



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 57, No. 5

May 2014

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The deadline for the
June/July newsletter is
Sunday, May 18.

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

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



Think Hope: "Coming Home" for Lakeshore Habitat

Lois Maassen, Community Ministry Chair



Looking for an evening of entertainment—and for a purpose? Join us for Think Hope, our annual fellowship and fundraising event, at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 17.

The evening begins with hors d'oeuvres and the opportunity to bid on fabulous items representing the gifts and talents of the Hope Church community. We'll gather for dessert and a program of folk music, including some performances and plenty of sing-along opportunities.

Proceeds from the auction will benefit Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity, which partners with low-income families to build

or restore houses. As we heard from Jack Zandstra, executive director of Habitat, at a February adult education presentation, helping families move from rental housing into home ownership gives families stability and opens rental properties in our community.

Tickets will be available in the Gathering Area and church office starting April 27 for \$12 per person. Donations to the auction are also welcome:

- Think about what represents your gifts, which could include handcrafted clothing, household, or gift items; certificates for homemade food or services like babysitting, landscaping, or carpentry; artwork you've created; or much more. The possibilities are as unlimited as our creative energies!
- To donate, pick up and complete a form from the Gathering Area or church office. Deliver your item between May 4 and 11. If your item is perishable or not quite complete, submit the form by May 11 so we can plan for display space.

We hope you can join us for this celebratory evening of fellowship and fun!

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 26 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

Hope Church Consistory Approves Statement on Social Activism

Approved by the Consistory April 14, 2014

You may remember reading in a consistory corner column last fall that the Consistory has been discussing how we at Hope Church engage in faith and politics. In particular, the Consistory wanted to get clear about what might be some guiding principles for them as they consider whether to speak out publicly about issues of social justice. The consistory had several discussions that led to the “Hope Church Consistory: Statement on Social Activism” that appears below. During the May adult education series on Immigration, two Consistory members, Keith Derrick and Jane Schuyler, will offer an opportunity to discuss this statement as part of a class they will lead on May 18th (see page 3).

Hope Church Consistory: Statement on Social Activism

As Christians and part of the Reformed Church in America, we are called to work to affect the culture in which we live. We seek to participate in God’s restoration and healing of creation, and to work toward peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Hope Church encourages its members to be politically active as guided by the Spirit; it does not endorse particular political parties or candidates. To do so would compromise the church’s legal status as a non-profit organization, and, more importantly, it would promote the notion that there is a single path to justice. Members of our congregation will think for

themselves and speak with their own voices, informed by the Biblical call to love God and our neighbors. At Hope Church, we expect differences and seek to be governed by humility, charity, and civility.

As an RCA church, Hope Church is served and governed by a Consistory. As a leadership body and among its other responsibilities, the Consistory is charged to address injustice and care for God’s world, always grounded in the Word of God. When such situations arise, Consistory will acknowledge the diversity among us and weigh carefully the impulse to speak, our desire for unity, and the effectiveness and impact of a

statement.

As we live out this calling as a congregation, we seek to nurture a community that welcomes all and encourages all to express their faith with conviction and grace. To do this we:

- Remember first that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, focused on Christ’s message.
- Hold up the ways in which we live together in differences; emphasize the places of agreement.
- Invite perspectives to be shared, with the expectation that we will not always agree.

Teacher Appreciation Reception

Christian Education Ministry

This year the Christian Education Ministry will host a Teacher Appreciation reception for our Children in Worship leaders, Church School teachers, music leaders, and youth leaders. The reception will take place after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 18th. After pizza lunch, we hope that everyone will extend their sincere thanks to those who have taught and led our adults, youth and children with a creative, faithful and

willing spirit. All leaders, teachers and music leaders will be honored for their service to Hope Church. Hope Church values our educational opportunities and we ask everyone to stay for this short reception to share in the celebration. There will be cake!

Thank You Sentiments

One way to show our thanks is to sign or write a short note on the banner that is available in the Gathering Area

on the Sundays prior to the reception. Please spend a few minutes to show your support and appreciation. There will be a list of each Children in Worship leader, Church School teacher, music leader, and youth leader and you may write a word of appreciation to them individually or as a whole. Of course you may thank them in person at the reception or send a personal note to them as well.

Caring for Creation Prepares for E-Waste Recycling Event



The Caring for Creation Ministry is again teaming with Holland BPW, Consumer’s Energy, CompRenew and others for an electronics waste recycling collection on Saturday, May 17, at the Holland BPW building at 625 Hastings Avenue, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Most any type of small electrical or battery powered item

is acceptable, including computers, monitors, printers, speakers, (and cords for all those), radios, CD and DVD players, telephones, small kitchen appliances, and televisions. A complete listing is available on the Caring for Creation bulletin board in the hallway outside the Commons.

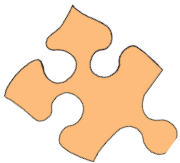
Caring for Creation will receive four cents per pound of waste collected. In addition, large working appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers are eligible for rebates from HBPW and Consumer’s Energy.

There are several ways you can help with this project:

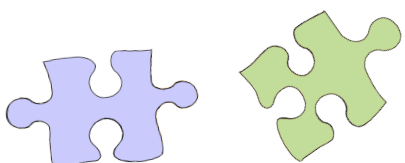
1. Volunteer to help for a two hour shift at the Hastings Avenue

collection site or as part of a crew that will be collecting items for Hope Church members and friends. Email Ben Sikkink at bsikkink@comcast.net or sign up in the Gathering Area if you can assist in this way.

2. Tell your friends, neighbors, and relatives about it and join together to bring items for recycling.
3. If you are unable to bring large items to Hastings Avenue yourself, call or email the church office by Thursday, May 15, and we will make arrangements to pick them up.
4. If you have only small items, (a grocery bag full or less) bring them to church on Sundays, May 4 or 11 and members of Caring for Creation will collect them there.



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



April 27 - May 11

Christian Perspectives on Immigration Led by Paul Smith

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:

- **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.

May 18

Church and Politics: How Do These Go Together?

Led by Keith Derrick and Jane Schuyler

For generations, Christians have been trying to figure out healthy ways to have both personal conversations and corporate responses to controversial political issues. This class will explore three topics:

1. The new Hope Church (Consistory endorsed) Statement on Social Activism (see page 2).
2. A brief look at the polity, theology, and practices of the RCA’s Christian Action Commission.
3. “Faithful Responses,” both individually and corporately of people and denominations from the past, as a way to look and move forward on this topic.

We look forward to this opportunity for discussion and sharing of experiences.

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 Sacristy Guild at Hope Church

Do you ever wonder who keeps the sanctuary in good order? Is someone really responsible for making sure the hymnals and Bibles are all organized and facing the same way? It's true. Someone takes the time each week to prepare the sanctuary for worship. The group who is in charge of this is called "The Sacristy Guild."

The work of the Sacristy Guild is to ensure that our sanctuary reflects the holiness and the joy that we all create together in worship. The definition of *sacristy* is, "A room in a church housing the sacred vessels and vestments; vestry." Furthermore, the definition of *vestry*, "In the Anglican and Episcopal churches, a committee of members of the congregation that administers the affairs of the congregation." The Sacristy Guild could be considered the *sacristans*, "persons in charge of a sacristy."

Under the umbrella of the Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry, the Sacristy Guild works closely with our pastors, Gordon and Jill; Laurie Beyer Braaksma, our Church Administrator who sends instructions each week as to what needs to be done; our resident artists, Kari Miller-Fenwood and Rachelle Oppenhuizen; and Ric Beltran, our custodian/caretaker. All of these people work together to prepare the sanctuary for regular services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, concerts, and special events.

The Sacristy Guild oversees a great breadth of coverage. In preparing for each service, Guild members need to change paraments (Ecclesiastical vestments or hangings—they are hanging from each pulpit along with the covering of the Communion table in front of the sanctuary), set out communion ware, make sure the cross is in place, set out the Paschal candle if needed, mark liturgical readings in the pulpit and lectern Bibles, and organize pew hymnals and Bibles. The Sacristy Guild also helps with placing artwork throughout the church, as well as cleaning the linens after a communion service, polishing the silver communion ware when needed, taking the wax out of the votive candle holders, and helping to prepare and then clean the homebound communion kits.

Members of the Sacristy Guild are, Linda Triemstra Cook, Judy Werkman, Michelle Gerig, Rose Mary Cantor, Nancy Rock and Joyce Teusink (chair). Feel free to thank them if you see them, but do so quietly. We would like to remain invisible. Our true thanks is to be part of the worship service, where all of these elements come together with the congregation, giving glory to God. If you have any questions regarding Sacristy Guild, or would like to help in any way, please contact Joyce Teusink.

In closing, the word *sacristy* stems from the Latin "sacer," or "sacred." It is our humble privilege to be a part of the preparation of the sanctuary, trying to maintain a sacred and holy place for worship. To God be the glory.

—Shalom from the Sacristy Guild

Hospital Stays: Observation vs. Admission

Donita Robards, RN, Parish Nurse

It is no secret that hospitals are trying to stay afloat through mergers and shorter inpatient hospital stays. But have you heard of observation vs. admission stays? Observation status isn't a new concept; it's been around for many years, but hospitals have increased their number of observation stays and the length of time a patient may be in observation. So what is the difference between an admission and an observation status? And why are we seeing such an increase in its use?

An observation stay is a way to monitor a patient closely that does not meet criteria for admission. This is subjective to the physician in the Emergency Department that performs the evaluation, which explains why a patient may be admitted at one hospital and not at another. This process may become more standardized over time, but it hasn't happened yet. An observation status is considered an outpatient service. If a patient returns to the hospital and has to be admitted, it will not be considered a readmission because the patient was not technically admitted when they were in the hospital under observation.

What this means to the patient is that all tests are subject to the same copays that would be applied as an outpatient. It can also mean larger bills for the patient for their stay at the hospital since medications for chronic conditions are not covered. A much more serious concern for Medicare recipients occurs if nursing home care is required. Medicare requires a three day qualifying stay in the hospital prior to paying for nursing home care. Observation time served does not apply.

An admission, on the other hand, can be overturned by the hospital. Medicare can also refuse payment for an inpatient admission if it is felt that the patient should not have been admitted. Medicare can/ will also refuse to pay for patients who have been readmitted for the same diagnosis within 30 days.

It is important to note that the only way to know for sure if you are admitted or under observation is to ask. While some hospitals may keep their patients and families informed, they are not required to do so by Medicare at this time. Additionally, your status may change on a daily basis. If you find that you are kept for observation, ask if you can have your medications brought in from home; some hospitals allow this, some don't. You won't know unless you ask.



home; some hospitals allow this, some don't. You won't know unless you ask.

If you feel you should be admitted, you have a right to request that your status be changed to an admission. You must make a medical argument for this. If you do need nursing home care and it won't be covered, you can file an appeal by following the instructions in the medical summary notice. It is a long, grueling process that can take years to resolve, but it may be worth it in the end.

Healthcare is changing. It is important to be aware of how these changes may affect you or your loved ones. Know what questions to ask, and how to appeal if you disagree with the hospital's decisions. It is still imperative that you take care of your health and work with the providers toward the goal of giving you the best possible outcome. Peace and blessings for a healthy year.

"NOW" Program In Need of Healthy Foods

Earl Laman, Community Ministry Member

Sick or ailing people need healthy foods! Don't we all? Yes, but folks being cared for at the Community Health Clinic *especially* need a healthy diet and are less able to afford it. In response, Community Action House has committed themselves, with our continuing help, to provide this vital need.

Here are the kind of foods the Health Clinic wants to provide:

- Canned fruit in juice or "lite"
- Vegetables, juices and soups - low or no salt
- Whole grain flour, crackers, pasta and rice
- Whole oats and oatmeal
- Chicken and tuna in water
- Dried beans and low/no fat canned beans
- Peanut butter - no trans fat, low fat

- Sugar & fat free jello, pudding
- Nonfat Cooking spray; Mrs. Dash
- High protein boxed dinners, meats

"NOW" is the time and effort to provide for special-needs folks! Drop your items off in the big basket in the Gathering Area; deliveries will be made weekly.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Communications Task Force.

Pictorial Directory Planning Committee

Volunteers are needed to be a part of the planning committee for the 2014 Pictorial Directory. This is an exciting project that requires the gifts of many! The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m., and a few more meetings are likely to be scheduled this summer and early fall. If you are interested in being part of the planning committee, please sign-up in the Gathering Area or contact Angie in the Church office at agriffore@hopechurchrca.org or 392-7947. Even if you cannot make the first meeting on May 7, please let Angie know that you're interested in joining the team!

Community Housing Partnership Update
From “10th Street House Mentor Team” to “CHP Mentor Team”

Pastor Gordon Wiersma

Hope Church has a new opportunity ahead for what is now the “CHP Mentor Team” and we invite you to join us!

The demolition of the 10th Street House brought about a major transition with the Community Housing Partnership (CHP) at Hope Church this past program year. Over the past decade, the 10th Street House provided housing for many families and had been a focal point for our support of the CHP ministry. It was painful to lose the 10th Street house but also a time to be grateful for all the work and support that had gone into that home.

The demolition required that the Mentor Team assess if and how to continue with the CHP Ministry, and as 2014 has unfolded we have a plan for a way forward. We want to update you on that plan, and ask for your support in prayer, encouragement and participation.

- Our Mentor Team will continue to support two families, but now at two separate locations, on the 100 block of E. 16th Street and on the 200 block of W. 15th Street. So instead of the “10th Street House Mentor Team” we are now the “CHP Mentor Team”!
- Many thanks to Vern Boersma who is retiring from the Mentor Team after many years of faithful service. Vern has been a wonderful presence of caring and encouragement for the CHP families.

- Kristine Bradfield, Marilee Nieuwsma and Allison Davelaar are continuing on the Mentor Team, supported by Gordon Wiersma and the Community Ministry, and also supported by the CHP staff through Good Samaritan Ministries.

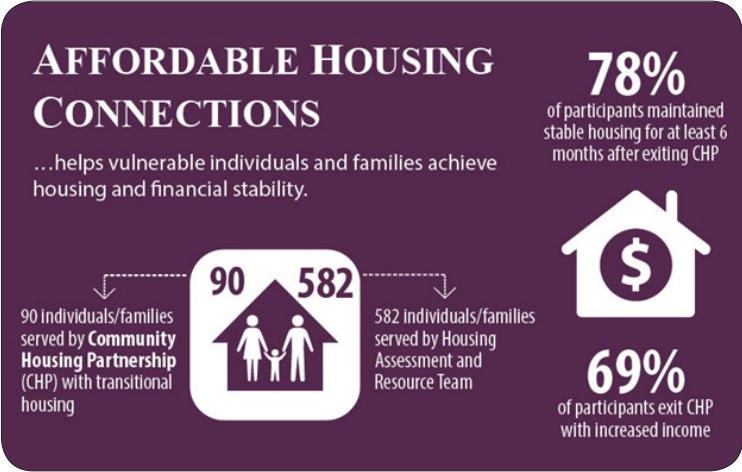
it would be helpful to hear some first-hand experiences from current members:

Joining the CHP team is an easy way to have a positive impact on the lives of local families in need. The once a month phone calls I make to the families are always warmly received - it means so much to them to know that there is a team of people praying for them, thinking of them, encouraging them, and asking them if they have any needs the church can help them address.
-Allison Davelaar

I see mentoring as one way to share the love of God for all God’s children. Sometimes I’ve helped in concrete ways by driving to doctor’s appointments, cleaning, painting or purchasing curtains. At other times I’ve mentored with a simple phone call; listening to problems and difficulties and responding with concern, letting a person know that we care and are praying for her/ him. Showing loving support is what it’s all about!
-Marilee Nieuwsma

Please consider being a part of the CHP Mentor Team as we take on a renewed focus supporting families at these new locations. And we ask for the entire congregation to pray for the CHP Mentor Team members, the families in the CHP homes, and for all those who work to support these families. Please watch for ways that you can provide special support from time to time.

We would love to have some additional Mentor Team members, and thought




Blueberry Pie Sales Provide Sewing Machines and Hope in Haiti

Ben Sikkink

Several sewing machines and sewing supplies were purchased with the proceeds from last summer’s blueberry pie sales. A big thank you is extended to all who helped with the preparation and selling of the pies and to all who purchased pies. Below is a

letter from Marci Thurlow with the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty. If you would like to see this program in person and possibly even help the women, another trip is being planned to Haiti this fall, October 14-21. Please

contact Ben Sikkink at bsikkink@comcast.net for more information. And if sewing is not your thing, there are several other projects available to help this worthy mission.



March 26, 2014

Hope Church
77 West 11th St
Holland, MI 49423




Dear Hope Church,

THANK YOU for the sewing machines and sewing supplies for our Gift of Hope Program! The first day of our sewing school was this week! It was quite an exciting time, to say the least. We are so extremely grateful to you for making this sewing school a reality!! We also greatly appreciate Ben Sikkink and all of his time spent in ordering the machines and supplies. And for Larry and Karen Mulder who took care of having these shipped from Florida to Haiti. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

We thank God daily for all of His blessings He has showered upon us, and one of them is you!

In Him,
Marci Thurlow
Administrative Assistant
Marcithurlow@haitipoverty.org

If you are not receiving our monthly e-newsletter and would like to be added to our mailing list, please send your email to information@haitipoverty.org. We will be happy to add you to our mailing.



Kids Hope Prayer Partners Support Mentors and Students

Eloise Van Heest, Hope Church Kids Hope Prayer Partner

The Co-Directors of the Hope Church Kids Hope Program make sure that each mentor and child are supported by a prayer partner who promises to pray faithfully for them. Prayer partners are not alone. To become acquainted with the child and to pray effectively, the prayer partner regularly talks with the mentor to discover the child’s academic strengths and weakness, and his/her joys and concerns. Additionally, Hope Church’s Co-Directors, Barb Joldersma and Anne Duinkerken send a weekly memo each Sunday with general updates and specific suggestions for prayers.

Many of the children and prayer partners write notes and letters to

each other with the mentor being the ‘courier’ of the book. The prayer partner asks the child about their favorite games, ‘chores’ at home, studies at school etc. The child learns about their prayer partner too as the letters go back and forth.

In mid-winter all the mentors and prayer partners are invited to a dinner at church where encouragement and experiences are shared. Then early in May the child and their whole family come to Hope Church for a year-end celebration. The mentor and the prayer partner meet and eat with the students and their families and join in the celebration with balloons, fun conversations, loud cheers and certificates as the child completes the



Eloise (Prayer Partner) and Anne Duinkerken (Program Co-Director and Mentor) with their student at last year’s year-end celebration.

school year. It is a privilege and joy as a prayer partner to ask God’s help and blessing on a Kids Hope child.

Children’s Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children’s Ministry Director

Children’s Sabbath - May 11

On Sunday, May 11, we will celebrate the Children’s Sabbath, a day when we as a congregation, promise to nurture and pray in support of the children of Hope Church. We want to celebrate them on this Sunday and everyday that follows. The congregation will have the opportunity to select names of children to support and pray for in the coming year. The names of all the children in each church family will be included on the Prayer PALS (Prayers Always Lovingly Said) sheet. We hope that this will allow each child in a family to have a similar experience with their Prayer PALS . There will be more information and ideas on how you can convey to those children how important and valued they are by Hope Church. We will also provide cards that may be sent to the family to introduce the adult to the child(ren). The children are an important and valuable part of our congregation as

they share their joy and energy with each of us. *Please note: the 4th and 5th graders will take part in the 11 a.m. service on May 11.*

Thank You to Our Leaders

Hope Church is full of gifted people who are willing to spend their time and energy and especially their love of Christ with the young children of our church. They nurture the faith of the children in the nursery, in church school classes, in the Children in Worship centers, in choirs and youth groups. We treasure the sharing of their gifts with all the Hope Church families, and we hope that the educators and leaders realize the great impact their connection with the children makes in those lives. We express our thanks to all of you who meet the challenge to live out your Christian faith by helping others to grown in their faith.

Church School/Children in Worship

May 18th is the last Sunday for Church School and Children in Worship. The following week, May 25th, children ages 3 through those who have completed 2nd grade will be meeting together in the Youth Room when they are released from the 10:00 a.m. service. The teachers, worship leaders and children all had a very wonderful year learning, sharing and caring for one another.

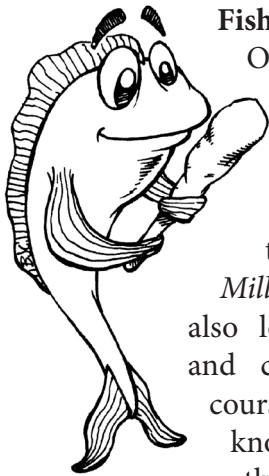
Children’s Offering

Throughout the year, the Children in Worship centers have collected an offering to help build windmills to irrigate gardens for the families along the Omo River in Ethiopia. We have kept Caleb and Joanna Swart and especially their young children Elsa, Ezra, Daisy and Dexter in our prayers.

Youth Ministry

Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director

As in years past, Fish Club and High Hopes will help serve hors d’oeuvres at the annual Think Hope Auction on Saturday, May 17, helping to raise funds for Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity (read more on page 1).



Fish Club

On Sunday, April 13 Fish Club gathered for Movie Night and watched the movie, *Millions*. There was also lots of popcorn and conversation, of course. If you want to know more about the movie, just ask one of our Fish Clubbers!

Fish Club will once again walk in the Crop Walk on Sunday, April 27 along with the youth groups from Grace Episcopal and First Presbyterian. The group looks forward to making

Mother’s Day gifts on May 4, and having a year end party at Tunnel Park on May 18. The annual Appalachian Trail hike will take place June 11-17 in the mountains of West Virginia! Registration and arrangements are still being made. Stay tuned for more details.

High Hopes

High Hopes looks forward to a Tulip Time progressive lunch on Sunday, May 4. Right after the 11:00 a.m. service the group will walk downtown in search of the yummiest and healthiest(?) treats from the food carts. Some tulips may be spotted along the way, we will have to wait and see!

High Hope’s year-end party is planned for Sunday, May 18, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Camp Geneva. The group will enjoy games, a picnic, and honor the outgoing seniors.

This year’s annual mission trip will take place in Detroit where the group

will work with DiscoverQuest Youth Missions in the Little Mexico area of Detroit three miles southwest of downtown. Our host is El Reino de Dios (The Reign of God), an RCA church start. Some of the service sites will be Nardin Park Church (RCA), Citadel of Faith (ECC), and Bridging Communities (senior services). This trip is always a highlight of the year. Our youth work hard, play hard, and enjoy getting to work alongside and for others.

To help us cover expenses, we are hosting two fundraisers in June. On Sunday, June 1 we hope you will join us for a brunch right after the 10:00 a.m. service. On Saturday, June 7 you can bring your dirty cars to our car wash from 10:00 a.m. to noon.



Greeters Schedule

The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry

Below are the households assigned to greet prior to the 10 a.m. service in the upcoming months*. Please note that worship in the sanctuary begins at 10:00 a.m. May 25-August 31.

June Greeters

- 01 Peter & Judith Boogaart
- 08 Robert & Margaret Bos
- 15 Ted & Shirley Bosch
- 22 Randall Braaksma & Laurie Beyer
- 29 Al & Kristine Bradfield

July Greeters

- 06 Jim & Kathy Brownson
- 13 Brian & Carol Carder
- 20 John & Julie Clough
- 27 Tim & Linda Cook

August Greeters

- 03 Daniel Fisher & Kay Hubbard
- 10 Clare & Lauren Heyboer
- 17 Mark Edgington & Audrianne Hill
- 24 Chris & Martha Kaiser
- 31 Duane & Karmen Kooyers

**If you are unable to greet on your assigned Sunday, you are invited to either switch with someone or find a substitute.*

Events and Announcements

Cran Hill Weekend - July 18-20

Summer is coming! 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).

Attention Graduates!

Please email office@hopechurchrca.org with details of graduation from high school, college, or graduate school. If you know your future plans, please include those. We will recognize our graduates at a later date in a Sunday worship bulletin.

Co-Ed Softball Team

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! If you’d like to learn more about it, please contact Andrew Spidahl.

Sunday Liturgy Available Online

If you are unable to attend Sunday worship and plan to listen via radio broadcast on WHTC (1450 AM) or internet live stream, you can now follow along with a bulletin. The liturgy will be posted each week on the Hope Church website. Go to HopeChurchRCA.org and click on the “This Sunday” page.

Tulip Time Notice - May 10

On Saturday, May 10, the Hope Church parking lot will be staffed by members of the People 1st of the Lakeshore. The parking lot will be roped off for the Parade of Bands and People 1st of the Lakeshore will be collecting a fee for parking as a fundraiser for their chapter. People 1st of the Lakeshore is the Ottawa and Allegan County Chapter of individuals with developmental disabilities. Members want to speak for themselves and let people know who they are and what they have to offer. Their motto is that they are people first and their disabilities come second. Together we can help members achieve their God-given potential as citizens and help them become more independent. The local chapter has weekly and monthly meetings. For more information, call 738-8570.

Hope Church Readers - May 21

Hope Church Readers will complete this year’s book list with Sonia Sotomayor’s autobiography, *My Beloved World*. It’s a great narrative of her journey to the Supreme Court of the United States. Marilyn Cook will lead the discussion, and visitors are welcome. The group meets on Wednesday, May 21 at 1:00 p.m. in Commons II.

Summer Worship Times

On Sunday, May 25, the summer worship time will change to 10:00 a.m. Early Worship will go on summer hiatus and will resume in the fall. There will be no Church School hour, but children ages 3 through completion of second grade will meet in the Youth Room after they are dismissed from the 10:00 a.m. service.

Thank You

We give thanks for the pastoral care of Jill Russell and Gordon Wiersma, David Blauw and Cindi Veldheer DeYoung; for the meals that allowed us to gather around her table; for the cookies and the care from members of Circle 4; for Bobbi Boer and all who so ably assisted with the post-service reception; for all of who shared memories and offered comfort.

-The Family of Jean Cook

Thank you, Hope Church! Thank you for holding me in your prayers and thoughts during my recent surgery and on-going recovery. Thank you to Pastor Gordon and Jill and to Donita for your visits and calls. Thank you congregation for your encouraging cards. Though literally braced for a couple more months of healing, I can say I am better than I was - which is a joyful statement to make. Blessings to all!

-Larry Schuyler

Thank you to the Hope Church congregation for the meals that were brought in, the cards that were sent, and for the many prayers during my illnesses. Thanks for supporting Doug during that time.

-David Van Heest & Doug Abell

A Note from Seminary Intern, Paige Convis

To my dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I can’t believe that May is here! It doesn’t seem possible that a whole academic year has passed already. I am filled with gratitude for the ways that God has showed up and continues to show up in our midst! I am also extremely grateful for your gracious support and love as I learn and grow at Hope Church.

The real reason for this note is to give an update of what I am doing this summer. First, I will be traveling to Brazil with the seminary. We are required to go on an Intercultural Immersion trip as a part of the MDiv program. Usually middler students go on this trip in January, but because it is rainy season in Brazil during that time, we are going May 15-23. We

will be spending time in the city of Manaus and then on a medical boat that travels up and down the Amazon River Valley serving the people that live along it.

Second, I will be moving to Stanton, New Jersey for 10 weeks to do a full-time internship. I do not know much about what I will be doing those 10 weeks, but I am excited for a taste of full time pastoral ministry!

Finally, I will be back in Holland at the end of August and along with tons of stories to share, will be interning at Hope Church for another year. I will look forward to being back with you all then. Know that I hold you in my heart and prayers. And if you find yourself near Stanton, please visit!

Peace to you, Paige

and finally...



Well, you can’t get rid of me.

It seems that again and again, I keep showing up with some staff role at Hope Church. First in 2010 it was the seminary internship, then in 2012 the

summer internship, and again in 2013 as community connector I managed to get an office in the building, which also led to my filling in while Gordon was on sabbatical. And now, yet again, you’ll find me sitting in meetings and showing up at church functions as the new Pastoral Resident.

You just can’t get rid of me.

For my part, I’m glad to be on board for another two years, working alongside Gordon and Jill in the pastoral role, and seeking to explore new ground with our young adult ministry and alternative forms of worship. And I’m also glad for this unique opportunity to continue as Washington School Neighbors’ community connector in the work Kallie and I have been doing for the past year. So basically

May Birthdays

05	Virginia Timmer Care Group: 12
06	Ed Boer Care Group: 1
26	Mary McCune Care Group: 5

If you are 75+ years old and would like to be listed in the birthday column, please contact the church office at (616) 392-7947 or office@hopechurchrca.org.

I’ll be dedicating half my time to the neighborhood, and half my time to Hope Church specific ministries.

As part of that, I want to say a word of thanks to Jill and other leaders in the church who helped to envision and secure this Pastoral Residency grant from the Lilly Foundation as a way to continue Hope Church’s commitment to this neighborhood where we find ourselves. Thanks! And thanks to you, Hope Church members, for your continued kindness and support through all these various years.

I look forward to growing into these next two years of ministry through Hope Church.

Still Around,
Andrew Spidahl

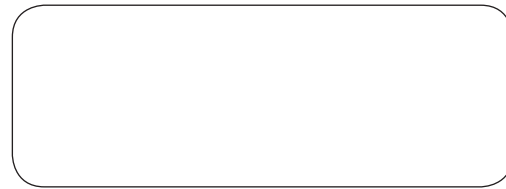
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Hope Church News

May 2014



Spring Clean Up | Saturday, May 3 | 9:00 a.m. - Noon



**We need your help at the
Hope Church Gardens
Spring Clean Up!**

Wear your work clothes, bring your gloves, bring your friends and family, and bring whatever gardening tools you have. There will be some extra gardening tools available, but much of the work can be done with hands—pulling weeds and debris from the garden beds, etc.

So what's the urgency here? We need to save \$3,000.00—the price we will have to pay to have the landscaping taken care of professionally if we cannot manage it ourselves. If you haven't been following the Hope Church budget lately, I'm here to let you know that we don't have an

extra \$3,000.00 for this. I have full confidence that we will pull together to meet our present budget goals, and I also know that we can pull together and put some sweat equity into our gardens to make them work. We would like them to “shine for Tulip Time” (and beyond)!

We hope you can arrange your schedule to join us on May 3, or even just for an hour if that's what works for you. Many hands make light work, so tell your friends and family! If you have questions, contact Joyce Teusink.