



Shepherd's Notes

From Frank McReynolds, Elder

There are 2 big events coming in the near future for the family at Mt Hope that your elders have been praying about for several weeks. The first event will be two parts, **September 29th and Sunday September 30th.**

For several years we have participated in The Great Day of Service in the city of Joplin which was held on a Sunday morning.

Recently, our Vision Team took a look at this activity to see if it still fit with our vision of helping people discover and deliver the hope of Jesus. The resounding answer was **Yes**, but with a recommendation to rework the format so that our Sunday morning services were not changed as this was confusing for our guests who showed up. So we will be gathering on Saturday, September 29th to work with our friends and neighbors in an area designated around God's Resort on 15th and Pearl. Then on Sunday, September 30th people who have been served in the community and those who have helped serve will be our guests for Sunday morning services (at our normal time) and join us for our 5th Sunday potluck. It should be a great weekend! Plan now to be involved. More details to be given later.

The second event is our annual **Mission Day** which will be on **Sunday, October 7th**. Our mission committee will have diligently and prayerfully laid out a plan for our sharing the gospel in various parts of the world and announced a goal for us to reach to allow this plan to be fulfilled. Every dollar given or pledged to be given on October 7th will go towards missions. This activity has been a vital part of our family for 25 plus years.

Please begin praying now about how **you** can be a part of this great day!

Your shepherds pray for each of you constantly. And we covet your prayers for us and the entire leadership team at Mt. Hope as together we help people discover and deliver the hope of Jesus on a daily basis.

Frank McReynolds

NEED PRAYER?

**Go to MTHOPE.CHURCH to submit a prayer request.
Our ministers and staff are here for you.**

You can also call the office to submit a prayer request at (417) 624-1795.



The First Edition of a Mount Hope Newsletter

A Note from Teaching Minister,
Curtis Prunty

Dear Mount Hope Family,
I can't tell you how much I appreciate your love, encouragement, and investments for God's Kingdom!

Part of what makes church so incredible is that we can be not only a close family but also fellow Kingdom workers striving to make a difference in the world. As you know, church is not always easy. In fact, one of the areas that often can become neglected or troublesome is communication.

How does a healthy church maximize its communication process and keep everyone informed of everything at all times?

After several weeks of conversation and feedback, the leadership has taken note of several great ideas and is excited to introduce a new channel of communication that could result in helping keep our church family better informed.

Simply put – we want you to be in the loop.

That being said, we recognize that there is no perfect system. It is unrealistic that everyone is going to be perfectly pleased with any idea or method. However, we really feel strongly that introducing this new method will be a huge win for our church.

From September to December, we will experiment with a trial production of a quarterly newsletter called The Mt. Hope Loop. The contents of this newsletter will include major upcoming events/projects, important decisions, leadership focus, as well as allow opportunities for you to inquire about decisions or share great ideas. Don't be surprised if the format of this newsletter changes over time. Our goal is to make it more efficient and user-friendly. If you have helpful suggestions or any questions, feel free to contact Curtis.

Please know that you are dearly valued and cherished by your leadership.

May this simple newsletter be a little reminder of how much you're loved.

Sharing Our Vision

This is an exciting time to be at Mt. Hope! After celebrating over 80 years of ministry, God has given us a fresh vision for our future. God is calling us to fulfill the very name He gave us - Mt. Hope! We want to be a community where people DISCOVER and DELIVER the Hope of Jesus.

What Are We Working On?

After much prayer and consultation, the leadership feels called to help our congregation focus on two key areas:

Focus # 1-Investing into children by first creating a compelling children's center (the former west wing).

We know that children are close to the heart of God! The Bible tells us in Mark 9:37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me".

Studies show that 85% of those who make a decision to follow Jesus do so between the ages of 4 and 14! That is a huge opportunity lost if we don't become more serious and strategic about reaching children for Christ.

We want to see souls saved - it starts with Children!

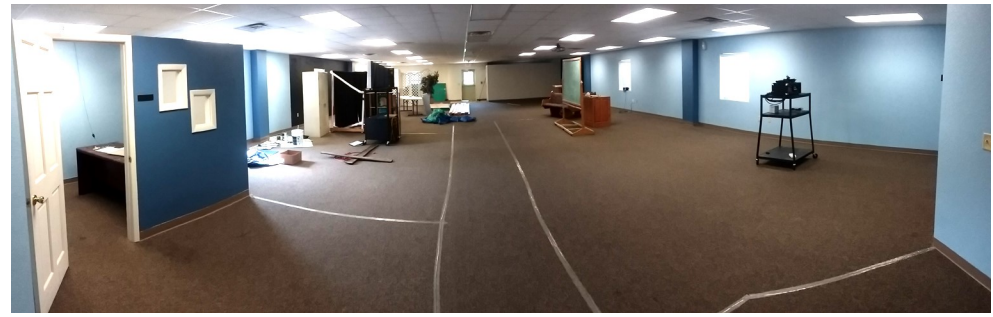
After hiring a children's ministry consultant, we learned that utilizing the West Wing as a new Children's Center will allow us to do the following:

- Create an easy, secure children's check-in space
- Give us the space needed for energy-based teaching
- Allow for us to be more guest-friendly
- Energize both existing and new families with a renewed focus/passion for kids.

The new plans for the space will include: a stage for teaching (including interactive puppet space), kitchenette, arts and crafts, indoor game space, indoor playground space, and a secure check-in point for parents.

These fabulous designs were created by our very own Kingdom Kids team led by Steven Stokes. We can't wait to see how God will use this space to help children discover and deliver the hope of Jesus!

While this area will be primarily used for kids, it can still be utilized for other events including classes, parties, community rental opportunities, etc.



Focus # 2 Help Non-members Become Family Faster

We have a rich heritage and wonderful history of loving each other. However, the leadership has recognized that we don't necessarily make it easy for new people to become family. After a year of praying, researching, and tracking, we realized that many have come to Mt. Hope but not many have stayed. We want to change that outcome!

For the next several months, we will begin implementing some fresh updates to our church home starting with our facilities. Some of these updates include: a new logo that reflects our name, new and improved signage both in and out of our building, freshening up our foyer and auditorium, and optimizing how we use our classroom space for all ages.

In addition, we look forward to introducing

The Mt. Hope Trek: an easy 4-part membership class.

The Mt. Hope Compass: an amazing plan for growth and discipleship.

The Connections Ministry: a ministry led by a deacon to help people become family faster.

More teaching and expounding on these to come.

Stay in the loop by picking up a bulletin in the lobby with upcoming event announcements and information on how you can participate in Mount Hope ministries and weekly classes.

Connect with us and other members by interacting online at [Facebook.com/mthope](https://www.facebook.com/mthope), see videos and hear from our ministers.

Don't forget to tag us in posts or pictures so we can show you some love!

Check out the Welcome Kiosk for the Mount Hope Loop next quarter.