

In Touch with Hope

919 Grand Ave

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Phone: 712-262-3016

www.spencerhope.org

March 25, 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. . .

The Well

In Jesus' day, the well was the local meeting place. It was a central landmark. Water was something everybody needed. And so lots of meetings took place at the village well. It's not surprising then that one of Jesus' most famous encounters took place at a village well.

In John 4, Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman who is drawing water. Their conversation touches on several topics including living water, the woman's several failed marriages, and the proper place to worship God. Then Jesus reveals Himself as the Messiah and the woman is filled with faith.

Immediately, the woman goes back into town and invites everybody she can find to come meet Jesus. Right there at the village well of Sychar, in Samaria, a whole village puts their faith in Jesus. John 4:42:

They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

You may have noticed that our worship services have been a bit crowded the last few months. So far in 2009 6 of our 12 worship services at 919 Grand have had more than 300 people. Since our sanctuary is comfortably full at 300, this means we've had people sitting in the area of the fellowship hall we call "the overflow." If you have had to sit in the overflow for a Sunday morning service, you know that it is not the most conducive for participating in worship.

As a church, we are committed to the notion that a lack of space should not be a reason people stop coming to hear about Jesus. And so we've taken steps to improve the worship experience in the fellowship hall. The sanctuary has been wired with remote control cameras and two television screens have been placed above the folding doors in the fellowship hall. One television will show a live feed of the worship service while the other shows what is being put on the sanctuary screen. The folding doors will remain open throughout the worship service as well, so that the fellowship hall and the sanctuary remain connected.

We're also going to stop referring to this area as the overflow and christen it "The Well". Because more than just a place for extra seating, we are hoping it will become another place where people can meet Jesus.

As an alternative to the sanctuary or our Junction service, The Well will provide a video venue that just might appeal to people who aren't ready to walk into a "church service." We'll have rows of chairs as well as tables for people to sit at, and a coffee station available. For some it may provide the perfect comfort zone for meeting Jesus.

And so, if this suits you, bypass the sanctuary and try The Well for a Sunday morning service. And, like the Samaritan woman, invite your friends.

*Pastor
Russell*



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.

Outflow:

March 29: *Outward toward Your World* • Matthew 28:18-20

April 5: Palm Sunday – *Hope - A Brand New Life*
Concert/Drama

April 9: Maundy Thursday Communion Service

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

Outflow:

March 29: *Outward toward Your World* • Led by Karmen Brown

April 5: *Hope - A Brand New Life* • Led by Junction Team

April 12: *Hope – Everything to Live For* • Led by Karmen Brown

Prayer Concerns:

...**Jim Montgomery** is at Select Specialty Hospital in Sioux Falls. His address is: Jim Montgomery, Select Specialty Hospital, Room 3-321, 800 E 21st St Suite 3300, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

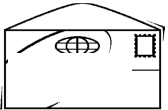
...**Lowell Meier** was admitted to the local hospital on March 19 with a blood clot in his leg.

Our Condolences to Greg & Lorelei Meeter with the death and loss of Greg's brother-in-law, Ben, who passed from time to eternity on Monday, March 23.

Thank You Note:

"Special thanks to the Hope Church Family for all the cards, plants, meals, visits, thoughts, and especially your prayers during the time of my surgery and recovery. What a great church family we have and what an awesome God we serve." *Ken Hunziker*

Missionary Note-a-Month



Hope Church has gained a reputation – as the "note writing church". One of our ministries is to write to the missionaries that we financially support every month in order to encourage them and help us remember to pray for them. We would like to invite you to be a part of this ministry. Those who participate send a note or an e-mail once a month to one of our missionaries. The mission field can be a lonely place and a simple note can mean a lot for those who are so very far from home. Please sign up on the bulletin board to be a part of this ministry. If you want more information call Gloria Schmillen (262-8531).

Hope Family Prayer Time **Wednesday evenings 6:15 p.m.**



Be a beam in the construction of
Hope Church as a house of prayer.
**EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED
TO COME!**

A nursery is available.

The church has 2 pianos for sale, if interested please contact Karmen Brown for more information.

Chick Flicks will meet on Sunday evening, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. and watch the second half on "Walk the Line". This will be the last Chick Flicks.

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 \$3 credit for every cartridge we bring in that would help to purchase office supplies.

Since August 14 of 2007,
Hope Church completely went green
That sometimes tedious sorting of paper
Probably didn't start out so keen.

But as days turned into months
And months into a year plus
This tedious sorting is now "old hat"
Saving the earth is a must.

The candy is for the staff
Celebrating 2009.05 pounds
I thank you all for a very good start
Your environmental attitude astounds.

Thanks Hope Church
Chris Gude

SMALL GROUP STORIES

From time to time we use this space to tell the story of what is happening in one of our small groups. For this newsletter, one of our elders—Dr. Ken Hunziker—asked if he could relate a personal story of how his small group walked with him at a difficult time:

On February 5, 2009 I received the sudden and very surprising diagnosis of prostate cancer. I needed to make some fairly urgent and drastic decisions regarding a treatment plan and decided that surgery was the best option for me. I tried to maintain a positive attitude but had never really had major surgery so I had considerable anxiety about the procedure and, of course, the extent of involvement of the tumor. My small group members asked if they could help me in any way and I responded that they could pray for me. One of the members suggested that the night before surgery some of them would be willing to come to my house and pray with me.

That night when the group gathered around me, had the laying on of hands, and prayed it was like a huge weight had been lifted from me. I knew that no matter what the outcome that God knew my concerns and would answer my prayers. My wife, Karen and I both felt such peace after that time of prayer. Although I knew that many people at Hope Church, in the Spencer community and around the world were praying for me; the physical presence of these small group members gave me such hope and peace going into surgery.

I would like to encourage you to join a small group if you haven't already, because you never know when you will be called on to endure troubles. I am on the road to recovery and am grateful for ALL who prayed for my health. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance and maturity."

James 1:2-3

-Dr. Ken Hunziker

Community Cross Walk

-A Family Community Event-

Wednesday, April 8



Stations OF THE CROSS

Experience the scriptural way of the cross as we walk from church to church and other locations in Spencer, reliving Jesus' journey from the Garden of Gethsemane to the tomb.

The Walk begins at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Methodist Church and concludes at Sacred Heart. Shuttles available at 6:00 and 6:15 p.m. from Sacred Heart to Grace Methodist Church.

In the event of inclement weather the Cross Walk will be moved to Sacred Heart. Please stay tuned to local media for announcements.

Organized by Spencer Community Youth Ministries.

Youth News



High School Youth Group

meets on Sunday evenings
at 7:00 p.m.

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Youth Group

meets every Wednesday evening
at 6:30 p.m.

INSPIRATION HILLS CHURCH CAMP

is for all youth entering 1st – 12th grade.

This year's theme is "Soul'd Out".

Camperships are given to all Hope Church youth
in the amount of \$100.

For more camp information, please pick up a
brochure from the lobby bulletin board.

**This year we are encouraging all 4th – 6th graders
to attend camp together the week of July 27-31;
other dates are available.**

Please turn the youth's portion of the fee (\$160.00 payable to Inspiration Hills) and the registration to Kim Smith or the church office to get registered. (Example: total cost by March 29 is \$260.00 less the \$100.00 church payment.) Deadline is March 29. Spots are available after this date, but costs will increase. Please contact Kim at 262-3016 or ksmith@spencerhope.org for questions or more info.

Community Lenten Services

This year's theme is "The Beatitudes". These services are held every Wednesday through April 8 at Hope Church with worship at 12 noon. A lunch is served at 12:30 for a donation of \$4. A freewill offering will be taken at each service and designated for "Love Spencer". Everyone is invited. Sponsored by the Spencer Ministerial Association.

WOMEN OF HOPE SPRING SPLENDOR APRIL 21

Every woman of Hope Church is invited to attend this special evening and to bring a guest.

Come at 6:00 p.m. to the Harbor and partake in the refreshments as you stroll among the beautiful decorated tables. A delicious salad buffet will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Following the buffet the guest speaker will be Rosie Shaughnessy. She will be speaking about "Women at the Well"

It would be appreciated if you would commit to decorate a table for eight. You need to provide a tablecloth or placemats, napkins, centerpiece, dishes, silverware and glassware. It can be china, plastic, or paper – your choice.

Guidelines for Tablecloths

Women of Hope has white round tablecloths that may be used for Spring Splendor.

You need to reserve a tablecloth ahead of time by calling Tami Gilderhus (262-9758) or Marjean Siepkes (262-8202).

1. Tablecloths don't leave the church except to get professionally laundered.
2. Following Spring Splendor, Women of Hope will be responsible for getting them laundered.
3. If you use a tablecloth you will be billed the going rate of professional laundering.

Reservations are necessary. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, April 19. Please sign up on the lobby bulletin board or call the church office with how many in your party and if you are willing set a table.

"One in Heart" Banquet

Mark your calendars! Thursday, April 16 is the annual "One in Heart" banquet for Cherish Center. Come and enjoy an evening out and learn about what's happening with the Cherish Center Ministry. You can expect a wonderful meal and a light hearted time of music and laughter with entertainment provided by Danny Ray of California, who is a comedian and illusionist. There is no charge to attend, however, you will have the opportunity to financially support this wonderful ministry. The Cherish House has been open 3 years now and 20 babies have been born, with approximately half of the moms choosing to parent their babies and half choosing adoption. You will learn about this as well as other programs Cherish Center is involved in. Please consider being a part of this important evening. If you wish to be a guest, please contact Brad & Sara Olsen or Pastor Russell & Beth. Seating is limited!



The chancel team is planning a **display of lilies and daisies** on Easter Sunday. The Chancel Team will purchase the lilies and daisies. Feel free to list more than one name per plant. A list of the people donating and those remembered will be

printed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. The cost of a plant is \$15.00.

If you are interested in donating towards a plant, please place your name, the name of the person being remembered on a sheet of paper and bring it with your gift to the church office or put in the mail slot by the office door. **Deadline to donate is April 5.** If you donate towards a plant, you may pick one up after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday.



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 5

919 Grand Ave ~ 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Hope - A Brand New Life - Concert/Drama

The Junction ~ 10:30 a.m.

Hope - A Brand New Life

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

919 Grand Ave

Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.

Hope - The Power of the Blood

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 12

Hope - Everything to Live For
919 Grand ~ 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

The Junction ~10:30 a.m.