

## Until We Meet Again

I completed the two-week training for Interim ministry, received a call from a church in the same Presbytery and submitted my resignation as pastor of the Presbyterian church of Otis, Colorado.

There is no easy way to tell a congregation you are leaving, even after only three years.

The PCUSA intends it be done, "decently, and in order," per 1 Corinthians 14: 40. One starts with the Session, then Presbytery gets involved, a letter of resignation is written, etc.

The last to find out is the congregation. Just before I was to lead my last worship service, one member, a farmer, who we'd gotten to know pretty well, stopped by to see me in my office. He'd heard a rumor about my leaving and wanted to know if it was true. I said yes. He didn't say a word, but I saw a tear roll down his face. Ordinarily, he was a very stoic person, and to see that happen broke my heart. I told him, "Please don't do that to me now; I won't be able to lead the service."

Since I'd been there such a short time, I didn't think that anyone would miss me much if I left.

# HOPE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY NEWS

April 28, 2019



**GROWING TOGETHER** – an adult Sunday school class is half way through it's 6-week course. But there is still time to come and study new ways and reasons to "pray continually". The class is a at 9:00 a.m. in Room 7 every Sunday. Coffee and small snacks provided! Don't miss out.

**HOPE FAMILY RETREAT** – Cedarkirk Sunday May 26 - Monday 27 ( Memorial Day Weekend) will be for a time to spend with friends: swimming, rocking on the porch or walking in the woods. Come after church on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>, for the day, spend the night or come Monday for the day. Pick up the insert for more information. Our goal is 50 people. Can we exceed that?

**DAY CAMP** - Day Camp, June 3-7: We need donations towards snacks. We will have 50 people getting two different snacks a day. If you are writing a check please put Day Camp /VBS on it and if you are giving cash, please put it in an envelope labeled Day camp /VBS. Thank you.

**HOPE FELLOWSHIP DINNER**– Hope Fellowship will be having their usual get together on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May at Perkins (on Gulf to Bay) at 5:30 p.m. Come along and join us, have a good meal and wonderful fellowship. Chat to old friends and catchup on their news or meet new ones and maybe create a bond that will last a long time.

*Cont. on the back...*

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"Good works do not make a good man, but a good man does good works."

*Martin Luther*

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I was very mistaken; we had touched each other's lives more than I had realized.

I never got that kind of response, again; after all, everyone knows when an Interim Pastor will be leaving. Yet, even then, most of those churches held a going away party for us. Some said they were glad we came and wished us well. Some of them are still Facebook friends.

No matter what a pastor or a congregation believes, parting is, indeed, "such sweet sorrow."

You think they will forget you, but they don't. Nothing you say or do will reduce the sense of loss a congregation feels when a pastor leaves, or the loss a pastor feels when he or she leaves a congregation he or she was learning to love in return.

Clem Street

*Note from Pastor Ginny: Clem's sidebar pieces about his experiences in ministry are really helpful to Hope Church, especially as the church engages in its search for a new pastor. What does Hope need to consider?*

## CONTACT US

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Whatever your "cup of tea" come along and have a great time. Do not forget that 20% percentage of the taking is given to the church from Perkins.

Hope Fellowship meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month.

### **HOPE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BRUNCH -**

Thursday, May 2 at 10 a.m. All women of the Hope are invited to attend this last meeting of the study year which will be held in Hambley Hall and hosted by the Leadership of Hope's PW organization. This will be the May meeting for both circles.

A preview of the 2019-2020 study "Love Carved in Stone - A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments" will be included on the program along with the last lesson of God's Promises.

**RENOVATIONS!** – A couple of weeks ago you read what has been done through the Highland Facility Fund (look on the website under Newsletters). Next, we plan to work on renovations of the sanctuary interior, which is why some of the wallpaper in the hall has been removed. It is likely that this work will be done in July after the week of Day Camp. We will keep you informed.

**PRESBYTERY** – meets this coming Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> at Northwood Presbyterian Church, 2875 FL-580, Clearwater, FL 33761 at 9:00 a.m.

**OILS OF THE BIBLE** – Angie would like to arrange a presentation of 'Oils of the Bible'. If you are interested, please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

## CHURCH EVENTS COMING UP

Sun.	04/28	11:30 a.m.	Session meeting R5 Deacons meeting
Mon.	04/29	06:00 p.m.	PNC meeting R5
Wed.	05/01	05:45 p.m. 06:30 p.m.	WNA Adult, children and youth studies
		07:00 p.m. 07:30 p.m.	Bells practice Choir practice
Sat.	05/04	09:00 a.m.	Presbytery Meeting Northwood Church
		05:30 p.m.	Hope Fellowship dinner at Perkins