have made.

May the joy of Your sunshine, the quiet of Your forests, the murmur of Your streams, and the steadfast strength of Your everlasting hills teach us the deep secret of Your peace.

Calm our fretful spirits. Deepen the current of our shallow lives. Renew in us faith and courage, physical strength, and spiritual vision, that we may know ourselves to be safely held in Your strong hands, and may joyfully conform our lives to Your great purposes. From this life, so near to nature's heart, may we drink in new strength to help us reach others.

O God, grant us Your secret, and the power to Share it with others; that we may return to the world and its duties stronger, simpler and wiser; and may we become more worthy messengers of the One, who saw Your goodness in the sparrow's flight, and His Father's love in the beauty which clothes the lilies of the field. Amen.

-by Hugh L. Burlison

