

CHURCH OF HOPE

ANCHOR

August 2012

Summer Worship
starts at 9:15AM

Regular Worship
will resume on
September 2
at 10:15AM

FYI

Church phone

• 815-237-8312

Email

• churchofhope@sbcglobal.net

Website

gardnerchurchof-hope.org

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Sunday School Rally Day

Sunday, September 9th @ 9:00AM

This year we will start our Sunday School classes on September 9th at 9:00AM. Classes are available for children pre-school age thru adult.

We will start Rally Day with Sunday School classes, worship and then we will all gather for a pot luck meal, entertainment and fellowship.

We hope that you all come and join us in learning all we can about our faith and how we can apply

what we have learned in our everyday lives.



Thursday Morning Bible Study Returns!

Starting Thursday, September 20th at 10AM we will begin a new Kerygma program. This study contains several short bible studies. The first one is titled: "The Bible" This course of study will acquaint you with the Bible in a broad

yet concise way. You will see quickly in this study that the bible contains a diverse collection of material and you will review how the various parts became on book. You will learn how the two testaments are related. You will also

spend some time discussing how the Bible was translated into our modern language. During this study we will talk about how we can incorporate what we learned into our daily life. Please call the office if you plan to attend.

Evening Bible Study will begin September 19

Our Bible study is In *Why? Making Sense of God's Will* by best-selling author Adam Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, Hamilton addresses how we can comprehend God's plan for the world and ourselves.

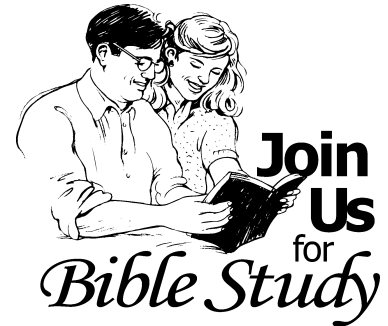
As a pastor with a pastor's heart, Adam Hamilton has wrestled with the Why? questions with his congregation and with hundreds of individuals over the last twenty

years. His responses to these questions are not simplistic answers, but a serious attempt to make sense of God in the face of tragedy.

Our evening Bible study will meet at 6:30PM every Wednesday starting September 19th.

We will also enjoy dessert and coffee while we discuss our lesson.

If you plan on attending please call the office so appropriate materials may be purchased.



Confirmation Classes to start on October 7th

Confirmation in the Presbyterian church entails a person professing of her faith in Jesus Christ and God as first acknowledged through baptism. A demonstration of spiritual knowledge is required before the confirmation. Confirmation can occur at any point in a person's

life, but teenagers are the most typical celebrants. Confirmation gifts should reflect the significance of this spiritual coming of age.

Pastor Jan will be contacting parents of those children who are eligible.



Members & Friends of the church who need prayers

Please lift up in prayer the following members & friends of the church who are facing or recovering from illness or surgery -- Pete Schultz, Helga Male, Louise Mc Daniel, Wyatt Matthew Whelchel, Dwayne Larkins, Mel Marshal, Josh Koener, Connie Swearingen, Emily Phillips, Luanne Lenzie, Rosemary Hillman, Evelyn Bozue, Arden Humbert, Bud Humbert, Dianne Maxwell, Cassandra Naretto, April Van Winsen, Belinda Brown.



Also, those who are shut in: Evelyn Bozue, Helga Male, Vi Mathison (Heritage Woods Assisted Living).

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings and salutations! It has been a very long time since the Anchor has been mailed out. Never fear as the Anchor will begin again on a monthly basis, so if there is any news or announcements to go out, please contact Ann in the church office and she will put them in the newsletter.

Life is getting interesting as I have finished my Masters in Divinity and am preparing to take my ordination examinations at the end of August. Hopefully I will pass these exams (Polity, Worship and Sacraments, and Exegesis or sermon preparation) and be able to continue on toward ordination at the Church of Hope. This week happens to be the first time in five years that I have not had to drive to Dubuque, Iowa in order to take my two weeks of intensive classes. Believe it or not, I do miss my time in Dubuque as well as the many friends that I have made over the years. I will adjust, I'm sure.

One thing that has been pressing on my mind is how the church has become "comfortable" in keeping at an even keel. It seems that we have lost something over the last year and I feel that we need to get motivated once again. During the past couple of weeks, I have been wondering where the pot-lucks have gone and if there is anything that we can do to have a good time of fellowship and community once again at the Church of Hope and in the community of Gardner. We all have been very busy and it seems like time is just whirling on around us as we get caught up in whatever we are doing.

Our Gospel reading on 8/5 was John 6:21-35 in which Jesus had just finished feeding the 5,000 and the people were following him across the Sea of Galilee seeking a "sign" from him. Now we must remember that the people were given a sign as they ate their fill of the bread and fish that started out as five barley loaves and two fishes. They had so much food that they ended up with twelve baskets of leftovers, but they did not get the idea of what this meal represented. They expected more from Jesus and wanted to see the "sign." Jesus told them that actually he was the sign, sent by God his Father as Jesus is the true bread of life, the gift from God for the people. But, the message was not getting through. Maybe they were expecting more of a sign of what God was going to do for them, and maybe it was just too easy to just acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God and to believe in Jesus Christ. That's all there is to this story, the ability of the people to just say "I believe" and then move on to ask "what can I do to show this love to others?"

Just as the people were shown the gift that God gave to them in Jesus Christ, we also receive this same gift over two thousand years later. Sometimes I wish that God would just hit me on the side of the head with a two by four and tell me what he wants us to do as his church, after all, we are the body of Christ, a community of believers, who are shown the love of God by the many blessings we receive each day as well as the responsibility of showing this love to others in our community.

The Church of Hope is an important part of the community of Gardner and we are trying to figure out what we are to be in the work of the church. We have a successful VBS that we are still working on. Don't forget we took a big step and changed the time to evening, and have decided that next year we will move it a week later so we don't compete with the last week of baseball. It was different, but it was such a wonderful week as the children learned about the love of God and how they can make a difference in the community as we all work together. I had heard that some of the children were disappointed that they could not come each night, but that was okay as even one evening with a child in VBS is just as wonderful as having them the whole week. They benefit from having a good time for one night, and we benefit reaching out to them. How much better can this get?

We are planning our Sunday School program for the year as it will start on September 9, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. This will be Rally Day with Sunday School, worship, a pot luck dinner and entertainment after the meal. This is an exciting time as we welcome any and all to participate in our Sunday School from preschool through adult. The children have a great time each Sunday and learn all of the wonderful Bible stories that have been passed on from generation to generation. We really do appreciate the parents as they bring their children each week to Sunday School and hope that they will continue to bring them this year.

These are just a few things that are happening in the Church of Hope and I am more than open to hearing your ideas and feedback on anything and everything. This is an opportunity for all of us to work together as we plan for the future of the church. Some other ideas that have been clanking around in my mind is the possibility of a Saturday evening worship, a movie night once a month for adults and children (you should see my dvd collection), and different types of worship on Sunday mornings.

God has given us all gifts to be used in many different ways. Show us your gifts as we work together to build up the kingdom and the mission and ministry of the church. Feel free to give me a call anytime and you will be seeing more of me in the community now that school is behind me and my focus can be looking ahead.

Blessings, *Pastor Jan*

Church of Hope Calendar

Aug.	5	9:15am	Worship Service
	8	8:30am	Pastor's Prayer and Lectionary Group
Aug.	12	9:15am	Worship Service
	15	8:30am	Pastor's Prayer and Lectionary Group
Aug.	19	9:15am	Worship Service
	21	7:00pm	Session /Deacons Meeting
	22	8:30am	Pastor's Prayer and Lectionary Group
	24-31		Pastor Jan on study leave
Aug.	26	9:15am	Worship Service

August Birthdays

- 1- Linda Tyler
- 2- Phyllis Feeney, Brian Finn
- 3- Matt Swearingen
- 4- Rich Keplinger, Eric Boudreau
- 6 – Karl Tyler, Louise McDaniel
- 8- Tom Wise, Kimberly McDaniel
- 16- Sharon Pickles
- 17- Donna Keplinger
- 19- Kendra Sipes
- 20- Joe Bexson Jr.
- 21- Dale Hoffman
- 22- John Hand, Natalie Lardi-Eddy
- 23- Richard Mahler
- 29- Harriet Newlin
- 30- Bruce Trotter

September Birthdays

- 1- Kay Clover, Mark Pickles
- 3- Tom Tambling
- 4- Jimmie Kirkpatrick
- 5- Faye Lynn Malek
- 9- Kim Von Qualen, Morgan Myers
- 11- Michael Trotter
- 12- Matthew Myers
- 15- Denise Myers
- 18- Deb Kratochvil
- 19- Lynsi Lardi
- 23- Fay Clover
- 24- Marjorie Byers
- 25- Don McMillan
- 27- Susan McDaniel

Thank you, thank you, thank you to....

- Exelon for the generous donation for the food pantry.
- All the people who help keep the outside of the cleaned up.

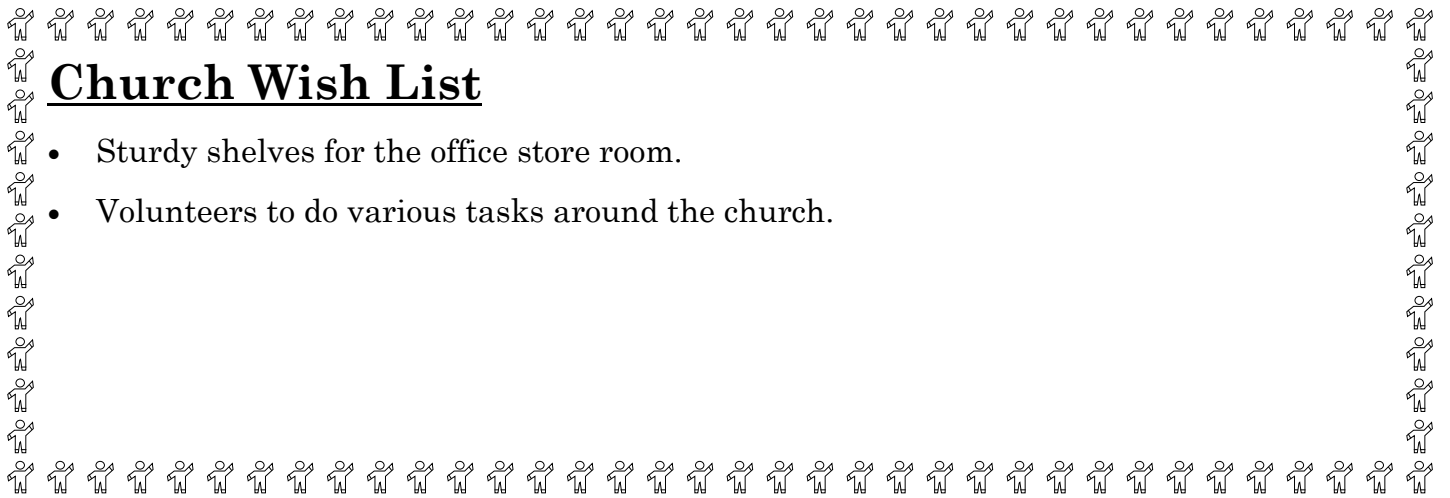
Church Operating Expenses

	Income	Expenses
May	\$5,576.93	\$7,380.60
June	\$5,299.32	\$5,978.22
July	\$5,063.02	\$7,485.54

Session Highlights...

June meeting

- Pastor Jan officiated at the funeral of Dorothy Zauratsky who died on June 11, 2012 and was buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington, IL.
- Pastor made call and also participated in Vacation Bible School.
- It was decided that the \$300.00 check that was receive from Don Phillips (the local director of the Tractor Show) will be divided equally between the Church of Hope Women’s Association and Gardner South Wilmington Art Department (in appreciation of the lovely mosaics).
- A Worship committee will be formed to help plan services.
- The walls around the altar need to be painted with a semi-gloss paint so soot from the candles can be cleaned up easier.
- Harold Mahler and Tom Tambling will convert the closet in the upstairs hallway into shelving to be used for books.



Church Wish List

- Sturdy shelves for the office store room.
- Volunteers to do various tasks around the church.

September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Return to regular time Worship Service 10:15AM	3 Church office closed for Labor Day	5 8:30am Pastor's Prayer & Lectionary Study Group	6 8:30am Pastor's Prayer & Lectionary Study Group	7	1 Cvitanovich/Hill wedding	
9 Rally Day	4 11	12 8:30am Pastor's Prayer & Lectionary Study Group	13 8:30am Pastor's Prayer & Lectionary Study Group	14	8	
16 Sunday School 9AM Worship 10:15AM	17 18	19 8:30am Pastor's Prayer & Lectionary Study Group 6:30pm Bible Study	20 10AM New Kerygma Class	21	15	
23 Sunday School 9AM Worship 10:15AM	24 25	26 8:30am Pastor's Prayer & Lectionary Study Group 6:30pm Bible Study	27 10AM Kerygma Class	28	22 Wren/Clark Wedding	
30 8:30am Pastor's Prayer & Lectionary Study Group 6:30pm Bible Study					29	