



HOPE CHURCH

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

Hope Church News

Volume 56, No. 6

June/July 2013

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The Church office will be closed on Thursday, July 4

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



Caring for Creation Continues Parks Challenge

How many Ottawa County Parks can you visit this year?

Hope Church members have been hiking, walking their dogs, geocaching and birding in Ottawa County Parks the past month, racking up visits for the Parks Challenge. It's not too late to join in!

Participate in the Parks Challenge:

- Join us for Park Outings (see scheduled dates below) or go on your own.
- Fill in the Challenge Check List for each park visited.
- Kids play "Park Bingo". Put a sticker on each park visited and earn a prize each time you get a new Bingo (six in a row). Keep visiting parks and putting the stickers on! Show Peter or Judith Boogaart to receive a prize.
- Take pictures of yourself at the park sign or your favorite spot in each park visited and post your photos on the display by the Caring for Creation bulletin board.

Here's a list of June outings. The first three are Ottawa County events, and the last three are organized by the Caring for Creation ministry.

Saturday, June 1, 2:00 p.m.

Butterflies at Hemlock Crossing

Tuesday, June 4, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Kayaking at Pigeon Creek

Saturday, June 8, 2:00 p.m.

Dune Hike at Olive Shores

Wednesday, June 19, 9:00 a.m.

Hike around Hawthorn Pond with PAYC

Sunday, June 23, 2:00 p.m.

Explore Upper Macatawa Natural Area

Wednesday, June 26, 5:15 p.m.

Visit Historic Ottawa Beach

But you don't need to wait for us – go on your own anytime! All necessary materials are available at the display next to the Caring for Creation bulletin board. More information regarding scheduled park outings can be found online at www.hopechurchrca.org. Happy hiking!

Hope Church Welcomes New Members

On May 5 the elders of Hope Church met with prospective new members and youth confirmands after a delicious meal prepared by members of the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry. The reception included the new members, youth, mentors, sponsors, and elders of the Consistory. The youth made public profession of faith on Pentecost, May 19, and the new members will be welcomed into the fellowship of Hope Church on June 2 during 10 a.m. worship.

Youth who made profession of faith include:

Sophie Accardo who is mentored by Jean DenHerder

Alexa Brower who is mentored by Anne Duinkerken

Amy Olgers mentored by Kristine Bradfield

Clara Steeby who is mentored by Jocelyn Yost

New Members include:

Libby Hillegonds joins by transfer from John Knox Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, MI. She is sponsored by Barbara Bingham. Libby is past member of Hope Church and now lives at Freedom Village. She is a retired social worker and enjoys reading, knitting, and group activities.

Jim and Cary Russell join by transfer from Calvary Reformed Church in Mattawan, MI. They are sponsored by Bette and Cecil Williams. Jim and Cary are the parents of Pastor Jill Russell (and grandparents to Cassidy and Von!) Both are retired social workers and Jim, more recently, a realtor.

Please take the time to welcome these individuals into the family of Hope Church.

Financial Update

From the Stewardship and Finance Ministry

As we move into the summer months, the Stewardship and Finance (S&F) Ministry would like to share some updates with the congregation. The first is to let you know how we have followed up on the request the congregation made at our annual meeting back in January. There was concern that the 2013 budget only included a 1% raise for our staff when the classis guidelines recommended a 1.5% increase. Since the congregation approved the budget with the 1% raise knowing that we were anticipating a potential deficit for the year, the consensus of the consistory after consulting with the Personnel and S&F committees was to see how the year ends. If we have any unspent funds as the year is concluded the first allocation the consistory will make with those funds is to provide the staff with additional compensation going into the new year.

A second update is in regards to planning for the 2014 budget process. If we do in fact end the year with a deficit, we have reserve funds to cover this shortfall. We are aware that we would need to consider significant budget cuts for the 2014 budget. We won't know where we stand in 2013 until the second week of January 2014. The annual meeting where budgets are approved is only a couple of weeks later. The consistory has commissioned the Executive Committee along with the Personnel

Committee and S&F Ministry to work on a contingency budget for 2014 that offers options for varying degrees of budget reductions. That work has been done. If it becomes necessary to consider these options, the S&F Ministry would bring a status quo budget for the first three months of the year to the annual meeting with an overview of the various options for balancing the budget for the remaining nine months of the year. Decisions on those budget reductions would be made within the first quarter of the year. We believe this strikes the right balance between being prepared without creating undue anxiety within the congregation and staff by announcing potential budget reductions that might not be needed.

The final update the committee would like to share is where we stand financially as of the end of April. The following snapshot will provide that information:

Year to date income - \$185,121

Year to date budgeted income - \$202,464

Expenses year to date - \$220,526

Year to date budgeted expenses - \$225,824

We want to thank all of the members and friends of Hope Church for your faithful giving both in terms of your time and creativity as well as your financial support!

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 Fellowship Ministry at Hope Church

The goal of this ministry is to provide opportunities for fellowship among the members and friends of Hope Church through an assortment of intergenerational events that will be of interest to all. These events are meaningful traditions in the spiritual lives of many individuals and families.

The ministry plays an active role in the events surrounding both Advent and Lent. During the Advent season, we continue for several weeks to deepen our connections with others by sharing meals together; and participating in Craft Night, the Unrehearsed Nativity Pageant, and caroling. Similarly during Lent, Fellowship Ministry provides simple meals as we begin the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday and conclude with a ceremonial Seder potluck meal on Maundy Thursday.

Other activities that Fellowship Ministry manages are the Fall Kick-Off Picnic, Pizza Sundays, Easter Brunch, summer co-ed softball, congregation-wide bowling, and weekly volleyball. Occasionally, there are events such as

a neighborhood ice cream social and summer picnics in local parks. This collaboration tries to connect members throughout the summer months and is another way for Hope Church members to interact with the community at large.

Fellowship Ministry also plans the bi-yearly weekend camp outing at CranHill Ranch. This long standing tradition continues to be a treasured time away for our members to interact in a much more casual setting sharing potluck meals, campfires, and concluding with a worship service on Sunday. The ministry welcomes ongoing input and support of the church community.

Anyone interested in supporting this ministry is encouraged to contact any of the Fellowship Ministry members: Lisa Accardo (co-chair), Laurie Beyer-Braaksma, Tim Housel, Marilee Neuwsma (co-chair), Stephanie Parrott, Joyce Teusink, Sally Winchester, and Kris Witkowski.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Christian Education Ministry.

Summer Adult Education Offerings

Mercy Ships Presentation

On Sunday, June 30 at 11:15 a.m., Anna Blauw will present on her involvement working with Mercy Ships, a global charity whose mission is to provide hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor. Mercy Ships currently has one ship, the "Africa Mercy", that works off the coast of West Africa. With a crew made up of 450 volunteers from all over the world, the ship spends six to ten months in each country that it visits, providing life-saving surgery, dental care, eye surgery, physical therapy, and palliative care. "Africa Mercy" has been docked in Conakry, Guinea since August 2012, and Anna has been working aboard since January 2013. Please join Anna on the 30th to learn more about Mercy Ships and her passion for healthcare in developing countries.



General Synod 2013 Review

General Synod is an annual meeting of representatives from congregations of the Reformed Church in America to make decisions that affect the entire denomination. The 207th General Synod meets this year at Central College in Pella, Iowa, from June 20 through 25. Among those attending from Hope Church are Carol Bechtel, Jeff Japinga, Lynn Japinga, Judy Parr, Jill Russell, Larry Schuyler, and Phil Tanis.



On July 14 from about 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jill, Judy, Lynn and Phil and perhaps others will report on their experiences at and reflections upon General Synod. The meeting will take place in Commons I. Attending this panel discussion is one of the best ways to learn about our denomination.

Thank You for Another Great Year

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

Hope Church's Kids Hope program concluded its 2012-2013 program year on May 3. A highlight of our final week was the year-end party held on Thursday, May 2. Over 90 people were present for this celebration where we recognized the 14 children we have mentored this year.

We have now completed ten years of partnership with Vanderbilt Charter Academy. Over the years, many members of the Hope Church family have participated in this program and we are grateful for their efforts to provide hope for at-risk children in our community.



Among those we would like to thank for their participation in this year's program are our mentors:

David Boelkins, Judi Boogaart, Jonathan Brownson, Jean Cook, Linda Cook, Helen DeWeerd, Anne Duinkerken, Kate Irvin-Garcia, Arda Rooks, Vicki Rumpsa, Bruce tenHaken, Judy VanderWilt, Marlin VanderWilt and Anne Heath Wiersma. We would also like to thank substitute mentors: Margaret Boelkins, Don Buteyn, Barbara Joldersma, Marilee Nieuwsma, Rachelle Oppenhuizen,

Nancy Rock, Jane Schuyler, and Gordon Wiersma; as well as prayer partners: Ann Anderson, Randy Braaksma, Joanne Brooks, Suzanne Buteyn, Jan Fike, Ruth Hoekstra-Telgenhof, Shannon Kalmink, Norma Killilea, Stephanie Krom, Char Laman, Earl Laman, Judy Mastenbrook, Kari

Miller-Fenwood, Karen Mulder, Rachelle Oppenhuizen, Nancy Rock, Stan Rock, Jill Russell, Dorothy Sherburne, Jane Schuyler, Jan Smith, Eloise VanHeest, Nancy VandeWater and Gordon Wiersma. We appreciated the special support provided during our year-end party by Peter Boogaart, Judy Bultman and Dave DeBlock who are members of the Community Ministry. Many thanks to the members of the church staff who provide support

services for the work we do: Laurie Beyer Braaksma, Angie Griffore, Karla Kammeraad-Bos, Ric Beltran, Jill Russell and Gordon Wiersma.



This is quite a long list and each person on it is a necessary part of our Kids Hope team. Without their commitment, it would be impossible for our Kids Hope program to run smoothly. We hope that when you see them, you will join us in thanking them for their faithfulness to the children of Vanderbilt. As the founder of Kids Hope, Virgil Gulker, often says, they have been "Jesus with skin on," sharing Christ's love through their actions.

Finally, we want to offer a special thanks for the on-going support of the entire congregation. We know this ministry would not exist without you. Thank you for your prayers and for the financial support which makes all of this possible. We look forward to continuing this ministry with you during the 2013-2014 school year.

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Summer Church School

Children ages 3 through those who have completed 2nd grade will leave the 10:00 a.m. worship service after the Word with the Children and will meet in the Youth Center. This summer we will start by hearing "water stories" from the Bible. Through the lives of Noah, Moses, Jonah, and Jesus we will be assured that God is with us even when times get difficult. Each story will be presented several times through a variety of activities, including songs, crafts, games and even play acting. The children will be finished with their activities at the end of the worship service.

Children's Offering

Our children dedicated their offerings this year to water purification efforts. They also had the wonderful opportunity to meet with Scott and Claire Rumsa and learn about what they are doing through Nuru International in Kenya. The Rumsas talked about the Kenyan children and their schools that are in great need of all kinds of supplies, especially books. The children of Hope Church are very excited to be able to send funds for the purchasing of books in the classrooms. The children have learned how important it is to share our gifts with others and how even small gifts may have a large impact on the lives of others. Thanks for your help, children, in remembering to share what you have been given with others.

Children in Worship Leaders and Greeters Needed

The CIW leaders ask you to prayerfully consider joining them in the wonderful experience of worshiping with the children of Hope Church. The leadership schedule can be very flexible to match your availability and your level of commitment. The Children in Worship program is an integral part of the nurturing of the children as they begin their faith journey. We are in need of storytellers, whether experienced or willing to learn, to help staff the current worship centers and others to aid in the room as greeters. Some training is necessary but that also can be worked into any schedule. It is a great way to meet and get to know the wonderful children in our faith community. If you have one Sunday a month, or a few consecutive weeks that you would be willing to be involved you can be of great service. You will be enriched as much if not more than the children themselves as you worship together.

If you have any questions, please talk to Jocelyn or one of the leaders who have spent time in the centers. If you have been a leader in the past, please consider sharing your talents again. Thank you for your consideration!

Youth Ministry

Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director

On May 19 we had a wonderful year-end party out at Tunnel Park. We were happy to be joined by the youth from Grace Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church. Together we enjoyed the beach and dunes, shared a great hot-dog meal, played a rousing game of kickball, and sent our seniors out into the world with blessings. We are looking forward to a canoe trip in July with the senior high group, and a canoe trip in August with the middle-schoolers.

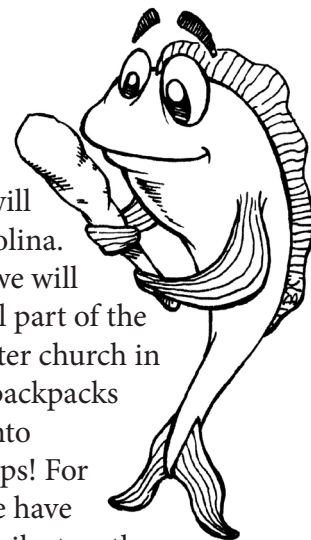
High Hopes

High Hopes is planning a year-end party on Tuesday, June 4 at Teusink's Pony Farm. We are looking forward to games, good food, and good conversation.

We are still making plans for our summer mission trip. On July 27, we depart for Greenpoint Reformed Church in Brooklyn, New York for our fourth visit (2007, 2009, 2011, 2013). This year we will be helping with a Vacation Bible School in the neighborhood and also doing some repairs for the church.

Fish Club

On June 9, thirteen youth and eight adults from Hope Church will be heading out to the Appalachian Trail. This year we will be hiking in northern North Carolina. Over four days and three nights we will hike 43.4 miles in a very beautiful part of the country. You may have seen us after church in our hiking clothes and with our backpacks full. We have been busy getting into shape - steps upon steps upon steps! For three Sundays before we leave, we have "practice hikes". This is a time to hike together and make sure we have done enough training to enjoy the hike. The Appalachian Trail trip is always an amazing adventure for all of us, and we look forward to sharing our experiences with you when we return.



Love More

Ann McKnight, Reconciliation Ministry

“Love More.’ It’s not easy, but at least it’s not complicated.”

Lois Maassen, one of the saints in my life, wrote this in an essay that I’ve read more than a few times. I do want to love more. With every fiber of my being. And, yes, it’s not easy. I also do find it complicated here in the trenches of family life with two growing teens. I need a hand.

Our foursome is dynamic. On the up side, we are each curious, enjoy adventures (each by our own definitions), have a wide variety of interests, and plenty of humor. Plus, we love fun. On the not-so-up side, we can have four very distinct and strong positions on any issue from “what’s for dinner?” to who has a say over the cleanliness of bedrooms. The “discussions” that emerge are sometimes not so fun.

As a mom and wife, when the tension arises, I can find myself wanting to make it easy: trying to figure out solutions that will make everyone happy, or, in frustration, resorting to the old familiar “because I said so!” just to bring the issue to a close. Or, in a slightly less easy direction, trying to ignore or work around tensions. The bottom line is that, in spite of knowing better, my autopilot is to try and figure it out so everyone is happy.

Isn’t that a kind of loving more? Certainly there is nothing harmful about wanting to bring harmony. It IS complicated, though. When I appoint myself conflict manager/solver in my own family something doesn’t sit right in my own heart. Placing myself in the seat of God leaves little room for me. I’m realizing that in order to thrive, I, too, need to be understood in these challenging moments of family life. It’s hard to be both referee and player. Even more important, Jim and I both want our children to be able to clean up their own messes---literally and figuratively. I suspect the more interference I run, the less they will be inclined to do this. Thankfully, now that we have the tool of Restorative Circles, I’m experiencing a fundamental shift in dynamics.

While planning, as a family, for this last Spring Break (a long anticipated trip to visit friends) some major concerns came up that seemed to be deal-breakers for us being able

to travel together in the way we had hoped. Immediately, I was tempted to fix the situation at hand by coming up with my own suggested solutions. Another option was collaborating with Jim on what to impose on Ian and Caroline and then bracing for the fallout. We chose a newer option: the Restorative Circles (RC) process that we’ve been using both formally and informally, in parts and pieces of our family life in the last couple of years.

I am proud to say that, in spite of high tensions, we all welcomed the plan to ask a friend familiar with RC to help us. We put on hold any stories we had that “loving families work things out on their own” or “good people do not have conflict” and were willing to bring ourselves fully to the conversation. As a result, we were able to finally hear each other more clearly---beyond our fears and conclusions about what needed to happen---to understand what mattered to each of us. I did not have to pretend that I was the source of all decisions and that it didn’t matter how I was impacted by the outcome. I also didn’t have the pressure of needing to figure it out myself.

As circles often go, after everyone felt understood to their satisfaction, we were able to come up with a plan that was nothing any of us had thought of before: staggered arrival and departure dates, and more flexible scheduling during the trip, and much more clarity about what mattered to each of us.

I believe a direct result of this was, quite frankly, the most memorable and rich Spring Break we’ve ever had. Truly.

When I told my family I was writing this article and wanted to them to share what was different about RC here’s how they responded:

Caroline said, *“It works. We were much calmer and really listened to each other. And I could understand everyone’s view better.”* Ian said, *“It’s nice. It really helped the global wave of peace within me---please don’t write that,”* and then laughed, of course. From Jim: *“It’s a simple structure. Easy to learn. And I gained a lot of insight. After hearing each other it was easy to find our way forward together.”*

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For me, Restorative Circles provide a format and structure for the Holy Spirit to enter in to our stuck places. By recognizing that God is at work in each of us, and the Holy Spirit (which is far bigger than our individual selves) shows up when invited, we found a deeper sense of trust within our family---that we really do each understand that all of our needs matter and are valuable, even when we're not able to get to it in the moment because of tension or fear. And we're willing to work at it.

I also recognized a desire I wasn't previously aware of: the longing for natural support for our family from the extended community when we are in stuck spaces. Not just during times of major crises, but for the everyday stuff of life. Longing for God to come more fully into our daily workings to give us a greater vision of how difficulties can bloom into real Grace.

I am part of and want to continue growing into a loving community that knows that family life is messy and we get stuck and we simply can't do it by ourselves. We can reach out and get someone to help us listen to each other, to be an agent of God's presence. When this happens we open to the possibility of finding our own solutions that actually satisfy us in our situation. This is a safety net I didn't even know I needed, and now that I know it's here it feels like some of the weight has been lightened in parenting. From here it doesn't seem complicated at all.



If you would like to call a Restorative Circle Facilitator, please pick up a Facilitator List at the Restorative Circle bulletin board outside of Commons I.

Sabbatical Staffing Plan for Fall 2013

From the Personnel Committee and Consistory

The Personnel Committee has developed and Consistory has approved a staffing plan for the time Pastor Gordon will be on sabbatical this coming Fall (Gordon will use his vacation in August, then continue with his sabbatical from September 1 through November 24). The design of this plan is to provide direct coverage for Gordon's primary program tasks, as well as to provide overall increased administrative support for Pastor Jill, ministries/groups, and staff for the day-to-day needs of our congregation and ministry. Here are the specifics of the Sabbatical Staffing Plan:

Preaching and Worship Leading Responsibilities

Rev. Dr. Lynn Japinga will preach once in August and then she will be preaching every other week and will be liturgist on the alternate Sundays September through November. We are pleased that Lynn can again provide regular worship leadership as she has done during sabbatical and family leave times in the past, and she is looking forward to serving the congregation in this way.

Program Support and Pastoral Care

Andrew Spidahl will be providing program support for the Early Worship Task Force, the GIFT class, the Road Less Traveled, and a fall small group program. He will also be supporting the 10th Street House Mentor Team. He will be working an average of 15 hours a week with

five of those hours dedicated to pastoral care. Andrew will be providing support to youth ministry trips this summer and will begin this new role in the beginning of August. Many of you know Andrew Spidahl as a recent seminary intern for Hope Church, and he is pleased that he can continue in a ministry role with this congregation. We're grateful that Andrew can build on his connections with Hope Church as he provides program and pastoral care support.

Administrative Support

The strong administrative team at Hope Church that Laurie Braaksma leads has been blessed over the past months to incorporate Communications Coordinator, Angie Griffore, as part of our staff, and together this Fall they will give additional support to our ministry. Beginning in August, Angie will be picking up an additional five hours of administrative work per week. This time will allow Angie to take work assignments from Laurie or from Pastor Jill as needed. Jill will be providing sole support to areas of ministry that Jill and Gordon typically share such as Personnel; Stewardship and Finance; Worship, Prayer and Spirituality; Reconciliation, and Consistory. Laurie will be assisting Jill in some of this work which will require a redirection of tasks to Angie from Laurie's workload.

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Focus on Men's Health

Donita Robards, Parish Nurse

Men's health is a frequently neglected topic in health care. Nonetheless, it is important to consider the risks imposed upon our fathers, brothers, sons and friends simply because of their gender. Specific health risks are more common at different stages in life, and it is vital to be aware of when disease is more likely to strike and what symptoms to look for. While it is true that young men usually don't have to worry about their health, they too need to know what to look for in case they experience unusual symptoms.

There are two types of cancer that are unique to men: testicular and prostate. These cancers generally affect men at different ages. Testicular cancer is more common in younger men. It can occur in teenagers. It is less common in the middle-aged. Risk factors for testicular cancer are also an undescended testicle, or abnormal testicular development. A family history or previous diagnosis of testicular cancer is also relevant. A testicular self-exam is still the best way to note any lumps which would warrant a visit to your doctor. A lump does not automatically mean that you have cancer, but early detection is key to a successful outcome. Symptoms of testicular cancer are a small painless lump in the testicle, or a slightly enlarged testicle. You may feel heaviness in the scrotum, or a dull ache in the lower stomach or groin.

The risk of prostate cancer increases with age. It usually affects men from the age of 50 and up. A family history is also a high risk factor as well as race. African American men are at higher risk. Prostate cancer is usually a slow growing cancer and there may not be any symptoms initially. As the disease progresses you may experience trouble urinating, decrease force in the stream of urine, blood in the urine, blood in the semen, swelling in the legs, or discomfort in the pelvic area and bone pain.

If you have any symptoms, contact your primary care physician for a complete exam. Your doctor can discuss the options available to you. Remember, survival rates with good outcomes are excellent with early detection and treatment. Please don't hesitate to get the care you need, your families need you! Happy Father's Day and many more to come!



Know Where to Go and What to Do

First Aid Kits are located in the kitchen, church office, rooms 108 and 206, youth room, nursery parent pager cart, church van, and in the back of the Sanctuary in the unlocked Deacons' closet.

Blankets are located in the coat closet off the Gathering Area and in Deacons' closet in the back of the Sanctuary.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is located to the left of the doors to the parking lot in the Gathering Area.

How to use the Automated External Defibrillator:

1. Check for signs of sudden cardiac arrest. The signs are unresponsiveness and abnormal breathing. The patient may not be breathing at all, or may have labored, irregular breathing.
2. Check for a pulse. If there is no pulse, it is time to use the AED.
3. Turn on the AED by pushing the green button. The machine will talk you through the directions.
4. Apply pads to chest. There are two pads that must be applied to the chest. One will go directly below the heart on the left side, the other goes on the upper chest directly below the right clavicle (there is a picture inside the box demonstrating where to place the pads).
5. Deliver electric shock. The machine will tell you when to press the orange button to deliver the electric shock.

For more information on emergency response, go to www.heartrescuenow.com. Please call the church office for item availability - there is no charge.

Go & Glow Fitness Initiative

The Health Ministry is once again launching an initiative to get Hope Church moving this summer. For those who are able, we encourage you to make some fitness goals for the summer - to go and glow! Look for more information beginning Sunday, June 9.

Hope Church Member on Jeopardy

Mark Japinga, son of Jeff and Lynn Japinga, will appear on America's favorite quiz show, Jeopardy, on Thursday, July 11. Tune in at 7:30pm EST on WWMT-TV (Channel 3).

Pizza Sunday Hosts Needed

Pizza Sunday will be held on June 30, July 28, and August 25. Hosts are still needed for the June and July Pizza Sundays. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you are willing to serve as host.

2014 Directory Brainstorming Team

Volunteers are still 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 Angie in the Church office.

Weavings Journals Available

Weavings is a journal of the Christian Spiritual Life which has been in print since September 1986. Each issue has a theme such as Mystery, Compassion, Simplicity, Fasting, Failure, Virtue, Transformation, Wonder or Loneliness. The writers come from a diverse cross section of Christian belief and actions.

If you need a resource on a certain topic, please stop into the Hope Church Library and check the theme index for your desired issue. I have been reading *Weavings* for about twenty years. My Prayer Group uses it for our monthly discussions and reflections. We have found the articles stimulating and enlightening. They can be used for a personal retreat or group discussions.

These used journals have been donated and some have underlining, but this is just too rich of a resource to end up in some landfill. Please enjoy. *-Ann Piet Anderson*

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church readers will meet at the home of Jean McFadden, on June 19, at NOON (Please note time!) The program will include our annual salad luncheon followed by the choosing of next season's book list. Along with your food contribution, please come with a recommendation of a book you feel would be a good "read" for our membership. If you don't know the route to Jean's home call Ruth Donaldson for directions.

Brim Bunch Fair

Brim Bunch Members! Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 20, the day of the Brim Bunch Fair! There will be "fair " type entertainment and a picnic meal which will be held in the Commons at 6:00 p.m.

Make your reservations with your caller by Sunday, June 16. If you are not on a calling list, contact Lois Boersma. Cost for the event is \$7.00 payable at the door. All interested people are invited and welcome.

June & July Birthdays

June 30	Ruth Green Care Group: 2
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July 14	Lois Boersma Care Group: 2
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July 17	Dorothy Sherburne Care Group: 12
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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 deadline for the August newsletter is **Monday, July 15**. Please submit all articles and updates to Angie Griffore agriffore@hopechurchrca.org

Thank You

Back in late November 2012, I announced my plan to start a fundraiser in memory of my aunt, Mary MacLean, who passed away last summer. I made calendars for this year, 2013, called it Calendars for Cures, and pledged to donate all profits to the American Cancer Society. Back in April, I was able to make the final donation, which added up to \$315 even. The fundraiser was an enormous success and it was all thanks to the love and support of Hope Church. Hopefully the donation will help to find a cure to end this cruel and debilitating disease. God bless all of you!
-Madeline MacLean

Thank You to Youth Interns

Many youth volunteered their time and talents this past year. We would like to thank all of them for using their God-given talents to help with the care of younger children in our church. These youth interns spent time in the nursery, were doorkeepers for Children in Worship centers, and helped with special events. Hope Church appreciates that they are such great models for all of us by showing us their willingness to be of service to others and their joy in sharing their lives with other members of our church.



Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m.

Downtown Holland

For more information, contact Cindy Terlouw at (616) 994-9897
www.campsunshine.info

Human Trafficking Presentation & Panel

Tuesday, June 11, 7-8:30 p.m.
Herrick District Library in Holland



David Manville, ACSW & LMSU, who just finished teaching a course on human trafficking at Eastern Michigan University, will share International, U.S. and Michigan facts with his insights. Manville is a certified mediator and was employed as a family clinician and social-worker for Wayne County's mediation and education unit.

A panel of area professionals will follow his presentation, commenting on local issues related to human trafficking in Michigan.

Free and open to all

This event is sponsored by Lakeshore Women for Peace in Holland and co-sponsored by: ACEH, Arbor Circle, Hope Church RCA, Holland Peacemakers, Holland Friends Meeting (Quakers), JFON West Michigan, Holland-area League of Women Voters, and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church.

Moon Boots: for the Strange Terrain of Mental Illness

Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
St. Francis de Sales Church, lower level

June 4 *How to Talk to Your Psychiatrist*

June 11 *Family and Friends: Hope for a Balanced Life*

June 18 *Standing Tall: Employment and Education*

Presented by: Balanced Life, a support group for family and friends of persons with mental illness
Supported by: Karla Smith Foundation

Sabbatical Staffing Plan for Fall 2013

Continued from page 7

The Personnel Committee welcomes your feedback and questions (please contact Personnel Chair Leanne VanDyk) and also asks for your help in making the sabbatical season go smoothly. Your communication about pastoral needs, your involvement in ministry, your support for staff and volunteers, and your prayers for all are most helpful and appreciated. We're blessed to have a generous congregation that provides sabbatical time for Pastor Gordon (and looking ahead to Pastor Jill in 2015!), and blessed to have a gifted congregation and staff that continues to tend to the ministry of Hope Church in fruitful ways.

Book List Reminder

Have you responded yet to Pastor Gordon's recommended book list request?! (See May's 'and finally...') We've received a number of great responses, but receiving many more would be even greater. Send your list today! (gwiersma@hopechurchrca.org) Look for the book recommendations list in the August *Hope Church News*.

and finally...

As we move into the summer, I hope you will be taking some opportunity to shift gears. Perhaps even downshift a bit. I'm aware that many of you have jobs that do not change when summer comes around. But it is a time when many take vacation. It is a time when volunteer and civic engagements can be less demanding. Family life shifts away from the activities of school life and can offer more opportunity to be together rather than running in fifteen different directions. Church life moves out of the program year and certain ministries move into a little hiatus mode for at least part of the summer. Our Sunday worship and education schedule goes from three different offerings to one. I have come to think of this practice in the church as a seasonal Sabbath practice. For the summer, we scale back some of the tasks and work of church life in order to simply BE together. Worship becomes front and center. We continue to care for one another, we continue to be committed to the study of God's Word, we continue to advocate for peace and justice. But we do so in a less structured way. This becomes the time of renewal and refreshment that can fuel the more active engagements we take up as the seasons change once again. The temptation is to fill the summer chock full of activity. Some of that activity is life giving and part of the Sabbath renewal. Some of it is distracting from the purpose of re-creation.

Here is my motivation for being intentional about times of renewal and recreation. There is a phrase repeated throughout the gospel of Luke when Jesus is teaching. He often says, "Whoever has ears, let them hear." I see the rhythm of Sabbath keeping as a way to let us hear and integrate and appropriate all the many ways the Spirit of Christ speaks to us throughout our day to day lives. We all receive so much wisdom and insight and instruction from the things we hear and encounter and experience. But in order for it to make any impact we need time for it to settle into our souls and reverberate in our minds or as a friend of mine used to say we need to "let it marinate" for a while.

I intend to be very attentive to the ways that I utilize these summer Sabbath months: more time to just be with my family, more time out of doors, more time enjoying creation, chatting with neighbors, more time playing and being active and quietly reading. I hope you will do the same in whatever ways feed and restore your soul and body and mind. Have a great summer! I know I plan to.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jill

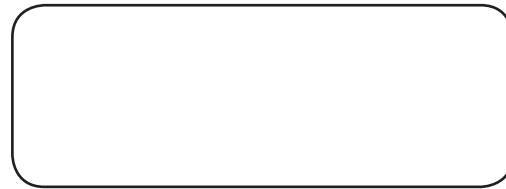
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Hope Church News

June/July 2013



Volunteers Needed to Staff Hope Church Table

The Holland Area Pride Festival will be held on the grounds of Centennial Park on Saturday, June 29 from 1-6 p.m. Plans call for music at the gazebo while participants stroll around various tables attended by businesses and organizations that support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community in the Holland area.

Hope Church will be an exhibitor at this event, and is looking for volunteers to staff our table throughout the day. If you enjoy engaging with others, sharing the love of Christ and the spirit of Hope Church, and handing out free candy, please consider being a part of this great event! Volunteers will rotate throughout the day in one-hour shifts. A sign-up sheet is available at the Welcome Desk, or call the church office at (616) 392-7947.