



HOPE CHURCH

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

Hope Church News

Volume 56, No. 5

May 2013

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**Office Closed
Memorial Day
Monday, May 27**

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



Think Hope: Random Acts of Entertainment

This year's Think Hope, our annual fellowship and fundraising event, is taking a slightly different form: Instead of a full, sit-down dinner, you'll be served an evening of entertainment! Join us at 5 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres and the opportunity to bid on fabulous items representing the gifts and talents of the Hope Church Community. After dessert, we'll assemble for the Random Acts of Entertainment, featuring music, magic, storytelling—again, the gifts of our community.

Proceeds from the auction will benefit Hope Church's engagement with the Neighborhood Connections program in our own Washington School Neighborhood; connectors Andrew and Kallie Spidahl will provide an update on their work during the evening.

Plan to attend the event on May 18, from 5 to 8 p.m., in the Hope Church Commons.

Tickets will be available in the Gathering Area and church office starting April 28 for \$12 per person. Or, if you'd like to donate an item or two representing your gifts to the auction:

- Ideas include handcrafted clothing, household or gift items; certificates for homemade food; your time for babysitting, landscaping, carpentry, or other special skill; or artwork you've created.
- To donate, pick up a form from the Gathering Area or church office; deliver your auction item between May 5 and May 12. If your auction item is perishable or not quite complete, please turn in a form by May 12 so we know it's coming!

We hope you can join us for—and bring a friend to—this evening of fun and fellowship!



New Greeter Recruitment System

Starting this September, Hope Church will follow the lead of many other churches by implementing an assignment system for recruiting greeters. A list of families will be generated alphabetically to determine the schedule with each family receiving one assignment per year. The names of greeters for each Sunday will be published in the newsletter on a quarterly basis and the list will also be posted on a "Greeter Schedule" poster in the gathering area. *Continued on page 2.*

New Greeter Recruitment System

Continued from page 1

Someone from the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry will contact you one month in advance to confirm your assignment. Additionally, the office will continue to mail reminders and instructions based on the confirmation given by ministry members.

If you are unable to greet on your assigned Sunday, you are invited to either switch with someone or find your own substitute. You can communicate this change by marking the change on the “Greeter Schedule” poster in the gathering area, or by calling the church office.

The Outreach and Hospitality Ministry wishes to thank you in advance for the role each of you plays in fostering a sense of warmth, openness and hospitality that will enrich the life of the church as we seek to reach out to visitors and non-members in the Holland community.

Adult Education | Sundays | 9:40 am | Commons I

Christianity: the First Three Thousand Years, Part I

Last spring we focused on the history of the Reformed Church of America and the history of Hope Church. This spring we will go back further in time to learn about the early history of Christianity.

We will watch and discuss the first half of a DVD series produced by the British Broadcasting Company and directed by Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of History of the Church and Fellow at St. Cross College Oxford. In the first six sessions of a series that will be continued in 2013-14, we will learn about the spread of Christianity from Jerusalem to Asia, Africa, and Europe and about the pros and cons of the relationship of the church with imperial powers. MacCulloch combines church history with travelogue—enriched by music, architecture, and visual arts—in presenting his tour of the early history of Christianity. Each of the discussion leaders is a member of the greater Consistory of Hope Church.

May 5 *Catholicism: The Unpredictable Rise of Rome, Part II* with Ed Anderson

The Holy Roman Empire fostered the growth of Christianity through most of Europe and sponsored the Crusades against Islam.

May 12 *Orthodoxy: From Empire to Empire, Part I* with Milt Nieuwsma

Did the Holy Spirit proceed from the Father or from the Father and Son? Efforts to resolve this question about the nature of the Trinity led to the split of the Christian church into an Eastern Greek Orthodox Church and a Western Latin Catholic Church.

May 19 *Orthodoxy: From Empire to Empire, Part II* with Milt Nieuwsma

From Northern Europe arose a “third Rome.” As the Eastern Christian Church was weakened by the rise of Islam and the Ottoman conquest, the Russian Orthodox Church became a new center of Orthodoxy.

ministry HIGHLIGHT

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

The Outreach and Hospitality Ministry at Hope Church

The Outreach and Hospitality Ministry seeks to reach out to visitors and non-members in the Holland community and to encourage their participation and membership in Hope Church. The ministry also works within Hope Church to foster a sense of warmth, openness, and hospitality that will enrich the life of the church and promotes interaction between members and visitors.

The Outreach and Hospitality Ministry lives out its mission in the following ways:

- The Ministry plans and coordinates the New Member classes and confirmation activities.
- Ministry members participate with the ministers at each meeting of the New Member Class, and provide food for the New Member luncheon with the Elders and New Member Reception.
- The Ministry seeks to increase the congregation's understanding and participation in the Room for All initiatives, developing appropriate activities and educational opportunities, such as The Shower of Stoles Project, and encouraging all to be that "open and affirming community of believers...(that) celebrates the gifts of all God's people."
- Current disability needs and concerns in the congregation are reviewed and examined, strategies for meeting these needs are suggested and determined, and the congregation is provided with information and tools for responding to church attendees with appropriate thoughtfulness, care, and sensitivity.
- Members oversee production of the Hope Church News and other media coverage. Current advertisement strategies are reviewed, new strategies are developed, and funds are provided for these strategies.
- With other ministries, the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry continues to examine and implement strategies that meet the needs of and increase the participation of diverse populations in the life of Hope Church and the Hope Church neighborhood.
- The Ministry coordinates the recruitment of greeters before each sanctuary service.
- The Ministry schedules, defines, and reviews responsibilities of volunteers who staff the Welcome Center, and they review and assess available materials.
- Participation is ongoing in the discussions and recommendations for the Discerning Our Future task force.
- This Ministry coordinates the publication of a pictorial church directory every five years.
- This Ministry provides resources for ongoing "Name Tag Sundays" on the Sundays when communion is served.
- A budget is developed and recommended that responsibly reflects the expenses required to adequately carry out the ministry.
- A conscious effort is made to examine the expanding vision of future contributions this Ministry can make to the life of Hope Church.

Upcoming events include the New Member Luncheon on May 5, the Youth Profession of Faith Reception on May 19, and the New Member Reception on June 2.

Anyone interested in supporting this ministry is encouraged to contact any of the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry members: Trish Gosselar, Audrienne Hill, Michael Kolk, Dee Dee Piers, Jill Russell, Phil Tanis, Judy Vander Wilt, Anna Mae Vander Woude, and Jocelyn Van Heest.

Next month's Ministry Highlight will feature the Fellowship Ministry.

March and April Update



Washington School Neighbors

Greetings Hope Church! As you know, March was a month of transitions, hopes, and new starts. For Washington School Neighbors, it is the month where the Community

Connectors you've known for the past year, Shannon and Catie, passed the baton to Andrew and Kallie for the upcoming year. We are grateful for the groundwork they have laid, and happy to be living in and working with this neighborhood.

So far we have spent most of our time training with Judy at Good Samaritan Ministries, settling into our office here at Hope Church, and making acquaintances. We will continue to work with the two neighbors mentioned in the March newsletter update, and we welcome neighborly interest and support for each of these projects. If you are feeling a tug to get involved on any level, or are curious

to learn more about Neighborhood Connections, please come find us at our Hope Church office (just off the youth room on 11th Street) or connect with us directly using the contact information below.

Current Projects:

Website design, outdoor sign for office, team building, neighbor familiarity, city survey work, city liaison for neighbors, general Washington School Neighborhood participation.

This Month's Challenge:

Decide you will walk at least once a week for a season in this neighborhood where Hope Church is located. As you walk, open yourself to all kinds of neighbor interactions.

Your Neighbors,

Andrew and Kallie Spidahl
washington@hollandneighbors.org
(616) 422-5104

Palliative Care

Donita Robards, R.N., Hope Church Nurse

Palliative care has been around for several years, but it is frequently underutilized. Many people have never heard of it before, or if they have, they are often misinformed. One of the biggest misconceptions is that palliative care is just a part of hospice care. It is true that palliative care is based on many hospice care principles and delivered through some hospice agencies, but it is a different program entirely.

What is palliative care? The goal of palliative care is to relieve symptoms related to disease process and quality of life for patients and families. It does not intend to hasten nor postpone death. Palliative care is appropriate at any stage in the disease process - it is not just for end-of-life care. If you are having pain, nausea due to chemotherapy, or shortness of breath resulting from congestive heart failure, you are a candidate for palliative care. Palliative care is similar to hospice in these two goals.



The primary difference between the two programs is that palliative care patients can receive curative care. This means that patients can continue to have chemotherapy or other treatment, hospitalizations for their disease process, and home care if needed for nursing and therapy.

Hospice of Holland is expanding their program to include an interdisciplinary team to help meet the needs of their patients. This team includes the palliative care physician, a nurse, and a social worker. Having a team of people working to meet the needs of each patient will improve the coordination of care, and help to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of each individual client.

To obtain palliative care, you need an order from your primary care physician. Don't wait for your physician to bring this up to you. If you feel you may benefit from palliative care, ask for the order. You may also ask Hope Church Nurse, Donita Robards (616-796-3800), for information.

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Prayer PALS: Prayers Always Lovingly Said

On Sunday, May 5, we will celebrate the Children's Sabbath, a day when we as a congregation, promise to nurture and pray in support of the children of Hope Church. We want to celebrate them on this Sunday and everyday that follows.

The congregation will have the opportunity to select names of children to support and pray for in the coming year. The names of all the children in each church family will be included on the Prayer PALS sheet. We hope that this will allow each child in a family to have a similar experience with their Prayer PALS. There will be more information and ideas on how you can convey to those children how important and valued they are by Hope Church. We will also provide cards that may be sent to the family to introduce the adult to the child(ren). The children are an important and valuable part of our congregation as they share their joy and energy with each of us. *Please note: the 4th and 5th graders will take part in the 11 a.m. service.*

Church School and Children in Worship

May 19 is the last Sunday for Church School and Children in Worship. The teachers, worship leaders and children all had a very wonderful year together! The following week, May 26, children ages three through those who have completed second grade will be meeting together in the Youth Room when they are dismissed from the 10 a.m. service.

Youth Ministry

Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director

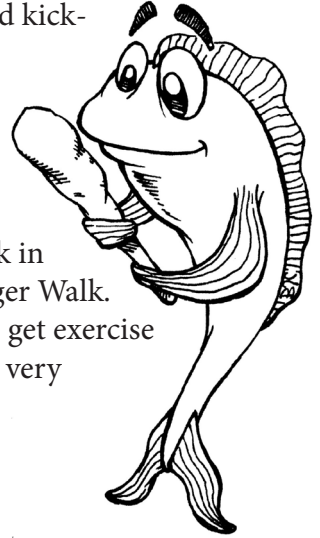
Both Fish Club and High Hopes will participate in the Think Hope Auction on Saturday, May 18. We look forward to serving guests during a fun night of fellowship! We are also looking forward to our year-end party at Tunnel Park on Friday, May 17. We will be joined by our Tri-youth friends from First Presbyterian Church and Grace Episcopal Church in celebrating the great year we had together.

High Hopes

High Hopes enjoyed the final "Unplugged" meeting of the school year on Sunday, April 14. It was a night of games, devotions, and communion, as well as fellowship and lots of laughter. On Sunday, April 28, High Hopes met with the Tri-youth for an evening picnic and some rousing games of four-square and kick-ball.

Fish Club

On Sunday, April 28, Fish Club joined with the Tri-youth to walk in the Holland/Zeeland Crop Hunger Walk. It was a wonderful time for us to get exercise and most importantly, support a very meaningful cause.



Program Year Coming to an End

Anne Duinkerken and Barbara Joldersma, Kids Hope USA Co-Directors



The Kids Hope 2012-2013 program year is winding down. Our mentors met with their students one last time the week of April 29.

It has been a good and challenging year. Most of our mentors will be back next year with the same student, although we do have some graduates from 5th grade.

Our year-end celebration will take place on Thursday, May 2. Students are looking forward to bowling, bingo, dinner with their families and mentors, and an awards ceremony. This has become a cherished tradition for our students, and also for our mentors, prayer partners, and families.

Thank you for all your support, in prayer and resources.

The deadline for the June/July Newsletter is Sunday, May 19.

Please submit all articles and updates to Angie Griffore (agriffore@hopechurchrca.org)

Reconciliation Ministry

During the Season of Reconciliation this past January and February, four members shared their Witness to Reconciliation during the 11 a.m. worship service. Below you can read one of those testimonies offered by Jean Cook on January 20, 2013.

I've been invited to speak to reconciliation and death. What I say is out of my own experience alone—there is no expectation that my experience becomes your experience. Do we ever reconcile to death? Does God expect that of us?

As we walk this earth, death and life journey together alongside us. Death the enemy—life the friend. Death the separator, cold and hard as the marble marker on the grave, the hurtful one, ugly in nature. Life the sustainer, the lover, the friend, the very presence of God himself. On rare occasions, they may switch roles. In my situation, that happened twice when I begged death to become my friend. Death and grief—cause and effect—physical and emotional in nature—inseparable.

Death is a real part of life—no escape for any of us.

I've lived long enough to see almost all of my relatives, many of my friends, a son and a husband die. In all of that I am constantly reassured by Romans 8 that nothing will separate me from the love of God.

I want to share two experiences of death in my life—one our son, who died at age twenty-two, and one my husband, who died at age eighty-two.

Paul, our son, was diagnosed with a terminal illness at age twenty. The diagnosis was a two- to five-year expectancy. He lived for two years. Amazingly, in all that time, Paul never asked the question, "Why me?" At the outset of his illness, Paul said to me, "I do not need your tears. I need your strength." Quite an assignment.

From that moment on I locked my grief inside my heart. With God's grace and an abundance of prayer I granted his request.

After the first year of his illness Paul came to Jim and me asking our permission to marry. Ruth was a young woman he had fallen in love with before his illness. Selfishly I struggled. He was my son—he was dying. I wanted to take care of him. By the grace of God, like the biblical prodigal "I came to myself." I celebrated their marriage with true joy that April.

Paul and Ruth established a lovely home on the north side. One day in February, Paul called and invited Jim and me to come to their apartment. Paul said, "I want to come home to die." That day I learned what true love is. That young bride, eighteen years old, was willing to give up her life, her home, for our son. They moved in with Jim and me. Ruth and I together cared for Paul for the next three months. Paul died almost a year to the date of their wedding. Ruth will probably remain the most extraordinary person I will ever know. She and her family remain a rich part of my life today.

God was with me.

Jim and I reacted differently to Paul's death. I had locked away grief for two years. Within a year I became nearly bedridden with rheumatoid arthritis. Jim, already sensitive and caring, became even more so—especially to those who had their own grief. He wrote beautiful notes, made personal visits, and walked through holy moments with some. Five years later, he wrote his inner reflections about prayer, life, death, the church, and family. In his

Restorative Circle Facilitator List

*If you would like to call a
Restorative Circle, please contact one
of the following facilitators.*

Jill Russell
jrussell@hopechurchrca.org
616-392-7947

Sharon Arendshorst

own words, he felt that was the most important writing he ever did.

Jim's diagnosis five years ago was for a few months of life. He lived six weeks. As he began slipping away emotionally as well as physically, I was losing my comforter, my encourager, my lover, my best friend.

Losing a son and losing a husband are two different things. It was once said to me that your children are only loaned to you. In so many ways that is true. They grow up, leave home, establish a family of their own. Jim became my partner for life. Our children were the physical expression of the love we shared for one another. I recall some words spoken at the memorial service for David Klooster not so long ago. A son, recalling remembrances of his father, told the story of how he and his brothers would occasionally ask their father, "Which of us do you love best?" David's reply always was, "I love your mother best, and you and your brothers the same." Our son Paul once gave his father a little wooden plaque that read, "The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." I was loved. I said grief is physical as well as emotional. That first year after Jim died, I was physically cold. How does one overcome such grief and move on?

Life itself helps you to do so. To quote from Jim's reflections: "The world did not stop when my world stopped and to confess that is as helpful as it is hurtful. Work, structure, and routine can preserve sanity, do help us to hang on, and may make the unbearable bearable."

On All Saints' Day, when our church celebrates the people in our community who have died over the past two years, it is a reminder that our grief is not ours alone.

I know that God was present as I experienced the dying and death of people I loved.

What about now? How does one meet life?

The heart does heal. Ambushes of grief will flood over me from time to time to remind me that death will always rear its ugly head.

Where is that comforter, encourager, lover, friend? I think that deep sensitivity to God's presence continues to sustain me.

I have found that presence in some of the most unexpected places I could ever have imagined:

In a woman who drove a bulldozer and waved good morning to me every day. We finally met and became true friends.

In a woman unknown to me who stopped her car and asked what happened to my husband.

In a baker, a total stranger, who gave me a loaf of his freshly baked bread.

In a woman, on the verge of separating from her husband, who recognized the love Jim and I shared and was inspired to give her marriage another try.

In my children.

In my friends.

In this communion of saints at Hope Church.
God is everywhere!

Each night I can truthfully end my day by thanking God for his presence in my life.

Reconcile to death? God has already done that through the hope of the resurrection. After someone you love dies—I have come to say the true reconciliation is not to death but to Life.

Laurie Baron

Anne Duinkerken

Randy Smit

David Blauw

Ann McKnight

Curt L. Tofteland

Judy Boogaart

Rachelle Oppenhuizen

Cindi Veldheer DeYoung

Caring for Creation News

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Coordinator

“The postmodern notion that reality is only a construct—that we are what we program—suggests limitless human possibilities; but as the young spend less and less of their lives in natural surroundings, their senses narrow, physiologically and psychologically, and this reduces the richness of the human experience.” -Richard Louv: Last Child In The Woods



It always amazes me to hear this, but we now spend 90% of our time indoors. Here at the far end of the radio-television-computer-smart phone continuum life has a different pattern. There's been a change in our social DNA and we don't necessarily even want the same things anymore. Louv quotes a young child who when asked why he played indoors replied, “Because that's where the electrical outlets are.”

If you grant me the premise that there's been a change, then the question becomes whether or not it's a problem. Have we lost anything valuable in the process? You needn't read very far in Louv's book to understand that he replies with a resounding “yes.” We are losing our capacity for being fully human; to be our natural selves. Louv doesn't say it, but “human” is a word-play derived from humus, the stuff of the earth. Scripture defines us as having been made from the dust of the earth. The ground of our being is quite literally ground.

Excessive indoor time cuts us off from our deepest component of identity. In a sense, we're living in a world of our own creation as opposed to the world as created by God. There are Biblical reverberations here. Remember the Tower of Babel? Here's a story of human engineering and building on a grand scale, achievement that reaches into the heavens. The final product, however, is division and dissolution.



Louv and others point out that healthy spiritual formation requires contact with nature—outdoor time. This isn't to discount the achievements of science or the importance of manufacturing. We are still that part of creation with whom God walked in the garden; we have capacity for creativity too. But living in an electronic, isolated environment will not connect us with that which we most need: knowledge of our place and the joy of being well fitted.

The Caring for Creation ministry is placing an emphasis this year on outdoor time. Specifically, we're recommending that you connect with Ottawa County Parks. There are thirty-eight parks/natural areas waiting for your exploration. Take up our Parks Challenge. You'll find information about it on the bulletin board outside Commons I, with a list of several outings during May. The annual wildflower walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 5 at Tunnel Park. A park staffer will walk us through the beauty spots that most beach lovers miss.

And speaking of electronics, drop off your defunct equipment at our e-waste recycling event on Saturday, May 18. We are partnering with the Holland Board of Public Works. HBPW will be collecting refrigerators, dehumidifiers, freezers, and air conditioners. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the HBPW parking lot at 625 Hastings Ave.

Summer Worship Times

On Sunday, May 26, our summer worship time will change to 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Early Worship will go on summer hiatus and will resume in the fall. There will be no Church School hour, but children ages 3 through completion of second grade will meet in the Youth Room after they are dismissed from the 10:00 a.m. service.

Taizé Services

All are invited to participate in this time of song, scripture, silence, and sacrament on Wednesday mornings, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Services will continue through May 22.

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will be discussing *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett with Nancy VandeWater leading. The meeting will be held in Commons II on Wednesday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m. Come and join the discussion of a fascinating book!

Coffee Time

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. Two or three staff members, Congregational Care Ministry representatives, and any other congregation members who would like to attend are all welcome. The next Coffee Time will be at Warm Friend on Tuesday, May 14, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour!

Circles

1

Wednesday, May 1 at 9:30am
M. Anderson's home

2

Wednesday, May 1 at 9:30am
Hope Church, Commons II

4

Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00pm
J. Mastenbrook's home

At Home With the Word

Daily Bible Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary

April 29-May 5

Monday	Acts 16:9-15
Tuesday	Psalms 67
Wednesday	Revelation 21:10, 22-27
Thursday	Revelation 22:1-5
Friday	John 14:23-29
Saturday	John 5:1-9
Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 6-12

Monday	Acts 16:16-24
Tuesday	Acts 16:25-34
Wednesday	Psalms 97
Thursday	Ascension Day; Acts 1:1-11
Friday	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
Saturday	John 17:20-26
Sunday	Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 13-19

Monday	Acts 2:1-13
Tuesday	Acts 2:14-21
Wednesday	Genesis 11:1-9
Thursday	Psalms 104:24-35
Friday	Romans 8:14-17
Saturday	John 14:8-17, 25-27
Sunday	Pentecost

May 20-26

Monday	Proverbs 8:1-4
Tuesday	Proverbs 8:22-31
Wednesday	Psalms 8:1-2
Thursday	Psalms 8:3-9
Friday	Romans 5:1-5
Saturday	John 16:12-15
Sunday	Trinity Sunday

May 27-June 2

Monday	1 Kings 18:20-39
Tuesday	1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43
Wednesday	Psalms 96:1-9
Thursday	Psalms 96:10-13
Friday	Galatians 1:1-12
Saturday	Luke 7:1-10
Sunday	Second Sunday after Pentecost

Attention Graduates!

Please email office@hopechurchrca.org with details of graduation from high school, college, or graduate school. If you know your future plans, please include those. We will recognize our graduates at a later date in a Sunday worship bulletin.

Co-Ed Softball Team



The season begins in May! People of all skill levels are welcome to participate. This is a great way to enjoy fellowship at Hope Church and get some exercise at the same time! If you'd like to learn more about it, please contact Bob Jerow or call the church office (392-7947).

May Birthdays

05 Virginia Timmer
Care Group: 12

06 Ed Boer
Care Group: 1

26 Mary McCune
Care Group: 5

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



2014 Directory Brainstorming Team

Volunteers are needed to be a part of the brainstorming team for the 2014 Pictorial Directory. This is an exciting project that requires the gifts of many.

If you are interested in being part of the brainstorming team, please sign-up in the gathering area by June 15, or call the Church office.



Camp Sunshine 11th Annual Camp Sunshine Charity Golf Event

Mark Saturday, June 1, 2013, at 2 pm, on your calendar for a great day of fun, food, and golf at Thornapple Pointe!

For more Information, contact Cindy Terlouw @ [616-994-9897](tel:616-994-9897)

Visit Camp Sunshine at
www.campsunshine.info

Thank You

Thank you to the Women's Circles of Hope Church! Recently, the Women's Circles donated a supply of teaspoons to match the other flatware numbers. There are currently three circles whose aim is to provide an opportunity for fellowship, study, and service. The circles meet monthly for Bible or book study and serve at memorial service receptions at Hope Church.

A 100% Thank You!

Thanks to the many helpers, coaches, prop makers and singers for your assistance with the Jubilate Choir musical, "100% Chance of Rain." Special thanks to Sue Rhoades/Fris Hallmark for the bright balloons and to Paige Convis & Cecily Carder for staging and choreography direction.

Dear Hope Church,

The Easter lily blooms are still fragrant and beautiful. As the earth warms up, my plant will join the earlier years' lilies in the garden. Thank you!

-Helena Winter

Consistory Corner

The consistory is considering a proposal from the Discerning our Future task force to change the terms of consistory so that new terms begins in June rather than January as they currently do. This would bring the consistory year in alignment with the church's program year. Right now new officers are elected in December and installed in January right in the middle of the program year and in the midst of annual budget planning. Changing leadership mid-stream in the program year is disruptive to the flow of church life and especially to the flow of annual planning. Consistory will be voting on this proposed change at their June consistory meeting. It would go into effect in 2014. Please share any feedback you have about this idea with any consistory member, the church office, or with Pastors Jill and Gordon.

and finally...

I'd like your help with a sabbatical reading list. Actually, that's misleading, because I have already pretty much filled my sabbatical reading list for next Fall. But I was thinking it could be interesting and fun to gather together a sabbatical reading list from all of you, FOR all of you. That is, I'd like to put together a Hope Church recommended reading list. And although I realize that all of you do not have sabbaticals next Fall (or in many cases, NEVER have a sabbatical, as some of you have good-naturedly pointed out to me ☺), it could be very helpful to have this kind of a reading list to draw on for this Fall and beyond.

So, here is my pre-sabbatical project for you:

***Put together the following list of books that you would recommend to others** (you can tweak this list a bit, but I think this is a doable list to assemble):

- 3 books on theology/spirituality
- 3 novels
- 3 biographies
- 3 others (contemporary issues, poetry, history, humor)

*** Send your list to me:** gwiersma@hopechurchrca.org or to the church office – deadline is May 26.

The combined list will be published before my sabbatical this Fall. I'm thinking I will just list the books/titles (and not list who recommended each one), so don't be shy! If a few of you respond, then there will be a few books on the list; if hundreds of you respond, there will be hundreds of books on the list! – I think that the hundreds scenario would be a lot of fun!

And to start things off, here is my list:

Pastor Gordon's Recommended Reading List

Theology/spirituality

- *The Powers That Be*, Walter Wink
- *Raising Abel*, James Alison
- *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*, Barbara Brown Taylor
- *The Coming of God*, Jurgen Moltmann

Novels

- *The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver
- *Life of Pi*, Yann Martel
- *Gilead* and *Home*, Marilynne Robinson
- *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving

Biographies

C.S. Lewis: A Biography, A.N. Wilson
Reinhold Niebuhr: A Biography, Richard Fox

Other

- *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, Brian Greene
- *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bill Bryson
- Poetry by Barbara Hirschfield, Mary Oliver, Pablo Neruda, Naomi Shihab Nye & Czeslaw Milosz

That was difficult (hard to choose)! and fun! Now, work on your list! I look forward to seeing your recommendations...

Peace,
 Pastor Gordon

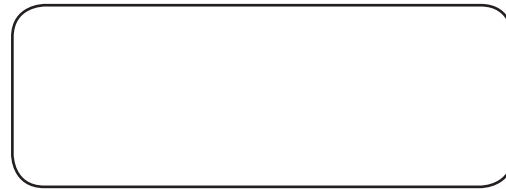
Hope Church
77 West 11th Street
Holland MI 49423



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Hope Church News

May 2013



Tulip Time Notice

On Saturday, May 11, the Hope Church parking lot will be staffed by members of the People 1st of the Lakeshore. The parking lot will be roped off for the Parade of Bands and People 1st of the Lakeshore will be collecting a fee for parking as a fundraiser for their chapter.

What is People 1st of the Lakeshore?

It is the Ottawa and Allegan County Chapter of individuals with developmental disabilities. People 1st was started in Oregon in 1974. Members want to speak for themselves and let people know who they are and what they have to offer. Their motto is that they are people first and their disabilities come second.

Would you like to join People 1st?

Together you can help members achieve their God-given potential as citizens and help them become more independent. The local chapter has weekly and monthly meetings. Meetings are held at the ARC (Advocacy and Resource Center) office. For more information, call ARC Advocacy and Resource Center, 665 136th Avenue, #90, Holland MI 49424, 738-8570.

