

The Anchor

“The Passion of Christ”

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29)

Resurrection Sunday, (April 16th) concludes the season of Lent. For people not used to the church calendar year, each of the six seasons (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost) tells some part of the Gospel story. By focusing on one part of the story intensively for several weeks, the church and the believer in Christ is able to learn, appreciate, and celebrate the events which brought salvation to the world and God’s people to salvation.

As you may recall from March’s Anchor article, Lent tells the story of Jesus’ journey to the cross. The four Gospel writers tell us that Jesus was a just and righteous man. He obeyed God’s will perfectly. He never sinned. He was both human and divine. His humanity is best seen in His brutal beating and suffering that first Good Friday. His divinity is best seen as He expressed perfect love and compassion for people by rising from the dead.

The Gospel writers also tell us that Jesus traveled the countryside of Palestine teaching people how to live. He shared that people needed a change heart and this change comes through repentance. However, not all the people agreed with Jesus’ teachings and tensions grew. As a result, Jesus was arrested, tried, beaten, and crucified. Yet, as He hung on the cross, dying, He did not hate or condemn His enemies – He forgave them.

Jesus journey to the cross is a powerful story. This is the Gospel story Lent and Easter proclaim. It is a story that changes lives. The question before us is this – How well do we know the story? Better yet, how well does the story know us? Does the Gospel grip us? Do we think about it when we go to bed at night or get up in the morning? When was the last time we thanked Jesus for showing us how to live as well as die?

If we are a believer in Christ, the meaning and purpose we have found in life is all wrapped up in the Gospel story. The Gospel is not just the story of Jesus, it is also our story. Jesus went to the cross for you, and me, and all of humanity. Now that is really Good News!

Because He lives,
Pastor Tom



Groups
Fiesta!
 Where kids are fired up about Jesus™

**Sunday June 18th—Thursday June 22nd
 in the evenings.**



We have one VBS leader committed (Athena Beatty) and are looking for an additional co-leader that would be willing to help Co- Lead. If you are interested in helping in this roll please let Doug Anderson know ASAP.

In addition we need lots of other help with VBS. I am asking you to please let me know if you are able to help out in any way. We have lots of details to still work out and more information will be sent out to the church soon.

Please reserve the dates and commit help out and to bring your children and children's friends to VBS.

I want this years VBS to be a huge success and it can not happen without your help and commitment to making it happen

Thank you in advance for investing your time in the future of God's Children.

--Doug Anderson



Some of the positions that are needed:

- Co Leader(s)**
- Crew Leaders**
- Assistant Crew Leaders**
- Music Team**

Marketing Director of VBS to get the word out to the community
Cactus Craft Leaders and helpers
Hot Bible Adventure Leaders and helpers.

Chadder Drive Inn theater Leader and helpers.

Snack Leader and helpers.

Please call or email Doug Anderson if you are able to help out with VBS in any way.

Home E-Mail - dougchel@sbcglobal.net
 Work Email - doug.anderson@huntington.com
 Home Phone - 575-8709
 Work Phone - 237-2595



Missions at Hope

From Cathy Campobello (Columbia)

“2005 was one that God used to plant, cultivate, water, and grow His work in Columbia, in the covenant, and in my life. It has been a privilege for me to help develop a worship team and then be able to step back and let them develop their own character and write songs in praise to the Lord. Teaching the area of intercession and forming intercessors as well as being involved in intercessory prayer has been a highlight in the ministry for me. Working with a pastor, preaching, helping with the adolescents in a church that is learning to reach out more and more, and helping social ministries has been a joy for me to be a part of this past year. I thank God for all the support He has given me through His church and the privilege to get to serve in Columbia.”

(If you would like to receive further updates from Cathy, please email at: cathy@pactocol.org)

From Eugenio and Pia Restrepo (Spain)

“A highlight of our ministry in 2005 was the baptism of six teenagers in our church Comunidad Christiana Parque Victoria in Malaga in the southern coast of Spain. One of them was Effy, my son whom I baptized with the others at the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. A large group of people from the neighborhood and friends came to watch and support these kids to surrender their lives to Christ into a new covenant and bonding with the community of believers. This public and open ceremony made such a big impact to non believers, who witnessed with excitement this event.”

(If you would like to receive further updates from the Restrepo's, please email them at:

epirestrepo@terra.es

Alaska

From May 13-21, 18 people from Hope Covenant and 7 people from First Covenant, Rockford will be venturing to Alaska Christian College to help finish the dining commons.

The vision for this commons is: *“to provide an Alaskan lodge setting that accomplishes the following for ACC:*

- 1. Provides our largest meeting space for all types of gathering of up to 300 people.*
- 2. Provides space for our won dining needs – no more two car garage.*
- 3. Provides long term income for ACC as a catering and conference center option – the largest one like this in the central peninsula.*
- 4. Provides up to eight more students housed at ACC bringing us up to 50 beds.*
- 5. Provides 1,500 feet of storage space in the basement – much needed.*
- 6. PROVIDES JOBS for our entire student body as we cater and rent the facility so that they can provide for their tuition, room, and board costs.”*

(From a 3/26/06 update from Keith Hamilton President of ACC)

Please pray for the following people from Hope and First Covenant, Rockford, as they venture together to help God's kingdom in Soldotna, Alaska:

Hope Cov.: **Allen Bainbridge, John Bunge, Mark & Judy Carlson, Rich Cummins, Kelly Cummins, Mike Edgecomb, Stan & Colleen Kaat, Bill & Sheryl McAfee, Tom & Laura Miller, Seth Miller, Will Miller, Jan Nelson, Curt Sellke, Linda Silva.** First Cov: **Chuck Ford, Ray Ford, Ron Ford, Jim Franklin, Gary Edwards, John McInerney, and Gary Johnson.**



More about Hope's Missions

H.O.O.P. Helping Our Own People, Inc., is a small, all volunteer group that distributes food and basic necessities to the homeless on the streets of Indianapolis. There are between 2,500-3,500 homeless people and only 776 shelter beds in the city. Most of the homeless are men; a great number are veterans. Many report that they are on the streets because of the closing of the Central State Home in 1994. Drug and alcohol abuse is prevalent. They greatly appreciate our help and certainly enjoy the hot soup, blankets, etc.

HOOP'S mission is to provide for some of the basic needs of the homeless on the streets with no strings attached; it's unconditional giving. Volunteers are needed-----especially men! A typical outing starts about 6 PM and ends up around 9 or 9:30. If you can help or have questions please email Linda Cuff, the director. Her email is goldilocks@indy.rr.com or you can call 625-4479.

Here at Hope we will always be collecting items to help out or money to buy food and essentials. Here is a partial list of useful items.

Gently used items:

blankets and sheets, men's jackets (large or extra large sizes as they layer their clothes), paperback books (westerns are popular), umbrellas, plastic shower curtain liners and anything that would help keep someone warm and dry.

New items:

Any of the above and also men's white socks, men's underwear, disposable razors, trial size shaving cream, AA batteries, flashlights (Walmart has them with batteries for about \$1), small deoderants, small tubes of toothpaste, tooth brushes, large garbage bags, 13 gal garbage bags, factory sealed, individual size snacks, and bottled water.

At Hope there is a box under the coat rack to collect any items that you donate. To give a monetary gift just designate HOOP'S on the memo line of your check and drop it in the offering plate. Questions? Contact Jan Nelsen, 581-0480

Special Announcement!!!

Church Photo Directory

Celebrating 25 Years of Hope! A professional photographer will be taking photos for a church photo directory on **Monday April 24th and Tuesday 25th**. Bring your smile and share it with the rest of us! There is no cost to you and you will receive an 8x10 photo for free, along with your directory. Sign-ups are in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact John Madeja.

Getting Involved at Hope

Inquirer's Class/New members

There will be an Inquirer's/New Members Class beginning Wednesday, May 31 and running for two more Wednesdays – June 6 and June 13. Everyone is invite for dinner at 6:00 p.m. The class will begin at 6:30 and run for an hour. There will be special focus on “What is the Covenant?” “Covenant Polity”, and “Who is Hope Covenant?” If you would like to be a member of Hope or would like more information about Hope and the Covenant denomination, please contact Pastor Tom.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday will be May 7th. Two people will be confirmed this year: Kaitlin Caito and Hillary Roskam. Please remember these young people as they affirm their faith in what the Lord is doing in their life.

Coffee Table Sign Up

NOW is the time to sign up to host the Coffee Table after church. This is a time used to extend a hand of welcome to all who enter Hope's doors with a small snack and beverage. These snacks can be purchased if you don't have time to bake or have no desire to do so!

Never done it? Sign up with a buddy or just follow the instructions hanging inside the cupboard door with coffee/paper supplies. There are complete instructions to help you in coffee preparation and suggestions for what you might bring plus many people are on hand to help you. Write your name on our volunteer sheet posted in the narthex for April or May!

"This Service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 2 Cor. 9:12"



From the Heart of the Parish Nurse...

Dear Hope Family and Friends,

Greetings in the name of our victorious Redeemer. April is often a month of contrasts. We can experience, both winter and summer weather, as well as both the grief of Holy Week and the victory of Easter. April is also observed as cancer control month. Cancer continues to be the second leading cause of death in our country.

So what can I do to reduce my risk of cancer? The following suggestions are taken from the American Cancer Society's brochure "Taking Control".

Activities to protect you from cancer

- Eat more cabbage family vegetables
- Add more high-fiber foods to your diet
- Choose foods with Vitamin A
- Choose foods with Vitamin C
- Control your weight

Activities to reduce your cancer risk

- Trim fat from your diet
- Avoid salt-cured, smoked & nitrite-cured foods
- Stop smoking
- If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation

A healthy diet can offer you protection from cancer. April would be a good time to include more fiber, fruits and vegetables in your diet. You should also protect yourself from the sun by using a sunscreen with a factor of at least 15.

I want you to know all you can so you can reduce your cancer risk. May we all heed Paul's words, "...Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph.5: 15, 20).

Phyllis Maloney, Parish Nurse

2006 Church Council

Dick Roskam	Chairman
Bill McAfee	Vice-Chairman
Wanda Anderson	Care & Fellowship Secretary
John Madeja	Financial Secretary Membership Team Publicity
Doug Anderson	Christian Formation
Mark Carlson	Stewardship and Property
Laura Ruppert	Worship
Steve Kessinger	Missions

April Birthdays

- 8 Whitney Hart
- 10 Connie Rockwell
- 13 John Madeja
- 20 Drew Lopshire
- 23 Nathan Kelly
- 25 Michele Anderson
- 29 Debbie Masten



The Church Council is YOUR council. Please seek them out, ask them questions, share ideas, offer service. Only together, can Hope Covenant become the church that God wants her to be.

Preaching Series for March

April 2: *“Old Truths for Modern Times”* (Exodus 20:1-20)

April 9: *“Peace in Person”* (Luke 19:28-40)

April 16: *“How Real Is Easter to You?”* (John 20:1-8)

April 23: Pastor Andrew

April 30: *“Making Wise Choices”* (Numbers 14:1-10)

Next Newsletter Deadline: Friday, April 28th

Please submit your articles or calendar events to Kristin.Madeja@uscm.org.

We are now sending out the Anchor to members and regular attendees via email. There will be a limited number of printed copies available for visitors at the church.

Children and Youth Ministry

What's happening with the youth and children? It's no secret...check it out.

Cancellations

- No Wednesday Night Activities on **April 5** (Spring Break)
- No Sunday Youth Group or Bible Study **April 2 and 9** (Spring Break) or **April 16** (Easter Sunday)
- No Confirmation **April 2** (Spring Break)
- No Wednesday Night Activities **after May 24** (Summer Break)

Special Events

- **Youth Lock-In on April 21-22.** Lock-In begins at 7 pm Friday, and ends at 9 am Saturday. The theme for the Lock-In will be *Forever I'll Stand*. This will be crazy, fun, meaningful, and a great comeback after three weeks of no youth group. Be ready!
- **CHIC Fundraiser on Sunday, April 30.** After church, we will have a lunch/auction event to raise money for CHIC. Students attending CHIC are required to attend, and will help serve the meal and we will auction off at least 2 hours of their services to a lucky member of the congregation.
- **Confirmation Sunday on May 7.** Just a few more weeks to go...you can make it!
- **Youth Sunday on June 11.** What would Second Sunday look like on Sunday morning? Youth will help put this service together and take part in it.
- **Fiesta! VBS from June 18-22.**
- And of course, **CHIC 2006, July 16-21...**

Youth Group (6-7:30 pm Sundays)

- **April 23 – Laid Back** – Come back, hang out and process what we experienced at the Lock-In
- **April 30 – How Can I Change the World?** – Yes, teenagers can change the world...but how? All this and more will be addressed. Bring money to contribute to Zoyla's education in Nicaragua.
- **May 7 – From the Furnace to the Den** – The Book of Daniel gives two great examples of standing up for faith. What do they mean for us?
- **May 14 – Second Sunday: God Chat** – How do we communicate with God? How does He communicate with us?
- **May 21 – Amazing Race: School's Almost Over Edition** – Another Amazing Race to help us all push to the end of the school year.

The Journey

We are all on a spiritual journey. The congregation is on a journey through the Old Testament on Sunday mornings. The Sr. High students continue to process those thoughts after church at Bible Study. The children are walking through events in the life of Jesus on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. The youth are walking through what it means to follow God in a world that doesn't want them to on Sunday nights.

And during this time of Lent, we all walk together on a journey with Christ...the journey to the cross and beyond. We follow His lead, and we experience the single greatest act of sacrifice, sorrow and grace to happen on this planet, and we experience it alongside one another and alongside Christ himself. May the Lord bless you on your journey.

The Anchor

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 Indianapolis, Indiana 46260
 317-575-8161
 www.hopecov.org

“Hope in Christ – Our Secure Anchor in Life”

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19a

Tom Miller, Pastor

Andrew Gates, Pastoral Intern
 Children and Youth Ministries

Solange Lira, Pastor's Assistant and
 Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries

Phyllis Beatty, Parish Nurse

The mission of Hope Covenant Church is to declare and demonstrate the transforming power of life in Jesus Christ.

April 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 The Time Changes!!! Set your clocks FORWARD!!! 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 pm Sr. High Youth Group	3 Spring Break	4 Spring Break	5 Spring Break No Wednesday Night Activities 7:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal.	6 Spring Break	7 Spring Break	8
9 Palm Sunday 10:00 am Worship 6:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY	10 7:00 PM Team Meetings 8:00 PM Council Meeting	11	12 5:30 pm Family Dinner 6:30 pm Children's Ministry 6:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 pm Adult Studies 7:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal.	13 Maundy Thursday	14 Good Friday	15
16 Easter 10:00 am Worship No Youth Activities	27	28	29 5:30 pm Family Dinner 6:30 pm Children's Ministry 6:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 pm Adult Studies 7:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal.	20	21 7 pm Youth Lock-In	22
23 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 pm Sr. High Youth Group	24 25 Years Photo Directory Photos at Church	25 25 Years Photo Directory Photos at Church	26 5:30 pm Family Dinner 6:30 pm Children's Ministry 6:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 pm Adult Studies 7:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal.	27	28 NEWS LETTER DEAD LINE	29
30 10:00 am Worship CHIC Fundraiser 5:30 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 pm Sr. High Youth Group						