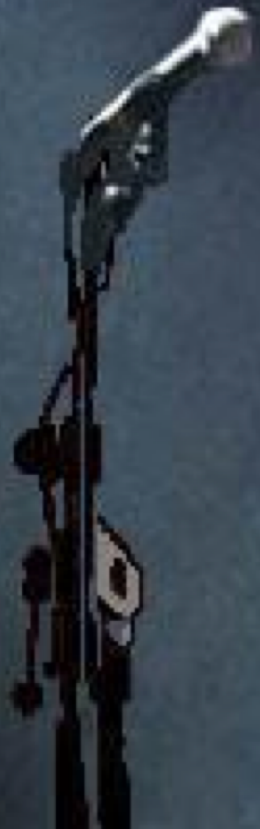


PASTOR'S OPEN MIC





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5. We have created a place where people feel welcome. We hope it is also a part of who we are and what people experience when they meet us.



The Vision of Hope Community Church is:

To honor God

by helping as many people as possible

become fully devoted followers

of Jesus Christ.

What do we mean by

fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ?

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- It's not assumed because you come Sunday morning, attend a small group, come to a Bible study, give money, serve frequently, receive communion, etc.

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- It's not assumed because you come Sunday morning, attend a small group, come to a Bible study, give money, serve frequently, receive communion, etc.
- It's not just for leaders or those skilled in areas of Christian ministry.

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- It's not praying a prayer to receive Jesus into lives and hearts.
- It's not just knowing about God or about what God wants for this world, people, and the church.
- It's not about becoming a member at this church or any church.

I believe a fully devoted
follower is someone who **God** has
brought to new life through belief in
Jesus Christ and **God** is
continuously growing in
maturity through his **Spirit**, the
Word, and other believers to make
them a continual light to the world.

Advancing the Kingdom Issues:

1. How do we prevent the limitations (crowded, inadequate parking, lack of classroom space, need to remodel) of our buildings and limited funding from negatively affecting the vision and mission of Hope?
2. How do we persevere in contextualizing and contending for the gospel?
3. How are vision and mission consistently communicated by leadership and owned by you's guys?
4. How do we adapt from a family to a family-owned business?
5. How can we bless our city?
6. How will we ensure adequate staffing and leadership to carry out our vision and mission here at Hope?





Church, Why Bother?



2 Corinthians 5:14-15

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

Christianity (including the church) is a straightjacket

“What is the environment that liberates us if we confine ourselves to it,
like water liberates the fish?”

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“What is the environment that liberates us if we confine ourselves to it, like water liberates the fish? Love. Love is the most liberating freedom-loss of all.”

Christianity (including the church) is a straightjacket

“What is the environment that liberates us if we confine ourselves to it, like water liberates the fish? Love. Love is the most liberating freedom-loss of all. One of the principles of love - either love for a friend or romantic love - is that you have to lose independence to attain greater intimacy. If you want the ‘freedoms’ of love - the fulfillment, security, sense of worth that it brings - you must limit your freedom in many ways...

Christianity (including the church) is a straightjacket

“You cannot enter a deep relationship and still make unilateral decisions or allow your friend or lover no say in how you live your life. To experience the joy and freedom of love, you must give up your personal autonomy...Freedom, then, is not the absence of limitations and constraints but it is finding the right ones, those that fit our nature and liberate us.” Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God* (47-49)

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You can name the 3 movies most often used as sermon illustrations.

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- You can name 3 Trike-isms.

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- You could pick our church bus out of a line-up.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You can name the 3 movies most often used as sermon illustrations.
- You can name 3 Trike-isms.
- You could pick our church bus out of a line-up.
 - You've smelt the stank.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You've taken time to learn where we've come from as a church.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You've taken time to learn where we've come from as a church.
- You're excited about where we're going.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You've taken time to learn where we've come from as a church.
- You're excited about where we're going.
- You're willing to be used in any and every way possible to see our vision made a reality.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You've been to a retreat.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You've been to a retreat.
- You've been to our non-retreat Spring Retreat of 2008.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You've been to a retreat.
- You've been to our non-retreat Spring Retreat of 2008.
- You've held a crying baby that wasn't your own more than once.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You've been to a retreat.
- You've been to our non-retreat Spring Retreat of 2008.
- You've held a crying baby that wasn't your own more than once.
- You can name the color of previous Hope Vans.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You knew what life was like before AC was installed in the sanctuary.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You knew what life was like before AC was installed in the sanctuary.
- You know what the prior color of the sanctuary carpet was.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You knew what life was like before AC was installed in the sanctuary.
- You know what the prior color of the sanctuary carpet was.
- You've been a part of unrolling "The Mat" in the gym.

Signs you might heart Hope Community

- You knew what life was like before AC was installed in the sanctuary.
- You know what the prior color of the sanctuary carpet was.
- You've been a part of unrolling "The Mat" in the gym.
- You've come and stayed.

Church, Why Bother?



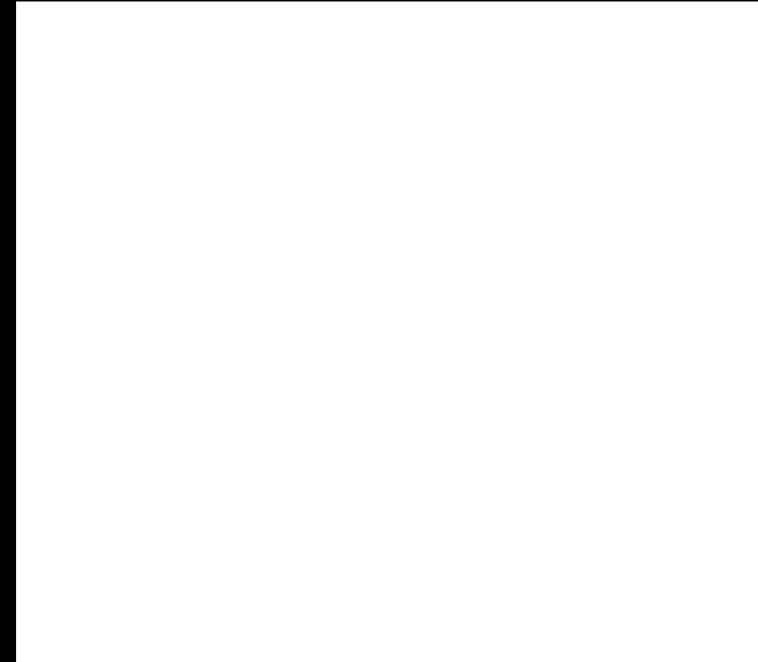
2 Corinthians 5:14-15
“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

Christ was compelled by LOVE!

“At first sight, then, a relationship with God seems inherently dehumanizing. Surely it will have to be ‘one way,’ God’s way. God, the divine being, has all the power. I must adjust to God - there is no way that God could adjust to and serve me...

Christ was compelled by LOVE!

In the most radical way, God has adjusted to us - in his incarnation and atonement. In Jesus Christ he became a limited human being, vulnerable to suffering and death. On the cross, he submitted to our condition - as sinners - and died in our place to forgive us. In the most profound way, God has said to us, in Christ, 'I will adjust to you. I will change for you. I'll serve you though it means a sacrifice to me.'" Keller, Reason for God (49)



In love, will you lose freedom to bless others?



In love, will you lose freedom to bless others?

- Will you host a small group?
- Will you mentor someone?
- Will you seek to grow in your relationship with God through taking a class?
- Will you give up your Sunday mornings for the sake of others?
- Will you feed, clothe, and shelter an intern for a year?
- Will you serve food at Study Day? Or drive Hope Van/Bus?
- Will you make yourself available?

