



# HOPE CHURCH

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

## Hope Church News

Volume 56, No. 10

November 2013

### In This Issue

Turkey Drive .....	2
Stewardship Update .....	2
Greeters Schedule.....	3
Adult Education .....	3
Ministry Highlight .....	4
Health Ministry.....	5
Missionary Update.....	6
Photo Exhibit .....	7
RfA Video Series .....	7
Children's Ministry.....	8
Youth Ministry.....	8
Kids Hope.....	8
Events &	
Announcements .....	9
Consistory Corner.....	11
And Finally.....	11

*Insert: November Calendar and Lectionary*

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, for the Thanksgiving 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](http://www.hopechurchrca.org)



## Thanksgiving Offering Supports Our Neighbors



### Washington School Neighbors

The Thanksgiving Offering has been designated to support Hope Church's participation in Washington School Neighbors, a program initiated in collaboration with Good Samaritan Ministries and its Neighborhood Connections program. The intent is to create and nurture relationships among our neighbors so each can share his or her gifts, a shared vision can emerge, and strength and resilience are built within the neighborhood. We are nearing the end of

the second year of our original commitment to three years' support for the start-up; our hope is that Washington School Neighbors will continue to develop roots and become a sustainable organization.

Andrew and Kallie Spidahl are our current 'community connectors,' whose role it is to assess needs within the neighborhood, create opportunities for connection, and help residents gain access to each other and resources to improve their lives.

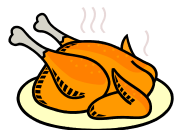
Our participation in this program demonstrates that the neighborhood around us is part of our identity and God's plan for our lives together. Acts 17:26 says that the Creator has placed people where they live, having determined the "times... and the bounds of their habitation." Your Thanksgiving gifts will address the root causes of poverty, injustice, and instability through the power of community.

### Thanksgiving Worship Service

**Wednesday, November 27**  
**7:00 p.m.**

We will gather together to ask the Lord's blessing and to give thanks. Come join in a service of song, prayer, and communion as we remember the goodness of God.

### Thanksgiving Turkey Drive



More than a thousand families and persons in our community have been approved to receive

Thanksgiving boxes from Community Action House.

Turn to page 2 to read about how Hope Church is helping to fulfill this need.

## Thanksgiving Turkey Drive

*The Community Ministry*

*Thankfully, we're doing it again!*

**What?** Responding to Community Action House's (CAH) request that we help supply turkeys for the more than a thousand families and persons approved to receive Thanksgiving boxes.

**Why?** Because Hope Church has done wonderfully well in the past several years providing 10-12 lb. turkeys and basic food items to struggling families in our community so that they may enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

**When?** November 3-24.

**How?** There are three ways to support this initiative:

1. Look for the special "Turkey

Table" in the Gathering Area each Sunday in November where you may turn in your monetary support. The renowned feathered activity will help us keep track of how many turkeys we're able to donate. Gifts may also be sent to the church office. Please make checks payable to Hope Church.

2. Donate online via our safe and secure Pay It Square page. Go to [www.payitsquare.com/collect-page/20387](http://www.payitsquare.com/collect-page/20387). You can also access the online donation page via the Hope Church website and Facebook page.

3. If you prefer to contribute a frozen turkey rather than a monetary donation, please do so by bringing it directly to CAH or



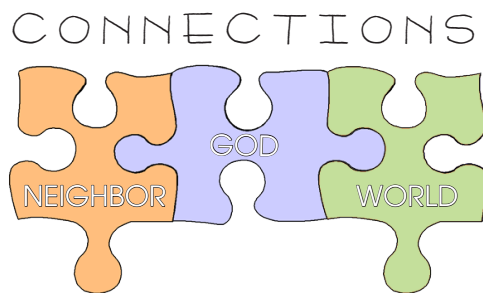
*The "Turkey Board". How many turkeys will move from the field to the table?*

leaving it in the freezer at Hope Church.

*Thankfully*, the combination of our giving and CAH's compassionate effort, will allow many homes in our community to enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving celebration!

## Stewardship Update

*The Stewardship and Finance Ministry*



This is the time of year that, as a congregation, we have an eye both to closing out the current year with support for the 2013 budget and to establishing a budget plan as we look ahead to 2014. As we do so, here are a few things the Stewardship and Finance Ministry asks you to keep in mind:

- For 2013, there will be updates in the bulletin as to where income and expenses stand year-to-date; your financial support of pledges and year-end gifts as we look to a strong conclusion to the year is greatly appreciated.
- For 2014, our stewardship theme for this year is "Connections" and we are grateful for the vibrant life that God has given to Hope Church which enriches our connections to God and to each other. Your gifts to Hope Church makes those connections possible!
- Pledges and giving estimates for 2014 will be gathered in worship on Stewardship Sunday, November

10, so please plan to turn in your pledge form on that day. Pledges can also be returned to the church office before November 10.

- The budget process for 2014 will be concluded with Congregational Meetings on Sunday, December 8 (budget update) and Sunday, January 19 (final 2014 approval).

Thank you for your faithful support to the ministry of Hope Church!

### Financial Update as of 10/21/13:

Income YTD - \$482,444  
Budget YTD - \$526,175  
Expenses YTD - \$540,317  
Budget YTD - \$561,301

## December, January & February Greeters

*The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry*

The following list reflects the households assigned to greet prior to the 11am service for the next three months:

### December Greeters

01 David & Barb Blauw

08 Pat Bloem & Jean Cook

15 Dave & Margaret Boelkins

22 Vern & Lois Boersma

29 Ed & Bobby Boer

### January Greeters

05 Michelle Bombe & Curt  
Tofteland

12 Tom & Judy Boogaart

19 Bob & Judy Bos

26 Calvin & Barbara Bouma

### February Greeters

02 Terry & Tracy Brower

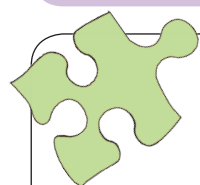
09 Margaret & Leah Buckley

16 Joanne Brooks & Rose

Mary Cantor

23 David & Janice Chase

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.



### ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m.

#### November 3 & 10, Room 106

**Caring for Creation presents, *Low Carbon Diet – A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds***

The Low Carbon Diet (LCD) is a nationally recognized curriculum which teaches how to identify, quantify, and reduce your individual household's energy consumption. You're invited to join us as we examine changing our household habits; not as a begrudging demand, but as a pathway to joy.

#### November 3-24, Commons I

**History of Christianity, Reformation Through the 20th Century**

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.

**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

## Restorative Circle Facilitator List

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

Sharon Arendshorst

Ann McKnight

Laurie Baron

Rachelle Oppenhuizen

David Blauw

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

Judy Boogaart

Randy Smit

Anne Duinkerken

Curt L. Tofteland

Cindi Veldheer DeYoung

# ministry HIGHLIGHT

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

## The Stewardship & Finance Ministry at Hope Church

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

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

So, what does the S&F Ministry do?

- We work with all of the other ministries to establish and propose an annual budget for the church. This includes establishing the timeline for the budgeting process, coordinating the annual stewardship campaign, and shepherding the budget through the Consistory and the congregational meeting for approvals.
- We establish and maintain procedures to ensure that the church's financial activities are handled accurately, and with transparency and integrity while also serving the mission of Hope Church.
- We carry-out the budget that is approved by the congregation. And, yes, we do review a summary of the 'books' on a monthly basis to ensure that there is appropriate cash available to fund operations, and resolve questions that might arise from staff.
- We address finance-related topics that don't currently have a procedure or method for handling – special or unique situations.
- We maintain the "Hope Church Financial Policies and Procedures" manual.
- Annually, we perform an audit of the books, and also compliance

with the financial procedures to ensure everyone who deals with money in the church is following what is outlined in the manual.

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

We anticipate that there will be openings on the S&F Ministry in the near future, and would encourage anyone who is interested to contact one of the current members. The time commitment is very low (1-2 hours per month) for ministry members, and it's not necessary to be an accountant, or really have any financial background; just a willingness to be a good steward of God's good gifts.

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

## Team "Know Hope" Has Spirit, Needs Coach

As the Hope Church Co-Ed Softball Team looks ahead to next year's season, we are searching for a new coach. After many seasons leading and pitching, Coach Bob Jerow is retiring. The team would like to say a big "thank you" to Coach Bob. Even though the team didn't win every game (we did win a few over the years...), for four consecutive years we have received the "Spirit of the League" award (an award for good, fun sportsmanship).

This was in large part due to Bob's camaraderie on the pitching mound. More often than not, he would give instructions on a stance, or how to hold a bat, to help a member from the other team. His focus was to have fun, and let everyone have a chance to play the game...if it worked out that we could win as well – that was always a special treat! We would also like to say "thank you" to Michelle and Steve Johnson for opening their home on so

many occasions for after softball game get-togethers!

If you are interested in coaching, please call the church office at 392-7947 or email [office@HopeChurchRCA.org](mailto:office@HopeChurchRCA.org). If you are interested in playing softball next spring, watch for the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area. "Know Hope" (our motto) will have "more hope" if you become a part of the team!



## A Piece of My Mind about Peace of Mind

Ellen Hale, Health Ministry

Advance care planning is not just for end of life. It's for anytime you cannot make healthcare decisions for yourself. Most of us have difficulty imagining being in a situation where we cannot make healthcare decisions for ourselves. Then again, we all know family members and friends who have lost the ability to make healthcare decisions for themselves.

Many of us have been placed in the position of making healthcare decisions for someone we love, but have worried about whether we're making the right decisions. Maybe we never discussed the possibility with our loved one who cannot speak on their own behalf.

There's a remedy for this! Complete a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare (DPOA-HC) and designate a spokesperson who can speak on your behalf regarding healthcare decisions. Have conversations with the individual you designate about what is important to you, and consider what you would want to know if you're designated to make healthcare decisions for someone you love.

What's stopping you from completing a DPOA-HC? What questions do you have about DPOA-HC? I am offering myself to members of Hope Church as a resource. Feel free to email me with questions at [EllenNoraHale@sbcglobal.net](mailto:EllenNoraHale@sbcglobal.net).



### Online Resources

- [theConversationProject.org](http://theConversationProject.org)  
*Conversation Starter Kit*
- [HollandHospital.org](http://HollandHospital.org)  
*Patient & Visitor Guide: Treatment Decisions & Advance Care Planning and Advance Care Guide*

### Documentaries

- *Facing Death*, PBS Frontline
- *On Our Own Terms: Moyers on Dying*, PBS

## Go & Glow Celebrates Fitness Achievements

Maxine DeBruyn, Health Ministry



The Go & Glow initiative proved to be a successful summer project. The project was designed to motivate individual members to set a personal fitness goal for the summer. All members of the congregation were invited to sign a card listing their personal fitness goal that was then turned in to the Health Ministry.

This year, there were 64 adults and 11 youths who signed up for the challenge.

The initiative concluded at the fall kick-off picnic in September with a prize drawing for a \$50.00 gift certificate to Gazelle Sport. The winner was Barbara Osborn. Barbara reported:

*"The Go & Glow program got me to commit to an attainable goal this year. My last year's goal was too idealistic for me. So this year I committed to at least two days of outdoor exercise per week (biking or walking 45 minutes) and two days of indoor exercise per*

*week (water aerobics or treadmill at Evergreen Commons). There were even added benefits. I started biking with my husband more often and started new exercise friendships at the pool and hot tub at Evergreen. And so far the new habit is continuing! Which is most certainly a winning situation."*

Ellen Hale also expressed her success story. For two years she had looked for a tennis partner, and this year she ended the summer with two.

Please consider Go & Glow for 2014. Thank you to all who participated in Go & Glow. Go did Glow!

## News from Rowland and Jane VanEs in Kenya

*At St. Paul's University, an ecumenical school that has trained people for ministry since 1903, Rowland teaches Old Testament introduction and interpretation and business ethics, and Jane teaches psychology and sociology to bachelor of divinity students and a master's level course in caring for people with HIV/AIDS.*

October 2013

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We know that many of you have been praying for us and for Kenya as the news of the Westgate Mall attack in Nairobi was making the headlines in U.S. papers and on various television stations. This has been a long week for us and knowing that so many of you were praying has helped us get through it.

Our first news of the attack on Westgate came from our daughter Michelle. She and other high school students from Rosslyn Academy were having a retreat outside of Nairobi but they would be leaving early because of a robbery at Westgate Mall. This struck us as strange since the kids were nowhere near the mall. It soon became very clear, however, that this was not just an ordinary robbery. The shopping mall had been stormed by an undetermined number of terrorists. They were intent on causing as much harm as possible--throwing grenades and firing automatic weapons at shoppers.

We watched the news reports horrified--scanning the fleeing crowds for familiar faces. This was a mall we frequented and it was a

real possibility that friends could be there. We wondered about the fate of that friendly checkout clerk at the supermarket and the polite and cheerful security guards who always screened us as we entered. Throughout the day on Saturday we got in touch with friends to make sure they were okay. We heard stories of those who had been trapped, families separated from one another and most miraculously reunited.

Al-Shabab, a militant Islamist group from Somalia, claimed responsibility for the attack. By Saturday evening they had taken hostages. Over the next few days we would hear the stories of those that were confirmed dead as well as the growing number who were being reported missing. The days of uncertainty seemed to drag on and on. During those days Kenyans came together--donating blood for the injured, bringing food to the police, military, and Red Cross volunteers, comforting and counseling those who were wounded and traumatized.

As the siege of the mall ended on Tuesday evening a large fire burned lighting up the night sky. Later we learned that part of the mall had collapsed, slowing efforts to identify any unclaimed bodies--which may include the terrorists themselves. Even now we struggle to comprehend all that has happened. Some questions may never be answered. However, slowly the stories of what happened within the mall are coming out. We have learned of one our St Paul's University students who survived by hiding for nine hours in a walk-in freezer in the supermarket. Another student was shot an unbelievable ten



times but survived. Next week he will undergo surgery to remove the final bullet which is lodged in his chest.

During this week we have been grateful to be able to gather with fellow believers for prayer and mutual support. Despite embassy warnings to "shelter at home" a few of us gathered for worship on Sunday morning as usual where Rowland had the challenge of leading. On Monday Jane lead the intercessory prayers during St. Paul's morning chapel. In both cases, we were grateful for the leading of the Holy Spirit in times when we were at a loss for the right words.

We have also been grateful that an incident which could have caused division has not. There are many Somali refugees in Nairobi and we feared that they might be targeted in retribution. This has not been the case but we see an important role for the Islam and Christian-Muslim relations program at St. Paul's in continued healing. The more we learn about each other's faith the better. Most Muslims want peace just as much as we do; it is only a tiny minority of extremists that are holding the rest of us hostage. The Islamic leaders that are against violence are afraid to condemn Al-Shabab for fear of being attacked.

*Continued on page 7.*

## ***We Have Faith* Exhibit on Display at Hope Church**

*The Reconciliation Ministry*

A photo exhibit, *We Have Faith*, will be on display in the Gathering Area, November 3-17. *We Have Faith* is a museum-quality traveling photo-text exhibit featuring well-known Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and allied clergy and people of many faiths and denominations, including Christians, Jews and Muslims.

A public open house will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2-4 p.m. with comments at 3:00 p.m. All are invited to experience this exceptional and inspiring resource that will open minds and hearts.

*From the Family Diversity Project:*

"Often, in American society today, religious and spiritual traditions and religious leaders are stereotyped as being unilaterally bigoted, intolerant or blind to the experiences, needs and rights of LGBT people and those they love. This exhibit challenges that stereotype by exploring the experiences of LGBT clergy and religious and spiritual leaders as they unite their personal stories and histories with their commitment to peace, justice and civil rights through their work in religious establishments of all kinds. The exhibit counters



Rev. Rebecca Voelkel and family.

faith-based prejudice by replacing the voices of bigotry and hatred with loving voices calling for full equality and inclusion of LGBT people."

## **Room for All Video Series**

*Marilyn Paarlberg, Executive Director, Room for All*



How does Room for All's (RfA) mission square with what the Reformed Church in America believes? It's an honest question on the part of those who are genuinely conflicted about the church's response to LGBTQ inclusiveness. RfA is working with Parachute Productions in Grand Rapids on a unique video-based resource that seeks to respond to that question, considering inclusiveness as it relates to some

key themes in Reformed theology: belonging, baptism, sovereignty of God, scripture, Christian freedom, and mission.

The project consists of three parts: a short, modern-day parable that opens a consideration of each theme, followed by a series of conversation clips with Reformed pastors, educators and/or laypersons in which the themes are explored through the lens of LGBTQ affirmation, and ending with a series of written questions for

further thought or discussion. When complete, the videos and follow-up questions will be available on the Room for All website for use in small group settings or simply as a resource for anyone who visits our website.

Room for All is grateful for Hope Church's support of this project in allowing us to use the facility for filming, and to all the supportive friends who gave several hours to be part of one of the parable videos. Thank you, Hope Church!

## **News from Rowland and Jane VanEs in Kenya**

*Continued from page 6.*

As Kenya has moved through three days of mourning we know that for some their lives will never be the same, including two students at our daughter's school who each lost a parent. When terrible tragedies like this happen it is difficult to hear Christ's teaching to "love our enemies." Yet we

know this is true and the best way to move forward. Pray for us and all of Kenya as we attempt to live out this truth. We want to affirm the words of Desmond Tutu: "goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate."

*-Rowland and Jane Van Es*

**Pastor Gordon returns from his sabbatical on Sunday, November 24. He will visit with the G.I.F.T. class and participate as liturgist in the 11am worship service.**



## Family Church School

*Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director*

On November 10th, children and their families are invited to spend the church school hour exploring the importance of stewardship. We are greatly blessed by God and God expects us to share those blessings with others. We can do this by sharing not just our money but also our time,

talents and especially our willingness to make a connection with others. Even the youngest of children can make a difference in their community and world.

During family church school, families will be given some ideas that they

may want to adopt to help them share their blessings with others. Susan Rhoades and Margaret Buckley will be available to do the activities with children whose parents are unable to participate. Make this a special time to make a better faith connection with your family.

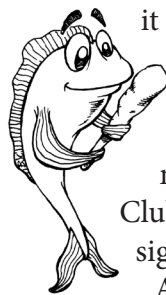
## Youth Ministry

*Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director*

During the month of October, both Fish Club and High Hopes prepared enough food to feed 400 people at the Community Kitchen. Many willing hands and hearts participated in these service projects with time for fellowship and devotions as well.

### Fish Club

The annual "Rake and Run" will take place on Saturday, November 2. Fish Club will rake leaves for those in need of a little extra help, and then "run" to the next home. Fish Club is especially excited that the apple crop is healthy this fall! You should be too because



it means that you have the opportunity to purchase a delicious apple pie made by members of the Fish Club. Look for the pie order sign-up in the Gathering Area each Sunday in November. The group will be making pies Friday evening, Nov. 8, and Saturday, Nov. 9, with delivery beginning Sunday, Nov. 10. The congregation's support of this fundraiser has always been overwhelming, and helps keep funds available for scholarships and program support.

### High Hopes

During Pizza Sunday on October 27, High Hopes shared the experiences of their mission trip to Brooklyn, New York this past August. Thank you for letting us share our stories and memories with you! That same evening the group gathered to celebrate "Unplugged", a time for sharing, reflection, and devotions. The next "Unplugged" will take place on Sunday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m.



## 2013-2014 School Year off to a Great Start

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



It feels like we are off to a great start this year. All returning mentors have been warmly greeted by their Kids Hope students. We had a wonderful response to our request for mentors and are so delighted to welcome new mentors: Paige Convis, Peggy DeHaan, Danielle Floerchinger-Herrington, Lynn Japinga, Terry Pott, Anna Ritsema (a member of Third Reformed Church), Barb Roe,

Dave and Barb Schmitt, and one new substitute mentor, Claudia Berry. Thanks to these new volunteers and our ten returning mentors, we have been able to increase the number of students we serve from 14 to 19, which is the most we have been able to mentor in several years.

Despite this wonderful response, we still have some children on our waiting list. In each case, the referring teacher is longing for someone who can create a positive relationship with this student. If you are aware of anyone who has

ever considered becoming a mentor, please make them aware of the needs of these children. We would be happy to conduct an individual training session for any new volunteer at the time that best suits them and we would love to hear from anyone who is even considering the possibility of working with one of the at-risk children of Vanderbilt.

For further information about Kids Hope, please call Anne Duinkerken, (616) 392-7947 ex. 114.



## Events and Announcements



### Haiti Mission Trip Info. Meeting

Another mission trip to Haiti is being planned for October 2014 and there is also an invitation to join a group from Beechwood Reformed Church that will be traveling there in January. If you are interested in joining either trip, please come to an informational meeting on Sunday, **November 3 at 12:15 p.m.** in the Garden Lounge. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Ben Sikkink.

### Coffee Time at Warm Friend

The next Coffee Time will be at Warm Friend on Tuesday, **November 12, 10:30 a.m.** This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour. All are welcome!

### Piano and Organ Concert

What has four legs, four hands, six keyboards, and makes beautiful music? A concert for piano and organ by Rhonda Edgington and Jane Bosko! Jane (organist at Harderwyck Church in Holland) and Rhonda will be playing original compositions and arrangements for piano and organ duet, as well as pieces for organ four hands and piano four hands. The concert will also feature pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach,

Mozart, Franck, Peeters, Escaich, Faure, and P.D.Q. Bach. This is a rare opportunity to hear fascinating and evocative repertoire for piano and organ that is seldom performed, but deserving of more attention. The concert will take place on Sunday, **November 17 at 2:00 p.m. at Dimnent Chapel on Hope College's campus**; admission is free.

### Hope Church Readers

Readers will meet on Wednesday, **November 20 at 1:00 p.m.** in Commons II to discuss, *The Rhythm of Memory* by Alyson Richman. Jean McFadden will lead the discussion of this interesting book.

### Brim Bunch December Gathering

Brim Bunch members will attend the Christmas dinner and outstanding program at Evergreen Commons on Thursday, **December 12**. The group-rate price for the event is \$22.00 per person or \$20.00 if you are a member of Evergreen Commons. Please send your check to Lois Boersma by November 26th to make your reservation. Guests are welcome. Attendees will meet at Hope Church and be shuttled to the Commons at 4:30 p.m. where punch will be served in a private room. Dinner will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. This will be a joyous and meaningful way to start the Christmas season.

### Flowers in Worship

The floral arrangements in the chancel enhance our worship environment on Sundays. Thank you to all who have contributed to the flower fund by designating a Sunday in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or special occasion. Check the flower calendar in the

Gathering Area and sign up for your special week. The 2014 calendar will be available soon. \$50 is the amount for each week – make checks payable to Hope Church. You can make additional donations to the Worship Flower Fund if you wish. In the summer and fall months, Joyce Stempfly shares the beautiful flowers of her garden and we appreciate her artistry. The other months of the year the chancel flowers are provided by Pat's Flower Market in Holland. On occasion, the flowers are taken from the church gardens and arranged by David VanHeest or he shares with the congregation one of his orchids that is in bloom. Many thanks to Joyce Teusink for overseeing the flower calendar and making arrangements for bulletin inserts and with the florists.

### Guess Who's Coming to Dinner



Paige Convis, in her intentional focus on the people of Hope Church this semester, is offering an opportunity she is calling "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." She is hoping to get to know people better by having a meal together. Look for a sign up sheet to host Paige at your house for dinner sometime this semester!

### Early Worship Welcomes You

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.

## Be an Ally for Financial Mobility



Neighborhood Connections is starting a new initiative called Circles in the central City of Holland.

Circles is a national initiative that helps low-income families move from financial *stability* - where they are just getting by week to week - to financial *mobility* - where they are able to rise above poverty. Shannon MacKay, one

of our first Community Connectors for Washington School Neighbors, is one of nine Circle Leaders that need supportive Allies to help them achieve their goals.

We are looking for individuals who are willing to build intentional friendships with families trying to make their dreams a reality. Are you willing to get involved with Neighborhood Connections and help build a stronger community?

Circle Ally training begins on Nov. 12 and Nov. 16, and Circle Leaders are waiting to see who will become their Allies. Please contact Circles Coach Stephanie Soderstrom as soon as possible for more information. You can call Stephanie at (616) 392-7159 or email her at [SSoderstrom@goodsamministries.com](mailto:SSoderstrom@goodsamministries.com).

## Thank You

*Thank you to Hope Church for the prayers, cards and condolences upon the death of David's father.*

*-David Van Heest and Doug Abell*

*Hope Church, Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We are so grateful that Hope Church opens its doors and welcomes us each year for Women's Service Day. Thank you for all that your staff did to accommodate us. We served lunch to 150 volunteers and agency representatives, and raised over \$1,800 for Nuestra Casa.*

*-The Women's Service Day Team*

**Saturday, November 30**  
12:00 p.m. | Hope Church

**Thanksgiving Brunch**  
*food, sacred space & sharing*  
please rsvp to the church office

**THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED**  
A group of young adults and community members exploring the intersection of faith and life with open hearts and minds

## November Birthdays

04 Nelis Bade  
Care Group: 8

08 Helena Winter  
Care Group: 4

12 Trudy VanderHaar  
Care Group: 9

22 Carolyn Zeek  
Care Group: 6

27 Rowland VanEs, Jr.  
Care Group: 7

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



## Consistory Corner

The Consistory met on October 14th first as a full consistory and then broke into Elder and Deacon Board meetings. The following items of business came before the consistory.

- The consistory discussed a concern that was raised about how Hope Church engages in political issues such as the recent letter regarding immigration reform. The consistory began a conversation about issues of

faith and politics, how to deepen our practices of hospitality, and how we can continue to speak to issues of justice and reconciliation despite political differences. A paper entitled, "Talking Together as Christians about Tough Social Issues" was distributed as a resource for this conversation which will continue at the November consistory meeting.

- The consistory approved the budget draft presented by

Stewardship and Finance ministry to be distributed to the congregation at the end of October.

- The consistory approved the recommendation of the Personnel committee to provide insurance for our pastors for 2014 through the newly formed Reformed Benefits Association which is a combined effort of the RCA and CRC.

## and finally...

When the young adults (post-high school through twenty-somethings) gathered for the Road Less Traveled on October 1st, Andrew Spidahl shared some of his life during our worship time. Talking about his bike trip from Asia to Europe before seminary, he blew us away with the stories of hospitality he experienced along the way.

Just a few days later I had the chance to see friends from the East coast who were in town for denominational meetings. One of them is leading her church through a book called, *Living into Community: Cultivating Practices that Sustain Us* by Christine Pohl. One of the four practices she lifts up is practicing hospitality.

When the consistory met in October the theme of hospitality came up again. This time the context was how we do or don't make space for people at Hope Church with vastly different perspectives on how our faith should influence our political action. You know what's coming: when the same theme shows up three times in ten days, I pay attention!

As we move into the month of

November, a month that ends with a national holiday set aside for the purpose of giving thanks, my mind is drawn back to something my friend shared from the book her church is reading. One of the practices she highlighted was hospitality as I mentioned but another one – the first one in fact – is embracing gratitude as a way of life. I haven't read the book but the title of that chapter has stayed with me. In fact, I suspect that embracing gratitude as a way of life leads quite organically toward a deeper practice of hospitality.

Here's the connection in my mind: paying attention. Close attention. I have found that when I pay attention to the details of life I am naturally drawn toward gratitude. When I am rushing about and flitting from thing to thing with little conscious attention to the details around me – I miss things. I miss the thoughtful gesture of a person reaching out to me. I miss the beauty of a stubborn flower that still blooms next to a tree that has burst into color. And when I miss those things, my mind tends to stay with my own pressing agenda and anxious thoughts.

Gratitude requires slowing down and paying attention. And when I slow down and pay attention; when I notice the details of life that inspire me to give thanks, I also notice other things as well. I notice the subtle tone of voice that signals a person in pain. I notice the person who holds a different perspective from mine with their arms stiffly crossed who needs some space to tell their story and voice their conviction. When I listen closely to what that person has to say, I find some gifts I might have missed if I had not opened the door. Gratitude as a way of life naturally leads to the offering of hospitality. The two go hand in hand.

I find myself thinking about this coming season of Thanksgiving with some slightly different expectations. I am taking it as an invitation to go deeper in cultivating gratitude as a way of life. I look forward to seeing where it leads me, and I invite you to join me if you wish. I'd love to hear your stories along the way.

With deep gratitude for all of you,  
Pastor Jill



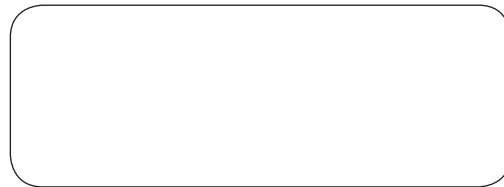
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# Hope Church News

November 2013



**Daylight savings  
ends at 2:00 a.m. on  
Sunday, November 3.  
Remember to turn your  
clocks back an hour!**

The deadline for the December newsletter is **Sunday, November 17**. Please send all articles, announcements and images to Angie at [agriffore@hopechurchrca.org](mailto:agriffore@hopechurchrca.org).

## Silent Auction Features Old Hope Church Cook Books

Do you have a yen for old things or have a friend for whom a well loved cook book would make a good gift? Here is your chance to obtain one!

A silent auction of old Hope Church cook books is now being held outside the church office. There are books from 1896, 1904, two from 1926, 1935, two from 1942, and 1977. Instructions such as, "shortening the size of an egg" or lack of instructions regarding pan size, oven temperature,

or baking time in some of the recipes are interesting.

Bids started at \$4.00 for each book and have already been increased by multiple bidders. Be sure to make your bid before the auction ends on Thanksgiving!

The Theil Archives in Holland has a copy of each cook book in the auction. The books were donated by Marty LaBarge and the proceeds



from the auctions will go to the Hope Church Women's Circles Fund.