



HOUSE of HOPE
OF THE PEE DEE

Season of Hope

The House of Hope's Newsletter
Fall 2025

1020 West Darlington Street, Florence, SC 29501

www.hofh.org 843.667.9000

Evening of Hope

FEATURING BETHANY HAMILTON

Bethany Hamilton has become a source of inspiration to millions through her story of determination, faith, and hope. At the age of 13, Bethany lost her left arm to a 14-foot tiger shark, which seemed to end her career as a rising surf star. One month after the attack, Bethany returned to the water and within two years had won her first national title.

In 2007, she realized her dream of surfing professionally and since then, her story has been told in a New York Times best selling autobiography and in the 2011 film, *Soul Surfer*. Bethany is involved in numerous charitable efforts, including The Beautifully Flawed Foundation, which reaches out to amputees and youth, encouraging and offering hope to overcome through Jesus Christ. Passionate about family and about helping young women be unstoppable in life and faith, Bethany launched the Unstoppable Living online courses in 2019, a mother-daughter mentorship program in 2022, known as the Bethany Hamilton Network, along with another children's book called *Surfing Past Fear*. Her greatest joy is being a wife and mother, and she continues to touch and inspire lives globally as a professional surfer and motivational speaker.



MARCH 9, 2026
FLORENCE CENTER

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!

**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN TABLE SPONSORSHIPS
EMAIL JULIE AT JMAXHAM@HOFH.ORG**



*Get General Admission
tickets here!*

MUSIC BY MEGAN WOODS!

Woods' debut single "The Truth," is a deeply personal proclamation. "This song is my life story," Woods says. "I wanted to write a song that's a reminder for people every day of who they are in Jesus. We don't belong to the lies, we belong to God – that's the truth. When the lies are closing in, this song can remind them of the truth." Her newest song "I believe You" is about her struggle with depression and God's faithfulness.



Thoughts on Serving

By Axel Wittig

Right now, the plant in the small plastic bottle represents the people WE are helping, those who are homeless or struggling with addiction. In that small bottle, they're in a contained, fragile environment. They have potential, but they need care, nourishment, and stability to survive. That's where we come in we are the one's watering them, giving them what they need to start growing again: support, encouragement, and resources. Once their roots begin to take hold, meaning they start believing in themselves, finding purpose, walking with the Lord and developing stability, they can be "transplanted" into a new environment. That might be a job, or housing, it's somewhere they can continue to grow with a bit more freedom and independence.

Eventually, as they flourish and become stronger, they're ready to be "planted" into the world, living independently, contributing to their community, and growing on their own. Just like a gardener, our role is to nurture that early growth, to create conditions where life can take root again. We don't force it; we cultivate it. And once the roots are strong, that growth continues long after they've moved beyond our care. 🌱



Fall Graduation

On October 6th these four men completed the Life-Recovery Program. Spending between 9 and 12 months battling addiction and finding freedom in Christ! We couldn't be more proud of their hard work and dedication to their new lives.



The men's testimonies were a blessing to all of us that were there. From left to right:

Oliver Grant: "My difficulties and mistakes make the grace of God that much valuable."

David Connolly: "I now have hope and belief in God's will for my future, which surpasses all that I could hope for or even dream of."

Ethan Manning: "I am turning into the man that God wants me to be, that I want to be, that my family and friends want me to be."

Regonal Jenkins: "After trying to do things by my own power, and failing over and over, I turned to the plan God had for my life all along."



Eyes of Empathy

Not Judgement

Jon Weiss, Jr.

Over the course of 24 hours on a park bench, I gained something I didn't expect, perspective. Sitting outside through a cold, windy night, I caught a glimpse of what more than 750,000 Americans experience every day. Even with conversations around me, loneliness crept in. The temperature dropped to 45 degrees, and despite wearing jackets and blankets, I couldn't stop shivering. I didn't sleep for even a minute. By morning, my body was exhausted, and my mind was foggy. The idea of working, finding food, or even functioning seemed impossible.

Let me be clear, I still have no idea what it truly means to be homeless. I could go home afterward to warmth, safety, and rest. But even that single night reminded me how fragile stability can be and how easily comfort can turn into survival.

What impacted me most were the conversations. Dozens of people stopped to talk, many sharing a similar message: look at others with empathy, not judgment. It's easy to form opinions about someone based on appearances, what they wear, where they stand, or what they've lost. But every person has a story, often shaped by pain, trauma, and circumstance.

This experience humbled me deeply. It reminded me why the House of Hope exists: to ensure that no one faces the cold, fear, or isolation of homelessness alone. We provide more than housing, we offer dignity, healing, and a path forward.

We will continue participating in this event to raise awareness for those who often go unseen. My hope is that it encourages others to look beyond assumptions, to see with eyes of empathy, not judgment, and to remember that compassion is where real change begins.



My question is do we really truly look at others with Love, Compassion, and Empathy all the time or only when it is convenient for us to do so?

A couple of verses to help us throughout the day!

Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

Colossians 3:12 "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,"

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

YES, I/We would like to support The House of Hope and help the homeless.

I/We would like to contribute:

- ☐ \$500.00 will provide shelter for five residents for one month
- ☐ \$200.00 will provide transportation for eight residents for one month
- ☐ \$100.00 will provide cleaning supplies and personal items for one month
- ☐ \$_____ Other
- ☐ My company will match my gift.
- ☐ I would like to be a **LIGHT OF HOPE** monthly giver.
I would like my gift drafted on
 - ☐ 1st or ☐ 15th of each month.
 - ☐ Use my credit card information below.
 - ☐ Use my voided check enclosed.

Payment by: ☐ Check to House of Hope ☐ Visa /MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ 3 Digit Security Code _____

Name as it appears on the card: _____

Signature: _____

To donate online visit www.hofh.org. Or Text "Homeless" to 73256 for text giving

Thank You!

When Paul was in prison in Rome he penned a letter to the the Philippians to thank them for the gifts that they sent. This resonates so much for us. We want to make sure that we tell you how much your gifts mean to us. (Thankfully we don't have to do it from prison!) Recently many of us were in a meeting where we were asked about about a gift that really made a difference in our organization. The reality is that every gift, like manna, makes a difference. We can't say thank you enough for the difference you make everyday to the men, women and children that will come to the House of Hope everyday.

At the moment I have all I need - and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:18-19

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