**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, February 19, 2017 – Mission Guatemala Team Sunday**

**Sermon Title: These 3: Faith, Hope & Love – Hope**

*(The sermon will be given in two parts as “bookends” to the testimonies of the team. The introduction will be about 3 minutes and the conclusion will also be about 3 minutes. The highlight of the “message” will come from the stories of the team.)*

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:13** And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**Romans 5:1-5** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

Leader: I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
**People: I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.**

Leader: The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity.

**People: The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.**

**All: God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.**

**Basic Theme: *The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth that of all the gifts and virtues available to the church, there were three that stood out above the rest: faith, hope, and love. And, it was these three virtues that would remain and give a testimony on our behalf. Perhaps the challenge for us is to attempt to develop them in our own lives so that we can be of greater benefit to the church and to God.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): We have hope because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. The hope we have and the hope we share is often an expression of our faith. As we have already identified, faith without works is dead and an untested faith is perhaps no faith at all. As the living expression of Jesus Christ in this world – the church – we are called to share this hope that we have found with others. WE do this through word and deed – what we say and what we do.**

**So What? How is it with your soul? How deep is your faith? In what or in whom do you place your faith? Do you have hope? Is your hope a reflection of the depth of your faith and the breadth of your love? If hope is absent in your life, what needs to change? If hope is present, what are you doing to share that hope with others?**