



MITCHELLVILLE, MD

Being ever thankful for the wonder and generosity of God's love, Our prayerful hope is to:

Proclaim the living Christ
In Worship
In Nurture
In Fellowship

Serving joyfully - all to the glory of God.

The Church Mouse

Newsletter of Hope Presbyterian Church

www.hopepresbyterianchurch.com

September 2018

From the Pastor

Summer is over and a new school year is ahead for us. For parents the school calendar dictates the rhythm of our scheduling... this sets the vacation time, the sleeping time, the family schedule or does it?

At Hope Presbyterian church, we tick and tock on a different set of rhythm. It's not the school calendar, or even the liturgical calendar that sets the rhythm for us... For us, we flow and roll with whatever punches or curve balls life throws at us.

When a close relative passes away in our motherland or in our adopted land, that sets the rhythm for the year. We will take whatever time is necessary to grieve, mourn, bury, and celebrate and witness that indeed neither life nor death or any other powers can separate us from the love of God.

I'm still processing my first meeting with the Halle family, the wake service we had in a

business complex hall, the importing of Cameroonian tradition of eating peanuts and corn as the first serving of the meal for a family in mourning and their guests, the meshing of western Christianity in which an Asian American pastor delivered the Word and attempted to incarnate the comfort of the Holy Spirit... all the seats covered in linen, all the crystals and candles, and all the beautifully coordinated and matching outfits as if we were at a party! And it was a party with kegs of alcohol and a warning not to get too drunk because we didn't want to experience any accidents from the party, thus said the hostess as she introduced that the evening was young and the celebrations will continue onward until the dawn.

So, our children are used to a different rhythm. Many have stayed up until way beyond midnight and they are not even five years old yet. Of course they have also slept in way after noon and it wasn't just a short nap. (Continue on Page 2)

Thus, the inevitable and uncontrollable are the beats that sets the rhythm, sometimes a rhythm that is so unpredictable that you didn't even know you were able to fly 17 hours to spend 2 weeks in your motherland that would determine how much of your annual budget would go to support the extended family. And yet, beat after beat, day after day, God is faithful.

At Hope Presbyterian, this summer was full of surprises: another successful soccer camp, record breaking attendance at VBS, an after worship hedging day that cleaned out the large branches which covered the view of our sign and which launched the idea of having a bonfire for our youth and church. All this while singing hymns and finding out our favorite ice cream flavors, challenging ourselves to put a large screen television in the sanctuary so that we can better communicate the gospel and have fun with movie nights... And the rhythm of the church remains about giving birth, burying the dead, celebrating weddings, visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, baptizing, educating the young and doing life with Jesus because our unpredictable life's final destination is more than predictable: we are headed to meet Christ face to face.

And so join us each worship Sunday of September as we study the book of James together, as we ponder about being in the world but not of it, as we fully claim our heavenly citizenship.

Still Grateful,

Pastor Gloria

Sunday School Fall Kick-Off

On Sunday, September 9th, the Sunday School year began with Rally Day at Hope. There are classes from pre-K through Grade 5. Currently, there is still some organizing required to get the necessary complement of teachers. If enough people volunteer to teach it may be possible to have them teach one Sunday per month.

We have added one more Sunday School class. Here are the classes: **Toddler:** Ages 3 & 4 in Custis Hall (1st floor alcove), **Lower Elementary:** Kindergarten & 1st Grade in Basement (Area 1), **Middle Elementary:** 2nd and 3rd Grades in Basement (Area 2); and **Upper Elementary:** 4th and 5th Grades in Pastor Gloria's Office.



Thank You to the Hope Congregation

A huge Thank You to those members of Hope that contributed to the big-screen television that will add greatly to our worship experience.

Pastor Gloria

Hope Chancel Choir Start-up

On Wednesday, September 5th, at 7:30 PM, the Hope Chancel Choir began weekly practices at the church for the fall season. All interested persons starting at age 14 are invited to join the choir. You do not need to read music, just have a love of singing.



Psalm 57:7, My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!

World-wide Communion Sunday International Luncheon on October 7th

On Sunday October 7th, Hope will join with Christians all around the world to observe World-wide Communion Sunday.

Following morning worship, Hope will host an International Luncheon. The fare will include cuisines from countries around the world. To guarantee the success of this event we need participation from many Hope families and a diversity of food dishes. Bob DeFazio will coordinate the luncheon and be receiving inputs as to what you would like to make. Bob can be reached at 301-249-7463 or at bobfde@aol.com.

Hope Christian Women's Fellowship

The Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) of Hope PC main purpose is to study the Bible. This year, 2018, we are studying the book of Matthew. We expect to complete the book of Matthew at the end of September. We participate in national rallies and compete with other CWF groups. We are expected to form a song using the book of Matthew and present it at the rally. We also answer questions posed by pastors from congregations that have CWF groups. The congregational pastors are the moderators during the Bible quizzes.

In our congregation, we participate in singing during the offertory (two times a month), visiting the sick, and serving dinner at Prince George's House (a Men's Homeless Shelter) one or two times a year.

The CWF national rally theme for 2018 is taken from Matthew 19:26, "With God All Things Are Possible." Our greetings are: We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

A Lively Start to the Fall Season!

On September 2nd, Hope kicked-off the fall season with two delightful events. After Sunday morning worship, the worship committee hosted an ice cream social that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Then on Sunday evening a bonfire was held on the church grounds for young and old. Everyone enjoyed chowing down on hot dogs, corn on the cob and dessert of S' Mores made with marshmallows toasted over the bonfire. A great time was had by all.

COOKING WITH BOB

Cheddar Bay Biscuits

READY IN: 15 mins

SERVES: 12

UNITS: US

If you have enjoyed these biscuits at Red Lobster restaurants, you can enjoy this recipe which is easily made at home.

- **2 cups Bisquick**
- **2/3 cup milk**
- **1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese**
- **6 tablespoons butter**
- **1/2 teaspoon garlic powder**
- **1/4 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning**

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 450.
2. Combine Bisquick with 4 Tablespoons butter using a pastry cutter or a large fork.
3. Add milk, and cheddar cheese.
4. Stir together.
5. Spoon onto an ungreased cookie sheet.
6. Bake for 8-10 minutes.
7. In a small sauce pan combine 2 Tablespoons butter, garlic powder and old bay seasoning.
8. Heat until butter is melted.
9. Spoon butter mixture over hot biscuits.
10. Eat em' up!
11. They are YUMMY!

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2018 BUDGET AVERAGE WEEKLY GIVING ANALYSIS

AS OF AUGUST 31, 2018

The following Fiscal Year 2018 Cash Flow Projection for the Average Weekly Giving as of August 26, 2018 is intended to show where the church is financially in meeting our 2018 Budgeted Average Weekly Giving Goals.

2017 CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED TO MEET HOPE'S EXPENSES

BUDGETTED TOTAL OFFERING FOR 2018	\$199,004
REQUIRED WEEKLY OFFERING TO MEET EXPENSES	\$3,827
<u>AVERAGE CONGREGATIONAL WEEKLY GIVING AS OF AUGUST 31,2018</u>	\$4,081
<u>PROJECTED ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL OFFERINGS FOR 2018</u>	\$212,212
<u>2018 PROJECTED CONGREGATIONAL SHORTFALL/OVERAGE</u>	+\$13,208

