



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 57, No. 6

June/July 2014

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Inserts:

- June/July Calendars
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- Lectionary

The deadline for the August newsletter is Tuesday, July 15.

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



Go and Glow Returns this Summer

Julia Brown, Seminary Intern

The Health Ministry is again launching "Go and Glow" in June to get us moving this summer. There is a quote from Iraeneaus, "The glory of God is the human person fully alive!" Part of being fully alive is being attentive to how we honor and love God with mind, soul and body.

For those who are able, we encourage you to make some fitness goals for the summer. Beginning on Sunday, June 8th, you can pick up cards to indicate a goal you have to get moving...to go and glow! One card will be left with the church and the other card you will take home to be displayed in a prominent place to remind you of your goal. The goal cards will be available in the church office and also may be returned there.

If you meet your goal you can turn in your card for a drawing at the end of the summer to receive a prize. Along the way - take a photo of yourself 'on the



go' and post it on the Health Ministry bulletin board or Hope Church Facebook page. It will be fun to see the many ways people are taking up the challenge.

Coming Soon: Food, Fitness, Fellowship, Faith, and Fun! Looking for some fun new ways to work towards your Go and Glow goal? Intern, Julia Brown will be leading a couple new groups to incorporate these five F's. "Food Groups" and "Fit-to-Serve" will start up in mid-June; more information to come!

Another great way to meet your goal is to attend "Flexibility and Balance" (FLEX) with Maxine DeBruyn on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

Softball Team Looks Ahead to Spirit-filled Season



Team "Know Hope" began its season with a victorious loss of 3-6 against Barnabas Ministries. Many more games are scheduled for June and July (dates and times can be found on the calendar insert). All games are played at Bilmar fields (Felch and 100th Ave in Zeeland). Come and cheer on the Know Hope team! Interested in playing? People of all skill levels are welcome to participate. If you'd like to learn more about it, please contact Andrew Spidahl at aspidahl@hopechurchrca.org.

Consistory Corner

At their meeting in May, the consistory acted on the following issues that came before them:

- The consistory accepted the resignations of Laurie Beyer Braaksma from her position as Church Administrator and Anne Duinkerken from her position as Youth Ministry Director (see note from Anne on page 4). The consistory expressed their deep gratitude for both Laurie and Anne for their years of faithful service. Laurie concluded her position on May 15th. Anne will continue to serve until August 9th.
- The consistory approved the proposed job description for the Church Administrator position and authorized the Personnel committee to conduct a job search and hire someone for the position
- They authorized the Personnel committee to appoint a search committee for the Youth Ministry Director position keeping in mind the following categories when forming that committee: a consistory member, a Personnel committee member, a Fish Club parent, a High Hopes parent, an 8th grade student, a 12th grade student, and both pastors. Their first task will be to update the job description and bring that back to consistory for approval.
- Consistory also approved the job description for the 10 hour a week summer internship for Julia Brown, one of our seminary students.
- After reviewing feedback about

ministry meeting frequency, the consistory set aside the months of March, July, and December as sabbatical months in which ministries would not meet unless there is a need determined by the ministry that requires their attention. Additional values were affirmed regarding ministry meetings such as the freedom to meet only when necessary rather than assuming a monthly meeting schedule, the importance of pastors as resources to ministries but allowing for pastors to confer with chairs when they are unable to attend, as well as affirming the small group connections that happen among ministry members and the commitment to nurture those relationships.

Test Your Home Energy Efficiency Knowledge

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Coordinator



Eight Hope Church families are working together to make their homes more energy efficient. There will be a lot of work eventually, but first comes education. You can't get significant energy efficiency improvement without first learning how to do it. Check out your energy efficiency knowledge with this quiz.

Hope Church Home Energy Quiz

1. The correct setting for a hot water tank is:
a) 140°F c) 120°F
b) 98°F d) None of the above
 2. The average American home spends _____ on annual utility bills:
a) \$4700 c) \$2200
b) \$1500 d) \$3000
 3. Burning one gallon of gasoline produces _____ of carbon dioxide:
a) 20 lb c) 14 lb
b) 1 lb d) 50 lb
 4. A natural gas forced air furnace should be tuned-up every _____.
a) 1 year c) 6 years
b) 2-3 years d) 10 years
 5. True or False. New windows will always make a significant reduction in energy consumption.
 6. True or False. Homes in the Holland area are more energy efficient than the Midwest average.
- See answers below.

1. C, 2. C, 3. A, 4. B, 5. False, 6. False

Think Hope Celebrates Coming Home

Lois Maassen, Community Ministry Chair



Many enjoyed bidding on the fabulous auction items representing the gifts and talents of the Hope Church community.



Hope Church Youth served delicious hors d'oeuvres including Rock 'n Roll Classic Chex Mix.

Sincere appreciation to all who helped make the May 17th Think Hope a reality, including those who donated auction items, prepared food, and planned and set up; those who served, provided table decor, performed, and cleaned up; and those who ate, chatted, sang along, laughed, purchased auction items, and will still deliver food or services.

While at press time receipts were still being organized, this annual social event and auction raised close to \$5,000 to fund home energy retro-fit projects through Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity, whose programs help those who would otherwise struggle to provide homes for their families.



Members of the band performed and led everyone in sing-a-longs to "We All Live in a Yellow Submarine," "Country Roads" and "Good Night, Irene."

Dave DeBlock Awarded Habitat Volunteer of the Year



Hope Church member, Dave DeBlock, was recently awarded Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity's 2013 Volunteer of the Year. Dave has been volunteering with Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity for 15+ years. The organization noted that Dave is "instrumental in developing our house plans and working to complete the houses he designs. Dave inspires others through his passion for community improvement, and

promotes our ministry throughout the community. His enthusiasm for our mission of building homes, communities, and hope is evident and inspires others to want to be a part of it."

Dave's passion and committed leadership is inspiring and we are thrilled to see his years of service and leadership recognized. Congratulations, Dave!

Rhonda's Summer Organ Tour in Germany

Rhonda Edgington, Assistant Music Director

This July I will be traveling back to Germany, where Mark and I (and later, our children) lived for seven years from 2004-2011. I will be there for two and a half weeks, playing five recitals, and seeing old friends in the city where we used to live.

I will begin in Freiberg, which is different from Freiburg - a beautiful city near Switzerland, in the Southwest of Germany. Freiberg is a city in the former East Germany, near Dresden, where I'll be playing in the protestant cathedral in that city, St. Marien, on two organs built by the most famous organ builder of the Baroque period in East Germany, Gottfried Silbermann.

Then I will travel to the Northwest to the region where we lived, near the city of Bremen. I will be in the countryside north of Bremen, a region called Ostfriesland (with landscape that is quite similar to that of the Netherlands, which it borders). I will play in two small towns, one on an organ built by the most famous North German Baroque organ-builder, Arp Schnitger, and another built slightly



later, but also beautiful to look at and hear - St. Georg Church in the town of Weener, and the St. Marien Church in the village of Marienhäfe.

After that, I'll travel back to the former East Germany, not far from Leipzig, to the city of Naumburg (not to be confused with Nuremberg, of the Nazi trials!). There I will play another famous organ in the St. Wenzel Church, one that Bach is known to have played, in his role as a certifier of newly built instruments. He declared that it was a good instrument, and I'm excited to see and play this organ that I have heard much about, but not yet seen (as opposed to all the other

concerts on this tour.)

After that, I will head back to Bremen, to stay in the city where we lived for seven years, enjoy seeing friends, and prepare a short recital downtown at the Unser Lieben Frauen Church. My final concert will take place in another small village called Harbke, located in the northern central part of the country, at a church that is part of an old castle. There I will also play on a newly restored Baroque instrument.

I'll be happy to tell stories once I return of my trip, and thank you all for allowing me the freedom to be away this summer for this opportunity!

Hope Church Staffing Changes

A note from Anne Duinkerken:

It is with sadness that I announce to you my resignation as Youth Ministry Director. I have worked with the youth for 16 years, the past 3 as Youth Ministry Director. This has been work dear to my heart. I treasure the relationships we have formed over the years. To watch our youth grow in their faith has been a privilege. I look forward to helping in the transition to new leadership.

I am confident God has great things in store for our youth program. I will continue to love, care for and pray for our youth.

The consistory is very grateful to Anne for her service and leadership with our youth. They are particularly grateful for her willingness to support the youth ministry in this time of transition. Anne will continue in her role until August 9th while the

Personnel committee conducts a search for the next Youth Ministry Director. We are making plans to honor Anne during the September 28th Pizza Sunday when the High Hopes Youth Group shares highlights from their summer mission trip. Please keep Anne and the youth ministry in your prayers during this time.

Kids Hope Celebrates Program Year

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



Hope Church's Kids Hope program concluded its 2013-2014 program year on May 2. A highlight of our final week was the year-end party held on Thursday, May 1. Approximately 90 people were present for this celebration where we recognized the 16 children we have mentored this year.

The party began with bowling, followed by Bingo and a kid-friendly dinner, but probably the most anticipated portion was the individual recognition of each Kids Hope student by their mentor and prayer partner. Certificates of

participation were awarded and words of affirmation read, and all of this was followed by the Hope Church Kids Hope cheer originally composed by Judy VanderWilt. Students, parents and siblings, Vanderbilt staff, and Hope Church volunteers participated enthusiastically as the party came to a close.

Although our year has officially ended, the months of June and July are also special for more than half of our Kids Hope students. Thanks to the generosity of members of the Hope Church family, nine of them plus one sibling will have the opportunity to

go to day or overnight camp at Camp Geneva. We are so grateful for this opportunity and ask for your prayers for each of them. Their names will be listed in the bulletin the Sunday before the week they go to camp.

Finally, we want to offer a special thanks for the on-going support of the entire congregation. We know this ministry would not exist without you. Thank you for your prayers and for the financial support which makes all of this possible. We look forward to continuing this ministry with you during the 2014-2015 school year.



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 Communications Task Force

The idea for the Communications Task Force began back in early 2011, when the Discerning our Future task force started thinking about how we communicate with the congregation and beyond. A survey was designed to ask congregation members how they were *currently* receive information from and about the church and how they *would like* to receive information from and about the church. The survey also included questions about how people in our community learn about Hope Church.

The survey led to plans to update the church website and rethink Hope Church's overall communications strategy. The goal was to develop a cohesive and strategic approach to all communications within and beyond Hope Church to be more effective in sharing the mission of our congregation and inviting people to be engaged in the life of our church.



One of the first communications changes that was made was the creation of a new logo. The Outreach and Hospitality Ministry worked with Chris Wiers to develop the cross you see pictured here.

At the invitation of the Discerning our Future task force, some more directed conversation about



In April, a postcard was mailed to residents who live within a one-mile radius of Hope Church in celebration of the Easter Season. The backside included the dates and times of services.


advertising began to develop in early 2012. This led to the formal formation of the Communications Task Force in the summer of 2012. The team worked to introduce the new logo through the printing of new bulletin covers, letterhead, envelopes, business cards and the banner that hangs by the Welcome Desk.

Later that fall, Communications Coordinator, Angie Griffore, was hired on to the Hope Church staff and began convening the group. For the past year and half, group members have included Pastors Gordon Wiersma and Jill Russell, Angie Griffore, Michael Kolk, Lois Maassen, and Phil Tanis.

The Communications Task Force

focuses on supporting the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry with efforts in creating, writing, and placing strategic advertising and marketing messages. They also research and suggest additional communication vehicles for use within and beyond Hope Church. Some examples of advertisements and other means of communications that the Communications Task Force has worked on over the past year and a half are included on these pages.

The group was originally pulled together but is open to others joining. If you are interested in learning more about the Communications Task Force, please contact Angie in the church office to discuss the ways in which you can serve Hope Church in this way.




engage your heart, mind, & soul

HOPE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

*We celebrate
unity and
diversity!*

Progressive and **Contemplative** Spirit
Inclusive and **Welcoming** Community
Biblical and **Contemporary** Preaching

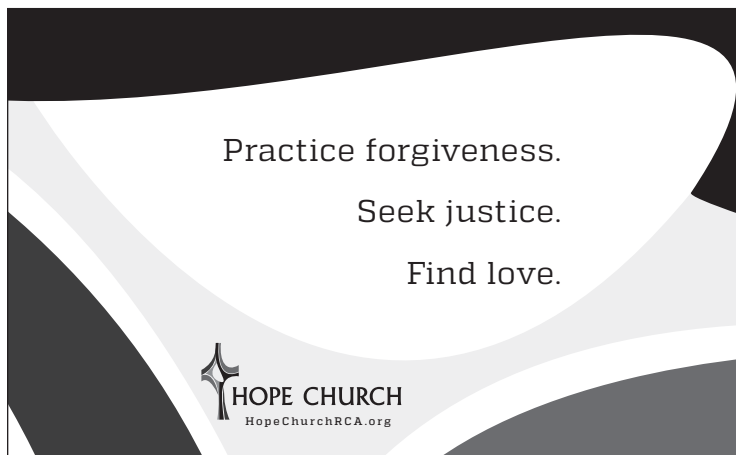
RCA ROOM FOR ALL 

77 West 11th Street, Holland, MI 49423 | HopeChurchRCA.org | (616) 392.7947


The ad above appeared in the event program for Holland Area Pride last June and it will appear again in this year's program.

The ad to the right appeared in the 2013 season program for Hope College Summer Repertory Theatre. The same ad will appear again in this year's program.

Hope Church pens were designed and purchased in March.

Practice forgiveness.
 Seek justice.
 Find love.

 HOPE CHURCH
HopeChurchRCA.org



 HOPE CHURCH *Welcomes you*

Informal, Experiential Worship
 8:30 a.m. - Commons - Weekly Communion

Adult Education
 9:40 a.m. - Timely topics and discussion

Liturgical Worship
 11 a.m. - Sanctuary

FREE PIZZA LUNCH - THIS SUNDAY! February 23
 Last Sunday of every month after 11 a.m. worship
 Only two easy blocks from Van Wylen


HopeChurchRCA.org

A series of ads appear in The Anchor, the Hope College weekly newspaper, throughout the fall and spring semesters. The ad to the left is one of the many ads printed, inviting students to Hope Church.

Events and Announcements

Room for All Event - June 4

“Room for All: Who, What, Why” will be held on Wednesday June 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the Park Theater, 248 S. River, in Holland. This will be an opportunity to learn about the work of Room for All, an organization of Reformed Church in America members who support the welcome and affirmation of LGBTQ people in the life and ministry of the RCA. If you agree, disagree, or aren't sure, this event is an opportunity to learn and ask. Call 201-364-4538 with questions.

Blood Drive - June 15

A blood drive will take place at Hope Church on Sunday, June 15 in the Commons from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. This event is sponsored by Hope Church and First United Methodist Church and hosted by the American Red Cross. Our goal is to collect 40 units of blood. Please sign up in the Gathering Area to donate blood. In addition to donating, volunteers are needed for the following positions:

- 2 persons are needed for the set up on Saturday, June 15 from 5-6 pm
- 2 persons are needed for the take down on Sunday, June 15 from 2:30-3:30 pm
- 4 persons are needed to sit at the registration desk for 1.5 hours each during the event:
 - 1) 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
 - 2) 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 - 3) 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 - 4) 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Hope Church Readers - June 18

Hope Church Readers will meet on Wednesday, June 18 at noon. Jean McFadden will be the hostess at her lovely home at 4455 Lakeside. The program is a salad luncheon followed by the choice of books for next year's

list. Please bring a book that you want to recommend for reading.

Holland Area Pride - June 28

The Holland Area Pride Festival will be held on the grounds of Centennial Park on Saturday, June 28, from 12N - 6 p.m. Hope Church will be an exhibitor at this event. Plans call for music at the gazebo while participants stroll around various tables attended by businesses and organizations that support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community in the Holland area.

Camp Sunshine 5k - July 16

Come join Camp Sunshine in downtown Holland for the 4th Annual Run for the Sun. The streets will host runners, walkers, and spectators for a 5K timed race and 1 mile walk/run on July 16th at 6:30pm. Enjoy a family fun event with live music, iced coffee, free massages, fresh blueberries, and more. For more information or to register, go to CampSunshine.info.

Cran Hill Weekend - July 18-20

Summer is here – and we need you! Grab your camping gear, or stay in the lodge for 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 call the church office or contact Kim & Greg Doxstader for more details or to sign-up (gregdoc@yahoo.com).

More on page 9.

June & July Birthdays

June 30 Ruth Green
Care Group: 2

June 30 Betty Gordon
Care Group: 8

July 14 Lois Boersma
Care Group: 2

July 17 Dorothy Sherburne
Care Group: 12

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

Dear Hope Church Friends,

I want to ask a favor. Our daughter, Emilie and her partner, Amber are getting married on June 24th. They were already planning to marry in NYC so I impulsively contacted Ann Kansfield and she readily and enthusiastically agreed to marry them in Greenpoint Church. We are so happy that their wedding will happen within the RCA even though it can't be at Hope Church. The favor I'm asking is for you to send your good wishes, your prayers and your loving support so that Emilie and Amber will feel the presence and support of this community as they make this commitment to each other. If you give your card to either Paul or myself we will take them to the wedding; The cards should be given to us no later than Friday, June 20th. Or if you prefer you may send it directly; please contact the church office for their address.

Thank you, Loretta and Paul Smith

Dear Friends:

With these final days of our Peace Corps service here in Rwanda, we wanted to thank you and update you on our library project. Every time a box comes, the students and teachers are very excited to see what is inside. We have received close to our goal of 3000 books – one book for every student in the school. It has been wonderful to hear about elementary schools and church groups setting up book drives. One of the Peace Corps goals is to educate people in the USA about the country where you are serving. We can't think of a better way to inspire compassion and service among America's youth. Our hope is to paint a world map mural on the wall of the library where we will recognize each and every donor from around the globe. Thank you so much for your love and support!

*John and Beth Braaksma
National Coordinator - Rwanda
Stomping Out Malaria in Africa
United States Peace Corps*

Hope Church Welcomes New Member



Earlier this spring, new member, Barbara Timmer met with the elders of Hope Church after a marvelous meal at the Luidens' home. Please take the time to welcome Barbara into the family of Hope Church.

Events and Announcements continued

Summer Pizza Sundays

Upcoming Pizza Sundays will be held on June 29, July 27 and August 24 after 10 a.m. worship. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you are willing to serve as host in the future months.

Flowers for Worship

If you would like to be a part of the flower ministry, please sign up in the Gathering Area on the flower calendar on the main bulletin board, or call Joyce Teusink. There are spaces available in June and July! Celebrate a special occasion in your family, or give flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. A short note will be included in the bulletin for your celebration or

memorial. We have florists who assist us for a fee, or you can deliver your own arrangement.

SAVE THE DATE

Teusink's Farm Picnic - Aug. 15

Save the date for the Hope Church picnic at Teusink's Pony Farm on Friday, August 15, 6-9 p.m. More details to come!

SAVE THE DATE

Brunch and Conversation on Racial Equity - Aug. 17

The Reconciliation Ministry would like to you invite you to share in a pot-luck Brunch following worship on August 17th to engage in a conversation

about Race and Privilege. Pastor Jill will be sharing about her experience at the White Privilege Conference from March. Ministry members will share about their experience at the Summit on Race and Inclusion from May. We will talk together about how we can actively support the movement for Racial Equity in Holland and how we see these dynamics of race and privilege operating within the ministry of Hope Church.

2014 Pictorial Directory

Plans for the 2014 Pictorial Directory are underway! Look for more details in August regarding dates and times for portrait sessions.

Youth Ministry

Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director

Fish Club

Fish Club enjoyed a beautiful day at Tunnel Park for our year-end party on Sunday, May 18. We enjoyed a picnic, devotions, and a rousing game of kick-ball with a huge ball that made for lots of laughs and fun!

On Wednesday, June 11, seven adults and 11 youth will leave Holland for the mountains of West Virginia for our 25th year of hiking the Appalachian Trail. We will return June 17, tired, sore, and elated with our time together and lots of stories to share.

This summer we will meet once in July and once in August to enjoy some biking, swimming, and fellowship with each other. We will say goodbye to our 8th graders who will be heading to High Hopes: Sam Accardo, Theodore Brockmeier, Madelyn Roe, Denis Engle, Sam Gruenler, Ashley Johnson, Caroline McKnight, Sam



Nieboer, and Ariana Smith. We look forward to welcoming our incoming 6th graders: Genevieve Gruenler, Emily Johnson, Julian Moreno, and Liam Morrison.

High Hopes

We had a beautiful day for our year-end party on Sunday, May 18. We went out to Tunnel Park and enjoyed a picnic, devotions, and games. Look for a new game to be patented soon by Gordon and Bob!

We are looking forward to our Mission Trip to Detroit, July 27 through August 2. On Sunday, September 28, we will share experiences of our mission trip with the congregation at Pizza Sunday.

To help us fund these mission trips, we are hosting a “50’s Motor City Brunch” on Sunday, June 1, in the Commons after the 10:00 a.m. service. Then on Saturday, June 7, come to the church parking lot between 10:00 a.m. and noon to get your car washed!

Children’s Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children’s Ministry Director

Summer Church School

Children ages 3 through those that have completed 2nd grade will leave the 10:00 a.m. worship service after the Word with the Children and meet in the Youth Room. They will be learning more about God’s wonderful world and ways they are able to show love and concern for the world now and for the future. Nursery care will continue to be provided during the service.

Families with Young Children

Games, friends, fellowship and food are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon. The Christian Education ministry is planning on hosting a couple of family fun picnics after worship this summer. There will be some planned games and activities

and time for enjoying the parks. More information will be sent to you and interest/sign-up sheets will be in the Gathering Area in the near future.

CIW Leaders and Greeters Needed

The Children in Worship (CIW) leaders ask you to prayerfully consider joining them in the wonderful experience of worshipping with the children of Hope Church. The leadership schedule can be very flexible to match your availability and your level of commitment. The Children in Worship program is an integral part of the nurturing of the children as they begin their faith journey. We are in need of storytellers, whether experienced or willing to learn, to help staff the current worship centers and others to aid in the room

as greeters. It is a great way to meet and get to know the wonderful children in our faith community. Talk to leaders who have spent time in the centers or to me if you have any questions. Some training is necessary but that also can be worked into any schedule. If you have been a leader in the past please consider sharing your talents again. It is a great way to meet and get to know the wonderful children in our faith community. If you have a Sunday a month, or a few consecutive weeks that you would be willing to be involved you can be of great service. You will be enriched as much if not more than the children themselves as you worship together. Thanks for your consideration.

Financial Update

Stewardship and Finance Ministry

As we move into the summer months, the Stewardship and Finance Ministry would like to share some updates with the congregation.

Here is where we stand financially as of the end of April (Year to Date):

YTD Budgeted Income - \$201,801
YTD Actual Income - \$198,358
YTD Budgeted Expenses - \$240,818
YTD Actual Expenses - \$257,412

and finally...

This being the June/July edition of Hope Church News, I'll go with the 2-month theme and focus on two different things for 'and finally'. They're not related, just relevant.

* Transition

May brought significant transitions for our staff at Hope Church, as Laurie Braaksma resigned from her role as Church Administrator and in mid-May began a new position, and Anne Duinkerken resigned from her position, concluding her work as Youth Ministry Director in mid-August. I know many of you were able to be at the thank-you reception held for Laurie on May 18 as we celebrated her 15 years of staff service to the congregation, and we will have the opportunity to express our gratitude to Anne for her service at an event September 28.

In the midst of these changes, I ask for your prayers for Laurie and Anne as they move through these transitions and for the staff and leadership of our congregation as we navigate this time. We have a good process moving forward to find new leadership for the Church Administrator and Youth Ministry Director roles and your prayers and support are important to us for that.

But such a time of transition is also inevitably stressful for the

staff as we deal with new routines and responsibilities and feel the uncertainty of when we will have new people in place. So, please pray for us and please be patient with us! We have a terrific staff and generous volunteers and strong leadership, but things are different and some things will perhaps fall through the cracks. When that does happen, please let us know in your most gracious way and know that we are doing your best – and know that we're always open to compliments as feedback too ☺. Thank you.

*Summit on Race & Inclusion ~ August Discussion about Racial Equity & White Privilege:

I'm writing this just the day after attending the Summit on Race and Inclusion sponsored by the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA) and hosted at Hope College (and with Hope Church as a Gold Sponsor). As part of the large group of 750 people attending, we had a wonderful group of a dozen folks from Hope Church there, and after taking in the very engaging and full day of speakers at the Summit, our Hope Church cohort met back at church to process and discuss. There was a lot to process and discuss!

And even as I continue to percolate a lot in my own mind and heart – unintentional bias; dominant

narratives; white privilege; multi-racial coalitions; structural racism; community organizing – it was extremely helpful for our group to get together to share impressions, ideas, frustrations, and to make connections and insights as we do so. That's what the Reconciliation Ministry and Consistory is going to continue to find ways to do, and here's one such opportunity: **Sunday Brunch, August 17 – Discussion of Racial Equity & White Privilege** (see more details on page 9). This a follow up both to the conference that Pastor Jill attended in March and to the LEDA Summit, but the discussion is open to all of us. I encourage you to attend, joining your voice and ears and mind and heart to how Hope Church is engaging these issues.

We all do think about these things in some way on our own, but it is as we gather in community both at Hope Church and beyond that the Spirit most powerfully speaks and creates faithful directions for us. Those are directions that the Belhar Confession describes this way:

"...that the world may see that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered."

Peace,
 Pastor Gordon

Hope Church
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Holland MI 49423



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Permit No. 607

Hope Church News

June/July 2014



Washington School Neighbors Update

Andrew Spidahl, Neighborhood Connector



Washington School Neighbors

Many organizations start as a shared idea. As time goes on, structure begins to form to meet challenges, anticipate growth, and support the work. So it is with Washington School Neighbors. Two years ago at the conception, very little was known of how this would look. Now we're getting a clearer picture.

We have more officially established a Washington School Neighbors board, with appropriate paperwork and increased responsibilities so that the work is less dependent on just the Neighborhood Connector. Members include a balance of neighbors and Neighbor Organization representatives (from Hope Church, Third Reformed, First United Methodist, St. Francis, and Bank of Holland). We will still have Good Samaritan Ministries as an umbrella organization for payroll, data, training, and other such things, but will function more independently now apart from the Americorps grant that funded the first two years.

Furthermore, we have outlined a 40 hour/week Neighborhood Connector position in which Andrew will continue part time, and another connector will be hired part time. Former Neighborhood Connector, Kallie Spidahl, has opted to pursue her love of photography.

So, in brief, going into Summer 2014 we have a stronger WSN board and one, soon to be two, salaried Neighborhood Connectors to continue opening space for this neighborhood to find and share its gifts. Thank you for your continued support!

WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com

Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors

At Home With the Word

Daily Bible Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary

June 2-8

Monday	Psalms 99
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:7-11
Wednesday	1 Kings 8:54-65
Thursday	Exodus 19:1-9
Friday	Exodus 19:16-25
Saturday	Exodus 20:1-21
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost

June 9-15

Monday	Joel 2:18-29
Tuesday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35
Wednesday	Matthew 10:7-16
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:8-12
Friday	Job 38:12-21
Saturday	Job 38:22-38
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20

Trinity Sunday

June 16-22

Monday	1 Corinthians 12:1-3
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:4-13
Wednesday	Psalms 29
Thursday	Hebrews 2:5-9
Friday	Acts 5:17-26
Saturday	Luke 11:53-12:3
Sunday	Romans 6:1-11

June 23-29

Monday	Micah 7:1-7
Tuesday	Psalms 6
Wednesday	Matthew 10:5-23
Thursday	Galatians 5:2-6
Friday	Galatians 5:7-12
Saturday	Luke 17:1-4
Sunday	Romans 6:12-23

June 30-July 6

Monday	Psalms 119:161-168
Tuesday	1 John 4:1-6
Wednesday	Jeremiah 18:1-11
Thursday	Romans 7:1-6
Friday	Romans 7:7-20
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-14
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 7-13

Monday	Psalms 131
Tuesday	Romans 3:1-8
Wednesday	John 13:1-17
Thursday	Romans 2:12-16
Friday	Isaiah 48:6-11
Saturday	Psalms 65
Sunday	Isaiah 55:10-13

July 14-20

Monday	Leviticus 26:3-20
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 28:1-14
Wednesday	Psalms 92
Thursday	Psalms 86:11-17
Friday	Hebrews 6:13-20
Saturday	Matthew 7:15-20
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 21-27

Monday	Nahum 1:1-13
Tuesday	Galatians 4:21-5:1
Wednesday	Psalms 75
Thursday	Psalms 119:129-136
Friday	Acts 7:44-53
Saturday	Matthew 12:38-42
Sunday	Romans 8:26-39

July 29 - August 3

Monday	James 3:13-18
Tuesday	Ephesians 6:10-18
Wednesday	Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33
Thursday	Philippians 4:10-15
Friday	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21
Saturday	Matthew 7:7-11
Sunday	Isaiah 55:1-5

Restorative Circle Facilitator List

Sharon Arendshorst
sarendshorst@charter.net
616-335-3132

Laurie Baron
lauriezbaron@gmail.com
616-566-0237

David Blauw
David.blauw@gmail.com
616-394-3360

Judy Boogaart
boogaart@sbcglobal.net
616-990-5466

Anne Duinkerken
anneduinkerken@gmail.com
616-550-0279

Monika Krimendahl
monikanoelk@gmail.com
616-283-0682

Ann McKnight
annmck@sbcglobal.net
616-403-7303

Rachelle Oppenhuizen
racheller.o@gmail.com
616-396-9743

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

Randy Smit
ransmit@charter.net
616-328-5525

Mark Sneller
markasneller@gmail.com
616-772-6522

Curt L. Tofteland
tofter@aol.com

Cindi Veldheer-DeYoung
cveldheer@gmail.com
616-393-6501
or 616-391-1257