



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 58, No. 3

March 2015

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### Inserts:

- *March Calendar*
- *Lectionary*
- *Restorative Circles Facilitator List*

**The deadline for the April newsletter is Tuesday, March 17.**

### Office Hours

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

Hope Church, RCA  
77 West 11th Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
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HopeChurchRCA.org



## Living Hope Capital Campaign Launched

*Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader*



In mid-February, the story behind the Living Hope facility renovation project was shared with Hope Church members and friends, with a request for prayerful consideration of financial support. Packets were distributed in person and mailed; if you haven't received one, please contact the church office.

As the cover letter described, early pledges have brought us \$1 million of the \$2.7 million needed for the facility changes and gifts to Greenpoint Reformed Church, Haiti Foundation Against Poverty, New Community/Fourth Reformed, and Maple Avenue Ministries. The capital campaign team, chaired by Ron Mulder, remains confident that our goal is feasible when we all participate in reaching it.

Concurrently, the design team is working with the architecture and engineering team to revise, refine, and add detail to the plans that were shared with the congregation in August and September. The ongoing work

is shared at [LivingHopeRCA.Wordpress.com](http://LivingHopeRCA.Wordpress.com) or through the link on the Happenings page on the Hope Church website.

The results of this phase of design work, called Schematic Design, will be presented at a **congregational gathering on March 29**. After that, there will be events for conversation about the plans and participation in the capital campaign; watch for announcements as April approaches.

In June, Consistory will assess our progress in reaching our financial goal, evaluate options, and determine to what scope of renovations to commit. At that time, we'll determine which parts of the project might start immediately and which must await the "construction season" of early spring 2016.

If you have any questions about the Living Hope renovation project or capital campaign, contact Lois Maassen, Ron Mulder, or the church office.

# The Season of Lent at Hope Church

## *Spirit Tending*

- First Sunday in Lent: *Tending Mercy*
- Second Sunday in Lent: *Tending Fidelity*
- Third Sunday in Lent: *Tending Wisdom*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Tending Steadfast Love*
- Fifth Sunday in Lent: *Tending New Life*



Artwork by Kari Miller Fenwood

The theme *Spirit Tending* is taken from the texts we will be hearing from the lectionary throughout the season. Our desire is to focus on both the attributes of God as One who is trustworthy in making and keeping covenant with us and on our life of discipleship as we are drawn to become like this One who pursues us.

## Wednesday Evening Series

Hope Church will continue offering Wednesday evening worship services during the season of Lent. The following services will incorporate spiritual songs, testimony, silence, and communion. Our focus will be directed by the gospel texts as we let the more difficult aspects of love turn us toward God—trial, rebuke, and anger. Child care will be provided.

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>March 4</b>                   | <b>March 11</b>                  |
| <b>7:00 p.m. Worship Service</b> | <b>7:00 p.m. Worship Service</b> |
| <b>Love and Rebuke</b>           | <b>Love and Anger</b>            |
| <b>Mark 8:31-38</b>              | <b>John 2:13-22</b>              |

## Worship During Holy Week

### **Palm Sunday, March 29**

**8:30 a.m. Early Worship Palm Sunday Celebration**  
**11:00 a.m. "Worship for the Way of the Cross"**  
 We begin the journey through Holy Week with dramatic reading, liturgical dance, and music.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 2**

**6:00 p.m. Family Seder Dinner**  
 This traditional Jewish meal remembers the events of the Passover told in the book of Exodus. There will be a pot luck meal as part of the Seder so please bring a dish to pass. Sign up for the Seder in the Gathering Area or by calling the church office (392-7947).  
**7:45 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows)**  
 The service follows the path of Jesus' passion through the Last Supper and crucifixion and includes communion, prayer, scripture and music.

### **Good Friday, April 3**

**12:10 p.m. Community Good Friday Service**  
*The Seven Last Words of Christ*  
 Hosted at Hope Church and co-sponsored by First United Methodist Church, Third Reformed Church, and the Washington School Neighborhood Connectors.

### **Easter Sunday, April 5**

**8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service**  
**9:40 a.m. Easter Brunch**  
**11:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
 Celebrate the risen Lord! Gordon Wiersma, preaching, and Jill Russell, liturgist; with choirs and brass under the direction of Brian Carder. *Church School will not be held.*

## Health Ministry

Jill Russell, Health Ministry member



The Health Ministry in conjunction with the Worship, Prayer, and Spirituality Ministry is offering two ways for you to engage in one of the practices we name as important to keeping a holy Lent. If you were present for the Ash Wednesday service this year or in years past you may recall the language of the Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline. The final statement of the invitation is “I invite, you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.” It is not as if prayer is only important

during Lent. However, this season which invites us into reflection and examination is a wonderful time to deepen our practices of prayer. The offerings being highlighted here are connecting to a particular kind of prayer: Healing Prayer.

There are many reasons to pray. We pray to remind ourselves that we are not the center of the universe, God is. We pray as a way to consider our day and how God has been present to us throughout that day. We pray to offer our praise and thanks to a God who delights us through never-ending generosity and blessing. Healing prayer is a way to name the deep needs of ourselves, those we love, and the world and then bring those places before God’s healing grace. These two opportunities can give you space to do just that during Lent this year.

### The Cross Shop: Finding Healing at the Intersection

The Health Ministry offers this space during Lent for people to take a cross and write a word or name that represents a place in your life or someone you know who needs healing, hope, forgiveness, guidance, or grace. You may leave that cross in the cross shop on the Sundays of Lent. The community will lift those needs up in prayer during the March 22 healing prayer service.

### Sunday, March 22

#### Healing Prayer Service

#### 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

People are invited to share in this liturgy of healing prayer, and are offered the opportunity to come forward to share in prayer with one of the elders or pastors if desired. People are also invited to write down prayer concerns in the week leading up to the Service, and those concerns will be included in the litany for healing as well as the concerns left in the cross shop.

## ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m. in Commons I

The Adult Education Ministry of Hope Church is pleased to offer *Room for All’s “Body and Soul: We Belong, Welcoming and Affirming in the Reformed Tradition.”* The free class is open to all and will continue to meet on Sundays in March (except for March 22).

### March 1 - FAITH & FREEDOM

Jeff Japinga, Associate Dean, McCormick Theological Seminary

### March 8 - MISSION

Paul Smith, former Director of Beardslee Library, Western Theological Seminary

### March 15 - SCRIPTURE

Dawn Boelkins, Assistant Professor of Biblical Languages, Western Theological Seminary

### March 29 - SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Don Luidens, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Hope College

# Washington School Neighbors Update: Gathering Space - A Shared Asset

Andrew Spidahl & Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas, Neighborhood Connectors



## Washington School Neighbors

Most of the churches I've been a part of are never too many Sundays away from a potluck. These gatherings are a wonderful way to share food and make friends. Near the end of

January we held a potluck for the neighborhood and had thirty people bring and share a dish. We met new neighbors, connected with those we already knew, and shared in a feast to which everyone contributed. Not a bad use of space! But space isn't always easy to find...

We called several places wondering if we could use their gathering areas, but with no leads. The WSN churches were open to letting us use space (provided it wasn't already booked for the evening!). This time

Hope Church happened to have space. One way the church is living hospitably with our neighborhood is by the use of its space for various neighborhood activities - from potlucks, to volleyball, to daycare, to after-school programs. Our church buildings are an asset to our neighbors, and sharing space is a very basic way we begin to connect.

[WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com](http://WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com)      [Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors](https://Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors)

## Bread for the World

Tom Arendshorst, Deacon Ministry

*"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." - Proverbs 3:27*



We of Hope Church are a Bread for the World covenant church, joined in the hope of ending hunger through strengthening government policies that address hunger needs.

Kids Act expanded and improved these programs. Nearly 16 million children in the United States—one in five—live in households that struggle to put food on the table.

child hunger or child nutrition programs. These legislators must be educated about the importance of feeding children. Additionally, the tight national budget and political climate grind against crucial programs that need funding.

In 2015 Bread for the World is focused on urging Congress to renew our federal government's major child nutrition programs, including those for school meals, summer feeding, and the WIC nutrition program for pregnant and new mothers along with their small children. Every five years, Congress must re-authorize the law that funds these programs, which have helped millions of children over the decades. Thanks to the leadership of Bread for the World and its church partners, the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free

Many of these children have parents who have jobs and work hard, but their wages are inadequate for family needs. Well-fed children are healthier, have fewer behavioral problems, and learn more easily. This can translate into their getting better jobs and being more productive when they become adults, and fewer widespread public health and workforce problems.

In May Hope Church will have an Offering of Letters urging our Senators and Representatives in Congress to continue strong investments in child nutrition programs, improve children's access to feeding programs, and ensure improvements to child nutrition programs are not paid for by cuts to other vital safety-net programs like SNAP (food stamps).

The 2015 114th Congress includes new members and new leaders having little or no experience with

## Kids Hope Program, Connecting with Community for 12 Years

Anne Duinkerken & Barbara Joldersma, Hope Church Kids Hope Co-Directors



The Hope Church Kids Hope Program is now in its 12th year working to meet the needs of grade school children who are deemed to be at-risk. Over the years, the program has gone through many different funding changes.

Currently, the staff salaries paid to Co-

Directors, Anne Duinkerken and Barbara Joldersma, are paid from Benevolence. This was decided a number of years ago as a reflection of the direct service to our community. This year, the program budget was shifted from an off-budget fund to the Benevolence budget as well.

Additionally, the program continues to fund summer camp attendance through a scholarship fund. Thanks to many generous donors, Camp Geneva is able to provide large scholarships to Kids Hope campers who are entering grades 4-6 in the fall. This has been a very meaningful program for our Vanderbilt students and their families. Many students express their gratitude for the days they spend at camp, learning, growing, and sharing their faith.

The Kids Hope scholarship fund is always in need of donations. If you would like to make a donation to the Hope Church Kids Hope Program, please call the church office at (616) 392-7947. Your donation will allow the program to continue to connect Hope Church with our community in a direct and important way!

### Update from the Personnel Committee

Some of the ministry at Hope Church happens "behind the scenes." The work of the Parish Nurse is like this. It is not often public, but the ministry of care is so important to the life of the congregation. The Personnel Committee is grateful for the faithful work of Donita Robards, who has recently resigned as Parish Nurse. Donita came to us through an association with Resthaven. This model worked well for us and we are once again in conversation with Resthaven. We will communicate as soon as the arrangements are clarified.



# ministry HIGHLIGHT

*This series of highlights on ministries at Hope Church is intended to be sure our members are aware of how things happen and their opportunities to engage with the ministry of the church.*

## The Stewardship & Finance Ministry

Kevin Rosenau, Stewardship and Finance Ministry member

The Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Ministry of Hope Church supports the congregation and the Consistory by providing oversight and guidance of the annual financial operations of the church.

Many people may think that the S&F Ministry ‘keeps the books’ for the church, but there is actually a church Financial Administrator (and other staff) who pays the bills, maintains the books (electronically), and ensures appropriate taxes are paid on time.

So, what does the S&F Ministry do?

- We work with all of the other ministries to establish and propose an annual budget for the church. This includes establishing the timeline for the budgeting process, coordinating the annual stewardship campaign, and shepherding the budget through the Consistory and the congregational meeting for

approvals.

- We establish and maintain procedures to ensure that the church’s financial activities are handled accurately and with transparency and integrity while also serving the mission of Hope Church.
- We carry-out the budget that is approved by the congregation. And, yes, we do review a summary of the ‘books’ on a monthly basis to ensure that there is appropriate cash available to fund operations and resolve questions that might arise from staff.
- We address finance-related topics that don’t currently have a procedure or method for handling – special or unique situations.
- We maintain the “Hope Church Financial Policies and Procedures” manual.
- We perform an audit of the books every other year which includes a compliance review of established financial procedures to ensure

everyone who deals with money in the church is following what is outlined in the policies and procedures manual.

The current members of the S&F Ministry include Peter Hintz, Don Luidens (co-Chair), Henry Luttikuizen, Ron Mulder, Kevin Rosenau (co-Chair), and Gary Zell. Pastors Jill and Gordon are ex-officio members; and the church Financial Administrator, Karla Kammeraad-Bos, also participates in our meetings.

We would be glad to have new members on the S&F Ministry and encourage anyone who is interested to contact one of the current members. The time commitment is very low (1-2 hours per month) for ministry members, and it’s not necessary to be an accountant or have a financial background, only a willingness to be a good steward of God’s good gifts.

*The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Reconciliation Ministry.*

## New Caring for Creation Leadership

We welcome Joe Arevalo as the new Caring for Creation coordinator. Joe plans to continue the many excellent outings, exhibits, and activities started by the pioneer of this ministry, Peter Boogaart. We are grateful for Joe stepping into this leadership role, and we look

forward to new opportunities to serve and engage with the world that we all share and depend on. Please contact Joe if you want to get involved or have ideas for projects or activities!



## “Lift Up Your Hearts: A New Hymnal for a New Day”

Carol Bechtel, Hope Church member

### Meet Your New New Hymnal



Soon Hope Church’s pews will boast not one, but TWO new hymnals. I’ve already started to bond with the purple one, *Glory to God*, which is the new and improved version of the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal: *Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*.

But move over, Purple, and make ready for Red.

*Lift Up Your Hearts* is the new red hymnal in the rack. It is the product of nearly a decade’s worth of cooperation between the RCA and the CRC. (This in itself should inspire wonder, if not a spontaneous doxology.) The hymnal includes 850 songs reflecting

a core traditional repertoire as well as many songs that reflect the church’s changing context. Responding to input from many congregations and an 80-member advisory council (40 people from each denomination), the collection includes not only a range of styles, but an expansion of subjects—such as social justice, creation care, and global awareness.

If you’re thinking that 80 people makes for an unwieldy committee, you would be right. The core editorial committee consisted of 13 people—5 from each denomination, plus 3 staff members from Faith Alive and The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. I served as one of the RCA representatives.

### A Joyful Duty

There’s a reason we talk about “serving” on a committee. It often feels like work, and we’re usually glad when it’s over, even if we do have a sense of satisfaction at what we’ve managed to accomplish together.

So, it’s saying something when I admit that I look back on my time on the RCA/CRC hymnal committee with nostalgia and affection. Because we as a committee worked together over a period of years, we became friends. I think this affected not only the tone of our meetings, but the choices we made. Instead of asking, “How can I get all my favorites in?” the question became, “What are your faith community’s heart songs, and will you

share them with the rest of us?” I hope that some of this same spirit carries over to the diverse congregations that use the hymnal.

### Give and Take

It is still natural, of course, to hope a new hymnal includes your favorites. It may or it may not—though the presence of two hymnals in our racks increases your odds. When you’re scanning the index for your favorites, bear in mind that the committee reviewed over 3000 songs. Narrowing the list down to 850 was often painful, and no one got their own way all of the time.

It was particularly difficult to gather and identify RCA favorites, since RCA congregations have not all been using one common hymnal. This is in contrast with CRC congregations, which typically use the gray 1987 *Psalter Hymnal*.

Another challenge was inclusive language. While inclusive language for people was non-negotiable, the hymnal reflects more masculine language for God than is typical at Hope Church. To this I will simply say, 1) Hope Church is not typical even in the RCA, and 2) It would be worse if I hadn’t been there.

***Continued on page 8.***

## “Lift Up Your Hearts: A New Hymnal for a New Day”

*Continued from page 7.*

### A Bird's Eye View

One of the strengths of *Lift Up Your Hearts* is its organization. People in the pews don't usually pay much attention to this, but pastors and worship committees do. And a congregation suffers if there is not both depth and breadth theologically.

The first half of *Lift Up Your Hearts* (or LUYH, as it's come to be called) follows the arc of the canon, telling the story from Genesis to Revelation. The second half is organized

according to the traditional Reformed order of Worship, including the Sacraments. Various litanies, prayers, and readings are interspersed throughout. And all of the above are available in digital form.

Editor Joyce Borger says it best: “This is a hymnal of the church for the church. Our ultimate desire is that this collection be deep enough to give voice to our praises and laments...and play a significant role in the faith formation of Reformed Christians old and young alike.”

In conclusion, I'm grateful to have been part of this project and to have been invited to introduce it in this newsletter. I pray that both of our new hymnals will enrich our faith and worship at Hope Church.

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## Thank You

*Dear Hope Church:  
I am humbled and grateful to report that I will be providing to Community Action Agency \$495 which was contributed by members/families of Hope Church for the Walk for Warmth 2015. Being able to help families (400 last year) to avoid a utility shut-off is a very real way of helping people.  
Thank you so very much,  
Norma Killilea*

*Dear Hope Church members,  
Thank you so much for sending me the Hope Church News! I always enjoy it. I'm too old to travel anymore, so the “News” is my best way of keeping in touch.  
Gratefully,  
~Ruth Vrieling*

*It seemed like an avalanche of cards in the mail after the blizzard of 2015 in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Thank you Hope Church Friends for helping to make my 102nd birthday such a happy one with cards and good wishes.  
~Dorothy Robinson*

*To all of my very dear people of Hope, I thank you from the heart: your wonderful generosity in bringing your beautiful Christmas card with the poinsettias and the wonderful choir who came to sing of the world's greatest gift. I trust that you are all well and rejoicing the gift of our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I find that words to express my appreciation are very hard to come by. My prayer for you for 2015 is that His grace, mercy, and peace are to be found for all of your greatest needs.  
Love and Prayers,  
Bob Hanna*

## Events and Announcements

### Orientation to Hope Church Class

On Sunday, February 22, at 9:40 a.m., an Orientation to Hope Church Class began for people who are interested in learning more about Hope Church. The class will continue to meet on Sunday mornings, **March 1 and March 8** at 9:40 a.m. in the Garden Lounge. A meal and a meeting with the Board of Elders for those wishing to join Hope Church will occur on **March 22** after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Public reception of new members will take place during 11:00 a.m. worship on **April 12**. Please contact Pastor Jill Russell or the church office (392-7947) if you would like more information. Please know that attending the class only indicates your possible interest in joining our fellowship, not your actual decision to do so.

**Circle 1** will meet on Wednesday, **March 4 at 9:30 AM** at Hope Church in Commons I.

**Circle 2** will meet on Wednesday, **March 4 at 9:30 AM** at Hope Church in Commons II.

**Circle 4** will not meet in March because of Lent activities.

### Coffee Time at Freedom Village

The next Coffee Time will be at Freedom Village on Tuesday, **March 10 at 10:30 a.m.** 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. All are welcome!

### Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on Wednesday, **March 18, at 1:00 PM** in Commons 1 to discuss I AM MALALA, the autobiography by Malala Yousafzai, herself. There should be a lively discussion of the plight of women and girls' education, led by Kay Hubbard. Visitors are welcome.

### Upcoming Musical Events

As I wrote in last month's newsletter, I'm getting ready for my annual Hope Church organ recital on Sunday, **March 22 at 3pm**. This unusual concert will feature area musicians, playing music for organ and other instruments. In addition to standard combinations like flute and organ (with Julie Sooy), and oboe/ English Horn and organ (with Sarah Southard), there will be pieces for tuba and organ (with Brendan Bohnhorst), as well as the premiere of a piece written by Holland area church musician Steve Jenkins for marimba and organ (with Matt Beck). And, in the same vein, I've been recently asked to participate in a program taking place at Calvin College's chapel on Monday, March 16 at 8pm. Involving musicians from the Grand Rapids Symphony, this will be a concert of organ concertos by J. S. Bach, for organ and strings, performed by four area organists. This promises to be a wonderful evening of sublime music that's not often heard, so come out for this free performance by some of the area's best musicians.

~Rhonda Edgington

### Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is **March 29**.

## March Birthdays

05	Nancy VandeWater Care Group: 2
05	Marjorie French Care Group: 5
06	Barbara Bingham Care Group: 1
10	JoAnne Brooks Care Group: 12
16	Duncan McCune Care Group: 5
17	Bette Williams Care Group: 3
18	Ruth Vrieling Care Group: 4
18	Jim Hinkamp Care Group 5
14	Terry VandeWater Care Group: 2

If you are 75+ years old and would like to be listed in the birthday column, please contact the office.

## Youth Ministry

*Beth Jarvis, Youth Ministry Director*

January. The thick of Michigan winter. The time of holiday hurrying has settled with thick layers of snow in our roads to slow our pace. Shortened days and falling temperatures send us to the sanctuary of indoors. Retreat becomes second nature.

For two weekends in January, both High Hopes and Fish Club packed their warm clothes and stored up energy to practice the rhythms of quiet mixed with fun. There were hay rides and sledding in slush (sorry mom and dad for the mud stained snow pants), ghost stories, ice wall climbing, and walks on frozen lakes. Laughter and shrieks bubbled their mirth as we threw snowballs and lobbed jokes.

And then there were the times of hushed reflection. “How do we handle fear?” we asked God through prayer and silent times in scripture. “Is God still present even when I lack faith?” were mysteries we honored and dared to ask ourselves and each other. We journaled. We prayed. We watched movies that helped us connect our questioning to the greater world.

But mostly, we allowed ourselves to experience the presence of God’s spirit all around us, from our shared meals to deep questioning, to even our fears in riding horses for the first time. God was with us as we packed our clothes, food, and anticipations. God was with us as we shared our vulnerabilities and

frustrations. God was with us as we giggled and played games and God is with us now, imparting all the lessons we learned to build our faith even as we make peace with our fears and questions.



## Children’s Ministry

*Jocelyn Van Heest, Children’s Ministry Director*

### “Promise of Spring” Family Event

On Saturday, March 14, we invite families with children to come for fun, games and fellowship. There will be a wide variety of activities for you as a family to try and maybe even conquer. In the style of the “Minute to Win It” game show, there will be opportunities for families to play together and laugh along with other families as we all attempt to master crazy challenges and some that are easy but in which a short completion time is the goal. There will be the opportunity for families to travel downtown to catch the St. Patrick’s Day parade if they desire. A typical carnival lunch will be provided. The festivities will be from 11:00 AM through 1:30 PM. The games will be available through the whole time so come whenever you are able and stay as long as you can. Come for a fun time of games and fellowship and celebrate the “promise of spring” to come.

### Prayer PAL Reminder

Last Children’s Sabbath many of you chose a family of children to hold in prayer this year. Have you been able to connect with these children? Here is a way for you to learn more about some of those children. The elementary aged children have created a poster that will let you know a little more about what is important to them about their faith. There are even photos of the children so you can all make the connection with each child. The posters will be displayed in the hallway by the Commons on Sunday mornings. Take a walk and learn about these children who are so important to our faith community. It is a great way to start a conversation with the children that you already know and to learn about some of the children you may have not met.

Please remember to keep all the children in prayer with their busy lives of school and activities and their daily life of family, illnesses and injury, worries and joys, disappointments and triumphs.

## *and finally*

### **Fear/Trust: Where are the young people?**

Many churches seem to be asking, “How do we get young people back in the church (so we don’t die)?” At its best this question comes from a desire to see the church we love healthy and full of long life. It’s an important question--but rather than being a starting point for brainstorming strategies, I wonder if it might lead us to find some other guiding questions.

A few weeks ago I was having breakfast with Randy Smit, and he was sharing some wisdom from a book called *Original Blessing* by Matthew Fox. Fox explains that if we think of our religious life exclusively in terms of original sin and redemption (rather than creation blessing), we end up with fear as our psychological starting point—we have trouble trusting the goodness of the world, others, or even ourselves. He observes:

Gandhi understood the weakness in such a distrusting religious faith when he said, ‘What is gained through fear lasts only while the fear lasts.’ This means that religion built on fear must keep preaching its own fears in order to keep the religion going. This keen observation from Gandhi also helps to explain why many people leave religion in the West:

because they are growing up and growing out of fear and into trust” (82).

The question of curiosity that Randy posed and I picked up was: Does this ring true for our twenty-somethings at church?

I began to wonder. Are we potentially perpetuating a system based on fear that our younger generation finds unnecessary? How can we meet and support our young people outside the church in their places of spiritual trust? What gifts can this perspective give us as a worshipping body to grow “out of fear and into trust”?

As we find ourselves in the midst of this time of Lent, a time of self-examination and turning toward God, let’s set anxious questions and strategies aside in order to grow out of any fears that bind and control us into a broad place of trusting faith. This might look like changing our question from, “How do we get young people back in the church?” to “How are young people leading us into ever expanding trust in the bigness and goodness of God?”

~Peace, *Andrew*

### **Consistory Corner: February 2015**

At the February 9, 2015 Consistory Meeting, the following Motion was approved:

- To allow the Washington School Neighbors to use the 10th Street Garden for their fundraising party later this year.

Other business of interest included Capital Campaign Chair Ron Mulder who gave Consistory an update on the Capital Campaign.

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# Hope Church News

March 2015



**Daylight savings begins at  
2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8.  
Remember to turn your clocks  
forward an hour!**