
AS STORMS COME AND GO

In 2017 we worked our way through our own hurricane: Irma. It was a crazy experience, not turning out the way it was predicted, as I recall. Some of us stayed put. Some of us evacuated.

Harry Ellis and I left, because we live in Tampa on Davis ISLAND which is an evacuation zone. For Harry and me, this involved a really long drive to a cousin's house in sunny Alabama, where there was no sign of bad weather. It felt much like a vacation, except that we were watching the Weather Channel every minute and worrying about our house and the church and lots of people back home.

It was hard for many of you, back home, evacuated or staying put; I know you have your own stories to remember and tell. And it was pretty crazy around here for weeks after that, with persistent power outages, limbs down and needing removal, etc.

So now we are watching and waiting as people in the Carolinas deal with Hurricane Florence, coming ashore as a Category 2 storm, bringing wind, waves and rainfall. (By the time you read this we will know more about how that turned out.)

We can't help pondering, though, can we? We think about what it means to trust our lives and all that we have to God. To watch, helpless, really, as a storm or other event happens, over which we have no control. That's a moment for deep prayer, when we ask for help, and when we bow in a humble

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY NEWS

September 16, 2018



CHURCH NEWS

THE SERMON SERIES – This month Pastor Ginny's sermons will be coming from the book of Exodus. We will be looking at Moses, the Ten Commandments and the people of Israel journeying through the wilderness. At home you can be reading Exodus. How was God preparing and leading the people? How does God prepare and lead us?

Alternative Adult Class -- In keeping with the many goals laid out by session the CE Committee has decided to offer a second (alternative) Adult Sunday morning class. This class will blend the previous Sunshine Class with other adults, with any who would like to learn about the Bible in creative ways. The contents will be presented in 4 to 6-week segments. It will start out meeting in Room 7 and the class will begin in October.

Please pray for us about this class and its opportunities for study and fellowship, and about how YOU might like to teach or participate in this series. What will God do with Hope in this wonderful way?

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE -- September (the 19th and the 26th) we will have covered dish (pot luck) meals right here at the church. Be sure to come and bring family and friends, along with your favorite dishes.

“Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter.” –

Francis Chan

acknowledgement of who God is. We must trust.

Beth Walley reminded us at the picnic the other day, that we say *Thank You* to God no matter what life brings. After all, God has the long view, God will bring good out of bad, God never leaves us alone. God is in control.

Our friend (and member of Hope church!) Martha Huntley posted a verse of the song Till the Storm Passes By. The words are a prayer, so appropriate in days of a hurricane, but also in any difficult days. I lift those words up to you today:

*Till the storm passes over,
Till the thunder sounds no more,
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky,
Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow
of thy hand.
Keep me safe till the storm passes by.*

Be still, my friends. Know this: God is. God is God. God is with us. No matter what.

Here are wonderful words from Psalm 46: *God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change....* The Psalm ends with this: *Be still and know that I am God.*

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PLAYGROUND -- Parts of the equipment on our playground have become rusty and dangerous. As we do not want anyone to be hurt using the playground, it is closed for use until repairs can be made. That's why the gate has been locked. We are looking into replacement of the dangerous parts and will reopen the playground as soon as possible.

CHRISTMAS PLAY – Rehearsal for “**Starry Night**” will take place on Monday 17th and Thursday 20th September at 7 p.m. Production dates: December 13th - 15th, 2018.

Parking – The Jewish Temple, Temple B'nai Israel, will be using some of our parking area Wednesday the 19th, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of John Guthrie on September 10th. Our prayers go out to his family.

Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday 18th September at Hope Church at 11:00 a.m. Reception will be in the Hall afterwards.

CHURCH MEETINGS COMING UP

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| Sunday | 16 th | Fellowship lunch at Rooster Fish |
| Monday | 17 th | Missions meeting R5 10 a.m.
“Starry Night” play rehearsal 7:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 18 th | Memorial Service for John Guthrie 11 a.m.
at Hope Church |
| Wednesday | 19 th | WNA 5:45 p.m. pot luck
PW 6:30 p.m.
Choir 7 p.m. and Bells 6:30 p.m. |
| Thursday | 20 th | PW Morning Circle 10 a.m. R5
“Starry Night” play rehearsal 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | 23 th | Deacons meeting and Session meeting
after the Service |