



LENT



Speaking of Hope

ABUNDANT HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mark-Anthony Middleton, Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR

Beloved,

In just a few weeks we will celebrate the calendar start of Spring. For many of us spring time, like New Year's, brings with it its own set of rituals. There's the proverbial spring cleaning; the second biggest push to get in shape is during the spring so we can be "beach ready" as the saying goes; spring time is an excuse for many of us to make some additions to the wardrobe; auto dealers and real estate brokers report spring time as their busiest time of the year. With so much attached to the season it's no wonder that there's even an affliction known as spring fever. It's very easy to get distracted by all of the options that warming weather brings which makes the fact that this is the lenten season all the more interesting.

The time that Jesus spent in the wilderness was a time of learning how to focus one's energy and attention through the spiritual disciplines. When Jesus was hungry because of His fast, the devil tried to distract him with food, material wealth, and even self destructive behavior (**Matthew 4:1-8**). One of the lessons of the wilderness is the triumph of spirit over flesh. **It is a perfect lesson as we turn towards our second pillar of Ministry That Matters for 2010-Spirituality.** This is not an ending to our health component but an additional brick to add to our edifice. As our health covenant seeks to build our physical temples our emphasis on spirituality will build

Worship: 10:00am

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Christian Foundations

Institute: 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays at 11:00am (For children ages 3-12); Teen Sessions held 2nd & 4th Sundays (for youth ages 13-18)

Fasting and meditation: Each Wednesday

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Volume 4, Issue 3

up our inner temple. The word teaches us that **"God is spirit, and those that worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth"** (John 4:24). I am so excited about the teaching and preaching that will seek to encourage and build up our spiritual lives so that we may place all things under our feet.

I'm looking forward to an amazing time on Saturday, March 27, when Team HOPE takes to the streets of our city in the Great Human Race. Whether you're running, walking, or just cheering I need Abundant Hope to show up in strength for this wonderful event. Don't forget to tell your friends and family about your church's efforts and ask them to donate by going to our Great Human Race website at:

www.active.com/donate/ghr2010/teamhope2010.

All of the proceeds will go to our Nehemiah Building Fund and will bring us one step closer to breaking ground on our new home. Welcome to the spring and remember that seasons change but God remains the same. In other words He doesn't get new on us, so let's not get new on HIM. Stay faithful, stay focused, stay engaged, and stay HOPEFUL.

PM



ABUNDANT HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Worship Space:

Pearsontown Elementary School,
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Executive Park
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Durham, NC 27713

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THERE IS HOPE IN CHRIST!

We're on the Web:

www.abundanthopecc.com



Celebrate Women's History Month

The impact of women's history might seem abstract to some, and less pressing than the immediate struggles of working women today. But to ignore the vital role that women's dreams and accomplishments play in our own lives would be a great mistake. We draw strength and inspiration from those who came before us – and those remarkable women working among us today. They are part of our story, and a truly balanced and inclusive history recognizes how important women have always been in American society.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Ronald McDonald House

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Community Outreach is seeking a team of 8 disciples to serve dinner for the Ronald McDonald House on Wednesday, March 10. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. Please see Paulette Scott after Sunday service or call 806-1787.

Pettigrew Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Community Outreach invites you to come for 1 hour of fun and fellowship at Pettigrew Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center on Saturday, March 13 at 1:00. Pettigrew is located at 1515 W.Pettigrew Street.

Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is one of more than 110 networks nationwide (founded in New Jersey in 1986) providing temporary housing and assistance to homeless families. IHN serves three families at a time who stay for a maximum of three months. Coupling existing physical structures and social services, IHN utilizes resources already available to help alleviate the problem of homelessness in our community.

In Durham, 30 congregations participate in the Network. Twelve serve as "host" sites, housing three families for one week at a time on a rotating basis; 18 others serve as "support" congregations, providing volunteers and supplies to supplement those of the host congregation. Abundant Hope is a "support" congregation. We partner with Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church ("host site) to assure the families have a warm inviting home, meals, and fellowship.

On Sundays at 4:00 PM, volunteers from the Abundant Hope Christian Church family assist Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church in preparing the living quarters. On Fridays at 6:00 pm, we have dinner and fellowship with the families. Our next opportunities to serve are April 4 (set-up), April 9 (dinner and fellowship), June 27 (set-up), and July 2 (dinner and fellowship).

For more information and to volunteer, see Sister Gail Lloyd.



SPONSORED BY THE VOLUNTEER
CENTER OF DURHAM

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010
8:30AM

DURHAM BULLS ATHLETIC PARK
JOIN TEAM HOPE AS WE RAISE FUNDS
TO ASSIST IN SPREADING HOPE
THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.
RUN, WALK, CHEER OR MAKE A
DONATION TODAY AT

[www.active.com/donate/ghr2010/
teamhope2010](http://www.active.com/donate/ghr2010/teamhope2010)

Meetings & Rehearsals

Adult Choir:

Each Thursday, 7:00pm at church office.

Adult Praise Dance:

March 13 & 27, 9:00-11:00am

Alliances of Hope Leaders:

Sunday, **March 14** in cafeteria

Men's Ministry:

Saturday, **March 27**, 9:00am at church office

Usher's Ministry:

Sunday, **June 4**, 8:30am in Pearsontown cafeteria.

Women's Ministry:

No meeting 3rd Saturday; Instead we will attend Women's Empowerment. If interested please see Sis. Leslie Jones. Those previously signed up need not respond.

Youth Choir:

March 16 & 23 (media center) 7:00 pm and **March 25**, 7:00 pm (office)

Youth Praise Dance:

March 13 & 27, 11:30am—1:30 pm