



HOPE CHURCH

"...A living hope..." | Peter 1:3

Hope Church News

Volume 56, No. 1

January 2013

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The church office will close at noon on Monday, December 31st, and will be closed all day on Tuesday, January 1st for the New Year holiday

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday Closed

Hope Church, RCA
77 West 11th Street
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-7947
www.hopechurchrca.org

Season of Reconciliation 2013 January 13 - February 3

Exploring Reconciliation



**WE
ARE
HERE**



Where will we go next?

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to God through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

-II Corinthians 5:17-18



More Season of Reconciliation information on pages 2 and 3

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 12:15pm

Please plan to attend!

- Soup lunch will be provided by the Consistory
- If your last name begins with A – M, please bring a salad
- If your last name begins with N – Z, please bring bread to share
- Transportation will be provided for residents of the Warm Friend and Freedom Village at 2:00 p.m. (as well as the usual bus run at 12:15 p.m.)
- We will be celebrating highlights of 2012 and vote on the final approval on the 2013 budget

Restore

Community

Justice

Dialogue

Diversity

Witness

Poverty

1. Worship

3. Adult Education

2. Shower of Stoles Open House

4. Small Group Book Study

Worship during the Season of Reconciliation draws on our liturgy and the stories of our faith community to focus on reconciliation as one of the core themes of our faith. In the prayers and music, scripture and creeds of our liturgy, worship calls out in us our own need for reconciliation with God, others, and self, and then sends us to share that reconciling grace with others. A special part of worship in the Season of Reconciliation is the "Witness to Reconciliation", as people in our faith community share their own stories of places of reconciliation in their life of faith. As we hear stories shared, we foster both a gratitude for the way God's grace is at work in the people of Hope Church and a deeper awareness of our own places of division, reconciliation and witness in our lives.

Sundays, January 13-February 3, 9:40am
Hope Church Commons
January 13 An interactive introduction to "What is reconciliation?"
January 20 Restorative Circles – a primer for tools to reconciling
January 27 The Diverse Cultural Aspects of Worship – facilitated by Nate Bull
February 3 Congregational Roundup of all of the topics of the season of reconciliation

Sunday, January 13, 3:00-5:00pm
Hope Church Commons
 A public open house will kick off a month long exhibit of 75 stoles from the Shower of Stoles Project being displayed at Hope Church during the Season of Reconciliation. The Shower of Stoles project is an extraordinary collection of over one thousand liturgical stoles. The stoles both celebrate the gifts of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) persons who serve God in countless ways while also bearing witness to the pain that the Church has caused in denying full inclusion to LGBT persons.

Radical Reconciliation: Beyond Political Pietism and Christian Quietism
 by Allan Boesak Curtis DeYoung
Thursdays, January 10-31, 4:00pm
Hope Church Garden Lounge
 The book is a Bible study that brings the relevance of contemporary situations to the biblical story. They take the interesting approach that looks at the New Testament period, particularly the writings of Paul from the perspective that the Jews were colonized people, and Paul, a Roman made a switch and traded places from a position of power as the oppressor to link with the people who were oppressed. The book argues that is essential to get to the roots of injustice in order to truly understand reconciliation. Looking at the linguistic history of the term reconciliation, the original meaning was to "switch places". The group will be facilitated by Jane Dickie. Those interested in participating, please sign up in the Gathering Area where books are available or contact the church office at (616) 392-7947. A donation of \$15 per book is appreciated.



Empowerment

5.
**Restorative
Circles
Overview**

Neighbor



Thursday, January 24, 6:30-8:30pm
Western Theological Seminary
This overview of restorative circles will provide either a standalone introduction to Restorative Circles or serve as preparation for facilitator training. Register online at HollandRestorativeCircles.org or call the church office at (616) 392-7947.

7.
**Community
Development**

Culture

Transforming Communities: An Introduction to Community Development
Monday, January 28, 6:00-9:00pm
Hope Church Commons
How can communities transform themselves? What kinds of relationships make neighborhoods strong? When is help helpful? When do our best intentions become counterproductive? How can we learn about each other's assets? What is the path to community empowerment? Jay VanGroningen, Executive Director of Communities First Association, will present an introduction to the concepts of Asset Based Community Development, and Judy Van Dyke, Neighborhood Connections director, will describe how these concepts are at work in our neighborhoods. This session is co-hosted by Hope Church's Community Ministry and Good Samaritan's Neighborhood Connections program. A light meal will be served. There is no charge for the event, although contributions to defray costs are welcome. Registration is requested by calling the Hope Church office at (616) 392-7947.

6. **Film
Screening,
The Line**

Transform



Sunday, January 27, 4:00pm
Hope Church Commons
"The Line" is a new documentary that asks viewers to reconsider many of their stereotypes about people who live in poverty. From Emmy Award-winning producer Linda Midgett, "The Line" breaks new ground on chronicling the new face of poverty in America. Sojourners CEO Jim Wallis says, "More and more of our friends are in poverty—in the pews, in our workplaces—through no fault of their own, and they are slipping below the poverty level." The 40-minute film will be followed by discussion.

8.
**Restorative Circles
Facilitator
Training**

Relationships



Friday, February 8, 9:00am-4:00pm
Saturday, February 9, 9:00am-2:00pm
Hope Church Commons
This two day training will provide detailed information on each phase of a Restorative Circle and give opportunity to practice all three rounds of dialogue used in a Circle. Register online at HollandRestorativeCircles.org or call the church office at (616) 392-7947.

Oppression

Inclusion





February Focus on Autism

Beginning in February, the Health Ministry will give Christian education sessions to several mental health issues, focusing for three weeks on the severe upswing in the number of children born with Autism. We will be led into awareness of this mysterious, daunting life-altering developmental spectrum by two people: Dr. David Lama, a specialist in treatment; and Kirsta Mason, founding mother of Benjamin's Hope.

In anticipation of these sessions, we share a poem by Craig Romkema, a unique young man living with autism. The poem is from his moving poetry book, "Embracing the Sky", which will be made available, along with other significant books, during the month of February.

Nightmare

*Mornings are the worst,
Unfolding the stiff ball of my numb body,
Opening my eyes to another twelve hours
Or so of living inside
This shell,
My enemy as well as my friend,
My rocking, waving, throbbing, grinding companion,
My only contact with life.
sometimes at night, when I lay in
My cocoon of blankets and darkness,
I imagine what I might have looked like,
Been like, the other way,
Without whatever virus or injury caused all this.
Would I have been considered handsome?
A good match for a beautiful woman?
Would my legs have carried me
To the State Track Championship
As my father's did?
Would people have elected me to societies
And wanted me for a prom date?
Would they have marveled at my creativity and intelligence
Instead of expecting me to prove them
Over and over again?
Just a little thing in my system,
Some glitch makes all the difference.
Sometimes I lay there wishing
this was all a bad dream.
But morning comes
And I am grateful for one finger that types,
One school that lets me in,
And someone patient enough
To bear it all with me.*

Heaven can't come fast enough some days.

Flowers for Worship Services

Do you enjoy the flowers in the sanctuary each Sunday? We are blessed to be able to express the beauty of God's nature in our worship services. If you would like to be a part of the flower ministry, please sign up in the Gathering Area on the flower calendar on the main bulletin board, or call Joyce Teusink. Celebrate a special occasion in your family, or give flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. A short note will be included in the bulletin for your celebration or memorial. We have florists who assist us for a fee, or you can deliver your own arrangement. Call Joyce Teusink with questions or for more details. Thank you for making our worship service even more vibrant!

New Deacons & Elders Elected

At the Congregational Meeting on December 9, the following people were elected to the offices of elder and deacon for the term 2013-2015:

Elected Elders: Don Luidens, Jane Schuyler, Judy VanderWilt, and David VanHeest

Elected Deacons: Judy Boogaart, Tom Mullens, Stephanie Parrott, and Phil Tanis

They will be ordained and installed on Sunday, January 13, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

We extend our gratitude to those elders and deacons who have completed their terms: Vern Boersma, Peter Hintz, Rachele Oppenhuizen, and Leanne VanDyk as elders; Beth Beltran, Stephanie Beyer, John Koch, and Jim McKnight as deacons.

From the Fellowship Ministry

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, January 27. Pizza Sunday hosts are needed for 2013; please sign up on the Fellowship bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

We are also in need of salad suppliers. Also if you would like to donate a six pack of soda, please leave it in the church kitchen.

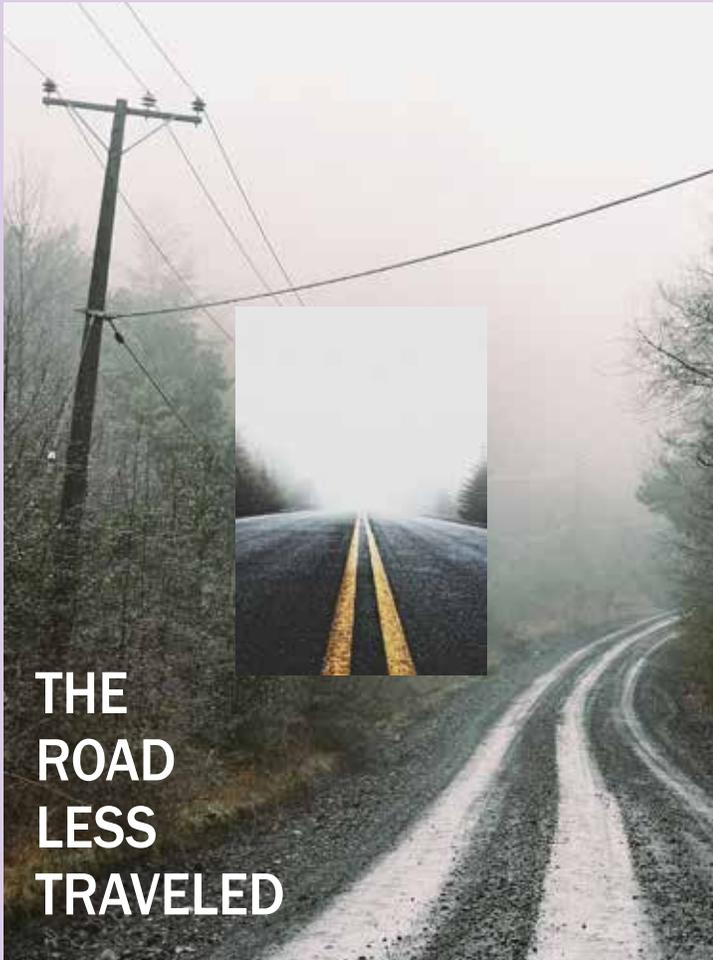
Coffee Time at Resthaven

The next Coffee Time will be at Resthaven on Tuesday, January 8 at 10:30am. This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff.

Mark your calendar, and come for an hour of fellowship!

The Road Less Traveled

A New Hope College Initiative from the Young Adult Ministry Task Force



**THE
ROAD
LESS
TRAVELED**

Beginning Thursday evening, January 17th, the young adult ministry task force will be hosting an evening meal and conversation at Hope Church for Hope College students. The focus of the gatherings will be on sharing stories of faith and life.

The group will meet twice a month through the second semester and a different Hope College faculty member from Hope Church will be sharing a part of their life story. The first faculty guest will be David Myers.

The team who will be hosting includes: Reed Jerow, Jane Dickie, Gretchen Schoon-Tanis, Bob Jerow, Paige Convis, and Lynn Japinga. Wendy Rebhan will be coordinating the meals.

And this is where you come in. We would like to find a person or group of people to provide the meals each time this group meets. Sign up in the gathering area or call the church office if you would like to plan and make the meal for one of the following dates: January 31, February 14 or 28, March 7, and April 11 or 25.

We are looking for a snack or salad, main course, and dessert. We appreciate your support as we launch this new ministry! You can contact Wendy Rebhan for more details.

Children's Ministry

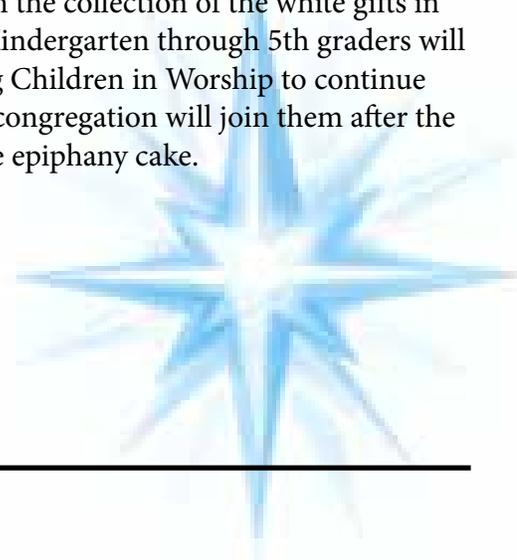
Nursery Joy

Thank you to the youth interns and adults who have staffed the nursery this fall. We have lots of children who are finding joy in seeing their friends in the nursery each week. Please consider signing up to help in the nursery in the next few months. Adults of all ages can share their gifts with these young ones. Sign up with a friend if you would feel more comfortable. It is a wonderful way to get to know the young children of Hope Church and their families. There are always youth to help with the lifting and chasing. The children love readers, laps to sit in and someone to give them special attention. Please contact Jocelyn Van Heest if you have any questions about how you could be of service. Sign up on the sheet by the nursery or contact Jocelyn at church. Thanks for considering being a part of this nurturing ministry. Come enjoy the youth of Hope Church and it's youngest members.

January 6 - It's an EPIPHANY Celebration

The church school class will share a time of preparation and celebration on this Epiphany Sunday. The children will hear stories, decorate the Epiphany cakes, and learn more about the importance of this special day.

During the 11AM worship service, the 4th and 5th graders will help with the collection of the white gifts in the sanctuary. The Kindergarten through 5th graders will meet together during Children in Worship to continue the celebration. The congregation will join them after the service to share some epiphany cake.



Youth Ministry

Fish Club

We gathered on Saturday, December 8 with the youth from First Presbyterian and Grace Episcopal for a Christmas party. We went bowling, then shared a meal and played some Christmas games. It's been good to get to know and share with other youth in the community.

We are looking forward to an Epiphany Retreat with the other two youth groups on January 5 and 6. Then it will be time for our annual Cran Hill Retreat on January 18, 19, and 20. We look forward to food, fun, devotions, and hopefully, snow!



High Hopes

On Sunday, December 9 we met with the youth from Grace Episcopal and First Presbyterian for a Christmas party. We shared a meal, then played an hour of speed games. We ended our time together making gingerbread houses. Our annual progressive dinner was held on Sunday, December 16. We gathered at church then walked to Peg DeHaan's home for some wonderful appetizers and conversation. We then headed to the Carder's home for a variety of great soups. We ended up at David VanHeest's and Doug Abell's home for amazing desserts! We also exchanged our white elephant gifts, which brought much laughter!

We are looking forward to participating in an Epiphany Retreat at Grace Episcopal on January 5 and 6. On Sunday, January 13 we will meet for "Unplugged," a time to catch up with each other, share in devotions, and communion.

Our annual retreat to Cran Hill will take place on the weekend of January 25-27, we are hoping for snow!

The church calendar is continually being updated. If you are planning a meeting or event, have changed your meeting time, have canceled a scheduled meeting, etc., please call the church office and let us know. This will assure you that your meeting will be held as scheduled and publicized as planned, and that the room will be adequately cooled or heated.



Mentors, Bruce tenHaken and Judy Boogaart, with the children they mentor.

January is National Mentoring Month! Along with others in programs across the nation, we wish to recognize the contributions of our mentors this January, but we also wish to recognize our substitute mentors without whose support, our mentors would not be able to make the impact they make in the lives of our Vanderbilt students.

Each program year, there are times when our mentors are unable to meet with their Kids Hope student. If that absence is extended (two weeks or more), substitute mentors are provided. Like the mentors they replace, each substitute has received three hours of Kids Hope training and an orientation to Vanderbilt Charter Academy. Mentors who request their services provide substitutes with a specific orientation to the needs and abilities of the student with whom they will work. Some of our substitutes work with two or three students over the course of the year; some work with just one. In either case, the services of our substitute mentors make it possible for us to maintain that continuity of presence, which is our goal for each of our Vanderbilt students throughout their Kids Hope experience.

Our corps of mentors this year include Anne Heath Wiersma, Jean Cook, Vicki Rumpsa, Linda Cook, Anne Duinkerken, Helen DeWeerd, Jonathan Brownson, Marlin VanderWilt, David Boelkins, Arda Rooks, Kate Irvin-Garcia, Judy Boogaart, Bruce tenHaken, and Judy VanderWilt.

Our substitute mentors include Sharon Arendshorst, Margaret Boelkins, Don Buteyn, Barbara Joldersma, Marilee Nieuwsma, Rachele Oppenhuizen, Nancy Rock, Jane Schulyler, and Gordon Wiersma.

If this sounds like a way you might like to contribute to our Hope Church Kids Hope Team, please contact Barbara Joldersma (399-7319) or Anne Duinkerken (550-0279).



Mentor, Linda Cook, with the child she mentors.

January Birthdays

- 01 Robert Hanna
Care Group 8

- 03 Bob Bos
Care Group 10

- 12 Alma Thomas
Care Group 12

- 17 Vern Boersma
Care Group 2

- 19 Dwight Ferris
Care Group 9

- 25 Winifred Hollenbach
Care Group 10

- 28 Dorothy Robinson
Care Group 7

If you are 75+ years old and would like to be listed in the birthday column, please contact the church office at (616) 392-7947 or office@hopechurchrca.org

The Center of African American Art and History Presents A Benefit Dinner and Concert Featuring

Nick Colionne

February 9, 2013 • 6:00-9:00 pm

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel • 650 East 24th Street • Holland, Michigan



This Chicago native is known as one of the best jazz, vocals, R&B, blues, and soul artists to come along in quite a while.

His unique way of mixing these styles has earned him awards such as International Artist of the Year & Jazz Artist of the Year.

Nick will perform a benefit dinner/concert at the DoubleTree Hotel in Holland to help raise money for construction and computers to implement the Ancestry.com program at the Center of African American Art and History.

Come feel the heat as Nick demonstrates his accomplished sound and signature as a smooth jazz guitarist. Tickets are tax deductible.

Taizé Services Resume Jan. 9

Taize service of prayer and communion will resume on January 9. All are invited to participate in this time of song, scripture, silence and sacrament in the sanctuary on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 8:30am.

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on Wednesday, January 16, at 1:00pm in Commons II. Judy Vander Wilt will lead the discussion of *House on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Jamie Ford. Visitors are always welcome.

Thank you

Dear Church Family,

There are no words to express my gratitude for all of your prayers and well wishes, not to mention the visits while I was at the Inn at Freedom Village. I'm now recovering at LakeSide Vista.

~ Robert Hanna

View and print this newsletter in color by visiting the Hope Church website at www.hopechurchrca.org

Hope Church Mugs Available for Purchase

Hope Church mugs are now available for purchase at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area

- Show your support for Hope Church
- Hold Hope Church in your prayers over morning coffee/tea, or on your commute
- Excellent gifts for any occasion
- Many uses beyond hot drinks
 - desk caddy
 - candy dispenser
 - sugar packet dispenser
 - Children-in-Worship offering collector



Circles

- 1 Wednesday, January 2
9:30am at R. Snow's Home
- 2 Not meeting this month
- 4 Wednesday, January 9
7:00pm, location TBD

**Deadline for the February Newsletter is
Tuesday, January 15**

At Home With the Word Daily Bible Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary

December 31-January 6

- Monday Isaiah 60:1-6
- Tuesday New Year's Day, Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
- Wednesday Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- Thursday Ephesians 3:1-6
- Friday Ephesians 3:7-12
- Saturday Matthew 2:1-12
- Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7-13

- Monday Isaiah 43:1-7
- Tuesday Psalm 29:1-4
- Wednesday Psalm 29:5-11
- Thursday Acts 8:14-17
- Friday Luke 3:15-17
- Saturday Luke 3:21-22
- Sunday First Sunday after Epiphany

January 14-20

- Monday Isaiah 62:1-5
- Tuesday Psalm 36:5-10
- Wednesday 1 Corinthians 12:1-3
- Thursday 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- Friday John 2:1-7
- Saturday John 2:8-11
- Sunday Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 21-27

- Monday Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- Tuesday Psalm 19:1-6
- Wednesday Psalm 19:7-14
- Thursday 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
- Friday 1 Corinthians 12:27-31
- Saturday Luke 4:14-21
- Sunday Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 28-February 3

- Monday Jeremiah 1:4-8
- Tuesday Jeremiah 1:9-10
- Wednesday Psalm 71:1-6
- Thursday 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
- Friday 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
- Saturday Luke 4:21-30
- Sunday Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

and finally...

I am NOT a big fan of mission statements. I AM a big fan of the Hope Church Statement of Mission. In saying I am not a fan of mission statements in general I don't mean to sound harsh. It's just that I don't typically pay a lot of attention to mission statements, as it seems to be easy for such statements to be made and then left behind. But I've become a fan of the Hope Church Statement of Mission because I've found the statement to be alive on an ongoing basis in the people and purpose of Hope Church. The current Statement of Mission was written in 1977 (see text below) and since that time has remained relevant and formative in the life of Hope Church. I often hear people referring to "pioneering", to "growing in faith", and to other aspects of the statement of mission as ideas and decisions are considered at Hope Church. As we move ahead from our 150th anniversary year, the Consistory is recommending a revision of the Statement of Mission. The new version incorporates much of the original, while adding content that is shaping and guiding Hope Church in new ways. On the following page is a draft of the new Statement that reflects feedback from the congregation given at the December congregational meeting. At the upcoming congregational meeting on January 20 there will be a final draft presented for approval. If you have any feedback, please contact me or Jill by Wednesday, January 9. We're grateful for the work that has been done on this, and believe this new Statement will continue to faithfully guide the witness of Hope Church in the years ahead.

Peace,
Gordon

HOPE CHURCH, RCA STATEMENT OF MISSION (1977)

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service but the same Lord, and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one." I Corinthians 12:4-7

Hope Church affirms the unity which binds together diverse people as the Church Universal. Unity is possible and diversity is celebrated because the Church is the very Body of Christ.

No single congregation can fulfill equally all of the functions for which the Spirit equips the whole people of God. Hope Church recognizes that she is one representative, in one special time and place, of the Body of Christ. In this spirit, Hope Church has established the following goals:

TO PIONEER: Aware of our own heritage as a pioneering people, Hope Church aspires to creativity and excellence in worship, Christian nurture, governance, and outreach. We aim to experiment courageously and when an experiment proves unsuccessful, to press ahead in new directions and with new methods.

TO BE OPEN: Hope Church seeks to maintain the diversity in which she finds strength. We welcome people with varied interests, talents and backgrounds. We strive to be a community in which each member listens to and has genuine concern for all other members.

TO GROW IN FAITH: Hope Church aims to grow - not merely in numbers - but, more importantly, in depth of Christian commitment. We seek to be faithful to our calling as the people of God by identifying and eliciting each member's particular gifts and directing these in obedience to God's Word.

TO LEAD IN CHRISTIAN ACTION: Hope Church seeks to be servant to the human community, both locally and worldwide. We aim to serve both institutionally and through the total lives of our people.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit." I Corinthians 12:12-13

Proposed Mission Statement Revision: January 2013

HOPE CHURCH, RCA STATEMENT OF MISSION

OUR FAITH Hope Church is called by God and equipped by the Holy Spirit to be a witness to the **unity, reconciliation** and **justice** given in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. These touchstones drawn from the Belhar Confession give voice to the historic Christian faith in our time and place.

“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation! God has reconciled us to God through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” II Corinthians 5:17-18

OUR MISSION Hope Church affirms these values to be at the core of our calling:

TO GROW IN FAITH: We seek to grow not only in numbers but, most importantly, in depth of Christian commitment. We seek to identify and engage each person’s particular gifts and to direct all our gifts in faithfulness to God’s Word.

TO PIONEER: Founded as a pioneering congregation, Hope Church is willing to experiment courageously and to press ahead in new directions. We continue to seek creativity and excellence in worship, nurture, governance, and outreach.

TO BE OPEN: We celebrate and proclaim God’s welcome of all people. Hope Church is blessed and strengthened by the rich diversity of background, race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, gifts, and interests present among and around us.

TO LEAD IN CHRISTIAN ACTION: Hope Church is committed to service, both locally and worldwide, and we support the work of justice and compassion by all people of good will. We serve both as a congregation and individually through our daily living.

“There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, varieties of service but the same Lord, varieties of working but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” I Corinthians 12:4-7

OUR THEMES As we look forward, Hope Church has discerned God calling us to these themes to guide our ministry as we live into our faith and mission:

- to provide provisions for the journey;
- to welcome all;
- to connect with and witness to the community;
- to engender deep engagement with one another.

“...a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...” 1 Peter 1:3

Hope Church
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Holland MI 49423



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Hope Church News

January 2013



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

NAME OUR NEWSLETTER!

We are looking for a name for our church newsletter and want your ideas. Submit your name ideas by filling out this form and dropping it off at the church office, or email name ideas to agriffore@hopechurchrca.org. Submission forms will also be available at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area and in the church office.

You may find inspiration for a newsletter name by thinking about: *our church name, our church's mission, our people, features of our church building, local geography, favorite scripture verse(s), or our community.*

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Your Name: _____

Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, January 15