



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 57, No. 4

April 2014

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## Insert:

- March Calendar
- Lectionary
- Restorative Circle Facilitator List

The deadline for the May newsletter is **Tuesday, April 15.**

## Office Hours

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

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Holland, MI 49423  
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HopeChurchRCA.org



## Worship During Holy Week



### Palm Sunday, April 13

**8:30 a.m. Early Worship**

**11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Celebration**

We begin the journey through Holy Week with a Palm Sunday processional, liturgy, preaching and song. *Nursery care will be provided.*



### Maundy Thursday, April 17

**6:00 p.m. Family Seder Dinner**

This traditional Jewish meal remembers the events of the Passover told in the book of Exodus. There will be a pot luck meal as part of the Seder so please bring a dish to pass. Sign up for the Seder in the Gathering Area or by calling the church office.

**7:45 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows)**

The service follows the path of Jesus' passion through the Last Supper and crucifixion and includes a hand washing ritual, communion, prayer, scripture and music. *Nursery care will be provided.*



### Good Friday, April 18

**12:10 p.m. Community Good Friday Service**

*The Seven Last Words of Christ*

Hosted at First United Methodist Church and co-sponsored by Hope Church, Third Reformed Church and New Community Fourth Reformed Church.



### Saturday, April 19

**8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil**

Come and experience the anticipation and joy of resurrection light as we approach the celebration of Easter. *Nursery care will be provided.*



### Easter Sunday, April 20

**8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service**

**9:40 a.m. Easter Brunch**

**11:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Jill Russell, preaching, and Gordon Wiersma, liturgist; with choirs and brass under the direction of Brian Carder.

*Church School will not be held. Nursery care will be provided.*

*Celebrate  
the risen Lord!*

## Hope Church in the Community

Keeping you informed of the agencies Hope Church supports through the Community Ministry

Peter Boogaart, Community Ministry Member



Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity has been affiliated with Habitat International since 1990. Almost from the start, Hope Church has been a supporting partner.

Dave DeBlock has long been our liaison to Habitat. "There is a home on 15th and Central Avenue that is the first house I can remember working on with Hope folks. That was almost twenty years ago. Mike and Steve Hopkins worked there and the downtown Inter Parish Council (IPC) churches worked together on that

one," he recalls. "Over the years, there may have been at least fifty different Hope Church folks helping out."

The nature of that help has varied depending upon circumstances and need for on-site labor. We continue to provide financial assistance. "The amount annually has varied, depending on special events, whether there's a unity build, that sort of thing," says Community Ministry Chairperson, Lois Maassen.

On its website, Lakeshore Habitat describes itself as "...a partnership, house building, homeownership, Christian ministry in the greater Holland area...based on the principle that all God's people deserve a decent place to live and that our community

is a better place when that occurs."

In recent years, Lakeshore Habitat has been expanding its strategy with a focus on the renovation of older houses, energy efficiency, and neighborhood development. There's also an international connection with a sister affiliate in Nicaragua. The resale of construction materials through their ReStore also helps to fund the ministry.

There will always be work for anyone willing to give it on a construction project. Many jobs just require a set of willing hands; you won't need a builder's license. If you're available, contact Dave DeBlock. To learn more visit [www.lakeshorehabitat.org](http://www.lakeshorehabitat.org).

## Coming Home at Think Hope

Lois Maassen, Community Ministry Chair

Please mark your calendar for the evening of May 17 to attend Think Hope. Our theme this year is "Coming Home," and the event will benefit Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity, which builds homes in partnership with low-income families. Entertainment for the evening is folk music (including some sing-along!), especially in tribute to Pete Seeger, who died in January but was an important voice for social justice as well as a legendary songwriter.

As in previous years, the event will include a silent auction of items that reflect the creativity and talents of our

members and friends. Past-year items have included hand-sewn grocery bags, knitted shawls, babysitting and carpentry services, original artwork, and garden plants. The possibilities are as endless as our creative energy!



Start planning and crafting now; tickets will go on sale in the Gathering Area and through the church office on April 17. Auction items may be delivered to the church between May 4 and 11.

Plan to join us for an event that is fun fellowship, a celebration of our collective gifts, and to benefit Habitat's work in our community!



The Community Ministry is inviting the congregation to plant an extra row of food in their gardens this summer to share fresh produce with neighbors who might otherwise not have access to such garden goodness. You can bring your extra harvest either directly to the Community Action House (CAH) or to church on Sundays and we will see that it gets delivered. Hope Church has also bought two CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares from Groundswell to be delivered to CAH. This local farm will start delivering food in early June and continue until late October. The fresh produce is really appreciated. Thank you for using your garden to bless our neighbors.

# April is National Volunteer Month

Laurie Beyer Braaksma, Church Administrator

There are many people who give their time and talent to Hope Church in various ways. Individuals of all ages volunteer in the Nursery, Church School, Children in Worship, Adult Education, Fish Club, High Hopes, Kids Hope USA, WTS Community Kitchen, Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity, church office assistance (such as assembling this newsletter!), Consistory and ministries work, gardening, fellowship events, and a multitude of other unseen tasks. These volunteers make a huge impact on the entire congregation and greater Holland community. Thank you to all who give so generously of themselves to the life and mission of Hope Church.

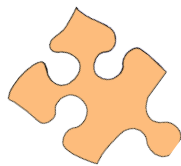
This month is a great time to sign up to receive email alerts for the Life of Hope Volunteer Blog. If you have not yet joined this growing rank of connected Hope Church members and friends, you can sign up today by going to,

[lifeofhopechurch.wordpress.com](http://lifeofhopechurch.wordpress.com)

On the homepage, type your email address into the email subscription box on the right side of the page. You will receive an email each time there is a new post so that you can stay connected to opportunities to volunteer both in the community and in the ministry at Hope Church.

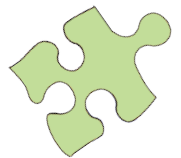
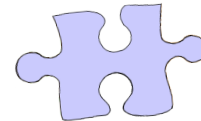


And don't forget to *use* the blog to promote volunteer opportunities. Just contact the church office with the information you would like posted including the email contact for those interested in helping.



## ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 a.m



March 16 - April 13

### **The Forgiving Victim: Theology of James**

**Alison & Rene Girard**

**Led by Pastor Gordon Wiersma and Curtis Gruenler in Commons II**

The final two classes of this five-week series will discuss these topics:

- **April 6** – Worship & Prayer: Imitating Jesus
- **April 13** – Further discussion of the past 4 weeks!

March 16 - May 11

### **Dwelling Together in the Word Bible Study** **Led by Paige Convis in the Library**

Topics for this series include: Life in Community, Eucharist, The Raising of Lazarus, Ruth and Naomi, The Crucifixion, You Will Be My Witness, The Resurrection, and The Road Emmaus.

*Please note that this class will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 20.*

April 27 - May 4

### **Christian Perspectives on Immigration** **Led by Paul Smith in Commons II**

Immigration has been a matter of considerable debate throughout American history. In today's world, global, economic, and political forces have made the movement of people outside their country of origin a world-wide issue. This class will examine the reasons why people leave their homes for other countries, in particular people from countries south of the U.S. border who enter our country without going through legal channels. Topics include:

- **April 27** - The history and current situation of immigration from Mexico to the U.S.
- **May 4** - What the Bible has to say about this issue that informs our thinking and action as Christians.
- **May 11** - A consideration of options for the future, specifically what "immigration reform" might look like.

## Letting Go and Trusting God

### Reflections from Hope Church youth

Madeline MacLean, Senior at Black River High School

I am a planner. A lister. A to-do-er, a check-off-er, a “well that’s done so let’s move on to the next thing” kind of person. In short, I am a perfectionist, and I don’t much like uncertainty. Unfortunately for me, life is full of uncertainties.

Already I’ve had to deal with many of them; currently I am in the middle of the biggest wait of my life (so far), hearing back from colleges. Ugh. I just want to know where I’m going already. At the same time, I’m terrified I’ll make the wrong choice and screw up my whole life. (I am also an overreactor.) But one of my friends, Morgan, will always tell me that God gives us difficult situations to help us grow in that area. Although that was difficult for me to grasp at first, I think I have gotten the idea

with much more clarity now.

For those of you who don’t know, perfectionism is not something you can switch on and off. Sometimes it’s a good thing, of course (my spotless academic record and transcripts are proof of that). But when you just want to relax and watch some Doctor Who but you can’t forget that biology paper that isn’t even due until next Tuesday, it gets really annoying.

The first time I really realized that life wouldn’t derail even if your plans did was on the Appalachian Trail my first year with Fish Club. At the end of the first day of hiking, we realized we had started sixteen miles away from where we were supposed to be. Ergo, we were sixteen miles away from our campsite for the night. Larry

and Anne had to hitchhike to where Gordon (honorary Sherpa for the year) was meeting us, leaving the rest of the group sitting by the side of the road with Jim Piers.

We were left there for several hours, unsure of what would become of us. Even when the thunder rolled in and it started pouring rain, it was still somehow fun. We told riddles, found a snake, waded in the river, and took Ian through the five stages of grieving for his watch. Finally Anne showed up with one of the vans and we all piled in, relieved to be out of the chilly rain. We got to our campsite, had a nice hot dinner, and fell asleep in our tents.

*Continued on page 5.*

## Write a Letter to Reform Food Aid

Hope Church Deacons



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Hope Church is a Covenant Church member of the Bread for the World network that works to advocate for government policies to ameliorate and end hunger in our country and in the world. Bread for the World works constantly to analyze hunger and measures to reduce hunger, and helps people exert effective pressure on Congress to legislate wisely to relieve

and end hunger.

For many decades, the United States has been a global leader economically, diplomatically, and militarily. The same is true in the humanitarian arena. Our federal government often sends assistance in the form of food aid. It is time to update the government's 1950s practices to enable it to respond more flexibly and faster in a 21st century, globalized world. Changes to the food-aid programs would allow food aid to benefit 17 million more people each year — at no additional cost to U.S. taxpayers.

Now there is an opportunity to reform the federal government's

food-aid programs so that funds are used more effectively and efficiently. This year's Offering of Letters will urge our representatives in Congress to enact much needed reforms to our global food aid programs. Look for the Offering of Letters table in the Gathering Area on Sunday, May 4. Together we can change policy and ensure continued, improved assistance to millions of hungry people around the world. Learn about our role in global aid, and why reform is so critical at [bread.org/ol/2014/](http://bread.org/ol/2014/).

If you would like to personally join Hope Church's Bread for the World work, please contact Tom Arendshorst at [trshorts@gmail.com](mailto:trshorts@gmail.com).



# 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.*

## Adult Education: Looking for Fresh Ideas and Younger Members

Adult Education is a Task Force of the Christian Education Ministry. Most people think of adult education as what adults who are not in choir practice and are not brunching at a restaurant do at Hope Church between 9:40 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. each Sunday morning during the school year. Usually Adult Education classes meet in Commons I, but often an additional class meets in Room 106. Classes are publicized in *Hope Church News* and in Sunday bulletins.

But adult education also happens in book discussion groups, men's breakfasts, women's circles and Caring for Creation activities. This year's Lent series "From Darkness to (In)Sight" can also fit under the adult education umbrella. And so can the learning and spiritual formation that occur during our worship services.

Several years ago, those planning Adult Education adopted the following mission statement:

The Adult Education group plans and coordinates educational opportunities for adults using as much as possible the talents and resources of the congregation. Such opportunities are intended for spiritual formation through biblical study and critical examination of cultural, social, and moral issues from a Christian perspective.

Memorable classes from the recent past include a panel of long-time members sharing their memories of what Hope Church Sunday School and church were like decades ago, the Health Ministries series on "Living Well and Dying Well," Jim Brownson's series about the book he was about to publish, *Bible, Gender,*

*Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships*, and the General Synod Review panels.

Members of the Adult Education ministry are co-chairs Keith Derrick and Judy Parr, Ed Anderson, Milt Nieuwsma, Jane Schuyler, Eloise Van Heest, and Gordon Wiersma. Until last month, pastor emeritus Marlin Vander Wilt was also active in this ministry. Adult Education is looking for at least two or three more people to join us. We are especially interested in adding the perspective of young adults to our group.

We welcome your ideas and energy. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 30, at 5:00 p.m. in the church library. Let Judy Parr or Keith Derrick know if you think this might be a form of ministry that you might want to join.

*The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Sacristy Guild.*

## Letting Go and Trusting God

*Continued from page 4.*

This is one of my favorite stories to tell about the AT, and it was definitely the first time I fully comprehended that just because something doesn't go according to plan doesn't mean that life grinds to a halt. Mistakes are allowed, and they always make excellent stories.

Since then, I think I've slowly gotten better at letting my perfectionism go. International travel has helped (where it's nearly impossible to avoid lost bags,

stolen iPods, and delayed flights), and it's far easier for me to now shrug my shoulders and say, "It could be worse." I pray every day for patience, wisdom, and the ability to let go.

Perfection is not something we should strive for, nor is it something any of us can be expected to achieve. Perfection is not what God wants from us; what God wants from us is for each of us to be the best version of ourselves that we can be. And the only way that we can get to that version is through God.

Yes, it's terrifying looking into the abyss of my future (even if that future is only the next week or so). Yes, it's anxiety-inducing to realize that I probably won't finish all my homework for the weekend. Yes, it's difficult to stop going over and over my college essays after they've already been turned in. If there's one thing I've learned from my perfectionism—one good thing, at least—it can be summed up in two words. Trust God.



## WALKING THE PATH OF RECONCILIATION

Season of Reconciliation 2014

*A special part of worship during the Season of Reconciliation is the "Witness to Reconciliation", as people in our faith community share their own stories of places of reconciliation in their life of faith. Manuscripts of these testimonies will be shared with the congregation as they are available.*

### Witness to Reconciliation

*Paul Smith, from January 26, 2014*

A week ago last Friday I concluded an educational trip to the Arizona-Mexico border region with several Western Theological Seminary students. This was my twelfth such trip to the border region. My first trip with seminary students to Latin American was in 1993, twenty-one years ago, when a group traveled to El Salvador. I have gone back to Central America or Mexico almost every year since, and I would like to share with you one reason why.

After our group landed in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, we were taken to our residence for our stay there, a guest house run by the Lutheran Church. We began a series of meetings with many different people of that war-torn country, many religious, business, and government leaders. On one of our first days we had been out in the morning, driven to our destination by small fleet of taxis and minivans. That same afternoon we were to meet with someone who would come to the Lutheran guest house to speak with us.

As we were waiting for him I was talking with a few of the students, and my eye happened to catch one of our group leaders talking with an El Salvadoran man. My first thought was

that our group leader was talking with one of our taxi drivers about where we were to go later in the day. When we assembled to hear our speaker to my surprise the man I had identified as the taxi driver was the speaker. He was an architect by profession and had studied theology at the University of Louvain in Belgium. I quickly realized he was one of the most brilliant theologians I had ever heard up to that point. I also realized that I had failed to do a basic lesson I had been taught since early childhood -- not to judge others solely by their appearance. What could this 'taxi driver', this small, brown, simply dressed El Salvadoran man have to say to me? I had categorized him as a person of no consequence solely on the basis of his looks. Another realization then hit me, the realization that one of the most important decisions we make as human beings involves who we allow to be our teachers. We can look at others and say to ourselves, "this person doesn't have anything of importance to add to my life," or we can open ourselves to the possibility that the other person, regardless of what she or he may look like, might have something of great importance to teach us.

This experience, along with many others from that trip to El Salvador,

impressed upon me how much I have to learn from my brothers and sisters in Latin America. After twenty years of trips there my teachers, my friends, include people from the Sagrada Familia Roman Catholic parish in Agua Prieta, Sonora, who are a marvelous witness to ministry led by the Spirit of God, a young woman in Nogales, Sonora, who directs a community center that gives hope and inspiration to people living in dire poverty, and young men from southern Mexico and Central America who are driven by desperation to leave their families behind in order to find some type of work in order to provide for them.

According to scripture the work of reconciliation involves our participating with God in tearing down the barriers that divide us from others. Twenty years ago I was shown how I had unknowingly created a barrier that kept me from appreciating how important the people of Latin America could be in my life; that barrier needed to come down in order for me to relate to them as my brothers and sisters.

This is my story. I hope you have a similar story to tell, or may have a similar experience in the future.

## Experiences of a Newbie Mentor

Dave Schmitt, Hope Church Kids Hope Mentor



I will admit that I went into this mentoring process with more than a little bit of trepidation. While I really wanted to help and make a difference, I was mindful of my limited skill-set when it comes to verbal communications, especially with a young child. I could picture myself sitting there with nothing to say or talk about. Fortunately, all of my fears were unfounded (as is usually the

case) and while I will admit to periods of awkwardness, mainly on my part because of our irrational environment of political correctness where you have to be careful about what you ask and how you ask it, things went fairly smoothly.

My little third grader proved to be easy to get along and be with. We have gotten into a routine now of going to the game closet and picking out something fun to do, finding a spot to settle in, talking a little about his week, usually working on a math worksheet, and then playing our game; though last week, it was the new Lego set that interested him the most and he had fun putting the vehicle (not sure exactly what it was, maybe a fire engine) together.

Almost every week I learn something new about him as we grow in our relationship. For instance, this week, it came up that he really likes to fish, but sadly, that is not one of my skill-sets either so we will continue to explore other things that we can do together. I hope I am making a difference, I think maybe I am.

*Dave's third grade mentee is also a "newbie" in the Kids Hope program. He is one of five children at home. His teacher referred him to Kids Hope because she felt he could benefit by having a positive role model and he needs academic help, especially in math. Along with his older brother, he will be spending a week at Camp Geneva this summer thanks to the generosity of the Hope Church family.*

## Understanding and Treating Pain

Donita Robards, RN, Parish Nurse

Pain is real, regardless of its cause. Unfortunately, pain is not always accepted or understood even from health care professionals who deal with it every day. We may all agree that surgery causes pain, but it is much harder to understand the pain of someone who has fibromyalgia or any other "unseen" pain. It is often difficult to trust in something that we cannot see or feel for ourselves.

Everyone has experienced some form of pain in their lifetimes. We know pain exists, but it is still subjective to the recipient. Thus, it becomes easier to judge someone else's pain and want sympathy for our own. Chronic pain sufferers are especially victim to this type of scorn, because their pain cannot always be visualized. Our culture wants the evidence, the proof that pain exists, as in a surgical patient when the incision is tangible.

Fibromyalgia is just one of many painful conditions that is misunderstood and sometimes misdiagnosed or undiagnosed. Many people find they have been to several doctors seeking answers, only to receive none. Furthermore, many have been told they are dealing with anxiety if the answers cannot readily be found.

The truth is that some doctors are not comfortable or knowledgeable about how to diagnose fibromyalgia. It cannot be diagnosed through lab tests or X-rays, rather, it is diagnosed by clinical evaluation of a person's symptoms by their doctor. According to the American College of Rheumatism, a person can be diagnosed with fibromyalgia if they have a history of widespread pain for a duration of at least three months, and have pain in at least 11 or more of 18 specific tender point sites. The



tender point sites are areas of the body that are painful when pressed. Most rheumatologists can perform a tender point evaluation.

Pain is a consequence of living. The cause of it should be investigated and treated appropriately. The first step towards managing pain is to set up an appointment with your doctor. There are several options to dealing with uncontrolled pain: a pain clinic, specialists, and palliative care. Your doctor should help you figure out what is most appropriate for you. Contact [donita.robards@resthaven.org](mailto:donita.robards@resthaven.org) for further information.



## Events and Announcements

### Consistory Nominations

Nominations for a new class of consistory members are in. Check the April bulletins for further information.

### David Klooster Dedicatory Ceremony - Apr. 4

On Friday, April 4, the Hope College Center for Writing and Research will be renamed in honor of the late Professor David J. Klooster. The new name of the Center will be "The David J. Klooster Center for Excellence in Writing." This wording reflects Professor Klooster's long-standing effort to help the campus see the improvement of writing as a lifelong process. It is the hope that the Klooster Center for Excellence in Writing will keep him in our memory, honor his legacy, and remind us of how much good one person can do. A dedicatory ceremony will begin at 3:00 p.m. in Van Wylen Library.

### Blood Drive - Apr. 6

The next blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, April 6 at First United Methodist Church. Walk-ins are welcome.

### Hope Church Readers - Apr. 16

Wednesday, April 16, at 1:00 PM will find the Readers enjoying poetry for a change. Mary Oliver's, *New and Selected Poems, Volume One*, will be presented by Audrienne Hill. Don't miss this opportunity to hear a different viewpoint by a contemporary poet.

### Special Easter Collection - Apr. 20

As a special Easter collection, Hope Church will be gathering gently used paperback books to send to the Innocent's Project to help fill the shelves of a community library at the Nyakigado Government School

in Rwanda. Working as Peace Corp Volunteers, Beth and John Braaksma have seen the need for the young children to have access to the written word and the importance of education for their future. Hope Church will be collecting children's book and young adult fiction on Easter Sunday, April 20. Please take this opportunity to pass the joy of reading to the children of Rwanda.

### Brim Bunch - Apr. 24

Fasten your seat belts. Brim Bunch will be traveling on April 24th at 6:00 pm. Our tour guides, Lou and Cory Pepoy, will be taking us to Hungary. There will be a little historical background and then we will go on to Budapest. Other cities will also be visited. It is a pot luck dinner, or if that cannot be done donate \$8. If you wish to join us and are not on the calling lists, please phone Marilyn Cook a 396-1051.

### E-Waste Recycling Event - May 17

Caring for Creation will be joining with CompRenew, Holland BPW and Consumer's Energy for an electronic waste recycling event on Saturday, May 17 from 8:00 a.m. - noon at the BPW facility on Hastings Avenue. Anything that has a cord or is battery powered can be collected that day. Volunteers are needed to assist with this project, for which Caring for Creation will receive four cents per pound. Check the May newsletter for more details or contact Ben Sikkink at bsikkink@comcast.net.

### Hope Church Co-Ed Softball

Softball season is on the horizon! The season begins in May--people of all skill levels are welcome to participate. This is a great way to enjoy fellowship at Hope Church and get some exercise

at the same time! Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. "Know Hope" (our motto) will have "more hope" if you become part of the team! Contact the church office for more details.

### Carillon Handbell Choir

If you can read music, then you are a great candidate for the Carillon Choir, Hope Church's group of handbell ringers. Carillon Choir serenades worshipers about once a month with the melodious sounds of ringing bells. The group meets every other Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. for a one-hour, relaxed-pace, no-pressure rehearsal. If you cannot commit to meeting twice a month, please consider filling in occasionally for members who are under the weather, on vacation, or cannot play for a period of time. If this sounds like something you are interested in, please contact any Carillon Choir member, or Director, Rhonda Sider Edgington, RhondaBSE@gmail.com.

### Cran Hill Weekend - July 18-20

Summer is coming (really)! One of the great opportunities of this summer will be to attend the Hope Church weekend at Cran Hill Ranch. There are still spots available! The weekend is always a wonderful inter-generational event, with something for everyone to enjoy: horseback riding, tubing down the Muskegon River, target shooting, strolling through the grounds, relaxing on the beach, rowing down the lake, taking a hayride, or just sittin' 'round the campfire. This year promises some fun new surprises too! Please contact Kim & Greg Doxstader for more details or to sign-up (gregdoc@yahoo.com). We hope to see you there!



## Community Events

### Reach for the Stars Dinner and Auction



CENTER FOR  
WOMEN IN  
TRANSITION

For many years, Hope Church has generously given to and supported the work of the Center for Women in Transition, the only agency in Ottawa and Algonquin counties dedicated to serving the victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. Hope Church member, Jane Dickie, currently serves as President of the Center's Board of Directors.

Hope Church members are invited to attend the Center's annual fundraising event, Reach for the Stars, an evening of fundraising and celebration benefiting the Center for Women in Transition.

The evening will focus on celebrating the many successes the Center's clients have had throughout the year and the role of the Center in this important work. There will be a live and silent auction, cocktail reception and elegant dinner, followed by keynote

speaker, Leslie Morgan Steiner, a New York Times bestselling author.

This year's event will be held on Friday, April 25 at the Doubletree Grand Ballroom in Holland, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per person. If you would like to attend the event and sit at a table with other Hope Church members, please sign up in the Gathering Area by Sunday, April 6. More information is available online at [cwitmi.org/events](http://cwitmi.org/events).

### Participate in the 34th Holland/Zeeland CROP Hunger Walk



**Saturday, April 26**  
Holland Christian HS  
Registration 8:00-9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, April 27**  
Beechwood Reformed  
Registration 1:30-2:30 p.m.

#### Be a Walker

The Walk is 5K or 10K. You can join the Hope Church Fish Club in the Sunday walk at Beechwood Reformed Church through a lovely natural area. It is also pizza Sunday so you can have lunch before you walk. Walker packets will be available in the Gathering Area.

This year every walker envelope turned in with donations will automatically raise \$20, which can help nourish a child for 1,000 days.

#### Make a Donation

Stop by the CROP table in the Gathering Area to make a donation to the CROP walk. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP. You can also donate at [HollandHunger.org](http://HollandHunger.org). You can make a donation through the Fish Club by selecting "I want to support a TEAM." Hope Church Youth will be listed as one of the options.

The Goal: \$100,000 and 1,000 walkers!



Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance



DIVERSITY ALLIANCE  
**SUMMIT**  
on race and inclusion

**dismantling unintentional bias**

May 21, 2014 | Hope College | register at [www.ethnicdiversity.org](http://www.ethnicdiversity.org)

### Migrant Mentoring Program

Mentors are needed for the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance's Migrant Mentoring Program. The program is seeking community volunteers to be matched with a child from a migrant family to meet weekly during the family's seasonal residence in this area. Goals include, "improving academic achievement, developing cross-cultural connections, and reducing the isolation of the migrant community." For more information, go to [ethnicdiversity.org](http://ethnicdiversity.org).

# Caring for Creation Energy Challenge

By Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Coordinator

“An unexamined life is not worth living.” I first heard this statement from the lips of Anwar Sadat. I remember taking a mental pause and thinking, “That’s worth holding onto.” Well so much for my limited education, I’ve since learned that Sadat was quoting Socrates. Examination is indeed a valuable practice, but let’s not kid ourselves; it’s hard to do and even harder to act upon.

The Caring for Creation ministry is suggesting that we all examine the ways in which we use our energy resources. Consider this fact: with 4.5% of the world population, the U.S. uses 22% of global oil production. Or this: the average American household is responsible for twice as much CO2 production as a German household, five times as much as a Mexican household, and thirteen times as much as a Kenyan household.

Whether viewed from the perspective of climate change, social equity, or

stewardship, there are a lot of good reasons to examine our patterns of energy consumption; none of which make examination any easier. Our one advantage as Christians is that we have each other. Real change only takes place in community. We need each other to sustain the process. Faith isn’t mystical. It’s the concrete process of holding onto a trusted friend with one hand while letting go with the other.

So if you’re willing, here are some suggested ways to relax your grip on those energy resources:

- Minimize your trash: Document how much you throw out. Next, identify what can be recycled or composted. Refuse to accept excess packaging.
- Minimize your use of hot water: Time yourself. How long is your shower? Limit showers to five minutes.
- Dish washing machines use less water than hand washing: Only run full loads and air dry.

- Study the laundry: were those clothes genuinely dirty? Line drying is more efficient than machine drying.
- Unplug dormant electrical appliances. Many appliances draw current even when turned off. Frequently, this draw is 10% of the monthly bill.
- Drive smarter and less. Plan trips to minimize miles traveled. Maintain your car properly. Aggressive driving uses more gas.
- Manage your thermostat. Would a lower setting and a sweater be OK? Is your AC properly sized? One third of AC energy is designed to remove humidity, a key component of comfort. Oversized AC units turn off too soon, before the humidity is under control. Uncomfortable people turn the AC down even further.
- Eat lower on the food chain. Red meat production is the second leading source of CO2 emissions.

## March Birthdays

03	Char Laman Care Group: 7
04	Barbara Boer Care Group: 1
09	Gerard VanHeest Care Group: 4

## Thank You

*Thank you for the interest and support from Hope Church for families struggling to pay heating bills shown through \$245 given to Community Action Agency for distribution to those seeking help. My thanks especially go to Norma and Dick Noordijk who walked while I was under the weather that weekend. Stay warm – for a while longer and thanks again.*

-Norma Killilea

*Our family wants to thank everyone from Hope Church that provided meals and baked goodies and items to help us during the holidays. Having such a wonderful, caring church family really helped us to get through all of my surgeries and subsequent recovery.*

-Kurt & Sharon Hopkins and family

## God's Love is Evident at Camp Geneva

*Hello Hope Church! As some of you may know, I spent last summer as a counselor for 7th-9th graders at Camp Geneva. This was one of the most simultaneously draining and fulfilling experiences of my life—and the best news is, I get to go back this summer! Round two of spending a summer running around, making camper's faces light up, and telling them how insanely loved they are?! What a beautiful gift.*

*I would like to thank you, the people of Hope Church, for investing in me from my childhood on and for being living examples of God's love in the world. It is because of you that I am now able to be a role model in these middle-schoolers' lives. This is all to say, God's love is evident at Camp Geneva—in the sunshine, songs, talent show acts, shouts during Capture the Flag, laughter, counselor-camper conversations,*



*Lake Michigan waves—and I highly encourage you to send your kids for a week this summer! Registration for Day Camp through High School is open now at [www.campgeneva.org](http://www.campgeneva.org). If you have*

*any questions, feel free to contact me at [bethany.wiersma@valpo.edu](mailto:bethany.wiersma@valpo.edu).*

*Bethany Wiersma*

## *and finally...*

It is with joy that I share the news that Andrew Spidahl will begin his ministry as our Pastoral Resident beginning on April 7th! You may recall the announcement at the Annual Meeting that we requested approval from Church of the Servant in Grand Rapids, Michigan to be included in their Pastoral Residency program which is funded through a Lily Foundation grant. They did not have sufficient grant money left to fund our position fully but agreed to make a request to use the remaining funds they had left toward a position at Hope Church. They have heard that Lily approved that proposal (so I suppose we are only 99.99% assured that this is happening until the written acceptance letter arrives!)

We will be planning a commissioning service for Andrew in the coming months so watch for details about that. Andrew has just begun the ordination process within the RCA to become a minister of Word and Sacrament so he is not yet eligible to be ordained to that office. But we will be ordaining Andrew as an Elder so that he can be authorized to celebrate the sacraments in his role as Pastoral Resident.

He will be focusing his full time ministry in three areas. Approximately 20 hours a week will be dedicated to his current work and role as the Neighborhood Connector for Washington School Neighbors. The remainder of his time will be dedicated to two arenas within Hope Church's ministry: young adult

ministry and alternative worship. We have just begun to build a vision for ministry with young adults who are post-high school through thirty years old. Andrew will bring leadership to the development of that ministry within and beyond Hope Church's membership. He will also be responsible to guide our congregation in developing our worship life beyond the 11:00 a.m. sanctuary service. This will include Early Worship as well as worship with young adults.

We are excited to bring Andrew onto our staff. Look for ways to welcome him in the days ahead!

*Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jill*



Hope Church  
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# Hope Church News

April 2014



## Easter Lily Sale

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$12.50 EACH)

Total Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to give your lily in memory or honor of someone special, please PRINT their name below:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants to be taken home on 4/20: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants given to shut-ins on 4/20: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support of High Hopes.  
We wish you a blessed Easter!

Once again, the High Hopes youth group is pleased to offer its annual Easter Lily Sale! We are providing lovely white lilies, greenhouse quality, at a fraction of the price.



Lilies that have been ordered through High Hopes will be used to decorate the Hope Church sanctuary on Easter Sunday. There will be a bulletin listing of loved ones' names for whom lilies were given in memory or honor of. After the 11:00 a.m. service, the lilies may be brought home or delivered to a shut-in.



**Orders must be  
turned in to the Hope  
Church office by  
Sunday, April 6.**