

June 17, 2008

"THE FIVE COMMITMENTS"

Shortly after his baptism, Jesus went to the synagogue, where he opened the book of Isaiah and read:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then Jesus announced that the passage had come true in their hearing.

To follow Christ is to participate in his mission and ministry in the world. Accordingly, the United Church of Christ invites congregations to celebrate five distinctive commitments of the UCC. They are:

We are a united and uniting church.
We are a multiracial and multicultural church.
We are a church accessible to all.
We are an open and affirming church.
We are a peace with justice church.

We at Hope affirm and celebrate "the Five Commitments" so that we might truly participate in Jesus' mission and ministry in the world and be a church of God's Extravagant Welcome. So may it always be.

"Lord, make us instruments of your peace. . . ."

This Sunday:

"Walking in the Sonlight"

Rev. Terry Immel

Sharing Joys & Concerns:

Please keep these persons and events in your prayers:

- † Denise A., Continued recovery after surgery. (Barb & Bill Zigterman)
- † All those traveling near or far—have a safe journey! (The Zigtermans)
- † Ginny Rood for all her service to HOPE over the years.
- † Mother Nature's victims.
- † Jim Appleman, who continues to fight against cancer.
- † Dads who are no longer here, but carried in our hearts. (The Zigtermans)
- † California, for getting gay straight. (J. Duffy-Hook)
- † Savannah Arteaga so she can have peace in her sleep. (Chela & Lisa)
- † Young people struggling to find their way in life. (Nick and Jane Dempsey)
- † Denise Duffy (my sister-in-law) needing surgery this summer. (Jackie Duffy-Hook)

Celebrating Birthdays:

6.18 George St. Angelo

6.18 Joshua Garland

6.20 Melody Ellsworth

6.24 Marie Higgins

6.25 Diane Shull

HOPE Happenings Online

Would you like to receive the HOPE Happenings via email each week? The online version contains all the information you see here, and more. If you would prefer to get your news online, please e-mail the church office at hope@sharehope.org and ask Gail Bassett to add your name to the Happenings e-mail group.

QUEST MINISTRIES: *Sundays at Scullen, 9:00 a.m.*

Quest Quote of the Month

The depth and power of progressive Christianity cannot be experienced by reading books. As Marcus Borg says in Heart of Christianity, "The single most important practice is to be part of a congregation that nourishes you even as it stretches you."

A New Spiritual Home: Progressive Christianity at the Grass Roots by Hal Taussig.

Kids Quest – Ages 4 – Grade 5

Kids Quest is now on break for the summer. See you in September.

[Steps of Faith – Grades 6, 7 and 8](#)

The three-year learning goals for our youth are: learning about team building, God, Jesus, Protestantism, peace and justice, Bible history, Advent & Christmas, the Holy Spirit, different religions (includes field trips), spiritual disciplines, baptism, Eucharist, Lent & Easter, history & polity of the UCC, formation and polity of HOPE and faith sharing. They are also using the curriculum called Jesus and his Kingdom of Equals. This curriculum introduces students in grades 6 to 8 to an interpretation of the historical Jesus based on contemporary biblical research, principally from the Jesus Seminar. Students experience an unfolding narrative of a Jewish reformer who saw through the hypocrisy and elitism of first-century Roman Palestine. This itinerant sage brought a message of affirmation and egalitarianism to oppressed and powerless Galileans and described a kingdom of love, not in the future but already present in the hearts of people. Their leaders are **Shannon Lane, Les Pierce, Jane Trotta and John Kroening.**

[Sr. High Quest](#)

Our youth are sharing their life experiences and connecting it with God and their faith through the use of the lectionary based curriculum called **Seasons of the Spirit**. Their leaders are **Michael Foster-Hulbert** and **Martha Selby**.

[Adult Quest – Coffee and Conversation](#)

Join us this week as we have a cup of coffee and a conversation. You bring the topic. It can be something that has been on your mind for a while, something that you saw in the paper, etc. The conversation will start at 9:10.

HOPE Gathering Opportunities:

Bible Study Breakfast

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 a.m.

This week we will continue with the Bible study guide, "The Bible from Scratch." Please join us for breakfast and exciting discussion. Everyone is welcome. Bible Study Breakfast meets at **Butterfield's** at 1504 N. Naper Blvd., at the northeast corner of Ogden Avenue in Naperville.

Naperville Christian Women's Softball League

Team HOPE is undefeated (3-0)! You are all invited to cheer the team on to victory—and there is usually some celebration or commiseration afterward at a local establishment. HOPE to see you there! Games are on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. behind Calvary Church on Rt. 59. The season runs through July 29.

Annual Family 9 Hole Golf Scramble and Steak Fry

Plan to join your HOPE friends and their guests for a fun afternoon and evening of golf, dinner, games and conversation on Saturday, August 2nd.

Again this year there will be a 9-hole scramble golf tournament which will begin around 1:30 at the beautiful Downers Grove Golf Course. Green fees are \$20. Sign up at church or call the church office no later than Sunday, July 6th so we can be sure we have at least the 20 golfers required for the outing. Please give a check or cash for the \$20 green fees to John Kroening no later than Sunday July 21. Gas carts are \$14.50 for two people and will be paid for at the course.

You are encouraged to invite guests for golf, for dinner, or both. It's a great way for potential HOPE partners to become familiar with the people of HOPE.

The dinner gathering will begin after golf. The first group should be finished around 4:30. Thanks to Pat Armstrong and Becky Campbell for offering to host the steak fry and games. They live very near the course in Downers Grove at 4432 Downers Drive.

If you have any questions contact John Kroening, Ron Rolland, Mary Dvorak, Pat Armstrong, or Becky Campbell.

News and Notes:

To The People of HOPE from Ginny Rood

As many of you know, Friday was my last day as Office Coordinator of HOPE Church. It has been a wonderful opportunity to work with you and to know you. My life has been blessed in many ways through my association with HOPE. I wish all good things for the future of HOPE and for all of you. I will be worshiping at HOPE on July 6th and it would be great to say good-bye to you in person.

As you may also know, Gail Bassett started last week as the new Office Coordinator. Gail comes to HOPE after many years of volunteer and professional work in the community. Please call or drop in and introduce yourself to Gail.

100% Recycled Paper Available

We are again offering 100 percent recycled paper for sale after church. A ream is \$4.75. This will give you an opportunity to try this paper for your home use. It is sold by Staples. See either Bob or Martha Selby.

Consider Giving Part of Your Rebate to HOPE Church

Some conversations are taking place around our congregation like, "I'm planning to use my rebate to increase my monthly pledge." And, "We are giving all/part of our rebate to the Genesis building fund." A couple of different national polls that have been conducted recently are showing that 3-4% of those polled are intending to donate part or all of this extra money to charity. Do you know that this rebate is not taxable income but you can claim a deduction for a charitable gift on your 2008 tax return? If you are able to help in this way HOPE would be most appreciative.

Transporting Church Supplies to Scullen on Sunday Mornings

Now that the school has allowed HOPE to store our worship and Sunday School containers in the storage closet at Scullen, the trailer no longer needs to be pulled each Sunday. Hooray! But there are still containers that need to be moved from the Ministry Center to Scullen each Sunday. We need your help! There are only three bins and some miscellaneous materials that need to be taken to Scullen, so even if you have a small car, it will be no problem. There will be a sign up sheet for taking the supplies from the Ministry Center to Scullen and returning them for each Sunday.

Mission Opportunities and News:

Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him® - Saturday, June 28th

Project #1: Feed My Starving Children

On Saturday, June 28th, the people of HOPE will work at Feed My Starving Children. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults alike hand-pack meals designed specially for starving children, and FMSC ships the meals to more than 50 countries around the world.

Work will begin at 4:30pm and end at 6:30. You will be filling small bags with rice, soy, freeze dried vegetables and a dried nutrient mixture. The bags are weighed, sealed and then packaged in cartons. Your gifts of time and energy will literally save lives!

Children third grade and older can work on their own (within a group) filling the bags. Younger children can partner with an adult to do the work.

FMSC is located at 555 Exchange Court, Aurora 60504 (north of New York Street and west of Commons Drive). Cash donations to FMSC will be greatly appreciated.

We only have room for 28 volunteers for this project. Sign up today!

Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him® - Sunday, June 29th

Project #2: We Grow Dreams

Located in West Chicago, We Grow Dreams is a greenhouse operation founded by three Naperville families to provide job training and employment opportunities for individuals with special needs/disabilities. The number of special needs "team members" has quickly grown to 60. "The team members work ten hours per month side-by-side with the staff. They fill pots with soil; they learn valuable skills; they make friends; they assist customers and enjoy working in the community. They earn a paycheck – and they grow – just like the annuals and perennials."

HOPE's tasks will be determined in the next couple of weeks. Work will begin at 9a.m. and end around noon. Lunch will be provided.

Meals Ministry

HOPE has established a meals ministry as a way to reach out to members and friends of HOPE's partners in times of need, pain, new birth, or unusual circumstances. We have been amazed at the way that a homemade, delivered meal can initiate a great friendship between the individuals involved.

In order to keep this ministry vibrant, we need to know when a meal would be appreciated by your family or by someone you know. Please contact Ginny in the church office or Valerie Moreno-Tucker at tuckerm@comcast.net to learn more or to make a meal request. Thank You!

Peace and Justice:

Torture is a Crime against God and Humanity

by **M. Linda Jaramillo**

In most parts of the country, June is the time that we greet the beginning of summer after long winter months. In June, we join in Pride Parades held all over the country. In June, we celebrate the anniversary of the Loving Decision, which overturned laws that prohibited inter-racial marriage. In June, we also recognize it as Torture Awareness Month. Through Witness for Justice, over the years we have spoken out against various forms of injustice. We have boldly criticized policy decisions made by the United States President and Congress about any number of justice issues.

While many have responded in support of our opinions, others have challenged our right to criticize the U.S. government. We will continue to speak out courageously as members of this democracy; it is our right and responsibility.

In this instance, as part of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, we boldly speak out against this cruelty. Torture is a crime against God and humanity and it is wrong, whether it is endorsed policy or not. It is a disgrace to this nation that our elected leaders continue to deny torture tactics being carried out in prisons all over the world in the name of national security.

We saw the atrocities being carried out against Iraqi detainees in Abu Ghraib Prison. We are aware of the use of coercive methods of gathering evidence citing them as necessary and legal. These violent methods are wrong! It is an outrage that the Military Commission Act of 2006 renders universally accepted protections against cruel treatment and torture unenforceable. It is unbelievable that Congress and President Bush can justify such an action that disregards key articles in the Geneva Convention, the United Nations Convention Against Torture and the War Crimes Act of 1996. As members of a global society, we negotiate laws in order to protect all from such injustices, regardless of their national citizenship. It seems that the United States government considers itself above the law, as it relates to torture. It is wrong and unacceptable for our nation to ignore international commitments to human rights.

We join the National Religious Campaign Against Torture of over 200 religious and secular organizations that share this mutual concern. The

Statement of Conscience declares that "Torture is a Moral Issue" and goes on to say that:

Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved – policy-makers, perpetrators, and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished ideals. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable. Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation. What does it signify if torture is condemned in word but allowed in deed? Let America abolish torture now –without exceptions.

In June and every month, we join with United Church of Christ members in local, regional, and national settings to call for an end to torture. In June and every month we join religious and secular leaders from all over the world to end this crime against God and humanity. Join the effort by going to <http://www.ucc.org/justice/uccagainsttorture>. We can also call for an end to torture as HOPE church. What is your opinion?

BETTER WORLD—Simple Things You Can Do Today

Simple things like turning off appliances while not in use and switching your light globes to energy efficient bulbs, will all help reach the Earth Hour goal of reducing global annual emissions by 5%. Even something as simple as turning out lights when you're not in a room and switching to cleaner sources of electricity like "green power", make a big difference.

At home

You don't have to live in total darkness every day to make a difference. Just follow these five quick and easy tips:

- Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs to save money and reduce emissions. Lighting accounts for around 5% of household greenhouse gas emissions, and compact fluorescents use 75% less energy than an equivalent incandescent bulb. Although the bulbs cost more up-front, you will actually save money through the energy saved and extended life of the bulb.
- Turn appliances off while not in use. Unplug any appliances like mobile phone chargers, TVs, microwaves, MP3 players, which are not being used and are on standby. Believe it or not, appliances on standby consume up to 10% of your electricity bill.
- Turn off anything that doesn't need to be on. A good rule is to turn off anything not being used. When you leave a room or leave the house, turn off your lights or appliances like the TV or computer.
- Switch to green power. This is one of the best ways you can make a difference. For instance, in Naperville you can sign up for the wind energy program. Contact your electricity provider today and switch to green power, a cleaner, more renewable form of energy that does not contribute to global warming.
- Use less hot water. This is not only a good water saving tip, it saves electricity too. Spend one minute less in the shower.

Submitted by Bob Selby