



HOPE CHURCH

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

Hope Church News

Volume 56, No. 9

October 2013

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Insert: October Calendar and Lectionary

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

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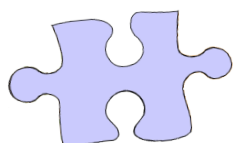
FALL SERIES: ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Dwelling and Playing in the Word

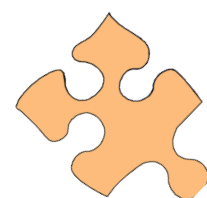
Wednesdays in October: 9, 16, 23, & 30 | 5:45-7:30 p.m.

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. Sign-up in the gathering area. For more information, contact Andrew Spidahl.



ADULT EDUCATION
Sundays, 9:40-10:40 a.m. in Commons I



October 6: Healing Service in the sanctuary

October 13: Wes Granberg-Michaelson's Unexpected Destinations

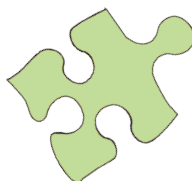
Wes Granberg-Michaelson's choice to attend Hope College rather than Wheaton has taken him to some "unexpected destinations," and he'll share some of his reflections from his ministry within the denomination and around the world.

*Please note, there are two courses available from Oct. 20-Nov. 10**

*October 20-November 10:

Caring for Creation presents Low Carbon Diet - A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds

(Meeting in Room 106)
Read class description in Caring for Creation article on page 3.



*October 20-November 24:

History of Christianity, Reformation Through the 20th Century (Meeting in Commons I)

We'll pick up where we left off last spring with Diarmaid MacCulloch's DVD series. Discussion leaders include Judy Parr, Ed Anderson and Milt Nieuwsma.

October 20: Reformation: the Individual Before God, Zwingli of Zurich, John Calvin of Geneva

October 27: The Church of England, the New World, Bohemia and Beyond
November 3: Protestantism: The Evangelical Explosion, John Wesley, American Diversity

November 10: Slavery and Religion, African Missionaries, Korean Pentecostals

November 17: "God in the Dock," Natural Philosophy, the French Revolution

November 24: Modernism, Wars, Scientific Socialism, Questions

Conference Promises Learning and Transformation

Jane Dickie, Reconciliation Ministry

Hope Church welcomes all! This is who we are and who we aspire to be following in God's inclusive love. One of the hallmarks of this congregation is that we are eager and open to learning. It was this inclusivity and the desire to continue to learn and grow in Christ that drew me to Hope Church over 35 years ago. Here's an opportunity to advance ourselves in our mission: Attend the 3rd biennial Room for All conference, "Making Room for All – 2013."

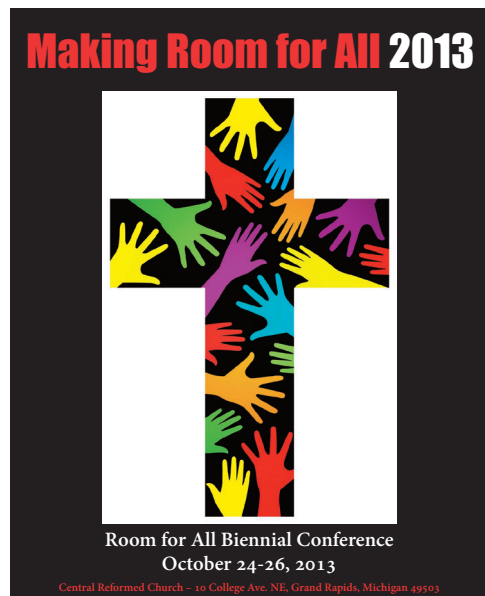
Why should you attend? Let me count the ways:

1. Learn and grow in Christ
2. Experience real inclusion
3. Join Hope Church members who are prominently involved in organizing and leading the conference
4. Participate in meaningful workshops
5. Celebrate the arts: music, painting/creating
6. Engage in GREAT WORSHIP

Room for All's biennial conferences have been described as "Healing," "Life-changing," and "Coming home to church." Through worship, speakers, workshops and community-building conversation, the first two conferences were milestones for LGBT persons, family members and allies in the RCA.

"MakingRoomforAll-2013" promises to be equally transformational; mark your calendar for **October 24-26, at Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.**

Here are a few of the outstanding events you can anticipate at this year's



To register online, go to:
[RegOnline.com/
MakingRoomForAll2013](http://RegOnline.com/MakingRoomForAll2013)

**Registration deadline for
commuters (conference plus meals):**
October 15

conference:

Keynote Speaker: Justin Lee, "Taking a Stand without Having a Standoff"

Lee is the founder and executive director of The Gay Christian Network, an interdenominational organization building bridges between Christians on LGBT issues. Justin speaks frequently across the country using his own unique blend of humor and analysis, and has been featured in numerous media outlets, including Dr. Phil, Anderson Cooper 360, NPR's All Things Considered, and a front page article in The New York Times. Justin is the author of *Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate*, which was released last year to rave reviews from both sides and endorsed as "fresh air" by the outgoing

Archbishop of Canterbury. In addition to his weekly podcast, Justin blogs for the Huffington Post and on his own blog, "Crumbs from the Communion Table," at JustinLee.co.

Conference Preacher: Rev. Adriene Thorne

The Reverend Adriene Thorne is an Associate Minister at Middle Collegiate Church in New York. She completed her Masters of Divinity degree with an emphasis in art and psychology at The Pacific School of Religion. Prior to ministry, she pursued a nearly 20-year career in the performing arts, including time as a Rockette. She is currently pursuing counseling studies at the Blanton-Peale Institute where she is working towards a theology of healing in which the arts play a central role. Her key assertion is that the arts have the ability to drop us into the center of ourselves and our healing more quickly than anything else.

Conference Musician: David Lohman

David will be in concert on Friday evening at 7 p.m. He will be joined by singer/songwriter, Deb Tiemens.

Conference Artist: Joel Schoon Tanis

Throughout the day on Friday, Joel will facilitate the creation of a corporate piece of art. Joel will take everyone's spontaneous contributions and assemble a collage that he will paint back into and reveal at the closing assembly.

There will also be a variety of incredible workshops such as this one offered by Hope Church's own, David Myers:

Continued on page 3.

Conference Promises Learning and Transformation

Continued from page 2.



*"Most are Straight,
Some are Gay, and
Why it is that Way:
The Science and*

Future of Sexual Orientation" – Dr.

David Myers

David will summarize research indicating that sexual orientation is a natural, enduring disposition, and

that the world would be a happier and healthier place if, for all people, love, sex, and marriage went together. He will also review Americans' rapidly changing attitudes, and what they imply for the future of gay marriage and ordination.

If you need more encouragement,

please feel free to contact me, Jane Dickie, or anyone from the Reconciliation Ministry. Looking forward to joining you at the conference.

For more information on conference highlights, go to RoomForAll.com/events/national-conferences/.

Caring for Creation Presents Low Carbon Diet Class

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Coordinator

Climate change was barely on anyone's radar screen twenty years ago. By 2006 it was a scientifically established phenomenon and worldwide discussion. Today the discussion has moved from response to survival. There's a growing recognition that it's too late to stop the effects of excess CO₂ in the atmosphere and that we need to focus on triage. The challenge is to stop the effect from becoming any worse and to adapt to the coming changes.

The need for response has never been greater. The reality, however, is less than adequate. The need for change is being denied, ignored, and unrecognized, and we lack a compelling model for change. Despite what we know to be true, we can't seem to launch a coordinated national program; something like the 1960's space program, a national response to a clear and present danger. You may hear in all this the Biblical words of the apostle Paul, "The good that I should, I do not..." The "how to" is not in question; our situation is more about the "why to." We are in the realm of change, the realm of spirit.

The Christian faith is particularly well

suited for this moment in time. What moves in the hearts of people that will lead them to a better place? This is a conversation that should come naturally to Christian people. Recall your confession! Our very identity is forged in change; it's not just theology, we really did move from a quagmire of lostness to life. We know how to do this.

Beginning October 20, Caring for Creation will present the Low Carbon Diet (LCD) as one of the avenues through which you can answer the questions, "What should I do? What does God expect of me?" LCD is a nationally recognized curriculum which teaches how to identify, quantify, and reduce your individual household's energy consumption. It was developed by David Gershon in 2006 as a response to the issue of climate change. The material has been used widely, and in many places it has been used to organize entire communities. You're invited to join us as we examine changing our household habits; not as a begrudging demand, but as a pathway to joy. The class will meet on Sundays at 9:40 a.m. in room 106.

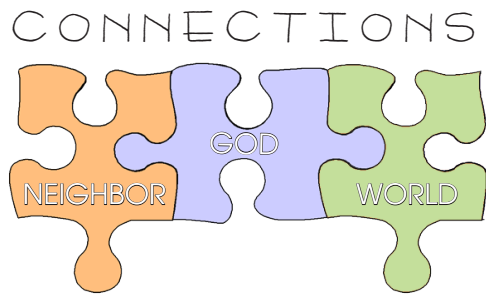
Parks Challenge Wraps Up

The Caring for Creation Ministry hopes many of you enjoyed exploring Ottawa County Parks this summer. Caring for Creation is planning one final group outing on **Sunday, October 13**. Come explore four parks/open areas near the Grand River: Riverside Park, Robinson Forest, Johnson Street Forest, and Conner Bayou. We hope to enjoy the beautiful colors of the fall leaves! Meet at Hope Church at 2 p.m. and dress for the weather and walking in the woods. Snacks will be provided.

The Parks Challenge contest will continue through the month of October, so you still have time to check off a few parks. Park check-off sheets and bingo cards and stickers for the kids are available at the display on the windows near Commons I. Fall County Parks newsletters with a calendar of events are also available. There will be a box to turn in completed checklists and bingo cards on Sunday, November 3, and the winner will be announced on November 10.

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry



At Hope Church, we make connections all the time. We strive to do the right thing and make the world a better place. Thankfully, we do not work alone. God is always already present, offering us a hand. As the saying goes, charity starts at home; and this year Hope Church has truly been blessed. God has generously provided for us, taken care of us, loved us. We are assured of God's continual love.

As we move forward, let us remember the gifts that God has granted us on the way. May we offer thanksgiving and find ways to connect with others as God has connected with us. Let us consider how we – as both a community and as individuals – can love God and neighbor in response.

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

This October we plan to follow an informational and budgeting process similar to last year:

- You will receive a copy of the 2014 budget in your stewardship mailing later this month.
- With an understanding of the proposed budget, you'll be asked to prayerfully consider your financial support for 2014. We will dedicate our pledges during worship on Stewardship Sunday (November 10). If you cannot be present for worship that day, you can mail your pledge forms to the church office by that date.
- On December 8th, there will be a brief congregational meeting following worship when you will have an opportunity to ask any questions about the draft budget for 2014.
- On January 19th, there will be a Congregational meeting to act on the 2014 budget.

God is faithful to us in both celebration and in times of need. We know that there are needs that all of us confront day-to-day, and we are grateful for the generous giving of each member of our congregation.

An important part of our stewardship effort is to estimate and project how much the congregation will be called to give next year. The pledges are very important because pledges are the baseline our church uses to determine our plans for the next budget year which begins in January.

Please make your stewardship commitments in a spirit of celebration knowing that your gifts will be used wisely to enrich our connections with God, and with neighbor, and with the world.

Financial Update as of 9/23/13:

Income YTD - \$435,492
Budget YTD - \$481,803
Expenses YTD - \$482,263
Budget YTD - \$501,915

Welcoming Crossroad Chapel Members to Hope Church

It was with sadness that the Consistory learned that our sister congregation, Crossroad Chapel, was closing her doors in June. We have always felt a kinship with Crossroad Chapel and have shared in ministry in a variety of ways over the years; from exchanges of Church School teachers to more recent collaborations to celebrate La Posada together and supporting their outreach efforts in the migrant camps.

When a congregation closes, the Classis looks for a sister church who

will hold the membership for the people who belonged to the closing congregation. Hope Church was asked to hold the membership for Crossroad Chapel. We are honored to provide this care for these members as they make decisions about their next church home.

We will be inviting Crossroad Chapel members to join us for worship on Sunday, October 6th, so that we can offer prayers of blessing for them in this time of transition. A formal letter

has been sent to each household of Crossroad Chapel inviting them to consider making Hope Church their long term church home and assuring them of our care and support if they choose to transfer their membership elsewhere. More informal letters of welcome are being sent by members of Consistory and the Reconciliation ministry. Please keep the members of Crossroad Chapel in your prayers as they discern where God is leading them in these days ahead.

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 Congregational Care Ministry at Hope Church

While there are many groups at Hope Church that provide a great deal of care and support for members, the Congregational Care Ministry seeks to support all persons in the Hope Church family in a caring, loving community of faith in all the events of life. The focus as a group of dedicated ministry members along with the pastors and the church nurse is to minister to both the needs and joys of the Hope Church family.

We seek to share loving care and encouragement with persons in seasons of loneliness, transition, illness, grief, disability, or simply the challenges of growing older—the body of Christ at Hope Church. We are also there to celebrate the joy of new births, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, professions of faith and other events in the lives of God's people.

In offering provisions for the journey of faith for persons who attend Hope Church, the ministry has assigned all members to one of twelve Care Groups, previously referred to as anchor groups. If you don't know what group you are in, look behind your name in the Church Directory. Each Care Group is served by one or two members of the ministry team, as well as members of the Consistory. Ministry members stay informed of the special needs of persons in their groups and will arrange or provide meals, transportation or assistance as requested.

A special effort is made to maintain relationships with people who are no longer able to participate in church life. Besides personal visits, opportunities are arranged twice a year for communion to be given in their homes by the elders. Also persons are identified to receive flowers at Christmas and Easter.

Communication of peoples' special needs is maintained between the church office, the pastors, the church nurse, the consistory and the ministry members. To assist people with transportation, the ministry provides a bus each Sunday morning to various locations in Holland, including Freedom Village and The Warm Friend.

As ministry members seek to promote engagement of persons in the life of the church, the ministry arranges for a time of sharing through coffee events three times a year at each of these three locations: Freedom Village, Warm Friend and Resthaven Maple Woods. The time of sharing is led by the pastors and members of the ministry.

The Health Ministry, which is part of the Congregational Care Ministry but functions separately, promotes health and healing in the life of faith to individuals and the congregation. That ministry will be further described in an upcoming ministry highlight.

Because the ministry tries to assign two persons to each of the twelve Care Groups, the Ministry is a large team and is always welcoming new members. While many people in the congregation have contributed to the ministry, it is presently served by:

Group 1: Jackie Heisler and Judy Mastenbrook

Group 2: Jan Fike and Nancy VandeWater

Group 3: Don Buteyn and Bette Williams

Group 4: Eloise VanHeest and Pat Tysee

Group 5: Barb Osborn and Fran Becker

Group 6: Stan and Nancy Rock, and Dave Boelkins (chairperson)

Group 7: Norma Killilea and Char Laman

Group 8: Phil VanEyl

Group 9: Jean Cook and Rose Mary Cantor

Group 10: Bob Bos

Group 11: Loretta Smith

Group 12: Barb Israels

Anyone interested in supporting this ministry is encouraged to contact any of the Congregational Care Ministry members listed above.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Stewardship & Finance Ministry.

Consistory Corner

The Consistory met in August and September and the following actions were taken at each of those meetings.

August

- The Personnel committee presented a report summarizing the staff reviews and the pastoral reviews that were held in the spring and early summer. This was the year for Pastor Jill's 360° review with feedback from leadership, staff, and a random sample of congregational members. The committee was greatly impressed with all of these reviews and celebrated with the consistory the gifts the staff and pastors bring to their ministry as well as some of the challenges that they are working to address.
- The Consistory reviewed and updated our policy for recommending Hope Church members to come under care of the Classis for the purpose of pursuing ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.
- The consistory heard the report of the elders who met with Andrew Spidahl and approved unanimously the request that he be recommended to the Classis

of Holland to begin the process of pursuing ordination in the Reformed Church in America to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

- The Reconciliation Ministry asked the Consistory to send a letter to Representative Huizenga regarding the principles and values we want to see him affirm when considering immigration reform policy. This letter came to the Reconciliation Ministry from Justice for Our Neighbors, a group that works closely with immigrants within our community. The Consistory members discussed the letter and the implications of sending it at length and voted to both send the letter to Representative Huizenga and to send a copy of the letter to the Holland Sentinel as a letter to the editor.

September

- The Personnel committee shared the profile of the new seminary intern being placed at Hope Church for the 2013-2014 academic year. Danielle Floerchinger-Herrington will serve as an intern for 2 years and will join Paige Convis as she

begins her second year interning at Hope Church. The Consistory was reminded that we are a part of the new Teaching Church program at Western Seminary. See the article below about the Teaching Church program and see "And Finally..." (page 11) to read more about both of our interns.

- The Consistory followed up on the action taken at their June Consistory meeting to receive the remaining members of Crossroad Chapel into our membership. The Reconciliation Ministry invited Consistory members to join them in writing letters of welcome to each household of Crossroad Chapel. See the article on page 4 about welcoming Crossroad Chapel members to Hope Church.
- The Consistory considered a request made at the July 14th General Synod Roundup session to send an overture to next summer's General Synod urging the denomination to speak out against the ongoing war in Afghanistan. Consistory asked the Reconciliation Ministry to lead the exploration of an Overture to General Synod regarding alternatives to war and violence.

Western Seminary and the Teaching Church

Last year marked the beginning of a new initiative at Western Theological Seminary (WTS). Hope Church is one of approximately 30 congregations who are called a Teaching Church for WTS. In the past, congregations who could afford to would hire a seminary intern. There were guidelines that the students needed to follow for these internships to count toward their formation for ministry credits. A variety of reasons led the

seminary to rethink this approach, and the Teaching Church model was born from that investigation.

Now churches decide whether to come into the program and if they do they agree to host two seminary interns at a time: one first year student and one second year student. Students are no longer hired by the church but receive compensation through their financial aid packages. This makes

it possible for congregations who could not afford to hire a seminarian to be involved with the program.

Summer internships are full time and are paid for by the hosting congregations. For this reason, WTS still recommends that congregations budget for seminary interns either to host a full time summer intern from time to

Continued on page 10.

Breast Cancer Awareness: Preventing, Detecting, and Healing

Donita Robards, RN, Parish Nurse



Breast cancer is the number two killer of women in the United States. While we don't know for sure why some women develop breast cancer and others don't, we know that it is usually easy to detect with traditional exams and is usually treatable. Survival rates are very high when found early, which is why it is so important for every woman to know as much as possible about risk factors, prevention, and treatment.

Age and being a woman are the two biggest risk factors for getting breast cancer; they are also two traits that cannot be changed. The risk of breast cancer increases significantly with age, especially for women who started menstruation at a young age, or began menopause after the age of 55. Increased exposure to the estrogen hormone, from taking oral contraceptives for instance, is also thought to increase risk although this theory has not been proven at this

time. Other risk factors include being overweight or gaining over 20 pounds after the age of 18.

How can you prevent breast cancer from happening to you? Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that you will not get breast cancer, regardless of your age, race, or lifestyle. You can however, minimize your risk with a few simple changes: exercising and maintaining your weight, avoiding alcohol, and avoiding oral contraceptives due to the increase in estrogen.

Detection of breast cancer is usually done through a clinical exam and mammogram. Mammograms are the most common way to obtain a diagnosis of breast cancer. A mammogram can be done through a standard or digital machine. Digital mammograms may be a better way to detect breast cancer in some women. Your doctor may also order a MRI with mammography, ultrasound or biopsy. While the recommendations are changing, many physicians still want their patients to have annual mammograms starting at the age of 40.

Self breast exams are the best way to detect cancer early. If you feel any lumps, notice discharge from your

nipples, or have any other concerns about your breasts, contact your primary care provider to schedule a clinical exam.

Treatment for breast cancer varies depending on each person's diagnosis. Treatment is usually surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy; however, some women will not need radiation or chemotherapy. Hormone therapy is also used to prevent recurrences once the cancer has been treated through these other measures. Your doctor will be able to help you determine the best course of action to meet your individual needs.

Treatment doesn't stop after the cancer has been surgically removed, radiated or otherwise treated. The shock of the diagnosis and the trauma of treatment may require you to receive additional emotional and spiritual support. You can call a friend, a social worker, your pastor, or your spouse; it is important to find someone who is empathetic to what you have been through. There are support groups available so you can talk to other survivors who understand how you feel. Find a person you feel comfortable with to express your feelings and your fears. It may be the single most important thing you do to help you fully heal.

Reflections from the House of the Dying

The congregation is invited to a presentation given by Karen and Larry Mulder entitled, "What We Learned about Care Giving in the House of the Dying." Karen and Larry will reflect on what they learned in the House of the Dying during their time spent in Haiti. They had seen and experienced many things, but nothing could have prepared them for the darkness, sadness, and challenges they would face upon entering rooms full of dying

women and men. From this humbling and sacred experience they learned (or relearned) some powerful and simple truths about caring for those who are suffering.

The presentation will take place on **Monday, October 21 at 7 p.m. in the Commons**, and is sponsored by Congregational Care and the Health Ministry.

FLEX Class

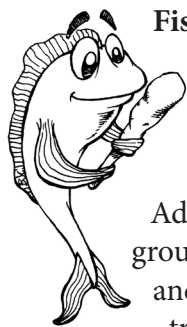
FLEX meets on **Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Commons**. Participants who are over 65 years of age have found the class to be very helpful. Maxine DeBruyn offers her expert leadership. Newcomers are always welcome!

Youth Ministry

Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director

The Youth Ministry looks forward to an exciting year filled with activities that will nurture faith, build character, create community, and engage our youth in service. Fall schedules for both groups can be found on the Hope Church website. Check the online calendar for changes and updates.

Sunday, September 29 is scheduled as the first Tri-Youth gathering of the program year. Hope Church youth will join the youth from First Presbyterian and Grace Episcopal at Moran Park for an evening of games, food, and devotions. Service projects are planned for October where both Fish Club and High Hopes will make enough food to feed 400 people at the Community Kitchen.



Fish Club

Fish Club recently traveled to Ludington State Park for their annual Adventure Weekend. The group camped overnight and hiked the beautiful trails the next day. On October 20, the group will visit the corn maze at Crane Orchards.

This year, Fish Club is participating in a fundraiser sponsored by the Holland Sentinel. Sunday editions are being donated each week; you are welcome to take one and make a donation that the Fish Club will use in their ministry. The rack of newspapers is located right inside the parking lot entrance near the coat room.

High Hopes

High Hopes celebrated their kick-off event on Sunday, September 15. Unfortunately, the scheduled dune buggy ride was canceled due to rain. Instead, the group met at church for a cook-out, games, and devotions.

On Sunday, October 27, High Hopes will present on their experiences from the mission trip to Greenpoint Church in Brooklyn, New York this past summer. The presentation will take place during Pizza Sunday following the 11 a.m. service.



Come and Make Connections with the Children

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

There are many ways to get involved with the Children's Ministry at Hope Church. It is an amazing experience to watch children grow in faith, to be challenged by inquiring and curious minds, and to notice your own faith grow as a result.

You can become involved as a Children in Worship leader, church school leader or nursery care provider. Specific training will be provided for those who choose to become a leader. There can be great flexibility in scheduling and any amount of commitment will be a great service to the children's ministry. Everyone has something to share with the children of Hope Church. If you can hold a child on your lap, sing a song, be a silly actor for skits, or help with crafts, we can use your help. If you have an

interest in being part of any of these opportunities, please contact Jocelyn Van Heest, at the church or by email (jocevh@juno.com).

Family Church School

Family Church School will be held on the second Sunday of each month during the church school hour. This month's class will take place on October 13. Families will have an opportunity to come together in any configuration and spend time learning, sharing and growing together in their faith. Families will learn how to incorporate Bible reading and studying into daily life. Margaret Buckley and Susan Rhoades will be present to do the activities with the children whose parents are unable to participate. This is a great opportunity to make Christian Education a priority in your

family's life!

Children's Offering

This year the children's offering will be given to support mission work in several areas in Africa. The children have made a great connection with the Rumpsas when they were in Kenya and will be getting to know more about RCA missionaries, the VanEses and the Swarts, who are serving in Kenya and Ethiopia respectively. We hope to find ways to make strong connections with people across the world from our faith community here in Holland.

Please note: There will be no Children in Worship on October 6, except for the preschool worship center. The children are encouraged to remain in the sanctuary for World Communion Sunday.

Events and Announcements

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Community Ministry reminds you that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In your thoughts, prayers and actions:

- Mourn those who have died because of domestic violence
- Celebrate those who have survived
- Connect those who need help
- Support those who work to end violence

Purple ribbons will be distributed the first Sunday in October for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's Day of Unity, which is **Monday, October 7**. The day helps bring awareness to the issues faced by battered women and their children. Every home should be a safe home.

New Member Class

On Sunday, October 13, at 9:40 a.m., a New Member Class will begin for people who are exploring possible membership at Hope Church. The class will meet on three Sunday mornings, **October 13, 20, and 27, at 9:40 a.m. in the Library**. A meal and a meeting with the Board of Elders for those wishing to join Hope Church will occur on November 3 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Public reception will take place during 11:00 a.m. worship on November 10. Please contact Pastor Jill Russell or the church office (392-7947) if you would like more information. Please know that attending the class only indicates your possible interest in joining our fellowship, not your actual decision to do so.

Coffee Time at Resthaven

The next Coffee Time will be held at **Resthaven Maple Woods on Tuesday, October 15 at 10:30 a.m.** Mark your

calendar, and come for an hour. All are welcome!

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on **Wednesday, October 16, at 1 p.m. in Commons II**. The book for discussion will be James Brownson's, *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships*. Come prepared for a lively discussion led by Barbara Osborn.

Brim Bunch

It will soon be time for Brim Bunch's Annual Harvest dinner which will be held on **Thursday, October 17 in the Commons at 6 p.m.** Speakers, Michelle Ready and Julie Gillespie, will present on the project, "Doing More. Together." This project is a partnership of Ottawa Area Intermediate Schools, both faith-based and public, that are collaborating with individuals, families, businesses and communities to introduce projects to make the high-quality education in our area even better. Brim Bunch believes strongly that good educational opportunities make good communities great, and looks forward to this interesting presentation. Reservations may be made with your caller by Sunday, October 13th. Those not on a telephone list may call Lois Boersma. Everyone is welcome. The price of the meal is \$8.00, payable at the door. Nowhere can you find a bigger bargain: good company, a good program and a yummy meal for a small fee!

Take a Retreat Day at Bethabara

You are invited to enjoy a retreat day at Bethabara Retreat Center in Saugatuck. Bethabara is run by Mary VanAndel and Ben Sikkink, and you

can find out more about taking a retreat day at Bethabara at bethabara.net. Just contact Mary at bethabara@comcast.net, to schedule a time and tell them to contact Hope Church for payment – it's that simple! Bethabara offers a beautiful setting for retreat for body and soul, and we're grateful for the costs to be covered through the ongoing support of the Les Beach Memorial Fund at Hope Church.

New Greeter Schedule Reminder

In September, Hope Church began implementing an assignment system for recruiting greeters. Each household will receive one assignment per year. The schedule through the end of December is posted in the gathering area and online. Additionally, reminder letters will be mailed at the beginning of each month. 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 Greeters Schedule poster in the Gathering Area, or by calling the office and a staff member will mark the change for you.

Cleaning Up the Church Gardens

This task needs to be completed soon! If you or a group you belong to have "adopted" a section of the church gardens, we need you to clean up your plot for fall. City curbside pick-up (of leaves only) will be from October 5 to November 9. Please bring your own clippers, rakes, etc. If you love to rake leaves, please feel free to share that gift with Hope Church. If you are uncertain about what needs trimming, please contact David VanHeest.

Western Seminary and the Teaching Church

Continued from page 6.

time or to make a donation to the summer internship scholarship fund which helps smaller congregations to host summer interns.

In the first year, the goal is to get to know the congregation and get involved in the life of the church. The second semester of the first year includes an investigation into the administrative side of church life. The second year includes more intensive involvement in one area of

ministry during the first semester and a different area of ministry during the second semester.

Another dimension of the new model is an intentional involvement of the congregation members in mentoring seminarians. While the pastors still provide the day to day supervision and mentoring, a Mentor Team is also established. At Hope Church, the mentor team is convened by Bette Williams and includes David Blauw,

Tom Bultman, and Jane Schuyler. They are continuing in their role for a second year and will work with both Danielle, our first year student, and Paige, our second year student. We are grateful to Bette, David, Tom, and Jane for the time they invest with our seminary students. Their guidance and support and counsel are deeply appreciated! You can read more about our seminary interns in the "And Finally..." column this month (page 11).

October Birthdays

07 Eleanor Hopkins
Care Group: 6

20 Clarence Hopkins
Care Group: 6

29 Elsie Howard
Care Group: 5

31 Hank Telgenhof
Care Group: 5

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

The deadline for the November newsletter is **Wednesday, October 16.**

Thank Yous

We would like to thank our Hope Church family for the tremendous outpouring of prayers, concern, and love following the injury of our grandson, Andrew Holbrook. Your concern has deeply moved us and we find comfort in the care we have experienced within our community of faith. Andrew's road to recovery will be long and difficult and we continue to appreciate your prayers on his behalf.

Sincerely, Janet and Paul Elzinga

*Hope Church folks,
Thank you for the loan of the walker on wheels. It was very helpful in the transfer from immobility to normal ability to maneuver. It was greatly appreciated.*

-Betty Gordon

*To the ministry and members of Hope Church:
I am writing on behalf of my mother, Mary Martin, who is currently at the Resthaven Rehab Cottage as she regains her strength after a fall a few weeks ago. My mother asked me specifically to write you all a note and thank you for the beautiful flower basket that was sent after worship. I saw the basket myself and it is gorgeous! So many bright, pretty, and varied flowers! Mom has derived much pleasure from the flowers and they definitely brighten the room! Thank you so much for thinking of her. We all hope she will be back on her feet soon.*

Gratefully, Jenny Pearson

*Dear Hope Church Family,
Thank you for being such a caring community. Your prayers, kind notes, delicious food, and so many expressions of care and concern were so supportive of us, both before and after my surgery. I am healing well and look forward to the future. Jim and I so appreciate our loving Hope Church Family!*

-Jackie Heisler

Thank you to my Hope Church friends for all the cards, visits, and calls that I received after my recent surgery. Your concern and care were greatly appreciated.

-Judy Mastenbrook

and finally...



Hello all!

I am Danielle Floerchinger-Herrington, though many friends and family refer to me as "Danie." My last name is so long due to the fact that I was recently married on July 6th, 2013 and decided to hyphenate my last name. My husband, Alex,

and I are both from Iowa and met at Northwestern College in Orange City. Because he was a year behind me in school, he has some undergraduate studies to complete for his Exercise Science degree and will finish those up at Hope College while I attend Western Seminary.

I was born and raised just outside the town of Treynor in southwest Iowa with my amazing parents and two siblings, an older brother and younger sister. Brought up in an ELCA congregation, my parents allowed us to be free-thinkers, never forcing us to believe certain things about God.

During my first year at Northwestern, I became very conservative theologically. My new Dutch friends who were ingrained with theological viewpoints of "reading the Bible literally" and that most people in the

world are going to hell, freaked me out. So I held on for dear life, in fear of my family's and my own sentence of eternal torment upon death.

That is until I began taking religion courses and started to realize it isn't so black-and-white. I became more and more interested in the history of Christianity, world religions, and spirituality. My theology shifted over the next three years into a grace-filled view of God in which there was freedom and genuine love, not unmoving or fear-based love.

However, what I believe (or don't believe) today is still really messy and constantly evolving. So...I am really looking forward to learning and growing alongside you, the people of Hope Church. Can't wait to meet you!

-Danie



My dear brothers and sisters,

Grace and Peace to you! It is so good to officially be back at Hope Church! This summer I worked full time as a nanny in Saugatuck. I also kept busy with beach time, reading Henri Nouwen

and spending time with my three-year-old nephew. Although summer was a good break, I am filled with joy and excitement at the prospect of the new academic year with all of its joys and even its not-so joys!

For the second year of my internship, I have been asked by the Seminary to pick a focus, something I would like to learn more about and grow in wisdom. I have picked pastoral care. I am looking forward to becoming involved in the life of Hope Church in this way. The Church caring for its members in love and compassion is incredibly important and a part of our calling as baptized members of Christ's church. Therefore, I am sure this deeper learning to better care for others will be such an integral part of my formation to serve in ministry,

and something that will bring me great delight!

I mentioned above that I read Henri Nouwen this summer. From one of his books, *Life of the Beloved*, (highly recommended) comes this quote, one that is on my mind as I continue to learn how to give of myself to the good work of the Church,

"Our humanity comes to its fullest bloom in giving. We become beautiful people when we give whatever we can give: a smile, a handshake, a kiss, an embrace, a word of love, a present, a part of our life...all of our life."

Peace,
Paige

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Hope Church News

October 2013



Prayers for a New Year

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



Please pray for our returning mentors, prayer partners, and Kids Hope Vanderbilt students as they resume their

work together during the first week of October. It takes a little longer to begin working with students who are new to the program, but we hope to have all of our mentors working with students by the middle of October, and we ask for your prayers for them as well. We are very grateful for each mentor, prayer partner, and student, for without their commitment there

would be no Hope Church Kids Hope.

We also ask you to pray that we will be able to provide a mentor for each child referred to us, which is something we were unable to do during the 2013-14 school year. Our need for new mentors continues to be great. It's not too late to begin mentoring a child this year!

For further information about Kids Hope and opportunities to work with Hope Church's ministry with at-risk kids, please call Anne Duinkerken, or Barb Joldersma, 392-7947 ex. 114.



"Our commitment to Kids Hope is anchored in our belief that God's love is for all and we are God's instruments in a hurting world."

-Judy VanderWilt, Kids Hope Mentor and Former Hope Church Kids Hope Director