



HOPE CHURCH

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

Hope Church News

Volume 56, No. 8

September 2013

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Insert: September Calendar

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 2, for the Labor Day holiday.

Office Hours:

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

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



September 8 is Fall Kick-off Sunday

Worship

Early Worship begins at 8:30 a.m. in Commons I. This service offers informal and interactive worship, and encourages people of all ages to participate through music, story, art, drama, and weekly Holy Communion.

Worship in the sanctuary begins at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Jill Russell preaching and Rev. Dr. Lynn Japinga as liturgist. Children will be led from the sanctuary during the service to participate in Children in Worship.

Church Picnic

Join us in the courtyard and on 11th street after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the annual kick-off picnic. Lunch will be provided with a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per household.

There will be activities for children and time to share in fellowship. For those who participated in the Health Ministry's Go & Glow Summer fitness initiative, be sure to attend for the prize drawing that will take place during the picnic. Members and friends are all welcome!

See pages 2-5 for information on the 2013-2014 Christian Education offerings.

Building Relationships with Children in Need

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



To build successful relationships with at-risk children, the Hope Church Kids Hope Team needs all of the following: one child, one mentor, one prayer partner, one hour, one church, one school. We have the children, the school, and the support of the Hope Church congregation, now we only need mentors, substitute mentors and prayer partners. *Will you give the gift of your time and attention to a child this year?*

Our work with at-risk children at Vanderbilt Charter Academy begins in October and ends just before Tulip Time in the Spring. It would be wonderful to not have a waiting list of children this year. Please prayerfully consider mentoring a child. The at-risk children of Vanderbilt need you!

Training for new mentors and substitute mentors is tentatively scheduled for the last week of September. Program directors, Anne Duinkerken and Barbara Joldersma will be in the Gathering Area on Sundays, September 8, 15, and 22 with more information and a chance to sign-up to be a part of the Kids Hope team.

CONNECTIONS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS

"God has reconciled us to God through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." II Corinthians 5:18

Words are important, and actions are too. As Hope Church looks ahead to another program year in its ministry, the Christian Education Ministry offers the theme of **CONNECTIONS** to bring our words and actions together as a community of faith.

The words are important:

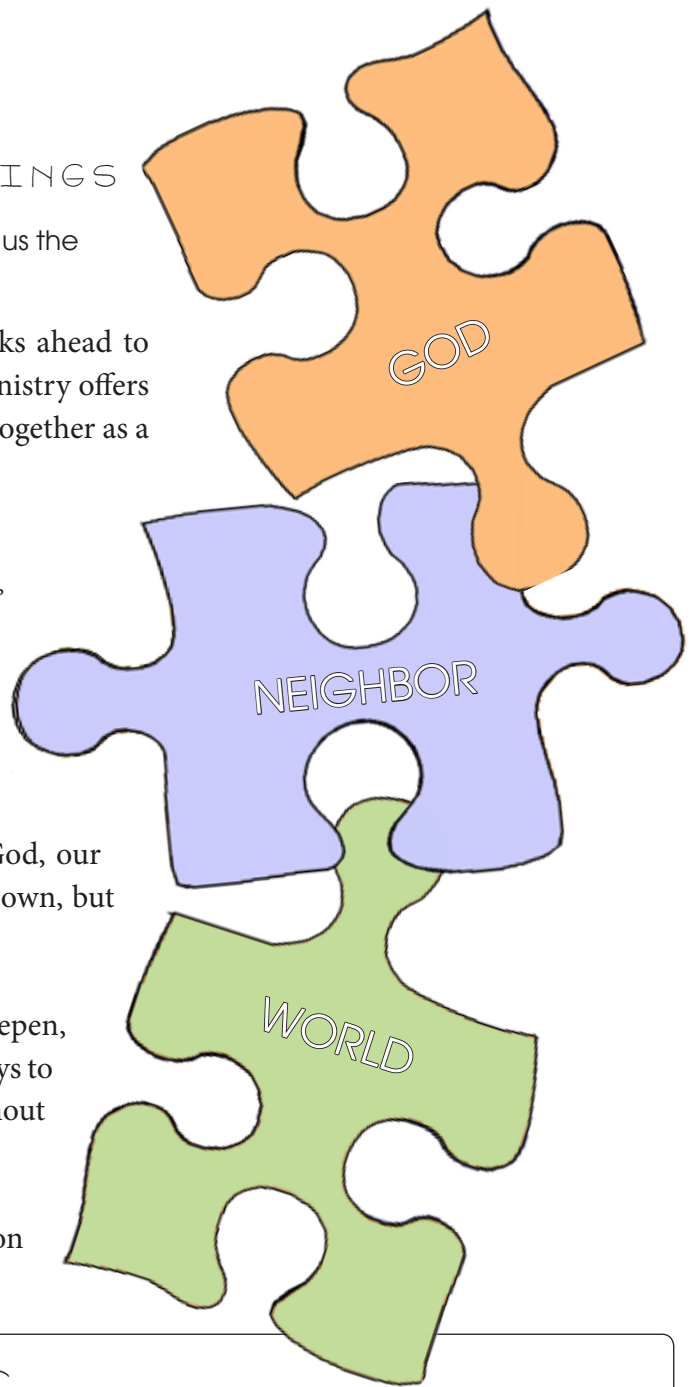
"CONNECTIONS: GOD. NEIGHBOR. WORLD."

They are an expression of the reconciling grace of God and of the themes of 'Connecting' and 'Engagement' that Hope Church has discerned for its ministry.

And what might those words look like in action? How about a puzzle! To be connected by God's grace is to be linked to our God, our neighbors, our world. To be connected is to no longer be on our own, but put together into something greater, better, complete.

Look into the opportunities this program year for ways to make, deepen, and renew connections to God and others in your life. Look for ways to link our words and our actions. The puzzle won't be complete without you!

Pages 2-5 highlight some of the Fall 2013 Christian Education offerings.



MUSIC

Chancel Choir (High school - Adults)

Rehearsals:

Sundays, 9:40 a.m.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 7:00 p.m.

This year's fantastic music plan includes new music and classics, as well as global music. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hope Church music room. For more information, contact Brian at BCarder@hopechurchrca.org.

Children's Choirs

Children's choirs will take place seasonally. Watch for announcements in newsletters and bulletins and online.

Carillon Handbell Choir (High school - Adults)

Rehearsals:

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month

5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

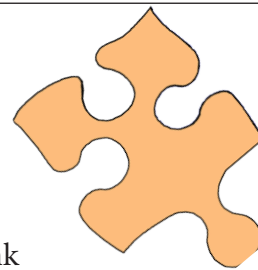
Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, October 9. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Rhonda Edgington.

Instrumental

Hope Church values the talents and skills of its members and friends. Piano, guitar, wind, brass, or string; anyone wishing to participate should make his or her talents known to Brian Carder.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m. in Commons I

**September 8: Stories from the Mission Trip to Haiti**

Hope Church members Larry and Karen Mulder, Kari Miller-Fenwood and Ben Sikkink report on their five-day mission trip to Haiti in March 2013.

September 15–September 22:**Spanning Two Cultures: Stories from Children of Missionaries**

Children of missionaries grow up influenced by the Western Christian culture of their parents and the non-Western non-Christian culture of a mission field. How do these mixed influences shape them? What does it feel like to return to their childhood home after decades have passed?

September 15 George Kraft tells of his childhood in China and his return there for three weeks in 2012.

September 22 Don Luidens, son of RCA missionaries Ed and Ruth Luidens, describes growing up in India and spending his teen-age years in Lebanon. He returned to the Middle East in the summer of 2012 to visit Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman.

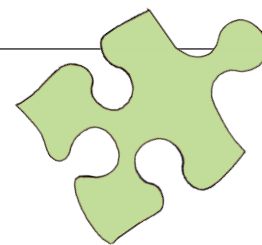
September 29: Reading and Faith

Not only has Scripture shaped our faith, but also works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry have changed our hearts and minds and encouraged us. This past summer several Hope Church members listed more than 100 book recommendations. Some will talk about how a book has helped form their faith.

If you are interested in speaking about a book of poetry, a novel, a memoir, or a non-fiction book that has influenced your spiritual formation and are willing to be on a panel during this class, contact Jane Schuyler.

For a full schedule of Adult Education classes being offered through Advent, see the Christian Education 2013-2014 Brochure, available at the church and online at www.HopeChurchRCA.org.

FALL SERIES: ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**Dwelling and Playing in the Word**

Wednesdays in October: 9, 16, 23, and 30

5:45-7:30 p.m.

Scripture is both deep and wide. We often dip from it here and there, but perhaps more rarely have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in only a few verses for a longer period of time to discover its depth. This four-part series will seek to go deep into the story of the Widow's Oil from 2 Kings 4:1-7 by using memorization, body movement, staging, and creative reflection as a way to let this scripture dwell with us. Each session will begin with a meal provided by a group member and culminate with a time of interaction and reflection.

Look for the group sign-up and meal sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area this Fall. Childcare can be provided if necessary; please note if this is needed when signing-up. For more information, contact Andrew Spidahl.

NURSERY & YOUNG CHILDREN

Nursery (Infants through 2 years old)

9:40 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Room 103

Caring adults and youth are scheduled as caregivers, and volunteers are needed. Please contact Jocelyn if you are interested in volunteering.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

The parent-tot group will meet two Wednesday mornings a month in the Hope Church Commons. Look for specific dates, events, and times in newsletters, bulletins and on the Hope Church website.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School (Preschool through 5th grade)

9:40 a.m.–10:40 a.m. Room 204

Classes will be using the “Kid Connection” curriculum, inviting the children to connect with each other, their leaders, the Bible stories, and their families. Children will begin each Sunday morning together for an exciting presentation of a Bible story, then divide into smaller groups by age to continue to learn about the story with age-appropriate activities and ways to connect the story to their lives.

Family Church School

2nd Sunday of each month beginning in October

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children In Worship is a walk-out program for ages three years through 5th grade during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. During worship, children will be invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for “A Word with the Children.” From there, Children In Worship leaders will escort the children to the worship centers.

Children In Worship transforms ordinary time and space into sacred time and space. Our children enter sacred time in order to experience and praise God by being with God, talking with God, listening to God, and hearing the stories of God.

Ages 3, 4 & 5

Room 202

A parent may be asked to stay with young three year olds until the child is comfortable in the center and is ready for worship

Kindergarten and 1st grade

Room 204

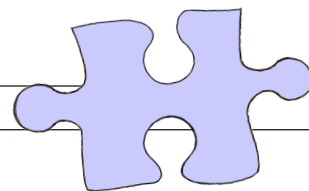
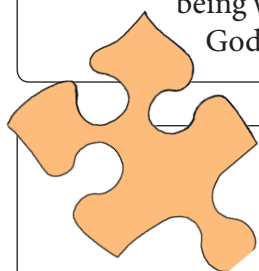
2nd and 3rd grades

Room 206

4th and 5th grades

Room 208

This year’s offerings will be given to missions supported by Hope Church. If you have any questions about the children’s opportunities, contact Jocelyn VanHeest, Children’s Ministry Director.



YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL

6th & 7th Grade

Sundays, twice a month

11:00 a.m., Library

This class follows the “Dwell” curriculum, developed out of a desire to provide children and young teens with less noise and more time to experience God. “Dwell” creates an environment for entering into God’s story, and then living into and living out of it together.

G.I.F.T. (8th and 9th Grade)

Sundays

9:40 a.m., Youth Room

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) class is a focused time for participants to explore faith in God and their connection to the church and faith. The broader idea of G.I.F.T. is that it is a unique experience at an important age to deal with issues of faith and life as a part of the church. The group often visits other places of worship and ministry.

High Hopes Unshowered

(10th through 12th Grade)

Third Sunday of each month

9:40 a.m., Garden Lounge

A three-year cycle leads each student through a year of thinking about their faith (theology), exploring how to live their faith in very practical terms (Christian practices), and how to sustain a lifelong commitment to study of God’s Word (Bible study). All high-schoolers are welcome, showered or not!

YOUTH GROUPS

Fish Club (Middle School)

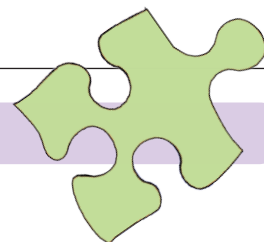
Fish Club seeks to provide a close Christian community of friends for middle school students, while forming relationships with adult sponsors in the church. A variety of programming is offered to take a close look at self, faith, and the world. Service projects are an important part of the group's community ministry as well. Fundraisers enable the planning of some very special events such as retreats and a trip to the Appalachian Trail.

High Hopes (High School)

There are a variety of social, service, and learning opportunities throughout the year. The activities are designed to build and strengthen relationships among the youth and sponsors as part of a community of faith. There will also be fundraising for a mission trip planned for the summer and service work right here in our community. All high school youth are welcome!

Both groups typically meet on Sunday evenings. Watch for special joint events with First Presbyterian Church and Grace Episcopal Church youth groups. Updated schedule information is available on the Hope Church website. For more information, contact Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director.

For more information on the Hope Church Christian Education offerings this program year, pick up a brochure in the Gathering Area or go to www.HopeChurchRCA.org.



Caring for Creation

Peter & Judith Boogaart

A ribbon of thought runs through our scriptures: God's intention is that all things work together for good. There's a picture of how that ought to be and you can read about it in Genesis 1. It's a lovely picture, one that features the natural world and a garden. Humans, constructed from humus, are placed in the garden to tend and care for it.

It doesn't take much reading, however, to see that God's intentions are frustrated. Humans have a way of precipitating damage, both to themselves and to the natural world. Thus begins the long rolling story of God's actions to make all things right again. This may be an old story, but the reality is quite present. Even a superficial listening to the evening news documents the damage we live with every day: violence, neglect, and environmental loss.

Scripture assures us that God's intentions will be realized. At the

end, there's another picture – one of a dazzling city where everything is right. In the meantime, people of faith are called to join with God in the work of restoration. Caring for Creation is an articulation of that invitation; and invites you, one step at a time, to undo damage and to restore wholeness within yourself and within the natural world.

Update on County Parks Challenge

The Caring for Creation Ministry is focused on those steps towards wholeness which we can take together. The County Parks Challenge is quite literally about steps, one foot in front of another, as you engage the natural world and begin to re-imagine your place in it.

The Parks Challenge will continue into the Fall as the earth produces a burst of color before nestling down for its Winter sleep. On September 22, we will drive up to Rosy Mound



Natural Area and walk the .7 mile trail to Lake Michigan, where we will enjoy the beach, and then walk back. Meet at church at 2:00 p.m. to carpool and bring your favorite beach activity (Frisbee, kite, sand toys, a book, etc). Check out the Fall Ottawa County Parks brochure for other Fall activities.

Carbon Diet Class

Caring for Creation will offer a class, "Low Carbon Diet - a 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds," from October 20 through November 10 as part of the Adult Education series. Look for more information in the October newsletter.

Preventing Infection this School Year

Donita Robards, RN, Parish Nurse



Flu season will soon be upon us. Now that children are back in school, they will be congregating in contained spaces and playing with friends, which can lead to an increase in the spread of illnesses. Here are some steps you can take to protect your child and possibly other children as well.

Hand Washing 101

The most important action you can take to prevent the spread of disease among children is to teach them proper hand washing techniques, especially when they're using public restrooms. Hand washing is still the most effective way to prevent infections.

1. Teach children to assume that the faucet handles are contaminated by germs. Turn the water on using a paper towel so you don't have to touch the handles.
2. Get hands wet, soap up, work soap into a lather. Use friction to remove dirt, rubbing hands together, and washing around the cuticles and under fingernails.
3. Rinse hands thoroughly with fingers pointed downward so the dirt will be carried away with the running water.
4. Use paper towel to dry hands and another clean, dry paper towel to turn off the water. Touching the faucet handles after washing your hands reintroduces germs on your hands that can be spread to your eyes, nose and mouth.

When it isn't possible to wash your hands, use a good hand sanitizer.

Importance of Immunizations

It is also time to consider if your child(ren) will need immunizations this year. The immunization schedule changes constantly, so ask your child's pediatrician if there are any new immunizations that your child might need. It is important to be aware of what immunizations are required and have a plan to get them done. Additionally, be aware of illnesses that are traveling through the schools at any given time. Talk to your child's school administrator, school nurse, pediatrician or parish nurse about how to protect your child from disease. Have a great, healthy school year!

At Home With the Word

Daily Bible Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary

September 2-8

Monday	Jeremiah 18:1-11
Tuesday	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Thursday	Psalms 1
Friday	Philemon 1-21
Saturday	Luke 14:25-33
Sunday	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 9-15

Monday	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Tuesday	Psalms 14
Wednesday	Exodus 32:7-14
Thursday	Psalms 51:1-10
Friday	1 Timothy 1:12-17
Saturday	Luke 15:1-10
Sunday	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 16-22

Monday	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Tuesday	Psalms 79:1-9
Wednesday	Amos 8:4-7
Thursday	Psalms 113
Friday	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Saturday	Luke 16:1-13
Sunday	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 23-29

Monday	Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15
Tuesday	Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16
Wednesday	Amos 6:1, 4-7
Thursday	Psalms 146
Friday	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Saturday	Luke 16:19-31
Sunday	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

R.E.S.T. for Caregivers

R.E.S.T. stands for Relax, Empathy, Share, Thanksgiving, and is a group for anyone who is looking for support in their care giving roles. Meeting times are the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Hope Church library. Hope Church Nurse, Donita Robards, leads this group.

Flu Shot Clinic

The Health Ministry is sponsoring a flu shot clinic on Monday, September 30 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Hope Church. Look for more information in bulletins and online.

The deadline for the October newsletter is **Sunday, September 15.**

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 Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry at Hope Church

Therefore, we praise you:

As we step into the Hope Church sanctuary, or take a seat in the Hope Church Commons, or dash through the church doors on any particular Sunday morning, we join in worship. We come from Sunday dinner preparation or from sleeping in, from paging through the newspaper or gobbling breakfast. We've stepped here from a week of work, a week of engaging in the thick of life...

Therefore, we praise you:

As the liturgy for communion funnels our thoughts from all the stuff of life to a work of praise to the Creator. The liturgy takes who we are, where we've been and what we hope to be, and directs us toward the God who fills our lives with meaning, purpose, and vibrancy.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven. The sanctuary or commons area becomes our threshold to heaven, a place we symbolically enter the glories of the presence of God. We praise the God who has been with us through the details and yuckiness of life. We turn our faces to the God who hears our voices through the week and in this place, who turns our efforts to be thankful to full-blown adoration, who becomes incredibly present with us in bread and cup, whose Spirit penetrates us in scary and refreshing movements. We praise and worship, bless, thank, and invite this God to become ever more real to us as we become more aware of

God's movement in us, within us, and around us.

There's a whole lot that can precede the "therefore." A lot of life, and even a lot of preparation before worship, to allow the worship to be the "therefore, we praise you." Those details about worship are the particulars that the Worship, Prayer, and Spirituality Ministry attend to, with a lot of help from our friends. It is vital--essential--that we not get lost in the details, but that we remember the "therefore..."

Because we so want our worship to be a holy and fitting expression from us to God, the Worship, Prayer, and Spirituality ministry coordinates many of the small and large parts of worship services. We coordinate many things, because we rely on many members to help us!

The Sacristy Guild has watched over things like paraments and linens, communion preparation, and art work. The elders oversee all of worship, of course, but are particularly responsible for the administration of sacraments. The musicians look to the themes of worship, and pay attention to the flow of worship. These last few years, we've tried to embrace more of the variety of "world" music, which is a way for us to bring more of who we are to worship.

The Prayer and Spirituality group nudges us to remember to take time to breathe. Prayer and Spirituality

folks invite us to Quiet Days and assist with teaching us about spiritual practices.

Because we want our worship both to "fit" us by being appropriate to who we are and how we approach God, and we want the elements of worship to help us reach beyond who we are, the Worship, Prayer, and Spirituality Ministry regularly reviews our own and others' responses to worship. If you listened in on our meetings, you'd hear laughter, disagreement, explanations, ideas, introductions of new songs or prayers, and a strong tone of respect for each other. A Worship, Prayer, and Spirituality Ministry meeting is a combination of brainstorming and planning, details and lofty dreams.

Therefore, we continue to offer opportunities for the worshipping community to help us gauge how we're doing and what is happening in worship. For all the many aspects of worship, we do need to know if our plans and meetings, our details and dreams, assist you with "therefore we praise you."

Anyone interested in supporting this ministry is encouraged to contact any of the Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry members: Cindi Veldheer DeYoung (chair), David Van Heest, Judith Boogaart, Rachelle Oppenhuizen, Brian Carder, Kari Miller Fennwood, Kyle Vohlken; and Pastors, Jill Russell and Gordon Wiersma.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Congregational Care Ministry.

Youth Ministry

Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director

Fish Club

Fish Club will kick-off the program year with a camping trip in Ludington the weekend of September 13 and 14. The group will spend time hiking, sharing devotions, and celebrating a new start. The Fall schedule will include a parent meeting on Sept. 22, game night, hosting pizza Sunday, devotions, apple-pie making, and meeting with our Tri-youth friends from First Presbyterian and Grace Episcopal churches. Stay tuned for more details and get ready for a fun-filled Fall!

High Hopes

On Saturday, July 27, 13 youth and six adults met in the Hope Church parking lot at 5:00 a.m. to begin the drive to Greenpoint Church in Brooklyn, New York. This was the fourth time Hope Church has partnered with Greenpoint.

On Sunday morning the group worshiped with the congregation,

then set off to Manhattan to visit the Museum of Modern Art and Central Park. Early Monday morning began the work week. Part of the crew went to First Reformed Church in Astoria to tackle a jungle of trees and bushes that they called a back yard. It took three days to clear out, but it was worth it! The crew also helped remove parts of an old organ from the basement. It was dirty and hard work, but very rewarding. Other jobs throughout the week included painting, cleaning, unloading a semi-truck of food, packaging the food, and then distributing the food to almost 500 neighbors in need.

On Thursday evening, the group was invited to a Muslim Youth Center to participate in a discussion on poverty in New York City, and join them in breaking fast in Ramadan. The experience was very meaningful, and educational, and the food was fantastic! Other evening activities included China Town, Little Italy, and



“Newsies” on Broadway. The group also enjoyed nightly devotions and song, lots of laughs, some tears, and a renewed commitment to each other and their place in God’s plan.

The entire team is so thankful for safe travels and the support and prayers of the congregation.

Children’s Ministry: Making Connections

Jocelyn Van Heest, Youth Ministry Director

The Children’s Ministry team strives to offer many opportunities to nurture your child(ren)’s faith. Hope Church provides Church School at 9:40 a.m. and Children in Worship during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. On Sunday, September 8, we will celebrate the start of an exciting year together.

Church School Kick Off

Church School this year will focus on strengthening connections to God, our families, our teachers, our community, our world and other kids at Hope Church. Each child’s family will receive a magazine full of

suggestions on how to stay connected with the children and the things they are learning. Additionally, Family Church School events are designed to allow families to spend time learning and exploring together.

Children in Worship

Children age 3 through 5th graders will worship in their centers using the same order of worship that is being followed in the sanctuary. They will Approach God (through greetings and songs of praise), they will hear God’s Word (through storytelling and Bible reading), they will Respond to

God (through wondering, reflection or working with the stories or art materials), they will give Thanks to God (through prayer, sharing of gifts, and the sharing of a feast), and finally, they will Go in God’s Name.

Every week the story for each worship center will be printed in the bulletin. The children become aware that they are an important part of our congregation when their worship lessons are included. As you are worshiping each Sunday, please remember the children that are worshiping as well.

Events and Announcements

Coffee Time at Freedom Village

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. The next Coffee Time will be at **Freedom Village on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 10:30a.m.** Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are welcome!

Flexibility Class (FLEX)

This class is targeted toward older adults and accommodates people who might find exercise too strenuous. The class meets for several eight week sessions throughout the year on **Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in Commons I starting September 12.**

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will begin the new season with *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard. The story of the assassination of President Garfield, this work explores a little known period in the history of our country. The discussion will be led by Ruth Donaldson. Join us on **Wednesday, September 18, at 1:00 p.m. in Commons II.**

Worshipping with In Harmony



IN In Harmony will join Hope Church in worship at the **11:00 a.m. service on September 29.** They are a choir of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight singers with a goal of presenting music that enriches lives and affirms equality for all people while creating change by celebrating diversity through music and harmony.

Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is **September 29.** Pizza Sunday has become a very

special Hope Church tradition. It is a time to watch kids connect, meet friends, and linger for conversation over a noon meal that we didn't have to prepare. The Fellowship Ministry will continue to offer pizza for \$1.00 per slice, but all donations are accepted! Hope Church offers hospitality to college students and visitors on Pizza Sunday, so feel free to be generous. We also are in need of hosts for the remaining months of 2013. Hosting is fun! The tasks are clearly laid out and posted in the kitchen. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Fellowship Ministry bulletin board in the Gathering Area. For more information, contact the church office or a member of the Fellowship Ministry.

Diners Club

Diners Club is a wonderful opportunity for fun and fellowship with members and friends of Hope Church. This year's dinner dates will be:

October 18 or 19, 2013

January 17 or 18, 2014

April 25 or 26, 2014

From the sign-up sheets, groups of seven or eight are randomly formed with 'hosts' (or co-hosts) listed at the top of each group. The hosts are responsible for selecting the time and the menu, contacting group members, and assigning parts of the meal. Look for the sign-up in the Gathering Area.

Financial Update

The Stewardship and Finance Committee would like to keep you posted on the giving and expenses as of 8/26/13:

Income YTD - \$398,864

Budget YTD - \$425,705

Expenses YTD - \$430,402

Budget YTD - \$450,582

College Students

We want to stay in touch with you! Please let us know your college email address and we will keep you up-to-date with what's going on at Hope Church! Email Angie at agriffore@hopechurchrca.org.

Crafters Needed

When there is a baptism at Hope Church, a baptismal banner is given to each child. On the cross stitched baptismal banners are the symbols of God's promises. Kay MacKenzie lovingly finishes the banners with her expert seamstress skills. There are cross stitch kits available in the Hope Church office with fabric, thread, and complete instructions. Please pick up a kit anytime and participate in this wonderful opportunity.

Church Gardens in Need of Cleaning

The gardens need weeding and work! If you or a group you belong to have "adopted" a section of the church gardens, we need you to clean up your plot. If you are uncertain about what needs trimming, please contact David Van Heest.

Hope Church Member Honored



The Society for the Teaching of Psychology, which is a division of the American Psychological Association (APA), is awarding Dr. David Myers its Presidential Citation, presented "to individuals who have made extraordinary life-time contributions to the Society and/or to the teaching of psychology." David's work is inspiring and we are thrilled to see his years of teaching and leadership recognized. Congratulations, David!

Thank You

Dear Hope Church friends,

Today I cleaned my clothes closet. My spirits soared, for one reason. The 100th birthday cards I found were a joy to see and to read again. Memories are precious. My life here in Florida is a happy one. My daughter, Peggy, finds many places for me to see and visit. Time does not drag for me! And there are books to read!

Most sincerely,
Dorothy Robinson

Thank you to our Hope Church family for all the kind notes, cards, good food and other expressions of care – which amazingly included shopping and weeding our garden – that I received following my unfortunate accident and during my recovery. They were all gratefully received and appreciated.

-Janet Elzinga

Tulipanes 2013 Latino Art & Film Festival

Tulipanes, the annual Latino Art and Film Festival in Holland has announced the following events:

Tues, Sept 10: Movie and Tapas at Holland Civic Theater

Wed, Sept 11 - Sat, Sept 14: Latino films at various venues

Fri, Sept 13: Mexika School Performances and evening public performances at Hope College Dewitt Center

Fri, Sept 13: Film, “Xingu”, at Dewitt Center

Sat, Sept 14: Baile “Dance” Night at VFW Hall

Sun, Sept 15: Faith and Worship Celebration, location TBD

Go to www.tulipanes.org for more information.

Justice for Some or Justice for All? Part II



Community Conversation on Race
Tuesday, September 17th
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Conversation followed by a “Diverse potluck” (please bring a dish to pass)
Imagine Fellowship Church
167 West 20th Street

Join us in a safe environment where neighborhood people can have an honest conversation about the injustice, hate, and racism that exists in our nation and community. Join us in our quest to establish the “Beloved Community.”

September Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---|
| 03 | Ruth Hoekstra-Telgenhof
Care Group: 5 |
| 03 | Martha LaBarge
Care Group: 3 |
| 10 | Jane Park
Care Group: 1 |
| 15 | Peggy Fitzgerald
Care Group: 5 |
| 16 | David Alexander (missionary)
Taiwan
Care Group: 7 |
| 17 | Earl Laman
Care Group: 7 |
| 19 | Jane VanEs (missionary)
Limuru, Kenya
Care Group: 7 |
| 23 | Eloise Van Heest
Care Group: 4 |

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

Women in the Old Testament

While Pastor Gordon Wiersma is on sabbatical through November, we welcome Rev. Dr. Lynn Japinga, who will be leading in worship during these months. During her own sabbatical this year, Lynn is working on a book on preaching about

women in the Old Testament. Many of these women have fascinating and/or disturbing stories that are not included in the lectionary. Lynn's preaching will begin an occasional series, "Women in the Bible You May Have Never Heard Of." If you have comments and/or suggestions about

these stories and sermons, Lynn would appreciate your feedback. Additionally, if you would be interested in being part of a group that would read and reflect on these stories about women in the Bible, please e-mail japingaL@hope.edu or leave a note in the office.

and finally...

In the summer when we aren't as pressed for time in the morning (something that is about to dramatically change), my husband, Andrew, and I sometimes talk about the things we were reading before heading to bed the night before. One morning, Andrew was sharing with me some interesting findings from a book about health and longevity he has been reading.

After following an immigrant community in Pennsylvania over a generation, the researchers pointed to the strong sense of communal support as a key to the longevity of this hardworking clan. The bonds between these people were built over decades of communal cooking and shared meals through regular support over child rearing and sickness. They actually ate fairly poorly and worked way too many hours doing physically demanding labor. These kinds of stresses in the typical population often translate into poor health but seemed to be mitigated in this community because of the strength of their connections to one another and the support they could count on from one another.

This research confirms what the people of God have known for a long time. We were made for community. We thrive when we are known and supported

and have places of belonging. Large extended families have provided this kind of belonging in the past. Today people struggle to find and make deep connections.

The church can be this kind of place for people. I hear stories from some of you that make me know this is happening. But I know this is not always everyone's experience, and that leads me to wonder how we can support Hope Church in being a place where deep connections can be found and forged.

You will see that "Connections" is the theme of the Christian Education Ministry this year. I know that people see church life as a way to nurture connection to God. I am thinking here about the way that connection to God is so often found through our connections to one another. Like the logo for this theme, the pieces all fit together like the pieces of a puzzle. And as I think about this piece of the puzzle, two things come to mind.

The first is the responsibility we all have to watch for people who might be new or might be on the edges of our community who are longing for connection. Take the risk to walk over and say hello and then take it further if the opening is there. Invite someone to a meal in your home. Ask someone

to join you for your circle meeting or for men's breakfast or for the next PACT playgroup or the first Brim Bunch gathering of the year.

The second thought has to do with taking responsibility for ourselves. When I think back to times that I have felt left out in a group, I am aware that very often I have made some choices along the way that have contributed to that feeling. Open invitations are made all the time and I haven't taken advantage of the opportunities to get involved. I sometimes need to be the one to walk over to someone I don't know and introduce myself. I need to show up. Deep connections are a two way (and three way and four way) street, to bring another metaphor into the mix! Opportunities to find and forge them are often right in front of my face if I will just open my eyes to see them and find the courage to walk toward them.

Whether you are looking for those connections here or have found them elsewhere, I encourage us to make it a priority to keep nurturing those relationships. Apparently it is good for our physical health as much as it is good for our souls!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jill

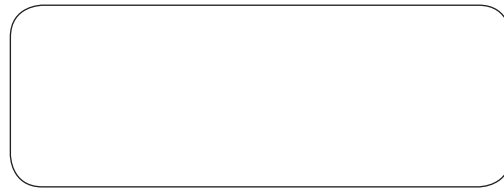
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Hope Church News

September 2013



Blueberry Pie Project Provides Hope for Haiti

Janet Elzinga

Blueberry pies are back! After the sad harvest of 2012, a bountiful crop of blueberries has emerged this year bringing back the annual blueberry pie sale. Many expressed regret last year that we did not make those luscious pies but we plan to do so again this year so we are hoping for lots of orders.

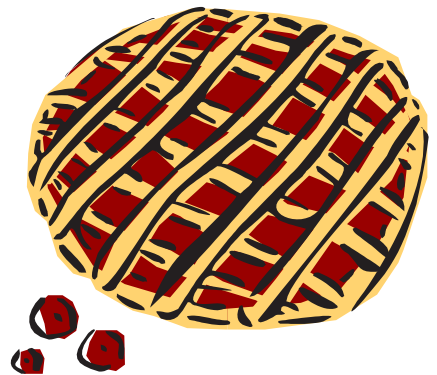
Each year the profits from the pie sale are designated for a Hope Church endorsed mission project and this year, the money earned will go to help support The Haiti Foundation Against Poverty and specifically, the Gift of Hope program there.

Last year, Hope Church members, Karen and Larry Mulder, led a mission trip to Haiti and saw first

hand the vital work that Mallery Thurlow and the Foundation are doing in the area.

In 2010, Mallery opened a baby home, Hope House, and a women's business program in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Hope House cares for severely malnourished children ages 0-3 years old, and the women's business program helps mothers develop the skills needed to run a small home business.

Pies will be assembled September 13 and 14 and available for pick-up on Sunday, September 15. As our mothers told us, many hands make light work! We are counting on as many of you as possible to give an hour or two or more on either



Friday evening or Saturday morning to make our pie baking weekend a success. Bring your apron and a rolling pin and if you have neither, join us anyway and we will assign you an assembly line task to fit your expertise level.

Sign-up to order pies and/or volunteer to help with the baking at the Blueberry Pie Project table in the Gathering Area, or email Janet Elzinga at JanetElzinga@comcast.net indicating when you can help.