

Hope's Newsletter

"To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"

Pastor's Message

Time for the Beach

As I write this we are moving through the days of January that can bring us warm and sunny days - or just might bring us cool to downright frigid temperatures. Most of the coming weekend looks to be comfortable - but then a cold front will give us cold temperatures during the day, and near freezing numbers at night. So needless to say, I'm going to write about being at an ocean beach in the summer. More specifically, I'd like to think about the flow of ocean waters at the beach.

If you're standing on the shore, you can clearly see the water flowing in and out. A wave approaches the shore, breaks, the waters flow a bit further up the sand, and then rush back out. Less obvious is the flow of water *along* the beach - the current that runs parallel to shore. Less obvious, that is, unless

you're out floating in the water and find yourself walking back onto shore dozens of feet away from where you first waded in. While you were out treading water, the current that flows parallel to the shore carried you along. It slowly, but steadily, took you from point A to point B on the beach.

I believe that the current that flows parallel to the shore is a fitting image for our life of faith. As we immerse ourselves in relationship with God through the life and ministry of God's church, God's grace moves us along in our life of faith. Our sense of who we are and whose we are - our understanding of our gifts and purpose - our trust in God's promises - advance, grow, develop. We enter at Point A, and God's grace - experienced in word,
(cont. on next page)

February 2019

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Staff
Pastor Stephen Brisson

Church Secretary
Barbara Decker

**Music Director/
Organist**
Susan Collins

Custodian
Kerry Reed

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Message (cont.)

sacrament, learning, serving, fellowship - slowly and steadily carries us to Point B and beyond. Unless, of course, we only wade in up to our ankles - ankle deep is not a full experience of God's grace in our life. I wonder how many of the folk who are skeptical of the power of church to shape and grow peace, joy, hope, and purpose in one's life hold that belief because they have seldom, if ever, been past ankle deep.

There are many stories about Jesus and his followers being *on* the water. It seems to me our life of following Jesus calls us to join him *in* the water, so that his grace can carry us to the fullness of life he came - and comes - to offer to all of God's people. (Hmmm - that sounds a bit like Martin Luther's words about a daily remembrance of our baptism.) And so, while this is not one of Jesus' invitations as recorded in scripture - I do believe he invites us to 'dive in - the water's fine'.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Steve

Serving Our Savior

The night of December 3rd, 2018 - "Father Christmas Gala"

We had a night of fun, good food, music, and being with our fellow members. Also we had 50/50 and the Silent Auction. Actually it took a hit this year, but we still made \$13,000.00 toward the \$65,000.00 we need to keep S.O.S. Food Pantry open.

Thank you for supporting our ministry.

For the new year these are the most needed items for donations:

- Diapers- Size 5 and above
- Any type of personal hygiene product
- Non-perishable foods- cans, cartons, etc. (Be sure to check the expiration dates for freshness).
- Please note that NO pet foods are needed at this time.

Thank you!
Casey Gaylaro
Liaison for S.O.S.

Council Officers & Members

President
Julia Southard
Finance

Vice President
Larry Casper

Secretary
Steven Northsea
Digital

Treasurer
Deacon Diane Kahler

Financial Secretary
Michel Northsea

Marilyn Butler

Casey Gaylaro
Long Range Planning

Charlene Hicklin
Family Activities

Judy Howe

Victor Kahler
Property

Meredith Press
Outreach

Peggy Schade

Harold Skidmore
Worship & Music
Call Committee

Hans Witter

**Please note:
An Updated List of
Council Members,
Officers, and
Liaisons for 2019
will be available in
the March 2019
Newsletter.**

Would You Like to Help?

Are you new to Hope? Or are you bored and need something to do? We have many opportunities for you.

Do you like to sew? Check out our Quilters.

Do you like to help school children? Join the group who fills bags for the kids in need with food for the weekend.

Do you like to organize items? Join the OCC (Operation Christmas Child) Shoebox Ministry.

Do you like yardwork? Join the group on Friday mornings to clean up around Luther Hall and the church grounds.

If you would like to learn more about the volunteer groups at Hope please refer to the 2019 Annual Meeting Booklet for a listing/description of Committees or call/email Hope's Office at 352-489-5511 or helc@brighthouse.com and we will direct you to the proper Committee head for more information.

GOD'S WORK= OUR HANDS

Carole Warden



Souper Bowl at Hope

S.O.S.



It's that time of the year again for Super Bowl Sunday, (or at Hope, it is SOUPER BOWL Sunday celebrated on Saturday, February 2 and officially on Sunday, February 3.)

Please bring a can of soup to donate to Serving Our Savior food pantry to any of the three services.

We will also have two decorated pots in which to place your cash donation in honor of your favorite Super Bowl team.

This is an annual event to help our Food Pantry and we thank you for any and all donations.

SAFETY WARNING

Stay Safe!!!!

It's been noticed that as we are at worship and various meetings that cars enter our parking lot and just make a sweeping look at all the cars and then leave. I don't know exactly what they are looking for as they never get out of the cars...yet. Remember to LOCK YOU CAR.

Deacon Diane

Retreat at Hope

Healthy Congregations Post-Call Retreat

While it's true that Pastor Steve has been at Hope for a while now, there is one last step to complete in the transition process. The Florida-Bahamas Synod asks congregations to participate in a *Healthy Congregations Post-Call Retreat* within 6 months of the arrival of a new pastor. The Retreat is designed to provide information and training that helps a congregation to be as healthy as possible by sharpening communication skills, and providing tools for moving forward in mission. To promote a congregation's participation, the Synod funds half the cost of this Retreat. Our Endowment Committee voted to fund the remainder with Endowment Funds. Pastor Steve believes that this Retreat will be valuable, especially since moving forward in mission always presents challenges.

Retreat (Cont.)

The Retreat takes place on a Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon. It is scheduled for:

Friday, February 15, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Saturday, February 16, 8:20 am to 3:30 pm

Saturday will begin with Beverages and Pastries at 7:45 am, and a lunch of sandwiches and salads will be provided at noon.

Our Congregation Council strongly recommends participation in this Retreat by all those whose schedule allows. A sign up is posted in the narthex.



Endowment Scholarship

The Endowment Committee would like to announce the Endowment Committee Scholarship available now for qualifying high school students who are graduating in the spring and who are planning to go on to higher education.

The process needs to start this month so please contact Judy Thomason, Secretary-Treasurer for Hope's Endowment Committee with any questions concerning the Scholarship.

Pancakes and Fun!

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Get ready for pancakes in March!

Shrove Tuesday is March 5.

We will be having our annual pancake supper in Luther Hall.

And Yes... free bingo games after the meal with fun prizes to our winners.

The time will be announced later.

PLEASE join us!



February Celebrations

February Birthdays.

February 5 Harold Skidmore

February 5 June Towner

February 8 Manley Benmark

February 11 John Chisari

February 14 Edith Regan

February 16 Constance DeTuerk



Council Minutes

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church – January 9, 2019 Council Minutes

1. Call to order by President Julia at 7:05 PM

2. Roll call

Pastor Steve Brisson P; Marilyn Butler P; Larry Casper P; Casey Gaylardo A; Charlene Hicklin P; Judy Howe P; Diane Kahler* P; Victor Kahler P; Steve Northsea P; Meredith Press P; Peggy Schade P; Harold Skidmore P; Julia Southard P; Hans Witter P;

3. Devotion by Pastor Steve reading to the Sand Art video by Joe Castillo titled "The Word Became Flesh."

4. Opening Prayer by Pastor Steve

5. There were no visitors.

6. Adoption of the January 9, 2019 Agenda was unanimously approved as modified by the chair.

7. Secretary Reports

a. December 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously as corrected. Correction was that Music Director be included in both mentions of \$200 employee bonuses.

8. The December Report of the Treasurer was reviewed and filed for audit.

9. Report of Pastor See packet.

10. Reports of Council Liaison

A. Outreach Committee (Liaison - Meredith) See report in packet. Council approved unanimously the following activities:

Taco Dinners for the Scouts on Monday January 28, 2019 and Thursday January 31, 2019 at 5:30 PM. Members of Hope are encouraged to attend and interact with the scouts and their families.

Initiation of a Wednesday Morning Coffee Hour open to members and the neighbors in our community. The coffee hours will be on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am beginning March 6, 2019 and March 20, 2019.

A church picnic on the ground of Hope in late March or early April with hot dogs and hamburgers provided and cover dishes brought by those who are in attendance and can bring something.

Council also unanimously approved Outreach recommendation that the use of attendance folders to be passed at each service with all members signing in to encourage visitors to provide us with names, addresses and phone numbers.

B. Finance Committee (Liaison - Julia) No Meeting,

C. Worship Committee (Liaison - Harold) - No Meeting,

D. Digital Committee (Liaison - Steve) See report in packet.

E. Long Range Planning (Liaison - Casey) See report in packet.

F. Property (Liaison - Vic) See report in packet.

G. Virtual Calendar Committee (Liaison - Larry) No Meeting as they are now meeting quarterly.

H. Social Service Committee (Liaison - Larry) - No Meeting, but will meet January 15th,

I. Education Committee (Liaison - Judy) - No Meeting

J. Stephen Ministry Report (Liaison - Steve) See report in packet.

K. Personnel Committee Report (Diane) - No Meeting

L. Civic Association Reports

1. Citrus Springs ((Liaison - Meredith) - Only elections so she did not attend since we have no vote.

2. Pine Ridge (Liaison - Judy or Marilyn) - Judy reported that it was the Christmas meeting and they discussed their Christmas donations to various charities.

12. Old Business

a. Post-Call Retreat will be held Friday February 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Saturday February 16, 2019 from 8:20 AM until 3:30 PM. Council moved, seconded and passed unanimously to set a goal of having at least 20 members attend.

13. New Business

a. The council reviewed the Evangelism Essentials Assessment Tool and moved, seconded and passed unanimously to invite council members, committee chairs and other leader volunteers to attend a workshop in March to fill out

Minutes (cont.)

the assessment survey.

14. Consent Agenda - Council unanimously approved the following Scout events:

Pinewood Derby Saturday, January 26, 2019 10 AM to 3 PM in Luther Hall.

Spaghetti Dinner for congregation and community Saturday, February 2, 2019 5PM to 7PM in Luther Hall.

Blue and Gold Dinner Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 4 PM in Luther Hall.

15. Meeting Highlights for Newsletter and Bulletin:

The Post-Call Congregational Retreat is scheduled for Friday February 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Saturday February 16, 2019 from 8:20 AM until 3:30 PM. Council has set a goal of having at least 20 members attend. Sign up will be in the Narthex.

Council requests that members not adjust thermostats as doing so is causing the fire alarm to go off and creating problems as the fire department must respond. Victor has set all thermostats at optimal temperatures and they should not be touched. Thank you for passing the word.

Council unanimously approved the following events by the outreach committee:

Taco Dinners for the Scouts on Monday January 28, 2019 and Thursday January 31, 2019 at 5:30 PM. Members of Hope are encouraged to attend and interact with the scouts and their families.

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Council unanimously approved a motion to hold a meeting in March for Council members, committee members and any volunteers who would like to, participate to discuss and fill out the Evangelism Essentials Assessment Tool to help Long Range Planning Committee decide the action plans for the goals presented to the congregation.

16. Adjournment followed by The Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Steve was at 8:20 PM.

TACO NIGHTS



Some members of the Outreach Committee pictured on the left serve up a taco meal to the Scouts and others attending during the last week of January.



Photos courtesy of Carole Warden

Operation Christmas Child

A cardinal? A red bird? Have you heard that a cardinal signifies a visitor from Heaven when you see one in your yard?

For Valentine's Day, our first fund-raiser for Operation Christmas Child is to make a donation to our shoebox ministry by honoring a special person. For a \$5.00 donation you can place a red bird on our tree in memory or in honor of a loved one.

You can pay for your "birds" by cash or check. Please sign the sheet by the tree and leave your donation in the box provided or you can give your check during the church offering but be sure to specify that it is for OCC or shoeboxes.

We hope to do 100 boxes again this year!

Thank you for helping fill our tree with cardinals for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry 2019.

Carole Warden



Dollars and Sense from the Treasurer's Desk

December 2018 Regular Offering	Communion			
	Sat 4:30PM	Sun 8AM	Sun 10AM	Total
12/2 \$3306	16	6	51	73
12/9 \$2426	17	10	52	79
12/16 \$3634	16	15	55	86
12/24 \$2370	—	52 (4pm)	66(8pm)	118
12/30 \$1536	12	7	49	68

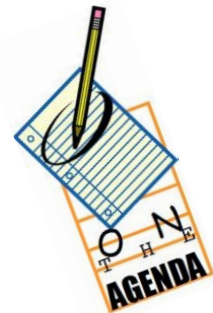
Total inflow: \$16,631

Total outflow: \$14,789

Council Highlights

January 9 2019 Hope Council Meeting Highlights

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2. Council requests that members not adjust thermostats as doing so is causing the fire alarm to go off and creating problems as the fire department must respond. Victor has set all thermostats at optimal temperatures and they should not be touched. Thank you for passing the word.
3. Council unanimously approved the following events by the outreach committee:
 - a. Taco Dinners for the Scouts on Monday January 28, 2019 and Thursday January 31, 2019 at 5:30 PM. Members of Hope are encouraged to attend and interact with the scouts and their families.
 - b. Initiation of a Wednesday Morning Coffee Hour open to members and the neighbors in our community. The coffee hours will be on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9:30AM beginning March 6, 2019 and March 20, 2019.
 - c. A church picnic on the grounds of Hope in late March or early April with hot dogs and hamburgers provided and cover dishes brought by those who are in attendance and can bring something.
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 - c. Blue and Gold Dinner Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 4 PM in Luther Hall.
6. Council unanimously approved a motion to hold a meeting in March for Council members, committee members and any volunteers who would like to, participate to discuss and fill out the Evangelism Essentials Assessment Tool to help Long Range Planning Committee decide the action plans for the goals presented to the congregation.



Hope's Prayer List

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer for the whole body of Christ is important. Names will be listed so that prayer can be offered to God on their behalf. Please be aware that situations and conditions change but God knows the need as you bring the individuals to God in prayer.

MEMBER SHUT-INS AND THOSE IN RECOVERY

Joan Layton

Please pray for:

• For comfort and grief:

For the family of Yvonne Popke who passed away in January and for the family of David Worthington, brother of Casey Gaylarde and all the families who have lost loved ones.

• Prayer for serious health concerns

For Tom Kroger, son of Jeanine Robertson. For Diane, niece of Bill and Pat Kessel. For Fay Hatton. For Dave Bessing, friend of Manley Benmark. For Pat and Bill Kessel's sister-in-law, Shirley. For Joann Mura and Dawn, neighbors of the Kahlers.

• For healing and recovery

For Mike Kimbrough. For Margaret DeWalt. For Bobby O'Donnell. For Linda, who is ill and Doug- both of whom need the Lord to help them through this. For Nancy and Spencer with family problems.



Those who will assist at the 10:00AM Worship Service in February

Acolytes

3 Ron Press/Judy Howe
10 Renate Wilms-Rovin/Edith Regan
17 Deacon John and Margarita Chiappetta
24 Dee Forsyth/Sarah Brisson

Assisting Minister

3 Judy Thomason
10 Larry Casper
17 Sarah Brisson
24 Renate Wilms-Rovin

Altar Guild

Margarita Chiappetta
Casey Gaylarido
Judy Howe
Diane Kahler
Jane Skidmore
Julia Southard

Guest Greeter

Pat Kessel

Nursery

Please see an usher for assistance

Greeters

Aida and Luis Diaz

Lay Readers

3 Judy Thomason
10 Larry Casper
17 Sarah Brisson
24 Jackie Dean

Ushers for the Month

Dick Regan
Tyler Thompson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Souper Bowl Sunday(Feb 3)		February 2019					
3 Communion 8:00a Sp. Worship 8:50a Confirmation Class library 9:00a Sunday School for ALL ages 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship	4 Luther Hall cleaning- 6a-12p 4:30p Stephen Ministry training classes 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts	5 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning	6 4:30p Long Range Planning 7:00p Digital Committee	7 7:30a Serving Our Savior 5:15p Outreach Committee 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	8 6a-11:30a Luther Hall cleaning 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30 Altar Guild	9 4:30p Informal Worship	
10 Communion 8:00a Sp Worship 8:50a Confirmation Class library 9:00a Sunday School for ALL ages 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship	11 Luther Hall cleaning 6:00a-12p 4:30p Stephen Ministry training classes 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts	12 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning	13 9:00a Citrus County Blessings Cr6 7:00p Council Meeting	14 7:30a Serving Our Savior 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	15 6a-11:30a Luther Hall cleaning 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30a Altar Guild 7:00p Congregational Retreat Luther Hall	16 7:45a-3:30p Congregational Retreat Luther Hall 4:30p Informal Worship/ Healing	
17 Communion 8:00a Sp. Worship/Healing 8:50a Confirmation Class library 9:00a Sunday School ALL Ages 10:00a Worship/Healing 11:15a Fellowship	18 Luther Hall cleaning- 6a-12p 4:30p Stephen Ministry training classes 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts	19 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning 9:30a Quilters Luther Hall 12:00p WELCA Luncheon St. Timothy's Crystal River	20	21 7:30a Serving Our Savior 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	22 6a-11:30a Luther Hall cleaning 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30 Altar Guild	23 4:30p Informal Worship 500p-7:00p Blue Gold Banquet Luther Hall	
24 Communion 8:00a Sp Worship 8:50a Confirmation Class library 9:00a Sun sch. 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship 11:30 Worship/Mu	25 Luther Hall cleaning- 6a-12 4:30p Stephen Ministry training classes 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts	26 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning 1:00p Social Ministry parlor	27	28 7:30a Serving Our Savior 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal			
				EVENTS	SUBJECT	TO CHANGE	