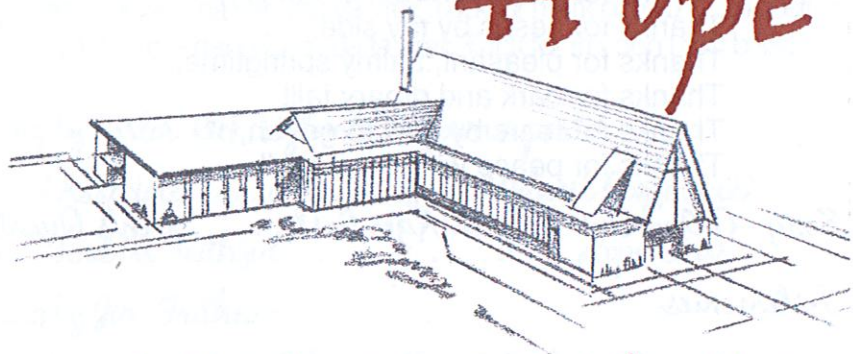


125

*Years of God's
Faithfulness at*

Hope



125th Anniversary Celebration

9

I Remember Notes

October 25, 2008

125th Anniversary Celebration

of Hope Covenant Church
October 25, 2008

Thanks to God...

Welcome Lowell Larson

Sharing by Priscilla Mohrenweiser

Testimonies

Letter of Greeting from Pastor Dave Erickson

Song verse one - Thanks to God

Thanks to God for my Redeemer,
Thanks for all Thou dost provide!
Thanks for times now but a mem'ry,
Thanks for Jesus by my side!
Thanks for pleasant, balmy springtime,
Thanks for dark and dreary fall!
Thanks for tears by now forgotten,
Thanks for peace within my soul!

Song - O God Our Help in Ages Past Men's Quartet

Testimonies

Letter of Greeting from Pastor Bob Anderson

Song verse two - Thanks to God

Thanks for prayers that Thou hast answered,
Thanks for what Thou dost deny,
Thanks for storms that I have weathered,
Thanks for all Thou dost supply!
Thanks for pain, and thanks for pleasure,
Thanks for comfort in despair!
Thanks for grace that none can measure,
Thanks for love beyond compare!

Testimonies

Sharing by Pastor Wes Olson

Song verse three - Thanks to God

Thanks for roses by the wayside,
Thanks for thorns their stems contain!
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside,
Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain!
Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow,
Thanks for heav'nly peace with Thee!
Thanks for hope in the tomorrow,
Thanks thro' all eternity!

Historical Drama - - - August B. Anderson

Tack, O Gud, for vad du va - rit, Tack for ailt, vad du be - skar!
Tack, for ti - der -na, som fa - rit, Tack for stun - den, som nu iir!
Tack, for Zju - sa var -ma va - ror, Tack for mark och ku - Zen host!
Tack for re - dang Zam-da ta - rar, Tack for fri - den i mitt briist!

Sharing by Pastor Rick Mylander - former pastor

(Associate Superintendent of the Midwest Conference)

Song - "Find Us Faithful" Hope Choir

Sharing by Jim Frelheim

(Superintendent of the Northwest Conference)

History Song - "To Be Your Light" led by Ray Roth

Closing and Benediction Pastor Bill Dornbush

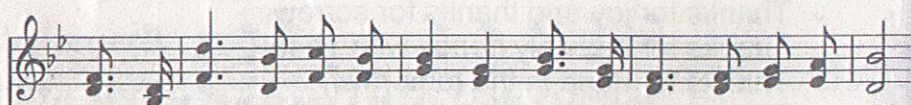
Dining instructions Pam Schirmers

August Ludvig Storm, 1862-1914
Tr. Carl E. Backstrom, 1901-

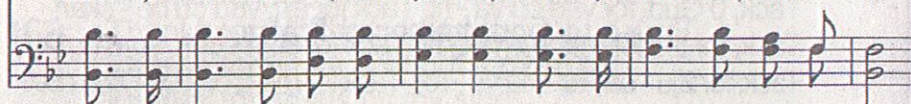
TACK O GUD 8.7.8.7.
J. A. Hultman, 1861-19



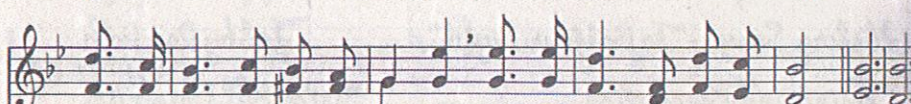
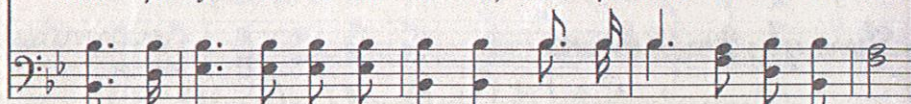
1 Thanks to God for my Re-deem-er, Thanks for all thou dost pro-vide!
2 Thanks for prayers that thou hast an-swered, Thanks for what thou dost de-ny!
3 Thanks for ros-es by the way-side, Thanks for thorns their stems con-tain!
Tack, O Gud, för vad du va-rit, Tack för allt, vad du be-skär!



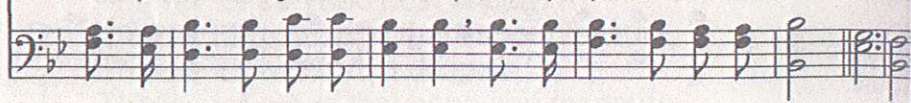
Thanks for times now but a mem-'ry, Thanks for Je-sus by my side!
Thanks for storms that I have weath-ered, Thanks for all thou dost sup-ply!
Thanks for home and thanks for fire-side, Thanks for hope, that sweet re-frain!
Tack för ti-der-na, som fa-rit, Tack för stun-den, som nu är!



Thanks for pleas-ant, balm-y spring-time, Thanks for dark and drear-y fall!
Thanks for pain and thanks for pleas-ure, Thanks for com-fort in de-spair!
Thanks for joy and thanks for sor-row, Thanks for heav'n-ly peace with thee!
Tack för lju-sa var-ma vå-ror, Tack för mörk och ku-len höst!



Thanks for tears by now for-got-ten, Thanks for peace with-in my soul!
Thanks for grace that none can meas-ure, Thanks for love be-yond com-pare!
Thanks for hope in the to-mor-row, Thanks thru all e-ter-ni-ty!
Tack för re-dan glöm-da tå-rar, Tack för fri-den i mitt bröst! A-me



To Be Your Light - Hope's History Song

Words and music by Brad Martin- 2008

(Verse 1)

As we look back Lord, You've been there all along.
Standing by us You've helped to make us strong;
To be the light in this dark world, it's for You O Lord we
long.

(Chorus)

We give praise and honor and glory to Your name.
Walking hand in hand with Jesus, be with us Lord we pray.
Keep us mindful of Your presence Lord with each passing day.
We want to be Your light in the world.

(Verse 2)

Moving forward Father, help us to understand.
Give us eyes to see the beauty of Your plan.

Raise up a path for us to walk, Lord hold us in Your hand.

(Bridge)

To be Your Light in the world, to be Your light in the world.
To be Your light in the world. To shine Your light in the world.

Swedish Smorgasbord Menu

Swedish Meatballs
Swedish Potato Sausage
Bruna Bonor Brown Beans
Split Pea Soup
Swedish Knackebrod (Hardtack)
Bond Ost (Cheeses)
Deviled Eggs
Pickled Herring
Pickled Beets
Cardamom Bread
Swedish Limpa Bread
Lefse
Rice Pudding
Lingenberries
Almond Cake
Cookies

Many thanks to:

Typists, Mailings:

Roxie Fast Janelle Rudingen
Limei Danzeisen Barb Scheevel

Design & editing: Pam Schirmers

Collating - Thursday Bible Study Ladies

Cookbook - Lydia Hoffman

Drama Team:

Nathan, Amanda Bruno

Jen, Anna & Jacob Borgenheimer

Bob and Sandy Dopkins

Maja Noble

Bob Springer

Set Designers:

Jiansen Wu Danzeisen,

Tracy Eriksson

Roger Eriksson

Bob Dopkins

Props:

Ken Johnson

Arlen Johnson

Bob Dopkins

Sandy Dopkins

Decorating: Deb Johnson

We're very grateful to Women of Hope and Evangelism Ministry Teams for their help with the evening's many details.

We really appreciate all the people that have so generously supplied us with the great variety of food items for tonight's Swedish Smorgasbord, also the generous time many have given. .to serve here for our celebration this evening.

I Remember...

I remember Joe and Estelle, Elsie and Hilda, Albert and Minnie... people of faith whose bodies were failing but whose love for Jesus was impacting the lives of kids of all ages.

I remember Covenant Women meetings rich with fellowship, food, and learning opportunities like knitting, crocheting, and serving God.

I remember pot lucks that were a cause for church growth all by themselves!

I remember prayer meetings at Priscilla's that were inspiring and exciting. Jesus was always the honored guest.

I remember a congregation that loved us, welcomed us, and encouraged us to grow. It's a congregation I still love and cherish and in which new believers are always welcome and God is enthusiastically praised.
- - - - Karen Witzman

I Remember...

- when we used the black "bubble" at VBS for various activities and stories at the Maine Prairie Road location.

- when the adult choir would meet at the Schirmers home because there wasn't enough room at church on Wednesday nights.

- when the men's trio "Sons of Praise" sang "The Old Rugged Cross" acappella for communion too low and we couldn't find the parts. We quit after "crucifying" the first verse.

- Heading home after church one Sunday, Cheryl jumped in the Scheevel's maroon Dodge Caravan (exactly like ours) without even looking at the driver. Needless to say, Ellis was a little surprised.

- the Sunday that "Pastor Wally" (Pastor Rick's uncle) never showed up to preach. He had the following Sunday on his calendar. I told the congregation that the service would be as short or as long as they wanted. It all depended on them. The result was a wonderful service as Pastor Chris and others shared from their hearts.

- stacking up the chairs for "Awana" in the Maine Prairie Road location.

- spending many wonderful times as well as difficult times in prayer.

- being blessed by many great adult Sunday School classes.

- being privileged to serve as choir director for many cantatas over the years.

The list could go on and on, but one thing will never be forgotten. This is my church family and God has blessed me many times over through these people. Through the good and difficult times of my life, this precious group of believers has been the body of Christ to me. Thank you Hope for being my family!
- - - - Lowell Larson

I Remember...

-The college led services- the excitement exhibited by 20 plus college students for the Lord.

-The youth trips down to the Sonshine Festival in Willmar- the mudslide, the tornado, the broken window in the back of Scheevel's new van.

-The bus trip around town that the whole congregation took one Sunday morning-to realize who we needed to reach out to in our community.

-The Sunday morning we were all given a \$100 dollar bill to multiply in some way and give back.
- - - -Barb Scheevel

I Remember...

We came here with hurts that needed healing. Hope provided that healing time for us. The people here caring and reaching out to us and encouraging us to connect and become involved in ministry and each other's lives was powerful. Softball was an important aspect for Steve. I found a niche in helping with the Sunday School Ministry team. The S.S. Christmas program was always a high point for us. Julotta helped me fall in love with Jesus at Christmas time. We have not missed a Julotta morning for the past 20 years. It makes Christmas for us. VBS each summer was a super tool that God used to grow us as parents and our children's faith walk. Youth group was filled with many hours of faith, friendship and fun. Home fellowship (small group) helped us connect to the family of God here at Hope. Lake Beauty Bible Camp became a tradition for our family. Now all 4 of our kids, their spouses and 8 grandchildren join us for fun and spiritually lifting camping weekends with many people joining us at the camp fire each night. - - - -Pam Schirmers

I Remember...

The first VBS program we ever came to at Hope was in the summer of 1995. Gabriel was 5 years old and this was his first VBS. The theme for the week was the story of Moses. I remember that the Fellowship Hall was transformed into a giant tent by hanging a HUGE black tarp from the ceiling. Every evening Pastor Rick would go over the theme for the night and the memory verse with all the kids. I still have the "Baby Moses" Gabriel made out of clay and fabric that year!
- - - - Kathy Armbrust

I Remember...

The most memorable softball season was 1995 when the team took 3rd in the state Church league softball tournament played in St. Cloud. We won our first 3 games and lost only to the first and second place teams in the tournament.

The St. Cloud Times newspaper called and did an article in the sports section on the Hope Covenant softball team. Title of the article was ***"Quality church league team leaves foes with little Hope"***. The sports director at WJON called several times when we would be the highlighted game of the week when 2 undefeated teams would play.

Here are some excerpts from the article-

"A check of the St. Cloud Tuesday Church league standings over the past six seasons will show that Hope Covenant Church has been a consistent contender. 1 first place and 4 second place finishes."

"The 1995 season has been no different."

"Hope Covenant leads the Tuesday League with a 7-0 record following a 15-5 win over Sacred Heart last week. That victory came on the heels of a 4-0 showing in the St. Cloud playoffs to determine berths and seeding for the MSF Class B state church tournament held in St. Cloud scheduled for Aug 4-6 at Whitney fields."

The team that year consisted of the following members, Lyle Kruse, Dan Wennerberg, Rich Sundheim, Rick Beckman, John Theis, Ron Kaczor, Erling Teigen, Mike Oslavar, Don Brown, Greg Carlson, Rob Gotz, John Reep, Mike Bestgen, Kevin Richardson, Doug Benson, Nels Peterson, Pat Donlin, Steve Schirmers player/manager and James Schirmers as our bat boy. "Hitting has been our strength and we had good speed at the top of the lineup," Schirmers said. "We also have good quickness and speed on defense." "In the double elimination state playoff June 24, 1995 Hope covenant stopped Calvary Baptist II 13-8 in the first round before trimming Holy Cross Lutheran 17-7 and Calvary Baptist I 13-7. Hope claimed the top seed for the state meet by stopping Calvary Baptist I 5-2 in the title game. In the finals Hope put 2 runners out at home plate on the same play in the fourth inning to squelch a Calvary bid." -Our final record for the year was 25 wins and 10 losses. We also took 3rd place in the Willmar Covenant "Cove" tournament fall classic.

Over the 20 years that I have been managing the team here at Hope we have had some great guys to fellowship with, play softball, make lifetime friends and many first and second place trophies to show for it. -Take a look in the trophy case located downstairs sometime. -We have played in the Bloomington Covenant tournament in the past and won the Class "B" tournament the first year we played in it when we put a team of guys together. -In 2007 we took 2nd in the league and then took 1st place in the league playoffs. We also played in the Willmar "Cove" tournament and took 1st place. -In 2008 we took 2nd place again in league and then went to Willmar to defend our title. We won our first game and were rained out for the rest of the tournament, we will have to defend now in 2009. I still have the St. Cloud Times article if anybody would like a copy. - - - -Respectfully submitted by Steve Schirmers

I Remember...

Thanksgiving dinners at church with other families who chose not to travel to their family during the holiday;
Progressive dinners with other couples from the church;
A banquet put on by youth in our church, about 1992-1993 –
The ceiling was draped with black fabric transforming the church into an elegant dining parlor;
Living next door to the church on Maine Prairie Rd for 5 years –
hearing an early morning singing practice that drifted across the yard like the voice of an angel. ----- Eunice Sankey

I Remember...

One of my memorable experiences was when I was church organist in the late 60's. Dave Erickson was our pastor. We were both new to our jobs and our nerves were working overtime. Every Sunday I'd meet Dave downstairs at the bathrooms. The men's and women's B.R. were side by side. We'd laugh – exchange a comment and then "relieved". We'd hurry upstairs to start the church service.

Our little brick church on the Eastside was so inviting and everyone was so friendly. The only problem was that they seemed so old! They were at least in their 60's and we were 30. We had 3 small children and 2 of them (girls) were quite noisy. They had high, piercing screams – needless to say. I spent my time in the crying room. Estelle Larsen came prepared every Sunday – wads of cotton! She's put them in her ears and then enjoy the service. The problem is, how did she hear the sermon?

----- Julie Johnson

I Remember...

I remember when "Covenant Women" would have its yearly garage sale, and Hilda Holmgren was a faithful volunteer. One year when the garage sale was at the Haarstad's, Hilda was taking a break from working at the sale, and went in the house! When she came back out, her coat had been sold!! As gracious as Hilda was, she shrugged her shoulders and said, "At least we made some money!"

- - - -Cheryl Larson

I Remember...

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

The church service started out like every other church service, we sang a couple of songs, prayed, shared, read the scripture and settled down to listen to a sermon on the parable of the talents [Matthew 25: 14-30] presented by Pastor Rick Mylander. The sermon was moving and inspiring. Little did I know that this day, and this sermon, would change my life forever. After the final prayer we were asked to remain seated, and the Elders of the Church came forward. They passed a sealed envelope to every family in the church. We were not to open the envelope until each family had received theirs. When the envelopes were opened a nice new one hundred dollar bill was in each envelope.

Pastor Rick instructed each of us to go out and invest our talents, and bring them back with the original one hundred dollars and any accumulated profits we could make on our investments. We were dismissed with prayer and our talent in our pocket.

At the time, we owned Granite City Schwinn Bike Shop in St. Cloud, and had a skate exchange in the winter. I decided that I could buy used skates at garage sales, improve them with new laces, a coat of polish and Ray could sharpen them, and we could make a nice profit from them. I did that for a short period of time. My friend Priscilla, was going to garage sales buying antiques and collectibles, and selling them to Antique Dealers at a profit. I found her idea fascinating, and soon followed in her footsteps. She would buy glassware, linens, and other items, while I snatched up old books, postcards, and other paper items. Our inventory grew until we decided we would do better, renting a little booth in an antique store to sell our items at a retail price. I had a seven fold profit on my investments, when the time came to turn in our proceeds from the one hundred dollars, and inventory to continue in the business.

After much prayer, I did buy and became the owner/ manager of Milky Whey Antiques. Each payday, I would take one half of my check and re-invest it in more inventory, and use the other half for living. More and more people were stopping at the store selling me items from their Grandma's attic, and my inventory grew until I filled much of the store with my own merchandise. While I was manager of Milky Whey, Ray injured his back on the job and we lived totally from the income of the store. It was necessary to be open seven days a week. I rarely had time with my family. I knew this was not God's will for my life.
(Nancy Fitch cont.)

I saw an opening for a managerial position at the Salvation Army Thrift Store in St. Cloud, and applied. I got the job, and had only a very short time to liquidate my assets. I had a very large sale, and sold some of my items. I then called an auction house, and watched with amazement as they carried off twelve large truck loads of my merchandise. I made over ten thousand dollars on that auction. I owed nobody any money, and still had a large store room full of merchandise at home. Remember this all started with one hundred dollars.

At this time I rented a space at Junction Antiques in Monticello, Minnesota. They ended up going out of business after a short period of time, and I moved my inventory to a new store in Little Falls. They also went out of business, and once again I had to move. This time I went to Northbound Antiques at Pease, Minnesota. While I was at Northbound, Miranda, and Amber came to live with us, and I felt the need to be home. I stepped out in faith, and moved everything home, to my all ready overflowing storage shed. I had to get rid of some of these things, so started selling on eBay. I have been doing this for three years. My stock is like the widow's cruse of oil. It never seems to run out, even though I am not buying. In fact, no one else would know that I have sold anything by the amount I have left. I sell on eBay auctions, and also have an eBay store with almost 5000 items listed. This has been a tremendously successful venture! I am now shipping over three hundred packages a month. I am ever aware of God's blessing not only in this business, but in my entire life.

It was about twenty years ago, when I invested my one hundred dollar talent, and today in my old age, God has used that investment to help me provide for not only Ray and me, but two teenage granddaughters who live with us. "To God be the Glory".

- - - Nancy Fitch



I Remember...

Here's what comes to mind.

AWANA nights and playing 4 square tug-o-war, now that was a challenge. Never won but it sure was fun! Maybe not so much for Pam because of having to move all those chairs!

The biggest blessing has been Julotta and watching my kids come in their jammies when they were little and wanting to come now when they're older!
- - - - Joanne Reinhart

I Remember...

- - - - Rebekah Theis

I Remember...

There have been many memorable times here for Kerry and myself at Hope. As I write this, 3 of them come to my mind and heart -- the times I've shared in food and treat times for the children and adults during VBS, another is when Kerry and I were asked to be a prayer team for our children here at Hope. Many lined up for prayer. This was special and heart-touching seeing Jesus touch these lives, also when I was new here at church, and not even knowing where to find my Sunday school class. A very kind, caring, loving lady Jan Delovely walked me to our Sunday school class. I'll always remember the way we were and are still received and cared about here at hope Covenant Church.
---- Joey Klarich



I Remember...

I remember when Pastor Bill came out to my place and prayed and helped me write a letter to Pastor Rick Mylander, it helped me a lot. I remember Keith Olson praying for me and helping me, also Don Sankey and the other elders. I also remember many times Pam Schirmers, Ken Johnson, and John Reinhart spending time and helping me and praying for me. I remember all the great times at Hope Covenant Church over the nineteen years.

---- Mike Batcheler

I Remember...

One of my favorite memories takes place in Barb Scheevel's screen porch where she held this summer's Fruit of the Spirit Bible study. I'm not sure which "fruit" we were discussing, but Barb passed around a music sheet with two songs on it, one of them titled something like "It is well with my soul." Right there, outside, with her neighbors nearby and without instrumental back up, Barb had us sing these poignant songs with her. Our acappella, believing voices filled the open air, Lord's sky our church dome, and it made me feel as though we were the disciples straight from the Book of Acts, boldly glorifying God without care of others' decision.

---- Ashley N. Isaacson

I Remember...

Nancy Haarstad being one of the first persons we met when we started coming to Hope in 1982. She acted as unofficial friendly greeter each Sunday while we were church shopping.

Andy Anderson, always being an usher – and another unofficial greeter to us.

The 1994 Men's Excursion to Promise Keepers in Colorado – a great time of fellowship and worship.

Hope Covenant hosting the summer 1996 Cursillo weekend (men/women) and serving on my first team after attending a Cursillo weekend in 1995. ---- Don Sankey

I Remember...

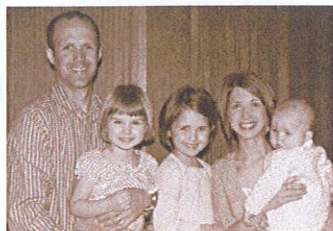
I walked into Mission Covenant Church as an 18-year-old looking for fellowship as a new Christian. I was greeted warmly by Pastor Dave Erickson who warmly welcomed me to my new family. He took the time to disciple me and encouraged me in my faith. Priscilla M reached out to me and invited me to their home cell group. That was 34 years ago and the rest is history. I am thankful. ---- Rand Olson

I Remember...

Confirmation class ('93-'94) with Pastor Rick was awesome and I feel so blessed to have been able to have him as our leader for that. Many of my favorite memories come from the retreats that we would take to other covenant churches in the area. In Upsala we played a game of Sardines and Kate Mylander was hiding under the podium in the sanctuary. All of a sudden the microphones come on and Luke Sands, Ben Beckman, and Jeremy Forsell were singing "Maybe Kate's under the podium!!! Maybe Kate's under the podium." Needless to say, that particular round of the game was over. Later I attempted to hide behind a stack of folding chairs near a stairwell and the whole mess of them came clattering down around me and down the steps. That was probably the noisiest night of Sardines ever- and I will never forget how much fun it was! - - - - Jennifer Reinhart

I Remember...

Jenna and I going through two pregnancies while we've been here at Hope and having the church and youth celebrate and enjoy that with us. Having the youth guess our due dates was also a great memory for our family. Our 4th one is arriving soon. - - Gary Noble



I Remember...

Reuben and I attended a few weeks before we were married in September 2004. Although I was deeply connected to the Covenant churches through childhood and vocation, it was important that together we found a spiritual home. That Sunday we were welcomed in by several people – Pastor Gary and Jenna Noble (who later invited us and other new couples to start a new small group), Bill and Jan Wilde Delovely (who was excited to play from the Covenant hymnal at our wedding two weeks later), Janny and Bob Slaney (who invited us almost immediately to come to the women's Bible study and talked more about the missions team), and Pastor Bill Dornbush (who made a point of introducing himself after service). ---- Kirsten (Nelson) Wagenius

I Remember...

The people who influenced my faith at Hope were Maggie and Scott Bjorklund. The many relationships in their lives that they have. With the life my husband and I had in the military family, we had that. We needed new relationships in our lives. The Lord guided us right. The best event at Hope was the 40 days of Community. Rick Warren's studies are heart and mind opening. When I first heard Bill speak, he truly touched my heart. He spoke on a level that was simple to understand. I thank him for that. All the gathering events were so warm and welcoming. Such sincere givers, Pam and Steve Schirmers, are such an eye opening of a good sharing couple to their community church.

So far it's been a new beginning in my life joining HOPE.

I praise the Lord for the light he has been shining on my path and praise and rejoice to be chosen by Him.

HOPE -- a Stepping Stone.

Thanks.

- - - - Wilma Jean Schwegel

p.s.: Meeting with the ladies in my small group and women's ministries was an added touch of stepping stones.



I Remember...

I remember the first few Sunday's my family and I attended the Evangelical Covenant Church in 1975. Everyone we met on the East Side was particularly kind and reached out to new couples. Ken & Julie Johnson, Angie Paul, Haarstads, Witzmans, and Watkins were families I recall fondly. I recall painting our "new" church at Maine Prairie Road, taking our turn to do the janitorial duties, even as my own three small children all had chicken pox. Shortly after, with the Lord's help I envisioned a "Praise Group" of instruments to accompany the singing! A few years later Lowell and Cheryl Larson joined the church and later began leading as they continue to the present! In 1980 I recall Pastor Rick Mylander (with



a long beard), Gail and their baby daughter's arrival. Instantly there was a bond with our families. Pastor Rick at a music/worship committee said, "I'm just one sardine in a sardine can." My family and I grew spiritually over the 16 years with the Mylanders. He confirmed my children Nathan & Faith. Pastor Rick always had time to visit with one or two of us for coffee at some restaurant. In the 80's traveling with the singing group

"The Sons of Praise" was most memorable. (Ron Watkins, Lowell Larson, Dale Hubert.) Lake Beauty was a very special time for our three children. My son accepted Jesus there and my daughter grew spiritually at Youth Group and Lake Beauty.



My Christian friends living out their faith, year in and year out, has profoundly influenced my spiritual journey. My fellowship at Hope, with old and new friends at Hope has been more precious than gold! My humble opportunity to share in the music ministry at the piano has been the highlight of my worship.

Thank you dearest ones all at Hope Covenant Church.

---- Janice Wilde DeLovely

I Remember...

I remember worshiping with so many people, many, have moved on and in some instances have passed on...

...I have had the privilege of worshiping the past 34 years with Ken & Julie Johnson, Ralph & Bev Kluball, Dennis & Karen Witzman, Rand Olson and Mary Jo Wager.

Here is a test to find whether your mission here on earth is finished...If you're alive, it isn't. (Richard Bach)

-Burning the mortgage-



---- Andy Anderson

I Remember...

Some of my greatest Hope memories are from the old church. I remember Awana quite well. Who wouldn't with those sweet red vests! My fondest memory from Awana was singing with Pastor Rick in front of the church around the holidays. Kind of random, but I always loved going outside after church in the winter because after it had snowed, the snow would hang over the roof and create a little tunnel that we always crawled through (I felt like Indiana Jones). Another memory I have was from John and Sandy Theis' house when they were hosting summer bible study. We got to watch 'The Fox and The Hound' and I remember crying when the hound had to hunt the fox and the fox almost died.

The new church brought some good memories too. Some of the stand outs are probably CHIC, Julotta and trips to Spirit Mountain in the winter. CHIC was a really good experience because it allowed me to open up to Christ and not feel awkward doing it. I also made a lot of good friends while we were in Tennessee. Julotta has always been very important to me because our family has participated in the celebration every Christmas since I can remember. I was excited to introduce this tradition to my girlfriend last Christmas and I hope it is something that will stay in the family for a long time. The most fun I have had at Hope functions has been when we got to go up to Spirit Mountain to go snowboarding. Nothing better than to combine snowboarding and God into one weekend. That's my kind of vacation!

---- Jason Reinhart

I Remember...

...Now that's a mouthful in two words!! Wow...we've been with the church since June, 1985 when we moved here from Blaine, MN. I started to think about having to respond to this request for the 125th Anniversary items for the church and realized this is not easy to put into a few words.

People who influenced my faith at Hope, would have started with Pastor Rick Mylander, and of course his wife, Gail. He visited our home after our first visit to the church. He left a huge impact on our children Tara, Belinda, Shannon and Seth because he remembered their names when he visited that first time. The kids decided from that moment, this would be the church they would want to keep attending.

As I started thinking about others who played an importance in my faith journey, I went through my notebook that I keep of my sermon notes to refresh my memory. The following pastors were listed next to the sermon titles...Rick Mylander, Dean Nelson, Jim Bruckner, Chris Peterson, Terry Johnson, Tom Ervasti, Wes Olson, Bob Anderson, Brad Martin, Gary Noble and currently Bill Dornbush. Each one of these people on a Sunday morning took the time to share God's Word and I am forever grateful to each one for their gift of teaching, which has impacted my journey of getting to know God. Our church has certainly had its ups and downs over the years, but I believe there is a lesson that God is teaching us in every situation. If we can learn from it, it was worth the lesson! I've always been astounded how people can leave a church when things get tough or uncomfortable. Scott and I have always felt church is Family, and families work through good times and bad. It is a joy to be a part of this church!

The best thing we ever did was join a fellowship group. We made great friendships over the years. I remember how uncomfortable I was in my first adult Sunday school class with Virginia Leigh as the teacher, when she would just call on someone at random. I recall not going back to the class because of fear. My biggest regret is she is not with our church to teach one now. I realize now the gift she had in Bible knowledge!! I truly miss Nancy Fitch who did a fantastic job of teaching the women's class on Sunday mornings. We laughed a lot and cried at times, it was so healthy.

Margaret (Maggie) Bjorklund (cont. next page)

Joining the church choir and having Lowell and Cheryl Larson direct it all these years has been so much fun, (even though Lowell doesn't even remember my first year of attending). HA! Having my sister Wilma and her husband James attend our church has been meaningful. There are many people to thank for their service to the church like Pam Schirmers who continues to maintain the building year after year, Ralph Kluball who mowed the lawns for over 35 years, the praise bands, and all the secretaries and helpers who answer phones and stuff bulletins Sunday after Sunday. These are people behind the scenes that I will always remember who faithfully add great love to this church family.

Our children bonded with so many other kids during the Wednesday night programs and all the different activities. Hay rides, silent auctions, fancy dinners put on by the youth, their trip to Chicago with Angie Paul (who was in her 80's), confirmation retreats, the Awana program and the list goes on and on for them.

The funniest thing I recall was the time Nancy and Ray Fitches' son Tom, who took the communion loaf of bread when it was being passed, picked it up and ate the whole thing and his parents were too far down the row to stop him. In fact, Nancy wrote a poem about that day. We could hardly keep from laughing the moment it happened.

My saddest moment was losing our friend, Tim McDunn, to cancer. When Seth sang "I Can Only Imagine" for his funeral, and him commenting, he felt like Tim was standing next to him, to carry his voice through that song, it is a moment I will treasure forever. Tim knew what it was to have a servant heart for people in the church and had practiced it with genuine love and concern through Stephen's Ministry.

When I share that I come from a Catholic background, people always give a certain look. I haven't quite figured that out yet. All I know is that I'm proud of my Catholic background. The Catholic church gave me the foundation for my Faith in God. What the Covenant Church has done for me, is extended my education in learning to pick up the Bible and read God's Word!!! There are so many memories of great and meaningful times. It is a privilege to join in the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Hope Covenant Church!!! Our God is an Awesome God!!!

In Christian Friendship, Margaret (Maggie) Bjorklund

I Remember...

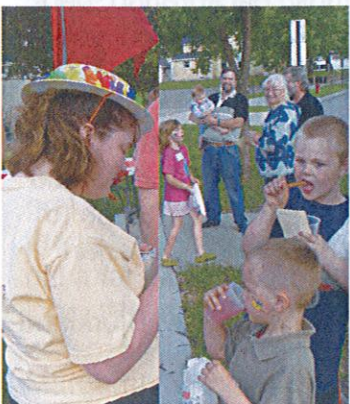
- the old church out by the quarry on Maine Prairie Road
- putting up and taking down all the red chairs to clear the middle area for the Awana games every week. - one of the youth pastors, Jim Bruckner, teaching class in the storage closet from the top of stored chairs. - 'revamping' the sound system with Bill DeLovely - getting the amplifier controls moved to behind the congregation and the difficulty with the noise from the rickety stand and metal chair thing were on. - praise band with Jan DeLovely and Mitch Groethe. - being on the 'Commission of the Johns' properties ministry committee made up of four guys who's first names were all, you guessed it, John.
- New church on 4th Avenue South
- moving the cornerstone of the old east side church from Maine Prairie Road church to present location in Bill DeLovely's jeep. - sitting in the middle of the sanctuary one Saturday, listening to a master pianist warming up for a wedding, and someone else playing the pipe organ (before it was moved out, of course). They got going with Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring, 'tossing' the melody back and forth between the piano up front and the pipe organ up in the choir loft. Felt like I was in heaven.



- - - - John Reinhart

I Remember...

I really loved helping out with VBS! Being involved with such enthusiasm and energy is awesome, and I learned so much, too! We are never too old to learn, even from children, if we keep our heart open.



Labor Day Family Camp 2008 was awesome, too! Steve and Pam Schirmers have a little home there, campers and everything you could possibly want or need, and they have such a gift of hospitality as many from Hope gather 'round the campfire. Rebecca and Sandra Theis challenged me to go on the zip line at 10:00pm. So we went. That was an awesome experience also.

- - - - Kerry Klarich

I Remember...

The Day the Furnace Went Out by Jim and Jeanette DeRose

The year was brand new and our prayer was that the Lord would lead our family to a *warm* loving church we could call home. Our plan for the winter months included visits to different churches each Sunday until the five of us knew, without a shadow of a doubt, we had found the church the Lord desired for us to be a part of.

The decision of which church to visit *first* came merely by telephoning a number of churches and picking the one whose Sunday School and church times best fit our schedule! Hope Covenant's Sunday morning schedule worked well for us so on the first Sunday of January 1996 our family headed out into the snow and cold to make the 30 minute drive from our home in Richmond.

Upon arriving in the parking lot we cautiously entered the back door of the church. As we made our way to the front a lady with a cheerful welcoming smile greeted us and asked if we were visiting. She initially recommended we keep our coats on, explaining the boiler system was down and the church was without heat, but "somebody is working on the problem," she promised. After name introductions, Bev Mowe proceeded to take each of us to our respective Sunday School classes. . . our 17 year old twin daughters, Jennifer & Jessica, headed off with the senior high youth group and our son, Joseph, joined other high-energy 12 year olds in their class. Bev then led us to the Fellowship Hall where all the adult Sunday School class options were being previewed. There we were welcomed by shivering folks wearing various forms of winter attire and yet, the room felt warm and welcoming.

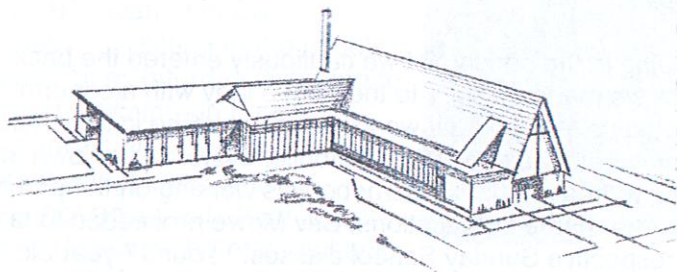
Although we can't recall Pastor Rick Mylander's message that day we remember his warm and welcoming demeanor as he sought us out after the service. Bob and Janny Slaney made a point to invite us to the pot-luck dinner following the service where many more friendly smiles and sincere welcomes were shared with us in the markedly cold fellowship hall.

As our family walked to the car that afternoon our son Joseph enthusiastically remarked, "I like that church! Can we go there again?" Immediately Jennifer and Jessica echoed their brother's recommendation. We never visited another church and four months later we placed our membership at Hope. We've often commented that even though heat was absent in the church building on our first visit, the people of Hope Covenant radiated the love of the Lord and made it the warmest church we had ever been in! J

**People will forget what you say, people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.**

Hope Covenant 125th Anniversary Committee

*Bob and Sandy Dopkins
Ken and Julie Johnson
Steve and Pam Schirmers*



*Hope Covenant Church
336 4th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-257-4673*

1883~2008

