



■ "You're Not Alone" message from Pastor Sheila

■ Inside: Meet Hope Center member and Bible Study leader, Katie Carnahan

■ Hope Center of Christ Bible Study Fellowship Groups meet weekly...see page 4

HOPE CENTER OC NEWS

OCTOBER 2013

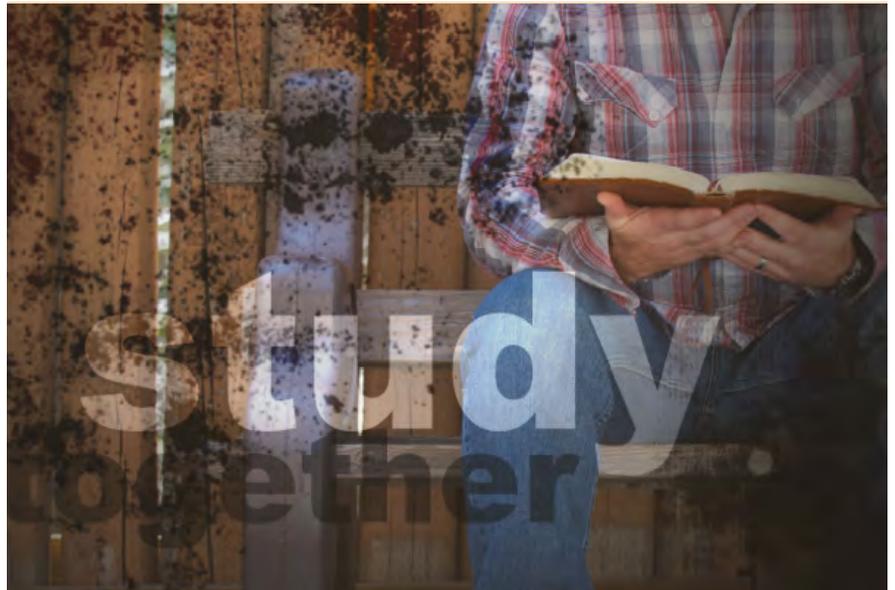
Love Strong, Believe Strong, Forgive Strong

A Message from Pastor Sheila You're Not Alone

Loneliness hits all of us at one time or another – even those of us who have a large, tight family. Now, I love some time to myself every now and then, but a little alone time goes a long way. After a few hours I am antsy, trying to find someone to text, call, or talk to personally.

Being alone during difficult times is the hardest. When you have lost someone you love, or you are facing a difficult illness, or coming home to

Message continued on back page



Hope Center of Christ Small Group Bible Studies

Valuable fellowship for YOU, through God's Word

BY JIM COLEMAN

"I don't want to go to a study or a class!", my uncle practically yelled at me. "I went to classes in school", he continued, "and I never did well in most of them—I hated it when the teacher made me stand up in front of the class to talk. I never want to go to another study or class ever again!" This is a direct quote from my uncle, (whom I loved dearly), when I asked him to attend a Bible Study Class with me. And, the funny thing is, I knew exactly where he was coming from.

I, too, had barked out a resounding "NO!" to the person who invited me to my first Bible Study group. The words "study" and "class" were two words that were red lights for me. After finishing school I was NOT interested in study or classes anymore. "Don't worry," my friend assured

Bible Studies continued on next page



Bible Studies continued from page 1

me, "You don't have to say anything. Just listen if you want."

"But, I don't know anything about the Bible", I said.

"Well," he said, "the Bible continues to reveal new thoughts about our faith over an entire lifetime. Nobody knows everything about the Bible. Trust me, we all learn new things every week."

So, I went...with a surprisingly open mind. I didn't say a word, I just listened, and I remember being absolutely amazed and totally absorbed in all of the positive and faith-building insights contained in a very small section of the scripture that was being studied that night.

Every week, four Small Group Bible Studies take place right here at our Hope Center of Christ:

Women of Hope (women of all ages)

Every Tuesday evening at 7pm
Location, meeting room off church kitchen.

Band of Brothers (men of all ages)

Every Tuesday evening at 7pm
Location, meeting room off church multipurpose room.

Hope Seekers,

How to Be a Christian in a Secular World

For persons in their 20s, 30s and 40s
Every Wednesday evening at 7pm
Location, in the church thrift store.

Dream Builders (persons of all ages)

Every Monday evening at 7:30pm
Location, Hope Center Lobby

Hope Center member Paul Lips says, "Band of Brothers creates a

"Our weekly Bible Study Groups are where our congregation develops strong, solid Christian friendships among its members."

PASTOR HAROLD SHAW

tremendous sense of fellowship for me. We're free to express our pain, sadness, joy and even anger. It's great to receive faithful support from other

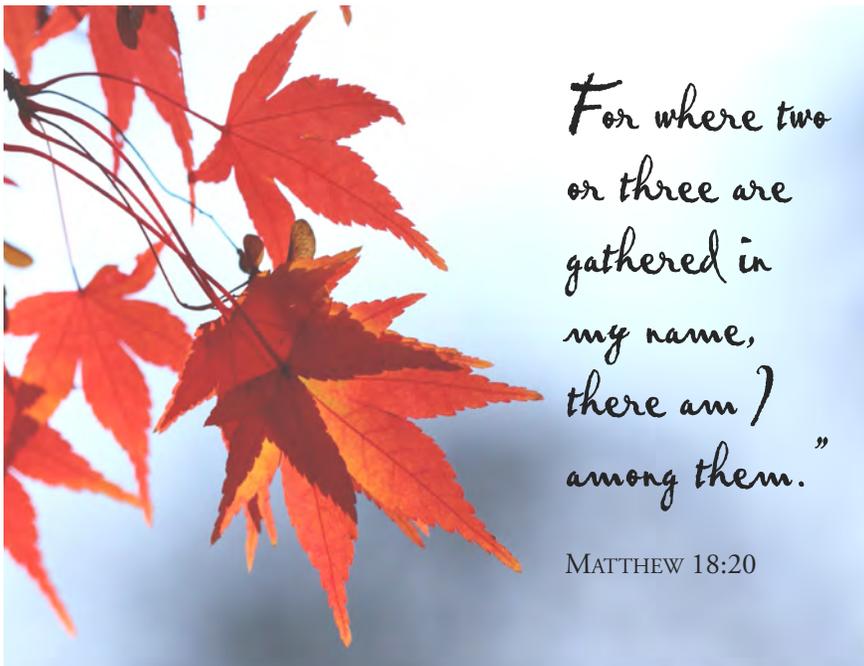
men of faith."

Susan Austin expresses her weekly experience with Women of Hope this way, "My greatest blessing is the easy to understand Bible lessons...sharing fellowship with new and old friends—Women of Hope is the hi-light of my entire week!"

"It strengthens my spirit every week to share a common belief in the Lord with fellow brothers," said Raul Aviles about Band of Brothers.

Pastor Sheila shared, "We created these small groups at Hope Center of Christ for a very specific reason; It's important for our members to get to know one another better and on a spiritual level...with Christ at the center of these relationships. In these groups we strive to share a powerful time of prayer and an equally powerful time of fellowship--BOTH through learning more about the power of God's Word to us."

Decide today to expand your understanding of the power of God's Word in your life...attend a Hope Center of Christ Bible Study Fellowship Class this week!



For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

MATTHEW 18:20

**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU**

Enclosed is a handy response slip and return envelope to let us know your prayer needs and concerns. Also, you can continue to help support the Hope Center of Christ Ministry by mail at this important time.

Thank you.

Meet *Hope Center of Christ* Member **Katie Carnahan**

BY MARGAUX JORDAN

Katie Carnahan is very busy volunteering for our church, Hope Center of Christ. She runs a topical Bible Study, “Hope Seekers—How to Be a Christian in a Secular World” every Wednesday night at 7pm. She is heading up our Thrift Store, and her lovely voice graces our worship team every Sunday morning. Everything looks great in her life, and it is now, done by God’s leading. It wasn’t always quite this way though – that is how our Lord works, he sometimes takes us on twists and turns to refine, and shape our character.

While all of this shaping was going on, our Lord gave Katie wonderful people to walk along side of her. “My mother, my sister Lana, and true friends that were always there with a word, with help, with a connection. They are a blessing from God that helped me through the trials that allowed me to do what I’m doing today,” Katie said.

She was like many young people out living in the world – “going to bars every night and thinking that I was having a really good time, enjoying myself” – to her life looked well and she thought this was what the good life was. Her mom, (our beloved Susan Austin), of course had other ideas for her daughter.

On the surface Katie’s life looked like it was working pretty well. She held a Bachelor’s Degree in Vocal Performance, had gained her teaching certification, and always held responsible jobs. For many people that’s it, everything looks fine. But somehow, she sensed that something was missing.

“Mom coaxed me to come and join in at Hope Center, and I did not say no,” she says, “ though it was certainly not a jubilant yes.” As she joined in at church, the Lord started a big move in her life. “First He encouraged me to join the worship team, which I did. Then God put on my heart to start a Bible Study, and simultaneously start-up and run the Hope Center Thrift Store.”

She profoundly remembers the first time that she felt the Holy Spirit move inside of her. “I was singing with the worship team, and suddenly a dashing wave of sadness moved over me, and I felt such compassion for our congregation– it moved me to tears. I had never felt the burden of the hurt in human souls in such a powerful way ever before.” She later talked with Pastor Sheila about it – and she concurred that often the Holy Spirit moves us in those ways that urge us to address human hurt in a positive way.

Katie says that she walked through what she did for a reason. “If my testimony can be an example to others, then it was all worth it,” she comments. “The world wears off, but God lasts.” She goes on to say: “With the Bible we have God’s guide to help us through our struggles, we need patience and trust and God will work it out.”

Katie has a remarkable spiritual fortitude that can’t help but strengthen faith in others. You’re encouraged to join her in Bible Study, “Hope Seekers”, every Wednesday evening at 7pm. Thank you, Katie, for answering God’s call in your life to reach out to the younger adults in our congregation!



“
**If my
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”

- Please let us know how we can pray for YOU
- Consider tithing to this hope centered church and ministry for Jesus Christ
- Send us your email address so we can keep you up-to-date

You're Invited to attend Hope Center of Christ Bible Study Fellowship Groups:

| | |
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| <p>BAND OF BROTHERS men of all ages Tuesday Evenings at 7pm Location: off Multipurpose room</p> | <p>HOPE SEEKERS How to Be a Christian in a Secular World for persons ages 20s-40s. Wednesday Evenings at 7pm Location: Church Thrift Store</p> |
| <p>WOMEN OF HOPE women of all ages Tuesday Evenings at 7pm Location: off Church kitchen</p> | <p>DREAM BUILDERS -all ages Monday Evenings at 7:30pm Location: Church lobby</p> |

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 facebook.com/hopecenteroc

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 youtube.com/hopecenterofoc

To participate or learn more about volunteer opportunities contact Susan Austin at mycampsusan@live.com



CHILI BOWL UPDATE

Number of bowls of chili served by Hope Center of Christ Volunteers to the hungry and homeless in Central Orange County, working in cooperation with Orange County Rescue Mission and their "Chili Van"

1509 BOWLS TO DATE!

1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 ▼ 1600 1700 1800 1900

Message continued from page 1

an empty house after a hard day at work, you can feel like you are all alone. The important thing to remember is that even though you may *feel* all alone – the truth is – you are not! You are never all alone!

Many of you know that my father was hospitalized a few months ago. He had to spend some days in a nursing home to regain his strength before he could come home. I went to visit him almost every day and many times he would be sitting in his room, dressed, ready for company, but all alone. When I entered the room and he saw me his face would light up and he would exclaim, "Hello! It's so good to see you!"

How do you describe the warm feeling I got – being received so brightly?! As we would converse, Dad would frequently stop and pray aloud. It was so clear that God was with him all the time!

Ironically, I also found myself in the hospital during this time. One midnight in my hospital room I became discouraged and felt alone. Because I frequently preach



that we should worship God and praise Him in *all* circumstances, I asked myself, "Sheila, can you practice what you preach?"

So, I forced myself to say aloud, "Thank you, Lord... that You have not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and a sound mind... Thank You, Lord, that the healing You have begun in me, You will complete..." God was with me! I was not alone!

You are not alone! God has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us! And at Hope Center of Christ we will pray for you and we will be there for you! You have fellowship, friends, love, and we will remind you that you are not alone!

"I will never leave you or forsake you." Joshua 1:5

In Christ,
Sheila Coleman

Note: You are only a prayer away—send prayer requests to prayerrequest@hopecenteroc.org. Also, if you haven't already, you can sign up to be my friend on Facebook. You can send me private messages that only I read and respond to.