



Discovering Hope!

Welcome & Contents Page:

Welcome to Hope Church! Whether you've been here from the beginning or have just recently joined us, whether you plan on being here for a while or whether you're just passing through in your studies or career, we're glad and grateful that you're here. Hope Church is just wrapping up its 15th year, an exciting time in the life of our church as we continue to grow together in faith and trust in Him, and proclaim His Gospel to our community and the world.

Hope Church is a people rooted in the hope of Christ: our hope and our future. The apostle Peter says that, *"we have been born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."* (1 Pet.1:3-4) We are a people on the way to the new creation that God is bringing in Jesus, called to lead others to discover and live in & by this hope for themselves.

In the following pages, and in our time together over lunch, we'd like to help you get to know Hope Church a bit better, answer any questions you might have, hear from you, and invite you to share of your gifts and talents with the rest of us as we pursue all that God has for us at Hope.

Here's what you can expect from Hope Church:

- We will teach & preach the Gospel faithfully, as the only hope for this life and beyond.
- We will invest in you and your family, encouraging your growth in Christ and into fullness of maturity in the faith.
- We will encourage and lead you to invest back into the church body, to grow your God-given gifts and talents.
- We will encourage and equip you, and strive to provide opportunities for you to share the Good News of the Gospel and grow in your joy in Him.
- We will pray for you and lead you into a deeper life of prayer.

Hope's Story

In 2001, Pastor Tony Marseglia was called to plant Hope Church in Carbondale, IL with the support of 1st Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Anna, IL. The beginnings were humble, and consisted mainly of weekly Bible studies in Tony's first office on "The Island" above The Underground Grill and Pub near the SIU campus. Here, an eclectic group of both new and seasoned Christians gathered to pray and study. Soon, the Bible study relocated to the Hunter building and after a few months, and not much growth, the decision was made to begin to public worship on Sunday afternoons. This was the first of many turning points in the history of Hope Church, and resulted in growth that would lead to Sunday morning worship in the Carbondale High School.

Three years of growth in the high school led Hope to a decision to purchase the property we currently worship on, on Old Route 13. Since that time we have seen many come and go, and many come and remain, and make both southern Illinois and Hope Church their home.

In 2011 Tony and his family were again called to plant a church in California, and Hope Church embarked on a search for its next pastor. After much meeting, praying, conversation and visits, Hope Church called Joshua Schatzle, Rev., who was just coming to the completion of a church plant of his own in Western NC, to accept the call to pastor Hope Church. Though difficult to say goodbye to the Marseglia family, Hope Church warmly welcomed its new pastor Josh Schatzle and his family. We are excited to see more of what God has in store for Hope, and anticipate that He will show us increasing favor and grace in this new season of life at Hope Church.

Kids at Hope:

Kids are extremely important to us at Hope! As important as mission is to the world around us, our first responsibility is to our own families and children.

Led by Lisa Brown, we are continually crafting our Kids ministries and our Sunday School program towards assisting parents in helping their children understand and grow in their knowledge of God in Jesus Christ. Our nursery is comprised of 2 age groups: toddlers between the ages of 3-4 (led by Lynne Keehn & Betsy Bost), and infants to younger toddlers, ages newborn to 3 (led by Samantha Sambursky & Rebecca Goetz). We invite all members of our congregation to participate in nurturing the spiritual lives of our children. If you grew up in the church you'll likely remember people who impacted you and your growth significantly. That could be you,

here at Hope! Sunday school classes are available prior to worship on Sunday mornings, at 9:30. Age groups as follow: newborn-3 years in the nursery; 4-7 year olds, and 8-12 year olds downstairs. The nursery is also available for children up to 4 during worship (though we encourage children of all ages to be with us for that portion of worship which precedes the sermon, at which time we Pass the Peace of Christ and dismiss children up to 4 years of age at parents' discretion).

Vacation Bible School takes places each summer, over the course of 2-3 days. It has proven to be a great time of fellowship and growth not only for the kids, but for the parents and volunteers as well.

Please don't miss out on this crucial ministry opportunity, whether it's just involving your own kids in the ministry, or serving as a volunteer. Please see Lisa Brown to get involved or to learn more about Kids at Hope.

Youth at Hope:

Hope loves its Youth! The future of the faith lies with our youth, which means we need to invest in, and grow them up into, the faith together. It takes a family to raise a child in the faith, but in a covenant community the family belongs to and enjoys all the blessings of belonging to a "covenant" family, the Church! We each have the blessing of loving, encouraging and assisting one another and our families in growing and nurturing Hope's kids' faith.

Just this past year we were able to make CJ Nelson (along with the help of his wife Danielle) the official youth director at Hope! Youth are grouped accordingly: Jr. Youth, which includes kids in 4th-7th grade; and Sr. Youth. Which includes kids from 8th-12th. See the Youth webpage for calendar and scheduled events.

As is typical with many young churches, it begins with a great deal of young families with babies, and before you know it your babies have grown into "youth"! That means that unlike some of the well-established and older churches, our youth ministries will be taking shape and evolving on the run. Organization can be a challenge, with kids' ages spread out widely at times or weighted heavily to a particular age, but if we're patient and enduring, we have every reason to believe God will bear much fruit here.

These can be challenging years as parents try to help their kids grow into young men and women of God, when so much around them baits them to throw away their faith. The goal of youth ministries is to provide fellowship, teaching, and a context of discernment, prayer, and learning that

supplements what parents are already doing in the home. That means we need volunteers, and some of the best volunteers are parents! The more our kids get to interact with the parents of other youth and their own parents in a setting like this, the more positive models of faith they get to witness and grow by.

Currently, our youth are grouped accordingly: 10-13 yr olds and 14-18 yr olds. They meet weekly for Sunday school together, and their youth leaders are working to gather them together for a monthly event outside of Sunday morning worship.

This is a small, but increasingly growing group at Hope, as folks join our church and as our kids continue to grow up! We invite you to pour into these soon-to-be-adults as they continue to grow up into their roles as fully mature members of the community of Christ.

Hope's Mission, Vision, and Values:

Hope's mission is that which was given to the whole Church by Jesus before He departed to go to the Father's side in Heaven: *"to make disciples of all people in all nations, teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded."* (Matt. 28:18-19). Jesus said that what the Father had commanded was that we *"believe in Him whom He has sent."* (Jn. 6:28-29).

Jesus restores and redeems the image of God in fallen people [cf. Col. 3:10], reconciling us to the Creator God. And we, as the redeemed, are growing into that image and calling people everywhere to put their faith and hope in Jesus Christ, that they also would know this redemptive hope.

Hope's Mission, simply put, is to be "Growing in the Hope of Christ" [cf. 1 Pet. 1:3-4]; growing together and inviting others into the Living Hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Missions:

God continues to lead Hope Church in the way of worldwide and local missions. Thank to our Missions Committee leaders Saul and Jesse Huber, Hope has become connected to supporting both local missionaries (such as Intervarsity Campus Ministry leaders Greg & Mari Chimitris), as well as EPC missionaries in Beirut, Lebanon, like Dr. Robbie Hamd & the Philemon Project; in addition we are involved in local community ministries like the Crisis Pregnancy Center and area food banks. There's certainly more that God has in store, and we look forward to faithfully responding to Him as He grows our work in extending the Gospel both at home and abroad.

Vision:

How does Hope Church envision continuing to accomplish this?

1st, we want to grow in our understanding & love of the Gospel of Jesus. It is a “faith-sight of Jesus” Tim Keller says, “that transforms people”. We grow *in* faith, *by* faith [cf. Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11]. We want our understanding of what God has accomplished, is accomplishing, and will accomplish in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to permeate our heads & hearts and do its work in us, bringing to increasing fullness in us the Life of Christ.

2nd, we want to foster an environment where people who are in the process of being called of God—those who are seeking Him and exploring faith in Christ—can feel welcome. It’s these people whom God aims us to in mission. This happens in worship, small groups, youth groups, women’s and men’s ministry, Sunday school; any place that ministry and life happens around Hope. But just as important, remember that wherever you go, you bring Hope Church and its mission with you; the workplace, the playground, the gym, school, etc.

3rd, we want to equip all members of the church to exercise their gifts and talents [cf. Eph. 4:11-13], to give generously of all they are and have. According to the Bible, we are all priests, or ministers of, the Gospel. We are all called to “preach the Gospel” to each other and to others, to serve one another and share the Good News of the kingdom of God in Jesus.

4th, we want to equip all members in their understanding of and ability to share the Gospel with our town and world, that Hope Church would become an increasingly active participant in the God’s global Gospel movement.

Values:

Worship: “We become like what we worship,” C.S. Lewis famously remarked. How true that is! We worship God not because He needs anything from us, but precisely because He is worthy of all praise and worship, and He is everything we need. And when we worship we are changed and we reflect that which we adore [cf. 2 Cor. 3:18]. We worship weekly through the Word, praise, weekly celebration around the Communion Table, and the liturgy. We worship throughout the week through private and corporate prayer, study, small groups of various sorts, and service.

Community: The Christian life wasn’t made to be lived in isolation. God is making a people for Himself, plural. He has called us together as the Church [Notice how almost every epistle is addressed to the “church

gathered in...”]. God has gifted us with one another for the sojourn to His Kingdom; we heap love, encouragement, accountability, and joyful support upon one another as we all draw nearer and nearer Him who made us.

Discipleship: Life in Christ is learned; it does not happen overnight. The end goal of this life that we would be shaped/conformed to the image of His Son [cf. Eph. 4:15]. This is God’s work, but God requires our participation and effort in it. We are all works-in-progress, and we all are granted the wonderful privilege of speaking into each other’s lives as fellow sojourners in the faith. We’ll do this in the classroom, the sanctuary, around our homes and tables, and the places life happens everyday.

Service: God has gifted each of us with talents and abilities to serve one another for the greater good of the body and for the advancement of the Gospel. “We are tallest when we bow,” G.K. Chesterton said. When we in love bend the knee both in worship to God and in service to one another and those around us, we put on display the love of Jesus Christ in the Gospel. Keep on the look-out for mission opportunities (led & aided by our Missions Committee) both here and abroad, as well as opportunities to serve the daily and weekly life of the church.

Growing in Christ

The promise of Jesus is that his disciples will “bring forth fruit”. Jesus didn’t say it was just ‘possible’, ‘plausible’, or even ‘probable’; he said they ‘would’! Jesus can say this because all who belong to Christ have the indwelling presence of the Spirit, and He changes us. And God encourages us to “*keep in step with the Spirit*” (Gal. 5:16), to respond to his ‘tutoring’ of us. Here are a few of the ways we do that together at Hope.

Sunday School: Adults meet for Sunday School in the foyer/narthex of the church on Sunday mornings prior to worship, from 9:30-10:20. The topics of study vary, but usually range from 4-12 weeks in length, and are always very Gospel-driven and engaging. Sunday School is a bit more a teaching-oriented format than small groups, and it offers a great opportunity to not only grow in spiritual maturity, but in knowledge of the Scriptures and Theology specifically.

Small Groups: Small Groups meet either weekly or bi-weekly, and usually meet year-round. See the webpage (and Pastoral Asst. Andrew Staff) for details and locations of groups meeting. Topics of study for small groups vary, but you can always count on good content, good fellowship, prayer, and often, good food and drink! Small Group arrangements are not fixed or life-long commitments, and we are always looking for new group leaders

and upstart groups to begin. Please be sure to indicate on the class attendance form your interest in attending or hosting a small group if you are not already part of one. You can also check the website for updates on small groups and their meeting places and times.

Men's and Women's Ministries: Amber Staff, Jessi Schatzle, and Karla Brown jointly lead of the women's ministry & studies. Pastor Josh leads the men's ministry, which meets periodically throughout the year. The men's meeting is flexible; so look for announcements to indicate when they are on for a series of gatherings, fellowship, and prayer. Women's ministries meet at various times throughout the year, often weekly.

Worship: We take worship seriously and joyfully, seeing worship in its historical and Biblical light as a formative process by which we are trained up in a life of loving response to the God who loved us first in Jesus Christ. Life in Christ is ultimately a matter of worship, a life surrendered to worship of the Living God, rejoicing in Him with praise and thanks. We want to worship God everyday in every aspect of our lives. Sunday is unique in that it is an opportunity to worship God together and be shaped more into His image as we are sent out for the rest of the week in a life of worship to God & witness in His world.

Mission: As we grow we want to encourage one another to share the faith with our neighbors, classmates, colleagues and co-workers. We also look to foster opportunities where together we can share and minister the Gospel to those in our local community and around the world. There are a lot of things the world is in need of, but none so much as the Gospel. And the sharing of that is the unique privilege of the Church. Keep alert for announcements of mission opportunities from our Missions Committee. Also, see our locally supported missionaries (Greg & Mari Chimitris of Intersity student ministries).

Giving and Gifting:

Gifting: We want to help develop all people into fully-devoted and mature followers of Jesus Christ. That means helping people identify and utilize their giftedness in Christ. The church is a body and all parts are necessary in making the body function well. Please open yourself to the opportunities of the church and look actively for ways to serve the people of Hope and its mission and ministries.

Giving: Nobody likes to talk about money, but Jesus talked about it more than any other single subject. That's not because Jesus wanted to get rich or make the church rich or any other nonsense that gets thrown around these days. Jesus talked about money because God knows that our hearts

are inextricably tied to our wallets, purses, European Man Bags, or whatever it is we carry; that, “*where your treasure is, there your heart is also.*” (Matt. 6:21; Lk. 12:34). What Jesus taught, Paul expands on in his letters to the churches, namely that we ought to give joyfully in response to our blessing. And we’ve been blessed beyond any monetary measure in Jesus Christ! Our hope is in Jesus Christ; we want to give back in grateful thanks to Him and overflow in thanks and invest in things eternal.

What Hope Believes:

Hope believes that the world is broken by sin and dying in it; that we, the crowning glory of God’s creation, made in His image, were both the cause of that sin, perpetrators of it still, and its sufferers of all that we have wrought in this way. Jesus Christ is God’s salvation to this world, and the remedy for sin and death, having himself suffered for our sins on the Cross, and having conquered death through his own resurrection from the dead.

We believe that our salvation is the work of Jesus Christ, his calling and election, his free justification of us [qualifying us, making us righteous before God], and the promise that he will sanctify us [make us holy as He is holy] thoroughly at His coming.

Until that time our mission is to preach the Gospel to ourselves and to those outside the church praying that God would give us the blessing of seeing many of His come home to faith in Him and that we would enjoy seeing our lives mature as we grow in faithfulness, joy, and His love.

We believe that the Bible—the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments—is the authoritative Word of God and sufficient in all things for life in Him. We believe the historic Creeds of the Church cohesively explain, in confessional form, the faith as understood and received in the Church from Jesus’ Apostles on down to today. These include the Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds.

We believe that the Westminster Confession of Faith and its Larger and Shorter Catechisms, as a creed, most thoroughly, and best, spells out, in a systematic form, the Theology or proper understanding of God and His salvation and Life in Jesus Christ as put forth in the Scriptures.

The 7 Essentials of the EPC lay out pretty succinctly the high-points of the Gospel and our beliefs. They are as follows:

All Scripture is self-attesting and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God’s redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus

Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks. On this sure foundation we affirm these additional Essentials of our faith:

1. We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory and praise forever!
2. Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.
3. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior. Indwelling our hearts, He gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth, and seals us for the day of redemption.
4. Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.
5. The true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible, yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity; where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting, she awaits the return of her Lord.
6. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth-personally, visibly, and bodily-to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20)
7. The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us." He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10)

These Essentials are set forth in greater detail in the Westminster Confession of Faith, a link to which can be found at <http://www.epc.org/about-the-epc/beliefs/westminster-confession/>

Sacraments:

Baptism: Baptism is the sign and seal of the new covenant in Jesus Christ, and it is to be received by all covenant members in Christ. Hope Church is a church in the covenant-reformed tradition, which in short means that we believe that as God has called us by His promise, His promise is also to our children and He has given them the privilege of being born into the covenant promises of God. This doesn't mean our kids are saved simply by our faith, or that we can guarantee their salvation. But it does mean that we raise our kids in the faith of Jesus Christ, that we anticipate the grace of God in their lives to increase; and we look for them to come to a saving knowledge of Him. That being the case, we encourage the practice of covenant baptism for those children born to believing parents who call Hope Church—or any other orthodox, Bible-believing church for that matter—home. Baptism doesn't save us, or our kids; but it does symbolize what does: the blood of Christ, shed for us on the Cross. But as an EPC church, Hope does not *insist* that parents baptize their children; it is not an issue we choose to divide over, and we recognize that many faithful Christians have historically preferred to observe believer baptism. Either way, the pastor and elders of Hope would be more than happy to help you look into having you or your children baptized if you haven't yet done so.

Lord's Supper: Hope Church celebrates Communion, or the Lord's Super, weekly. Communion is where the elements of wine and bread—which represent the broken body & blood of Jesus—are presented by Christ Himself to us. In Communion we do the following: 1. Receive His grace in the reconciliation he has made on the Cross by His life, death & resurrection, 2. Be nourished by His presence, 3. Anticipate the coming day of new creation when He will host a new feast in the Heavens when we are presented to Christ complete.

Hope encourages all who belong to the covenant community by faith in Christ to participate in this meal. Again, like baptism, the elements themselves do not save us; but they do point to the One who does. And we take this meal weekly in accordance with His own command and the Scriptures.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The EPC began back in 1981, when a group of ordained pastors from within the Presbyterian Church, USA withdrew from the PCUSA after many years of increased endorsement of heterodox theological drifting. Specifically the issue was Christ's claims of divinity and oneness with the Father, and that salvation was exclusively belonging to Him through justification and the forgiveness of sins offered through his death on the

Cross. In particular it was the PCUSA coming to hold the official position that “Jesus was a messenger *of* the way,” and the denial that he was ‘the way’ itself, that was the catalyst for the departure. The specific catalytic event for the EPC’s departure from the PCUSA was a Maryland presbytery’s installment of a United Church of Christ pastor who would not forthrightly affirm or acknowledge the Divine Nature of Jesus Christ.

The EPC was subsequently formed in honor of the orthodox Covenant and Reformed theological convictions, practices and furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Since its inception, the EPC has grown to now include some 500 churches, including churches from every state in the nation, and other nations now as well.

The EPC aims to be intentionally gracious in practice and theology, while remaining solidly orthodox in the essential matters of faith and practice. Their motto is thus: In Essentials, Unity; In non-essentials, Liberty; In all things, Charity. To learn more about the EPC see www.epc.org. To learn more about the Central-South Presbytery, to which we belong, see <http://www.epccentralsouth.org/>

How Things Work at Hope

Staff: Hope Church’s staff includes its Pastor, Rev. Joshua Schatzle; Pastoral Assistant/Worship Leader, Andrew Staff; Secretary, Cindy Myers; Financial Secretary, Paula Clendenen, and Children’s Ministry Director Lisa Brown.

Courts and Session: The Elders at Hope and in the EPC The EPC’s system of church structure/government is based on the model laid out in the Scriptures, namely that the churches which make up the body of Christ are meant to operate not in isolation, but in connection to one another. Yet neither is the church ruled from on high by its denomination. The EPC saw fit to let each church be ruled/governed by its own body of congregationally elected elders [also called the “Session”, made up of ruling elders and a teaching elder, aka pastor] cf. 1 Tim. 5:17. The session of the church sends its own representative on the church’s behalf to participate in the larger regional body of churches called the Presbytery. And the regional Presbyteries of the EPC are all present and represent themselves at the larger gathering of the whole denomination, called the General Assembly.

The local session and the entire EPC are governed by the Scriptures first and foremost, but have spelled out some specific operations, procedures and guidelines to be followed in the Book Of Order. To download a copy of

or view the BOO go to: <http://www.epc.org/resources/order-epc-materials/>

Our session/board of elders is made of both Ruling Elders—Dr. Jeff Jones, Dr. Matt Rendleman, Andrew Staff, and Shawn Connelly, and Teaching Elders: Josh Schatzle, Rev.

Deacons: The Deacon Team is the second group of officers indicated in the Scriptures [the first being the Session, cf. Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8-11] and is led by the Elders and the Pastor. In the Bible they appear as “ministry servants”. This doesn’t mean they that are grunt-labor; the Bible holds pictures a much larger role for them as leaders of the various ministries inside and outside of the church, helping the pastors and elders in equipping all the saints for ministry. Deacons, like elders, are elected by the congregation on a rotating basis and serve out terms just as elders do. Hope’s current Deacon Team includes: Steve Goetz [Setup and Breakdown, Worship Service Ministries] and Rebecca Goetz [Hospitality], Gary Trimble [A/V team and worship], and Bill Myers [Building, Grounds, and Maintenance]. Please keep an eye out for them as they bring the needs of the church before us; and see them if you are interested in being of service in their respective areas of ministry at Hope Church.

Finances: Annually, the session reviews the financial reports as prepared by the financial administrator, working alongside the finance committee, and draws up a proposed budget based on the annual and forecasted expenses for the ministry’s coming year, and ministry leaders’ desires and hopes in continuing to take the Gospel out into our world and grow our people in it. The session’s aim in composing a budget for the church is that it would reflect the heart of the Gospel and Scripture’s teaching while accomplishing our mission and vision. We also continue to assure that all finances are handled in a way that ensures appropriate accountability and integrity. Hope will hold an annual business meeting wherein the coming year’s budget and other upcoming financial matters for the church’s future can be discussed. Also, the session welcomes your input and contribution to the future of Hope. If you wish to discuss financial details, we invite you to schedule an appointment with the session. Again, thank you for investing in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at Hope Church. The church happens ultimately because of God, but He has chosen not to make it happen without you!



Sign Me Up; I'm all In!

Date:

Name(s):

Children(s) names and birthdates:

Phone numbers and email contacts:

I'm interested in serving in the following:

Small Groups (getting involved in) ____ (leading in)

Sunday School Adults (getting involved in) ____ (leading in)

Kids at Hope (leading in) ____ (serving in) ____

Women's Ministry (serving in) ____

Men's Ministry (serving in) ____

Youth Ministry (serving in) ____

Hospitality (serving in) ____
Setup/Breakdown (serving in) ____
Audio/Visual (serving in) ____
Worship Arts (serving in) ____
Facilities/Bldg (serving in) ____
Care and Service (serving in) ____
Outreach Events (getting involved in) ____

Other, some area we haven't listed _____

Your current affiliation with the church: Member ____ Associate Member
____ Non-Member, Regular Attendee ____

I have interest in: Becoming a Member ____ Becoming an Associate
Member ____, or Remaining a Regular Attendee only at this time ____

If you are becoming a member and are transferring membership, please
provide name of church and address so that we might send them a request
to transfer your membership: _____

Membership at Hope Making a formal declaration is an important part of
church membership, particularly in a culture like ours where “belonging”
can be difficult to define. Pastor & Writer Eugene Peterson says, “Our
membership in the (local) church is a corollary of our faith in Christ. We
can no more be a Christian and have nothing to do with the church, than
we can be a person and not be in a family...It is part of the fabric of
redemption.” *From, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

Hope Church is privileged that you would consider giving your formal
commitment to membership of this body. We realize also that many
students who are away from home would like to retain their home-church
memberships. We are pleased to honor that request and so have offered
an Associate Membership, which allows you to formally make Hope your
church-away-from-home, without having to change your status at your
home church.

This class/congregational meeting, agreements to the following statements
below, and a meeting/interview with the Session at Hope are all that is
required for membership. Please read the statements below, giving your
signature as confirmation, and the session will be in touch shortly to set up
meeting times.

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God and
without hope for your salvation except in His sovereign mercy? **2.** Do you

believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him alone for your salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

3. Do you now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ? **4.** Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating with this congregation in its service of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability? **5.** Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and to the spiritual oversight of this Church Session, and do you promise to promote the unity, purity and peace of the Church?

Signatures: _____

Comments: Anything you appreciated in particular, think might be helpful or constructive? Please tell us!

Thank you for attending Hope's Winter Congregational Meeting and Membership Class. We thank you for love and care for this church and her people and look forward to many years of sharing life together in Jesus. You can find a digital copy of this booklet on the website at www.hopechurchcarbondale.com

